

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 11 December 2014

GEC (2014) Rap2

# **GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION (GEC)**

**6th meeting**

**19-21 November 2014**

**REPORT**

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

The Acting Chairperson, Sergiy Kyslytsya opened the meeting, welcomed the participants and proposed a *tour de table* for all old and new members of the Commission to introduce themselves.

The Agenda was adopted by the Gender Equality Commission (GEC) as set out in Appendix I to this report. The list of participants is attached at Appendix II.

Liri Kopaçi-Di Michele, Secretary to the GEC, reported back on the exchange of views which took place between the GEC's parent committee, the European Committee on Social Cohesion, Human Dignity and Equality (CDDECS), and the Chairpersons/Secretariat of its three subordinate committees. Liri had replaced the GEC Chairperson who could not attend. She informed the GEC about the discussions and questions which focused on the relationship between the GEC and the CDDECS including working methods support by CDDECS to the work and activities of the GEC and communication of the work of the GEC to the Committee of Ministers via CDDECS. The CDDECS had approved a work plan prior to the exchange and Liri had suggested it may be useful to include GEC members in some of the working groups on pertinent themes.

Members were also encouraged to contact their colleagues in the CDDECS and in their Ministries of Foreign Affairs in order to promote the work and activities of the GEC and lobby support to ensure participation of all member states in the work and activities of the GEC.

## **II. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson**

Following an election by secret ballot, the GEC elected Sergiy Kyslytsya (Ukraine) as its Chairperson and Kira Appel (Denmark) as its Vice-Chairperson.

## **III. Council of Europe Transversal Programme on Gender Equality**

### **1. Co-operation with the other sectors of the Council of Europe**

#### **a. Exchange of views with the Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers Rapporteur Group on Human Rights (GR-H)**

The Chairperson welcomed Ambassador Drahoslav Štefánek, the Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the Council of Europe, Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers Rapporteur Group on Human Rights and the Gender Equality Rapporteur of the Committee of Ministers. During his intervention Ambassador Štefánek expressed his support for the important work of the GEC and the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy. He also informed the members about the recent work which the GR-H had been doing with regard to the Istanbul Convention and the forthcoming election procedure of members of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), which had been sent to the Committee of Ministers for adoption. Ambassador Štefánek also welcomed the contribution by the GEC to efforts of the member states to

combat gender stereotypes and highlighted the two NFP conferences on media and on education. He stressed the need to continue awareness-raising on this important issue. He also expressed his wish for more co-operation between the GEC and the Committee of Ministers and proposed having a direct exchange between the two Committees next year. In the discussion which followed, the negative implications of the present situation whereby only 16 GEC members' travel and subsistence expenses reimbursed by the Council of Europe was raised.

**b. Exchange of views with the European Committee on Social Cohesion, Human Dignity and Equality (CDDECS)**

The Chairperson of the CDDECS opened the exchange and welcomed the members of the GEC. He spoke about the exchange which had already taken place with the Secretary to the GEC and the wish to remain flexible in all mutual dealings. He outlined the CDDECS work plan and areas of common interest where there could be opportunities for co-operation. The Chairperson of the GEC agreed on the importance of co-operation and regular exchange of information, and he expressed readiness of the GEC to contribute to the CDDECS work in areas of common interest. The GEC Chairperson raised the issue of the negative impact on the work of the GEC caused by that fact that only 16 GEC members' travel and subsistence expenses were reimbursed by the Council of Europe, and the need to ensure that all 47 member states participate and contribute to the work and activities of the Council of Europe in the area of gender equality. He asked for support from the CDDECS in this respect.

The GEC's annual report on the implementation of the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy in 2014 was discussed and one amendment was proposed and accepted (see item 2.a below).

The CDDECS Chairperson welcomed Catherine Bij de Vaate, Policy Adviser at the Institute on Gender Equality and Women's History (ATRIA), who made a presentation about gender equality and gender mainstreaming. Ms Bij de Vaate's presentation is available on the Gender Equality website.

