

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 30 April 2015

GEC (2015)Rap 1

## **GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION (GEC)**

**7th meeting**

**15-17 April 2015**

**REPORT**

## I. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

The Chairperson, Sergiy Kyslytsya, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. The Agenda was adopted by the Gender Equality Commission (GEC) as set out in Appendix I to this report ([GEC\(2015\)OJ 1 rev2](#)). The list of participants is attached at Appendix II.

The Chairperson introduced Gianluca Esposito, the new Head of the Equality and Human Dignity Department, in post since 1 March 2015, who gave a brief presentation of his background and career to date.

The Head of the Equality Division, Liri Kopaçi-Di Michele, informed the members about the recent changes within the Division which include the addition of the Unit for the Rights for Persons with Disabilities, as well as the appointment of the Head of the Gender Equality Unit, Carolina Lasén Diaz, as Secretary to the GEC.

The Director of Human Dignity and Equality, Marja Ruotanen, informed the members about the preparation of the 2016-2017 biennial budget. She recalled that in preparing the next Programme and Budget, the Secretary General will continue to build upon the Council of Europe's added value and comparative advantage, as well as on the implementation of existing standards. Account will be taken of the challenges identified in the Secretary General's annual report on the State of Democracy, Human Rights and the Rule of Law in Europe.

In reply to questions raised by GEC members, the Secretariat explained that the inclusion of the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Unit (SOGI) (in 2014) and the Rights for Persons with Disabilities Unit (in 2015) within the Equality Division had no implications on the activities and resources of the Gender Equality Unit, as all three Units operate independently.

## II. Council of Europe Transversal Programme on Gender Equality

### 1. Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017

The Chairperson informed the members that the [2014 Annual Report](#) on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy had been sent to the Committee of Ministers in January 2015. The Committee of Ministers instructed the Secretary General to continue implementing the Strategy in light of the report's conclusions, *"in particular by enhancing synergies, partnerships and co-operation with member States, by monitoring and supporting the implementation of Council of Europe standards and by strengthening transversal co-operation inside the Organisation"*. The Secretariat reported back about the press coverage of the annual report in some of the member states and the positive feedback it had received from partners and stakeholders. The annual report had been published on both the internet and the internal intranet website, and sent to all contacts and networks. She encouraged GEC members to make use of and disseminate the report whenever possible in the member states.

Referring to the exchange of views which had taken place between the GEC and the CDDECS in November 2014, the Chairperson noted that a positive development had been the inclusion in the CDDECS report of a proposal for “*the revision of the ToR of the GEC to ensure that travel and subsistence expenses for the 47 member States’ representatives are borne by the CoE.*” The Chairperson encouraged all the members to contact their colleagues in their Ministry of Foreign Affairs to gather support for the work and activities of the GEC including participating costs of all 47 member states at its meetings to be covered by the Council of Europe.

GEC members reported about the activities and ongoing gender-related work in the member states. The Secretariat encouraged GEC members to send any further written information to it for publication on the Gender Equality website.

- *Members were encouraged to promote the work and activities of the GEC and gather support to ensure the participation of all member states in the work and activities of the GEC. The GEC members agreed to submit in writing information about activities at national level which could be included in the next annual report on the implementation of the CoE Gender Equality Strategy.*

#### **a. Combating Gender Stereotypes and Sexism**

- Follow-up to the Conference on “Media and the image of women” (Amsterdam, July 2013)

The Head of the Equality Division informed the participants about the various publications which had been prepared following the Conference on “Media and the image of women” (Amsterdam, July 2013). These include the [compilation of good practices](#) which has now been prepared in French and will be available shortly; the [factsheet](#) on combating gender stereotyping and sexism in the media; and the [Handbook on the implementation of Recommendation CM/Rec\(2013\)1 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on gender equality and media](#). She informed the participants that these documents are in demand and widely disseminated at various events.

- Follow-up to the Conference on “Combating gender stereotypes in and through education” (Helsinki, October 2014)

The Head of the Equality Division informed the participants about the revised compilation of good practices which had been prepared for the Conference on “Combating gender stereotypes in and through education” (Helsinki, October 2014). The new [compilation](#) had been updated to include more good practices and had been issued in both English and French. A [factsheet](#) on ‘Combating gender stereotypes in and through education’ had also been prepared.

Members expressed their appreciation of the publications and encouraged the Secretariat to continue preparing the factsheets on different themes, adding links to relevant resources. They provide a useful source of information and benchmarks to measure progress towards complying with gender equality standards in the areas covered by the Strategy.

