



SECRETARIAT

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6 December 2019

To the members of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination

Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 4 December 2019

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Paris on 4 September 2019, with Ms Elvira Kovács (Serbia, EPP/CD), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Exchange of views with the President of the Assembly:** held an exchange of views;
- **Empowering women: promoting access to contraception in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Ms Petra Bayr, Austria, SOC*): considered and approved a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
- **The gender dimension of foreign policy** (*Rapporteur: Ms Petra Stienen, Netherlands, ALDE*): held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Ms Agnès Von Der Mühl, Director, Press and Communication Directorate, Spokesperson of the Quai d'Orsay, Senior Official for equality of rights between men and women, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, France;
 - Ms Isabelle Hudon, Ambassador of Canada to France;
 - Ms Jennifer Cassidy, Departmental Lecturer in Global Governance and Diplomacy, Oxford University;authorised the rapporteur to conduct a fact-finding visit to the Netherlands (*subject to the availability of funds*);
- **Strengthening the fight against so-called "honour" crimes** (*Rapporteur: Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo, Monaco, ALDE*): authorised the rapporteur to conduct a fact-finding visit to Turkey (*subject to the availability of funds*);
- **Preserving Europe's linguistic, ethnic, cultural and national diversity** (*Rapporteur: Ms Elvira Kovács, Serbia, EPP/CD*): held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Mr Fernand de Varennes, UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues;
 - Ms Petra Roter, Associate Professor, Centre of International Relations, University of Ljubljana, former President of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities;decided to request the opinion of the Venice Commission on amendments to Latvian legislation on education in minority languages, and authorised the rapporteur to conduct fact-finding visits to the United Kingdom and to Ukraine (*subject to the availability of funds*);
- **The situation of Crimean Tatars** (*Rapporteur: Mr Manuel Tornare, Switzerland, SOC*): heard a communication from the rapporteur;

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- **Preventing discrimination caused by the use of artificial intelligence** (*Rapporteur: Mr Christophe Lacroix, Belgium, SOC*): considered an information memorandum and held a hearing with the participation of Mr Christiaan van Veen, Director of the Digital Welfare State and Human Rights Project, Center for Human Rights and Global Justice, New York University School of Law; Special Advisor on new technologies and human rights to the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights (*by video-conference*);
- **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, 25 November 2019**: heard a statement from the Chairperson about the activities of the President of the Assembly and of the Committee to mark the International Day and the 16 days of activism for the Elimination of Violence against Women;
- **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 64)** (New York, United States, 9-20 March 2020): took note of the preliminary draft programme of an event on *Gender equality and foreign policy: parliamentarians lead the change* to be held at a date to be determined during the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 64) (New York, United States, 9-20 March 2020), and decided to hold a joint meeting of the Sub-Committee on Gender Equality and of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence during this event (*subject to the authorisation of the Bureau of the Assembly*);
- **Composition of the Sub-Committee on Gender Equality**: approved the following change: Ms Eglantina Gjermeni (Albania, SOC) joining the Sub-Committee as a full member;
- **Next meetings:**

Committee:

- Strasbourg, during the 1st part-session 2020 of the Assembly (27 to 31 January);
- Paris, 20 March 2020 (Council of Europe Office);
- Strasbourg, during the 2nd part-session 2020 of the Assembly (20 to 24 April);
- Paris, 25 May 2020 (Council of Europe Office);
- Strasbourg, during the 3rd part-session 2020 of the Assembly (22 to 26 June);
- Paris, 11 September 2020 (Council of Europe Office);
- Strasbourg, during the 4th part-session 2020 of the Assembly (12 to 16 October);
- Paris, 27 November 2020 (Council of Europe Office);

Sub-Committee on Gender Equality and Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence:

- New York, United States (United Nations), March 2020 (date to be confirmed) (*subject to the authorisation of the Bureau of the Assembly*).

Liri Kopaçi-Di Michele, Sarah Burton, Giorgio Loddo, Élodie Fischer

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