- *During its exchange of views with the Gender Equality Commission, the CDDECS proposed the revision of the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the GEC to ensure that the travel and subsistence expenses for representatives of the 47 member states are borne by the CoE.*
- *The CDDECS took note of the GEC's Annual Report on the implementation of the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017 and decided to forward it to the Committee of Ministers.*

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Following the exchange between the CDDECS and the GEC, a discussion took place at the GEC meeting. GEC members concluded that better preparation in advance at the level of the GEC would have contributed to a more meaningful exchange. There was general agreement that the fact that this was only the second meeting of the CDDECS and its work priorities had only been discussed the day before had an impact on the exchange.

The GEC:

- *agreed to prepare in advance of any future exchanges of views with other entities, including its parent committee.*
- *expressed its support and willingness to assist the work of the CDDECS in areas within its mandate.*

**c. Exchange of views with Helena Lišuchová, Gender Equality Rapporteur of Groups of State against Corruption (GRECO)**

The Chairperson welcomed Helena Lišuchová, Gender Equality Rapporteur (GER) of the Groups of State against Corruption (GRECO), who made a presentation about the gender dimensions of GRECO's fourth evaluation round which focused on corruption prevention in respect of members of parliament, judges and prosecutors, and informed the members about future planned work by GRECO. The GRECO report will be published in early 2015 but some of the conclusions regarding gender and corruption were raised, including the need for systematised data collection in this field. Ms Lišuchová informed the GEC about a UNDP survey on men and women in civil service to be carried out in GRECO member states, on a voluntary basis, and asked GEC members for their involvement and support. The Chairperson thanked Ms Lišuchová and encouraged the GEC members to use the findings in their discussions with authorities. Ms Lišuchová's presentation is available on the Gender Equality website.

**d. Committee of Ministers request for information and/or possible comments on PACE Recommendation 2053 (2014) "Women's rights and prospects for Euro-Mediterranean co-operation"**

The comments contained in document GEC(2014)16 were discussed and agreed as amended.

The GEC:

- *instructed the Secretariat to forward the agreed comments to the Committee of Ministers.*

**2. Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017**

**a. Annual Report on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy**

The Chairperson introduced the item and explained that the 2014 Annual Report on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy should be sent to the CDDECS for note to be taken of it before forwarding it to the Committee of Ministers. The report as it appears in GEC(2014)12 was discussed by the members and the information contained therein agreed upon.

*The GEC:*

- *agreed to forward an abridged version of the annual report to the CDDECS for note to be taken.*

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

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

The Chairperson invited Liri Kopaçi-Di Michele to give an update on the follow-up to the conference on “Media and the image of women” which took place in Amsterdam in July 2013. All those member states which had not yet sent in good practices on gender equality and the media were encouraged to do so as the compilation will be updated and published on the website. The draft handbook on the implementation of Recommendation CM/Rec(2013)1 of the Committee of Ministers on gender equality and the media which had been prepared by an expert in co-operation with colleagues from the Media Division was presented and GEC was informed about the preparation of a publication for wide dissemination through the members of the GEC, National Focal Points (NFP), as well as the members of the CDMSI – the Council of Europe’s media steering committee.

*The GEC:*

- *encouraged member state wishing to contribute to the updated compilation of good practices to submit their contribution as soon as possible.*
  - *took note of the draft handbook as it appears in document GEC(2014)14 and agreed to its publication and wide dissemination.*
- Helsinki Conference on “Combating stereotypes in and through education” (9-10 October 2014)

The Chairperson introduced the item and asked the Secretariat to take the floor. Liri Kopaçi-Di Michele informed the members that the draft final report of the conference is currently being prepared and would be available shortly. She also outlined the three proposed follow-up activities, contained in document GEC(2014)13.

The first activity is to continue to expand, update and disseminate the compilation of good practices. All member states were encouraged to submit contributions for inclusion in the updated document. The current compilation is being translated and will be made available on the gender equality website.

Villano Qiriazzi, Head of the Education Policy Division, informed GEC that the Education Policy Division will oversee the follow-up to two of the activities. This is a continuation of the transversal co-operation between the Gender Equality and Education sectors of the Council of Europe. Mr Qiriazzi informed the GEC that the Bureau of the Education Steering Committee had discussed the Helsinki Conference and had proposed, as a direct follow-up to the collection of good practices, to create a reference handbook for actors and policy-makers at all levels of education covering a range of topics associated with gender stereotyping in education.