- *The GEC encouraged the Secretariat to continue preparing the series of factsheets on different relevant themes covered by the Strategy.*
- Commission for the Status of Women (CSW59) (New York, March 2015)

The Chairperson informed the members about the Council of Europe Side-Event on "[Gender stereotypes and sexism – root causes of discrimination and violence against women](#)" which was co-organised with Belgium (Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers). He particularly noted that the event was very well targeted, geared to the themes of CSW59 and responded to the participants' interests which resulted in very good turnout of participants at the Side-Event. Its success is due to the standards and activities of the Council of Europe in this area, but also to the high level of the panel and the very good quality of the speakers. The event provided an opportunity to promote Council of Europe standards and the GEC work, activities and achievements in the area of gender equality. The Secretariat thanked several GEC members who attended the event and informed the GEC about the positive feedback received. Members encouraged the Secretariat to build on the experience gained from the organisation of side-events at the CSW and the positive reputation of those organised by the Council of Europe - UN referring to them as "the Side-Events of the two weeks Session" - and to continue promoting Council of Europe standards and activities at such events.

The Chairperson invited those members who had organised other side-events during the CSW to inform the participants about them: France – on women and climate change and on sexual education (they also participated in side-events focusing on extremism and prostitution); Germany – on the gender pay gap, organised with ILO and Switzerland, and on migrant women's rights (with UN Women and the International Domestic Workers Federation); Latvia – on women and girls in STEM education (with UN Women) and gender gaps in pensions; the Netherlands – on the 3rd World Conference of Women Shelters and on LGBTI women (with participation by the Council of Europe); Portugal – on prevention and eradication of violence against children; United Kingdom, on online abuse, organised with Denmark; Ukraine – on the rights of women in conflict situations.

The Secretariat expressed its readiness to continue co-operating with GEC members and international organisations, such as UN Women, in the organisation of side-events and participation of the CoE therein.

- *GEC members were encouraged to share information about their plans to organise side-events at future sessions of CSW.*
- *Members agreed that the CSW is instrumental in promoting women's rights and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women. As such, it is important for the Council of Europe to continue its presence and work at the level of the CSW and promote Council of Europe standards and activities in the area of gender equality, increase visibility, network and build partnerships and alliances.*

## **b. Preventing and combating violence against women**

- Signature, ratification, monitoring of the Istanbul Convention: Progress in setting up of the GREVIO

Johanna Nelles, Head of the [Violence against Women](#) Unit, informed the participants about progress on signatures and ratification of the Istanbul Convention. She also informed the members that the first meeting of the Committee of the Parties would take place on 4-5 May 2015 to elect GREVIO members and that the first meeting of the GREVIO was tentatively fixed for September 2015. She also explained the procedure for the election of GREVIO members. During the discussions which followed, GEC members reported on the situation with regard to progress towards signature and ratification of the Istanbul Convention in their member states.

### Promotion of the Istanbul Convention

The Chairperson invited the Secretariat to inform the members about recent events linked to the promotion of the Istanbul Convention.

The Head of the Gender Equality Unit reported back about events in which she had participated (more information about these events can be found in document GEC(2015)3). She also informed participants about the preparation and forthcoming adoption by the European Institute on Gender Equality (EIGE) of a “Strategic Framework on Violence against Women for 2015-2018”, including data collection issues, but the text was not yet available.

The Head of the Equality Division informed the members about the Council of Europe’s participation in the forthcoming EU Forum on the Future of Gender Equality which will take place in Brussels from 20-21 April.

## **c. Guaranteeing Equal Access of Women to Justice**

- Factsheet on “Guaranteeing Equal Access of Women to Justice”

The Head of the Gender Equality Unit presented the factsheet on “Guaranteeing Equal Access of Women to Justice” which had been prepared as part of the series of thematic factsheets to support member states in their work at national level. She informed the participants that this [factsheet](#) will be revised and updated following the Bern conference.

- 2015 Conference “Towards guaranteeing equal access of women to justice” (Bern, 15-16 October 2015)

The Secretariat informed the members about the state of preparation for the Conference on “Towards guaranteeing equal access of women to justice” which will take place in Bern on 15-16 October. A registration system had been set up and the [conference website](#) was under construction. The Secretariat thanked those member states who had sent a contribution to

the compilation of good practices and indicated that it would contact GEC members for further information when needed.

In the discussion which followed, the question about the profile of who should be invited to the conference was raised. The Secretariat explained that, as this was the annual conference for the National Focal Points (NFP) which would be followed immediately by a more restricted NFP meeting, the invitation letter would be sent to them personally. However, the conference was open to other participants and there was capacity in the meeting room for member states to send two representatives although the Council of Europe could only cover the participating costs of the NFP.

The Secretariat informed the members that, as at previous conferences, there would be an open space area for exhibiting gender related activities in the field of justice. More information would be provided at a later date.

The Secretariat further informed participants that an updated compilation of the case-law of the European Court on Human Rights related to gender equality was available in the Gender Equality website. A draft report by Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) on "Equality and non-discrimination in the access to justice" was scheduled for adoption in April 2015. The draft report includes a section on women's access to justice, reflecting the GEC's work on this issue, as well as a resolution with recommendations addressed to member states. The Secretariat will circulate the report once adopted by the Plenary of PACE.

- Update on co-operation with UN Women regarding indicators on women's access to justice

The Secretariat informed the members about the ongoing co-operation with UN Women to develop indicators to measure women's access to justice. A consultant, hired by UN Women, has been working on mapping indicators on access to justice in general and analysing the gaps in the justice chain with a view to proposing new indicators, including the specific challenges faced by women. The work will be an important input for the Bern conference on women's access to justice and the final product will be presented to member states at the Conference in October.

- Project in five Eastern Partnership countries to improve women's access to justice

Raluca Popa, the Project Manager, presented the project which was aimed at improving women's access to justice in five Eastern Partnership countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. The project aims at identifying and supporting the removal of obstacles to women's access to justice; and strengthening the capacity of Eastern Partnership countries to design measures to ensure that the justice chain is gender-responsive, including through the training of legal professionals. Activities under the project include: studies mapping the obstacles to women's access to justice in each of the five participating countries; educational and further training curricula for legal professionals to identify entry points for supporting the inclusion of women's human rights and gender

equality in these curricula; regional trainings for legal professionals (judges, prosecutors, lawyers, law enforcement); regional conferences; publications (including information and training materials) and support for gender equality advocates from civil society to strengthen their capacity to inform women about their rights. The Secretariat thanked the members of the GEC for their contribution and co-operation.

**d. Balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision-making**

Third round of monitoring the implementation of CM Recommendation Rec(2003)3 on balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision making

The Chairperson welcomed back Tània Verge Mestre, the consultant who had been working on the revised questionnaire for the third round of monitoring the implementation of CM Recommendation Rec(2003)3 on balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision making. The GEC discussed and amended the draft questionnaire, and instructed the Secretariat to revise and circulate it to GEC members as soon as possible. The Secretariat will inform GEC members of the date when the questionnaire will be available on-line.

*The GEC requested*

- *the Secretariat to amend the questionnaire in line with the discussions and send the revised document to GEC members by email;*
- *that the final version of the questionnaire would be made available in WORD format for easy dissemination in the member states.*

**e. Gender mainstreaming in all policies and measures**

- Exchange of views with Marilyn Clark and Elisabetta Simeoni from the Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs (Pompidou Group)

The Chairperson welcomed Elisabetta Simeoni, the Gender Equality Rapporteur from the Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs (Pompidou Group), and Marilyn Clark, Professor in the Department of Psychology, Faculty for Social Well Being of Malta. Ms Simeoni made a presentation about the background to the [study on the gender dimension of non-medical use of prescription drugs in Europe and the Mediterranean region](#) and how the study was carried out. Professor Clark presented the findings of the study. In the discussion which followed the presentations, the members expressed their appreciation for both the presentations and the results of the study, and agreed to disseminate the information among their colleagues. The Pompidou Group will discuss the study at its next meeting in May 2015, including follow-up through specific recommendations. The Secretariat of the Pompidou Group expressed interest in further co-operation on the gender dimension of drug use and abuse. The Chairperson noted that the work carried out by the Pompidou Group and the ensuing discussions highlighted the

transversal co-operation which exists not only within the Council of Europe but also with other European institutions. Both Powerpoint presentations are available on the Gender Equality website.

- *The GEC agreed to disseminate the study on the gender dimension of non-medical use of prescription drugs in Europe and the Mediterranean region, prepared by Marilyn Clark and the members of the Pompidou Group Expert Working Group, in their member states.*
- Exchange of views with Richard Clayton, Gender Equality Rapporteur of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission)

The Chairperson welcomed Richard Clayton QC for an exchange of views. Mr Clayton informed the members about the working procedures of the Council of Europe's Venice Commission and its main activities. He said that gender equality is regarded as a priority issue in the [Venice Commission](#). He further informed participants about the draft report on the "Method of Nomination of Candidates within Political Parties", which addresses gender quotas and is currently under preparation and scheduled for adoption in June 2015.

The Chairperson thanked Mr Clayton for his very interesting presentation and expressed his wish for continued co-operation between the GEC and the Venice Commission.

- Exchange of views with Régis Brillat, Executive Secretary of the European Committee of Social Rights, Council of Europe

The Chairperson welcomed Régis Brillat, the Executive Secretary of the [European Committee of Social Rights](#). Mr Brillat presented the work of the Committee and spoke about the links between the Social Charter and gender equality issues. In his presentation, he explained that the 1961 Social Charter contained a certain amount of protection for women in the labour market, but it was not until the Charter was revised in 1996 that it included the area of gender equality and as a result, the only difference between women and men in the revised Charter is the protection of maternity rights. However, he pointed out that of the 43 member states that have ratified the Social Charter, there are ten of them who are still bound by the 1961 version. He further informed participants about the monitoring mechanism of the Social Charter, which includes collective complaints, but this mechanism has only been accepted by 15 member states and to date there has not been a complaint regarding gender equality issues. Mr Brillat also spoke about the Turin process which was launched by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe at the High Level Conference in Turin on 18 October 2014. The aim of the process is, in particular, to overcome the crisis with social rights, to reinforce the collective complaints procedure, to achieve a greater synergy between European Union law and the European Social Charter. The GEC could play an important role in raising awareness about the European Social Charter and its provisions on gender equality, including equal pay for equal work.