The second follow-up activity proposed by the Education Division is to conduct a study of challenges related to on-line cyber-misogyny, in line with the digital citizenship education which is a new action for 2016-2017. This will focus on the promotion of positive measures by school authorities towards the development of digital competences for teachers and students, and will deal with issues including cyberbullying, cyber-misogyny and sexting in an on-line school environment.

*The GEC:*

- *agreed that the three activities outlined in document GEC(2014)13 should be carried out.*
- *encouraged member states to submit any additional contributions for the good practices compilation as soon as possible, as the compilation will be translated and disseminated.*

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

- Signature, ratification and entry into force of the Istanbul Convention; Monitoring of the Istanbul Convention

Johanna Nelles, Head of the Violence against Women Unit, informed the members about the entry into force of the Istanbul Convention (1 August 2014) and the celebratory Conference (Rome on 19 September 2014). Other developments include the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of the rules on the election procedure of the members of the GREVIO. This is the first milestone in establishing the independent expert monitoring body of the Istanbul Convention, which should begin its work before summer 2015. The Committee of the Parties, which is the political body of the Istanbul Convention's monitoring mechanism and which will be representing the Parties, will elect the first ten GREVIO members within approximately two months of the deadline for nominations (2 March 2015).

GEC members welcomed news about the Istanbul Convention being awarded the Vision Award of the World Future Council, Inter-Parliamentary Union and UN Women, as part of the World Future Policy Award 2014. The award honours the ground-breaking nature of the Istanbul Convention and the vision it carries for women in Europe and beyond to lead a life free of violence.

- Council of Europe project "Preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence in Ukraine" (funded by SIDA)

Maria Oreshkina, of the Equality Division Secretariat, presented the Council of Europe project "Preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence in Ukraine" to the members of the GEC. Her presentation is available on the Gender Equality website.

- Activities covered by South Mediterranean Programme

Emmanuel Baron of the Equality Division Secretariat gave an overview of the activities which have been covered by the South Mediterranean Programme in Jordan Morocco and Tunisia since 2012. He informed the GEC that gender equality and violence against women are priorities for future co-operation with the abovementioned countries for 2015-2017. Council of Europe action in this framework focuses on awareness-raising and capacity building, including using the Istanbul Convention, and other Council of Europe standards, as a blueprint for national policies to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence, and promote gender equality.

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

- Seminar on "Tackling the gaps in research and the lack of data disaggregated by sex concerning women's equal access to justice" (Paris, 26-27 June 2014)
- 2015 Conference "Towards guaranteeing equal access of women to justice"

The Chairperson invited Carolina Lasén Diaz, Head of the Gender Equality Unit, to present the findings of the Seminar "Tackling the gaps in research and the lack of data disaggregated by sex concerning women's equal access to justice" which took place in June 2014, and to inform the members about the conference planned for 2015 in Bern (Switzerland). It is planned that this conference will also be the third Conference of National Focal Points. The compilation of good practices which had been produced following the Hearing on Equal Access of Women to Justice in Paris, in December 2013, will be re-launched next year with a focused template and examples of good practices that facilitate women's access to justice, so that a publication can be produced in time for the Bern Conference. Following discussions among the participants, it was proposed to invite to the Conference senior level members of the European Courts in Strasbourg and Luxembourg. The Swiss authorities informed the participants that preparations for the Conference are under way.