- *The GEC instructed the Secretariat to publish a link on the Gender Equality website to the [factsheet on equality between women and men in the European Social Charter](#).*



#### f. Meeting of the Network of National Focal Points (NFPs)

3<sup>rd</sup> NFP meeting, Bern, 16 October 2015

Kira Appel, the GEC Vice-Chairperson, drew attention to the draft agenda for the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the National Focal Points (NFPs), as well as the accompanying draft template for member states to report on their activities and measures towards the achievement of the objectives of the Gender Equality Strategy; which had already been distributed to participants. The Secretariat explained that the draft agenda and the template would be sent to all NFPs by 30 June with a deadline for submission of 18 September. This would allow time to prepare a compilation document for the October NFP meeting. Following discussion among the participants, the draft template would be amended and circulated to GEC members.

In view of the ongoing preparation of the 2016-2017 biennial budget, the Secretariat stressed that until a decision is taken, activities would continue as foreseen in respect of GEC meetings and the network of National Focal Points on Gender Equality.

- *The GEC requested the Secretariat to revise the draft template in line with their discussion and to send the draft agenda and template to the NFPs in June with a deadline of 18 September for receipt of contributions.*

### III. Co-operation with national authorities

Exchange of views with Oksana Syroyid, Vice Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine

The Chairperson welcomed Ms Oksana Syroyid, Vice Speaker of the [Verkhovna Rada](#) (Parliament) of Ukraine. Ms Syroyid gave a [presentation](#) about the gender equality aspects of the right to access to justice in Ukraine. In reply to questions from the participants following Ms Syroyid's presentation, she said that the situation of female members of parliament is improving in Ukraine and that women hold many positions of Head and Deputy Head of communities. She also said that there was a very high number – 50% - of female judges but not always at a high level. In reply to a question about the situation of women in conflict in Ukraine, Ms Syroyid said that a lot of work was being done particularly at the local level to help these women and children.

### IV. Co-operation with international / regional organisations

Presentation by Kira Appel, Danish Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers (Gender Equality Executive Committee)

Kira Appel, Vice Chairperson of the GEC and Chair of the Gender Equality Executive Committee during the [Danish Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers](#), informed the GEC about the work of the Nordic Council of Ministers and its procedures. She noted that gender equality has always been high on the Nordic countries' agenda. The Danish

Presidency is focusing on topics covered by the four-year co-operation programme on gender equality 2015-2018, such as health and employment in rural areas and girls in STEM education. Other important issues covered by the co-operation programme include gender equality in the public sphere (including equal opportunities for women and men to participate in decision-making and the media, gender stereotypes and gender-based hate speech), and welfare and innovation (including equal access to education, the labour market, and health).

Presentation by Agnese Gaile regarding the Gender Equality Agenda during Latvia's EU Presidency (January – June 2015)

The representative from Latvia, Agnese Gaile, informed the members about the activities which have already taken place during the [Latvian EU Presidency](#) (January – June 2015), as well as the activities planned until the end of June on topics such as women's economic empowerment and gender gap in pensions, underrepresentation of girls in STEM education, World Press Freedom day (4 May, which would include a side-event on Women and Media organised in co-operation with UNESCO and UN Women), EIGE conference on the second edition of the Gender Equality Index (foreseen for 22 June), and various events on gender mainstreaming.

Presentation by Ralph Kass regarding the Gender Equality Agenda during Luxembourg's EU Presidency (July – December 2015)

The representative from Luxembourg, Ralph Kass, informed the members about the activities which have been planned for the [Luxembourg EU Presidency](#) which will take place from July to December 2015. These include activities on topics such as equal participation in economic and policy decision making, women in the labour market, private-professional life, combating gender stereotypes in the media, including sexist advertising, gender mainstreaming, and men and equal opportunities.

The Chairperson thanked representatives for the information provided and noted the importance of co-ordinating future planning for activities and events during EU presidencies with Council of Europe/GEC events. He called on GEC members to work with their national authorities responsible for EU presidencies. Furthermore, he indicated that he looked forward to further interaction, synergies and co-operation between the GEC, the European Union and the Nordic Council of Ministers, in order to make the best use of available resources, avoid overlaps and maximize the impact.

- *The GEC encourages current and future EU presidencies and other regional organisations to associate the CoE in their gender equality events and activities*

Post-2015 Development Agenda

The GEC discussed how best to raise the profile of gender equality issues in the [Post-2015 Development Agenda](#), in view of the UN Summit (September 2015). This included in particular making a stand-alone sustainable development goal on gender equality and mainstreaming it throughout the other goals. Following an exchange of views among GEC

members, the Vice-Chairperson encouraged them to liaise with colleagues in the different ministries to advance the negotiations and achieve a positive outcome.

- *The GEC encouraged members to share information and materials about the various negotiations related to the Post 2015 Development Agenda.*

## **V. Report of events attended by GEC members, National Focal Points and the Secretariat**

Document GEC(2015)3 includes reports about most of the events in which NFPs, members of the GEC or the Secretariat participated.

## **VI. Current and future activities**

### *Training for Gender Equality Rapporteurs*

The Secretariat informed the participants that the next training on gender mainstreaming for Gender Equality Rapporteurs had been planned for 17 November. Following this training, there would be an exchange of views on 18 November between the GEC and those GERS who had participated in the training. GEC members were invited to share their views about the training and express their interest in contributing to it. Following the discussion, it was agreed that the Secretariat would provide members who were willing to participate in and contribute to the training with information about the programme.

- *The GEC agreed to contribute to the forthcoming GER training on gender mainstreaming.*

### *GEC terms of reference for 2016-2017*

The Secretariat informed the participants that, in view of the 2016-2017 budget discussion, the terms of reference of the GEC would be revised. There were no major substantive changes to be made to the terms of reference, other than proposing that the 47 member states can participate in GEC meetings having their travel and subsistence expenses borne by the Council of Europe.

### *CDDECS meeting*

The Secretariat informed the participants that the next CDDECS meeting would take place from 27-29 May, and as usual there would be an item on the activities of the subordinate bodies at which the activities of the GEC would be presented.

- *Members were encouraged to contact their colleagues in their relevant Ministries in order to promote the work and activities of the GEC and gather support to ensure participation of all member states in the work and activities of the GEC for the next period 2016-2017.*

**VII. Other business**

The Secretariat recalled the importance for members to reply to the convocation letter they receive ahead of each GEC meeting and invited them to inform the Gender Equality Unit about whether or not they would be participating in the meeting, as this greatly facilitates the administrative arrangements for each meeting.

**VIII. Date and place of next meeting:****GEC meeting**

- *8<sup>th</sup> meeting: Strasbourg, 18-20 November 2015*

**Calendar of forthcoming events and meetings:**

- *2015 NFP Conference "Towards guaranteeing equal access of women to justice" (Bern, 15-16 October 2015)*
- *3<sup>rd</sup> NFP meeting (Bern, 16 October 2015)*

## APPENDIX I

AGENDA**I. Opening of the meeting and Adoption of the agenda**

- *Draft Agenda*

GEC(2015)OJ 1 rev 2

**II. Council of Europe Transversal Programme on Gender Equality****1. Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017**

2014 Annual Report

**a. Combating Gender Stereotypes and Sexism**

- Follow-up to the Conference on “Media and the image of women” (Amsterdam, July 2013)
  - *Handbook on the implementation of Recommendation CM/Rec(2013)1 on gender equality and the media* Publication
  - *Factsheet on combating gender stereotyping and sexism in the media* Factsheet
- Follow-up to the Conference on ‘Combating gender stereotypes in and through education (Helsinki, October 2014)
  - *Revised compilation of good practices to promote an education free from gender stereotypes* Publication
  - *Factsheet on combating gender stereotyping and sexism in and through education* Factsheet
  - *Abridged report of the Helsinki Conference* Publication
- Commission for the Status of Women (CSW59) (New York, March 2015)

Oral presentation

**b. Preventing and combating violence against women**

- Signature, ratification, monitoring of the Istanbul Convention: Progress in setting up of the GREVIO Oral presentation
- Promotion of the Istanbul Convention Oral presentation  
*CoE/Amnesty Guide on the IC as a tool to end FGM  
 Studies on Articles 12, 13 and 16  
 of the Istanbul Convention*

**c. Guaranteeing Equal Access of Women to Justice**

- Factsheet on “Guaranteeing Equal Access of Women to Justice” Factsheet

- 2015 Conference “Towards guaranteeing equal access of women to justice”  
(Bern, 15-16 October 2015)
  - o *Concept Paper* GEC(2014)10
  - o *Draft Programme* GEC(2015)2
- Update on co-operation with UN Women regarding indicators on women’s access to justice *Oral presentation*
- Project in five Eastern Partnership countries to improve women’s access to justice *Oral presentation*

**d. Balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision-making**

Third round of monitoring the implementation of CM Recommendation Rec(2003)3 on balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision making

- o *Memorandum on the review of the questionnaire* GEC(2015)8 rev
- o *Comments on the memorandum received from member states* GEC(2014)15 rev
- o *Draft 2015 questionnaire* GEC(2015)6

**e. Gender mainstreaming in all policies and measures**

- Exchange of views with Marilyn Clark and Elisabetta Simeoni from the Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs (Pompidou Group)
- Exchange of views with Richard Clayton, Gender Equality Rapporteur of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission)
- Exchange of views with Régis Brillat, Executive Secretary of the European Committee of Social Rights, Council of Europe