The GEC:

- *instructed the Secretariat to prepare a draft Conference Paper for discussion and approval at the next GEC meeting in April 2015.*
- *took note of the Bern Conference Concept Note as it appears in GEC(2014)10.*
- *proposed to invite senior level members of the European Courts in Strasbourg and Luxembourg to the Bern Conference when preparing the draft programme for discussion at the April meeting.*
- *agreed to prepare a compilation of good practices on women's access to justice, to be produced in time for the Conference in Bern.*
- *agreed to request the European Court of Human Rights to prepare a thematic paper analysing their case-law related to gender equality, to be presented at the Bern Conference.*
- *agreed to come back to discussion on this item at their next meeting in April 2015.*

**e. 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 opened up the discussion on “Balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision-making” and informed the members that this subject had been discussed at the previous GEC meeting in April 2014 and also at the NFP meeting in October 2014. All the comments received from NFPs since that meeting had been compiled into document GEC(2014)15. He recalled that GEC members would also have an opportunity to make comments during the discussion. The Chairperson invited Carolina Lasén Diaz to update the GEC on the latest developments and introduced Tania Verge Mestre, the independent expert who prepared the memorandum (document GEC(2014)11).

Following the update by the Secretariat about the integration of comments received from the NFPs and Ms Mestre's presentation of the memorandum which she had prepared, the item was opened up for further discussion. Ensuing deliberations focused on the revision of the previous questionnaire used in 2008, on the basis of the proposals prepared by the consultant and taking into consideration comments by the GEC members. Questions were raised about the timetable and other practical arrangements regarding the format of the questionnaire and the process of providing replies.



The GEC agreed:

- *that the revised questionnaire will include explanations about how to complete the on-line form, including reference documents.*
- *to request members to send all comments on the memorandum to the Secretariat ([gender.equality@coe.int](mailto:gender.equality@coe.int)) by 5 January 2015, so that a revised questionnaire could be prepared for discussion at the next GEC meeting in April 2015.*
- *to inform the NFPs about the GEC discussions and the planned adoption of the questionnaire at the next GEC meeting in April 2015.*
- *that a deadline of six months would be given for sending replies to the on-line questionnaire.*

#### **f. Gender mainstreaming in all policies and measures**

- Exchange of views with Antje Rothemund, Head of the Youth Department

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Ms Rothemund was unable to attend the GEC meeting and this item was postponed to a future meeting.

- Presentation of the No Hate Speech Campaign “Combating Discrimination Online” project by Bridget O’Loughlin of the Youth Centre

The Chairperson introduced Bridget O’Loughlin from the Youth Centre, who showed a short video to introduce this item. She then made a presentation which outlined the background to the No Hate Speech Campaign and its target audience. Ms O’Loughlin informed the participants that 22 July had recently been recognised as the international day against hate speech. She invited the GEC members to follow the campaign on Facebook and Twitter. The video is available on the No Hate Speech website and the Powerpoint presentation is available on the Gender Equality website.

- Presentation by Aygen Becquart and Rica Terbeck, Directorate of Internal Oversight, of the findings of the evaluation of technical assistance programmes

The Chairperson introduced and welcomed Aygen Becquart and Rica Terbeck, of the Directorate of Internal Oversight (DIO), and gave the floor to Ms Becquart who introduced the item and explained the work that DIO had been doing in this regard. Rica Terbeck made a Powerpoint presentation (available on the Gender Equality website) on the current evaluation of gender mainstreaming in the Council of Europe’s technical assistance programmes. During the exchange which followed, Liri Kopaçi-Di Michele pointed out the structures in place in the Council of Europe Transversal Programme on Gender Equality (GEC, NFP, GERs, GMT, etc.) and that the GEC is able to provide advice on gender mainstreaming in other sectors of the Council of Europe. She proposed training on gender mainstreaming for those involved in technical assistance programmes, and pointed to existing resources on gender mainstreaming such as the Manual “Supporting Gender Equality Rapporteurs (GERs) in their role”, examples of gender mainstreaming in Council of Europe steering committees, partial agreements of monitoring bodies, as well as online training provided by other organisations such as the OHCHR. It was proposed during the

discussion that when recruiting staff to work on technical assistance programmes, one of the qualifications requested could be related to mainstreaming gender issues.

*The GEC agreed:*

- *to continue to promote gender mainstreaming, including good practices, in line with the Council of Europe Strategy on Gender Equality.*

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

Following a request by the Chairperson, there was nothing further to add to the report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the National Focal Points (NFP), which took place in Helsinki on 10 October 2014.

- *The GEC took note of the meeting report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of National Focal Points (10 October 2014, Helsinki) as it appears in document GEC(2014)RAP rev.*

### **3. Beijing +20**

- Proposals for events to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary

The Chairperson introduced the item which was already discussed at the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the National Focal Points in October.

The Secretariat informed the participants about recent events at which it had participated (the High Level EU Presidency Conference on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action (Rome) and the UNECE/UN Women Beijing +20 Regional Review Meeting (Geneva)). In line with the terms of reference of the GEC and its expected results in particular regarding co-operation with UN Women and participation in relevant meetings such as the UN Commission on the Status of Women, the Secretariat will launch preparations for the organisation of a side event at the next CSW-59 (New York, 9-20 March 2015). The usual procedure is to co-sponsor an event with the country holding the Chairmanship of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers. It would be important to choose a topic relevant to the work of the GEC and which promotes Council of Europe standards.

During the discussion, there was interest shown by the GEC members to hold a side event at CSW-59 on gender stereotypes and sexism in education and media, or on gender mainstreaming.

*The GEC agreed:*

- *to organise a side-event at CSW-59, in March 2015, on the theme of gender stereotypes in education and media, portraying the recent Council of Europe work on these issues.*

#### 4. Glossary on Gender Equality

The Chairperson introduced the item regarding the preparation of a Glossary on Gender Equality and informed members about the extensive discussion which had taken place on this subject at the previous GEC meeting. The Secretariat had been tasked with preparing a document giving an overview of what was already available in terms of glossaries on gender equality, which is contained in document GEC(2014)7. During the discussion that followed, the members expressed their appreciation for the document presented and said that the information listed in the appendix was already a very good reference document which should be made available. GEC members were against creating any new definitions in the field of gender equality.

*The GEC agreed:*

- *to publish on the Gender Equality website the appendix to document GEC(2014)7 – Concept paper for the creation of a glossary on gender equality.*
- *to instruct the Secretariat to prepare a more detailed document including relevant definitions from Council of Europe instruments and standards, providing sources and explanations, to be discussed at the GEC meeting in November 2015.*

#### IV. Co-operation with other regional and international organisations

Exchange of views with Anne Gaspard, Executive Director of the European Network of Equality Bodies (EQUINET)

The Chairperson welcomed and introduced Anne Gaspard, Executive Director of the European Network of Equality Bodies (EQUINET). Ms Gaspard made a Powerpoint presentation outlining the work of EQUINET, their current activities and future plans. She also pointed out some possible areas for co-operation between the GEC and EQUINET, including access to justice for victims of discrimination, violence against women and gender stereotypes/sexism. GEC members raised questions as to criteria for membership of EQUINET, and their activities with regard to work-life balance, and developments in relation to discrimination linked to pregnancy and parenting. It was agreed that there were many opportunities for future co-operation between the GEC and EQUINET, including participation at each other's events and dissemination of Council of Europe standards and publications. Ms Gaspard's presentation is available on the Gender Equality website.

*The GEC agreed to:*

- *explore areas of future co-operation between the GEC and EQUINET and send them information on Council of Europe tools and publications, for dissemination through EQUINET's networks, newsletter and website.*

### Exchange of views with Ambassador Miroslava Beham, Senior Adviser on Gender Issues, OSCE

The Chairperson welcomed Ambassador Miroslava Beham, Senior Adviser on Gender Issues of OSCE to what is the second exchange between the GEC and Ambassador Beham.

Ambassador Beham highlighted very good co-operation between the OSCE and the Council of Europe in the area of Gender Equality and recalled the contribution of the Chair and Ms Kopaçi-Di Michele to the OSCE Gender Equality Review Conference (Vienna, 10-11 July 2014). Ambassador Beham outlined the work of the OSCE on gender equality, which is viewed as a basic concept to attaining security and one of the key cornerstones of OSCE's comprehensive security. This concept also recognises that security analysis should include aspects of economic rights, environmental security, fighting domestic violence, women's political participation and human rights including women's rights. The mandate for gender mainstreaming in the work and structures of the OSCE comes from their Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, from 2004. At the moment the OSCE is working on updating these commitments as well as enhancing the gender structure to be elevated to a department with a seat at the policy-making table at the OSCE. The Ambassador informed the GEC that OSCE and FRA are co-operating with a view to extending the FRA Survey on Violence against Women to the non-EU member states of the OSCE. She spoke about work being carried out on UNSCR 1325 implementation together with the Peace and Research Institute in Oslo (PRIO), promotion of men's participation in gender equality issues and the MenEngage network which was started last year through the OSCE. The OSCE is actively looking for ways to further co-operate with other international organisations on gender equality issues.