**f. Meeting of the Network of National Focal Points (NFPs)**

3<sup>rd</sup> NFP meeting, Bern, 16 October 2015

- o *Draft Programme* GEC(2015)4 rev
- o *Contributions from member states regarding activities and measures for the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy* *Template*

**III. Co-operation with national authorities**

Exchange of views with Oksana Syroyid, Deputy Chairperson of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (Parliament)

#### **IV. Co-operation with international / regional organisations**

Presentation by Kira Appel, Danish Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers  
(Committee of Senior Officials for Gender Equality)

Presentation by Agnese Gaile regarding the Gender Equality Agenda during Latvia's  
EU Presidency (January – June 2015)

Presentation by Ralph Kass regarding the Gender Equality Agenda during  
Luxembourg's EU Presidency (July – December 2015)

Post 2015 Development Agenda

*Oral presentation*

#### **V. Report of events attended by GEC members, National Focal Points and the Secretariat**

*GEC(2015)3*

#### **VI. Current and future activities**

- *At national level*
- *At international level*

#### **VII. Other business**

#### **VIII. Date and place of next meeting:**

##### **GEC meetings**

- *8<sup>th</sup> meeting: Strasbourg, 18-20 November 2015*

##### **Calendar of forthcoming events and meetings:**

- *2015 NFP Conference "Towards guaranteeing equal access of women to justice" (Bern, 15-16 October 2015)*
- *3<sup>rd</sup> NFP meeting (Bern, 16 October 2015)*

## APPENDIX II

## List of Participants

## Representatives / Représentant(e)s

**Andorra / Andorre**

Mme Míriam PÉREZ GARCIA  
 Coordinatrice du Service d'attention sociale  
 primaire  
 Ministère de la Santé et du Bien-être social

Mme Mireia V. PORRAS GARCÍA  
 Éducatrice sociale dans l'équipe de prise en  
 charge intégrale de la femme victime de  
 violences liées au genre (EAID)  
 Ministère de la Santé et du Bien-être social

**Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan**

Mr Elgun SAFAROV  
 Head of the Information and Analytical  
 Research Department  
 State Committee for Family, Women and  
 Children Affairs

**Bulgaria / Bulgarie**

Ms Elena GYUROVA  
 State expert  
 Equal Opportunities, Antidiscrimination and  
 Social Benefits Department  
 Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

**Cyprus/Chypre**

Ms Eleni LOIZIDOU  
 Attorney of the Republic  
 Gender Equality Rapporteur of the Committee  
 of Experts on the Operation of European  
 Conventions on Co-operation in Criminal  
 Matters (PC-OC)

**Denmark / Danemark**

Ms Kira APPEL  
 Vice-Chairperson of the GEC / Vice-Présidente  
 du GEC  
 Deputy Head of Department  
 Ministry of Children, Gender Equality,  
 Integration and Social Affairs

**Estonia / Estonie**

Ms Käthlin SANDER  
 Head of Gender Equality Policy  
 Department of Equality Policies  
 Ministry of Social Affairs

**France**

Mme Fanny BENEDETTI  
 Chargée de mission Droits des femmes et à  
 l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes  
 Bureau des affaires européennes et  
 internationales  
 Direction générale de la cohésion sociale  
 (DGCS)

**Germany / Allemagne**

Ms Antje WUNDERLICH  
 Deputy Head of Unit  
 Federal Ministry for Family Affairs  
 Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

**Hungary/Hongrie**

Ms Zsuzsanna Kormosné DEBRECENI  
 Deputy Head of Department  
 Ministry of Human Resources  
 Department of Family Policy and  
 Demography  
 Women's Policy Unit

**Italy /Italie**

Ms Tiziana ZANNINI  
 Department of Equal Opportunities  
 Presidency of the Council  
 Ministry for Equal Opportunities

**Latvia / Lettonie**

Ms Agnese GAILE  
 Senior Expert  
 Department of Social Policy Planning and  
 Development  
 Ministry of Welfare

**Lithuania / Lituanie**

Ms Vanda JURSENIENE  
 Head of the Equality between Women and  
 Men Division  
 Ministry of Social Security and Labour

**Luxembourg**

M. Ralph KASS  
 Conseiller de Direction 1e Classe  
 Ministère de l'Égalité des chances



**Republic of Moldova / République de****Moldova**

Ms Lilia PASCAL  
 Head of Division  
 Gender equality and prevention violence  
 policies  
 Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and  
 Family

**Monaco**

M. Gabriel REVEL  
 Deputy Permanent Representative / Adjoint  
 au Représentant Permanent

M. Gabriel CHABERT

Trainee / Stagiaire

**Netherlands / Pays Bas**

Mr Charles DE VRIES  
 Senior Policy Advisor  
 Ministry of Education, Culture and Science  
 Gender Equality and LGBT Equality  
 Department

**Norway / Norvège**

Ms Lise ØSTBY  
 Senior Adviser  
 Directorate for Children, Youth and Family  
 Affairs  
 Department for Equality and Social Inclusion

**Poland / Pologne**

Ms Anna GREDZINSKA  
 Ministry of Labour and Social Policy  
 Department of Economic Analyses and  
 Forecasts  
 Unit on Equality between Women and Men in  
 the Labour Market

**Portugal**

Mme Isabel ROMAO  
 Independent gender equality expert

**Romania/Roumanie**

Mr Sorin Ioan BOTEZATU  
 Head of Unit  
 Department for Equal Opportunities between  
 Women and Men

**Serbia / Serbie**

Mr Dragan KNEZEVIC  
 Gender Equality Department  
 Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans  
 and Social Affairs

**Slovak Republic / République slovaque**

Ms Olga PIETRUCHOVÁ  
 Director  
 Department of Gender Equality and Equal  
 Opportunities  
 Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

**Slovenia / Slovénie**

Dr Sonja ROBNIK  
 Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and  
 Equal Opportunities  
 Equal Opportunities Department

**Spain / Espagne**

Ms Ana ARRILLAGA ALDAMA  
 Deputy General Director for International  
 Relations  
 Ministry of Health, Social services and  
 Equality

**Sweden / Suède**

Ms Lillemor DAHLGREN  
 Head of Operations for Gender Equality  
 Swedish Secretariat for Gender Research

**Switzerland / Suisse**

Mme Karine LEMPEN  
 Juriste  
 Département fédéral de l'intérieur DFI  
 Bureau fédéral de l'égalité entre femmes et  
 hommes BFEG  
 Domaine Droit

Mme Sabine BAUMGARTNER

Communication Officer  
 Département fédéral de l'intérieur DFI  
 Bureau fédéral de l'égalité entre femmes et  
 hommes BFEG

**"The former Yugoslav Republic of  
 Macedonia"/ "L'ex-République yougoslave  
 de Macédoine"**

Ms Elena GROZDANOVA  
 State Counselor for Equal opportunity  
 Ministry of Labor and Social Policy

**Turkey/Turquie**

Ms Banu TUNCAY YILDIZ  
Acting Deputy Director General  
Directorate General on the Status of Women  
Ministry of Family and Social Policies

Ms Göknur AKCADAG  
Head of Department on International  
Organizations  
Ministry of Family and Social Policies

**Ukraine**

Mr Sergiy KYSLYTSYA  
**Chair of GEC / Président du GEC**  
Vice Minister  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms Oleksandra POPESKU  
Deputy to the Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the Council  
of Europe

**United Kingdom/Royaume-Uni**

Mr Charles RAMSDEN  
Head of EU and International Policy  
Government Equalities Office

**Participants/Participant-e-s****ORGANS AND COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE / ORGANES ET COMITÉS DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE****Conference of International Non-governmental Organisations of the Council of Europe / Conférence des Organisations internationales non-gouvernementales du Conseil de l'Europe**

Dr Anne NEGRE  
Gender Equality Rapporteur  
University Women of Europe

**OBSERVER STATES/ÉTATS OBSERVATEURS****Holy See/Saint Siège**

Ms Catherine VIERLING

**Mexico / Mexique**

M. Diego Sandoval PIMENTEL  
Adjoint à l'Observateur Permanent

**NON-MEMBER STATES / ETATS NON MEMBRES****Morocco / Maroc**

Mme Najah RHARDISSE  
Direction de la Femme  
Ministère de la solidarité, de la femme, de la  
famille et du développement social

**Tunisia / Tunisie**

Mme Dalenda LARGUECHE  
Directrice générale  
Centre de recherche, d'études, de  
documentation et d'information sur la femme  
Ministère de la femme, de la famille et de  
l'enfance

**OTHER PARTICIPANTS /AUTRE PARTICIPANT(E) S**

Ms Oksana SYROYID  
Deputy Speaker  
Verkhovna Rada (Parliament)  
Ukraine

Mr Mykola TOCHYTSKYI  
Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the  
Council of Europe

Professor Marilyn CLARK  
Department of Psychology  
Faculty for Social Well Being  
Malta

Dr Elisabetta SIMEONI  
Gender Equality Rapporteur of the Pompidou  
Group  
Head of National Observatory and  
International Relations  
Department for Anti-Drug Policies  
Presidency of the Council of Ministers  
Italy

Mr Richard CLAYTON  
Gender Equality Rapporteur of the Venice  
Commission  
QC Barrister at Law  
United Kingdom

Ms Tània VERGE MESTRE  
 Departament de Ciències Polítiques i Socials  
 Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF)  
 Spain

Ms Cécile GREBOVAL  
 Consultant  
 France

Ms Anje WIERSINGA  
 Representative International Alliance of  
 Women

**SECRETARIAT/SECRETARIAT**

**DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF DEMOCRACY/  
 DIRECTION GENERALE DE LA DEMOCRATIE  
 (DGII)**

Ms Marja RUOTANEN  
 Director of Human Dignity and Equality/  
 Directrice de la dignité humaine et de l'égalité  
 E-mail: [marja.ruotanen@coe.int](mailto:marja.ruotanen@coe.int)

Mr Gianluca ESPOSITO  
 Head of Equality and Human Dignity  
 Department / Chef du Service de la dignité  
 humaine et de l'égalité  
 E-mail: [gianluca.esposito@coe.int](mailto:gianluca.esposito@coe.int)

Ms Liri KOPAÇI-DI MICHELE  
 Head of Equality Division / Chef de la  
 Division Égalité  
 Tel: +33 (0)3 88 41 22 58  
 E-mail: [liri.kopaci-dimichele@coe.int](mailto:liri.kopaci-dimichele@coe.int)

Ms Carolina LASEN DIAZ  
 Secretary of the GEC / Secrétaire de la GEC  
 Head of Unit  
 Gender Equality Unit  
 Tel: +33 (0)3 90 21 56 79  
 E-mail: [carolina.lasen-diaz@coe.int](mailto:carolina.lasen-diaz@coe.int)

Ms Irena KOWALCZYK  
 Head of Unit  
 Rights of Persons with Disabilities' Unit  
 Tel: +33 (0)3 88 41 32 40  
 E-mail: [irena.kowalczyk@coe.int](mailto:irena.kowalczyk@coe.int)

Ms Johanna NELLES  
 Head of Unit  
 Violence against Women Unit  
 Tel: +33 (0)3 90 21 4678  
 E-mail: [johanna.nelles@coe.int](mailto:johanna.nelles@coe.int)

Ms Raluca Maria POPA  
 Gender Equality Unit / Unité d'Égalité entre  
 les femmes et les hommes  
 Tel: +33(0)3 90 21 44 30  
 E-mail: [raluca.popa@coe.int](mailto:raluca.popa@coe.int)

Mr Emmanuel BARON  
 Equality Division / Division Égalité  
 Tel: +33(0)3 90 21 60 57  
 E-mail: [emmanuel.baron@coe.int](mailto:emmanuel.baron@coe.int)

Ms Camilla LANDINI  
 Gender Equality Unit / Unité d'Égalité entre  
 les femmes et les hommes  
 Tel: +33(0)3 90 21 5455  
 E-mail: [camilla.landini@coe.int](mailto:camilla.landini@coe.int)

Mrs Adrienne INGLEDOW  
 Co-Secretary GEC / Co-Secrétaire GEC  
 Gender Equality Unit / Unité d'Égalité entre  
 les femmes et les hommes  
 Tel: +33(0)3 88 41 20 63  
 E-mail: [adrienne.ingledow@coe.int](mailto:adrienne.ingledow@coe.int)

Ms Paula HINCHY  
 Administrative Assistant / Assistante  
 administrative  
 Gender Equality Unit / Unité d'Égalité entre  
 les femmes et les hommes  
 Tel: +33(0)3 88 41 37 36  
 E-mail: [paula.hinchy@coe.int](mailto:paula.hinchy@coe.int)

Ms Lisa ERIKSSON  
 Stagiaire / Trainee  
 Gender Equality Unit / Unité d'Égalité entre  
 les femmes et les hommes

**DIRECTORATE GENERAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND  
RULE OF LAW / DIRECTION GENERALE DROITS  
DE L'HOMME ET ETAT DE DROIT (DGI)**

Mr Régis BRILLAT

Head of Department European Social Charter /  
Chef de service de la Charte sociale

européenne,

Executive Secretary of the European  
Committee of Social Rights / Secrétaire  
exécutif du Comité européen des Droits  
sociaux

Mr Jan MALINOWSKI

Executive Secretary / Secrétaire exécutif  
Secretariat of the Co-operation Group to  
Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in  
Drugs (Pompidou Group)  
Secrétariat du Groupe de coopération en  
matière de lutte contre l'abus et le trafic illicite  
des stupéfiants (Groupe Pompidou)

Ms Amaya UBEDA

Elections and Political Parties / Elections et  
partis politiques  
Venice Commission / Commission de Venise

Ms Florence MABILEAU

Research, Mediteranean Co-operation /  
Recherche, Coopération méditerranéenne  
Secretariat of the Co-operation Group to  
Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in  
Drugs (Pompidou Group)  
Secrétariat du Groupe de coopération en  
matière de lutte contre l'abus et le trafic illicite  
des stupéfiants (Groupe Pompidou)

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

**COMMITTEE ON EQUALITY AND NON-  
DISCRIMINATION/ COMMISSION SUR L'EGALITE  
ET SUR LA NON-DISCRIMINATION**

Ms Elise CORNU

Head of the Secretariat / Chef de la Secrétariat

Ms Sarah BURTON

Secretary / Secrétaire

Ms Yanna PARNIN

Administrator / Administratrice

**Interpreters / Interprètes**

Ms Amanda BEDDOWS

Ms Rémy JAIN

M. Jean-Jacques PEDUSSAUD