The OSCE will organise a conference on gender equality in the media as a direct result of the Council of Europe's 2013 Amsterdam Conference.

In the discussions which followed, members welcomed co-operation and synergies between the Council of Europe and the OSCE in the area of gender equality and encouraged the use of and reference to the relevant Council of Europe standards, in particular the Istanbul Convention. As the 47 Council of Europe member states are all members of the OSCE and also legally obliged to follow the commitments and standards of the Council of Europe, this should be made use of within the OSCE.

### **V. Exchange of views with Salma Nims, Secretary General of the Jordanian National Commission for Women**

The Chairperson introduced Salma Nims, Secretary General of the Jordanian National Commission for Women (JNCW), whose work includes developing general policies, identifying priorities and participating in setting national and sectoral development plans related to women affairs, and Asma Khader, Commissioner to the Independent Election Commission.

Ms Nims presented the work of the JNCW and the difficulties which they had experienced, such as the lack of resources and the lack of training. She pointed out that no senior official had been trained in gender mainstreaming yet there were Gender Equality Focal Points and Gender Equality Units, whose the staff were not involved in budget or policy planning, but sent to participate in “women’s” events. She explained how the JNCW worked with many NGOs to prepare legal and policy proposals, their work with young men in order to teach them about the different forms of harassment, the pay gap issue, and public and political participation of women.

During the exchange which followed, GEC members expressed their appreciation about the work which was being carried out in Jordan and asked Ms Nims and Ms Khader to elaborate on some aspects, particularly regarding Syrian refugees and honour killings, as well as their co-operation with NGOs in the preparation of legal texts.

The Chairperson summed up the discussion pointing out that many of the core problems experienced in Jordan were similar to those experienced by many GEC members in their countries. He encouraged Ms Nims and Ms Khader to use the Council of Europe resources and the recommendations available and thanked them for a very interesting exchange, hoping that there will be many opportunities for further co-operation on issues of common interest.

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

The Chairperson introduced the item by saying that most events attended by GEC members, National Focal Points, experts and members of the secretariat had been covered by a written report contained in document GEC (2014)9 rev. He invited those who had not sent in written reports to report back orally to the members. The Chairperson reported back about an OSCE meeting in Tokyo and his meeting with the Executive Director of UN Women where he used the opportunity to discuss on going work and co-operation between UN Women and the GEC in areas of common interest such as violence against women, the promotion, implementation and monitoring of the Istanbul Convention, equal access of women to justice, tackling gender stereotypes, women's participation in political and public decision-making. The representative from Serbia informed the members about an event in Warsaw on gender equality and the future OSCE Serbian presidency in 2015, indicating that gender equality would be among the priorities of the Serbian presidency.

The Chairperson encouraged all GEC members to use these events to identify themselves as members of the GEC, to promote its work and the Council of Europe standards and activities in the area of gender equality.

## **VII. Current and future activities**

Liri Kopaçi Di-Michele outlined some events of interest to the members which were noted on the agenda.

Following discussion on future activities, the GEC:

- *proposed to invite the Commissioner for Human Rights, Nils Muižnieks to another exchange with the GEC at one of its future meetings.*

## **VIII. Other business**

An item was raised as to preparing a welcome pack of information for new GEC members. Liri informed the members that the Secretariat would look into this and encouraged all members of GEC or NFPs who had specific questions about any technical or administrative issues, to contact a member of the Secretariat who would be happy to help them.

## **IX. Date and place of next GEC meetings:**

- *The dates and venues of the next meetings of the GEC were agreed by the participants.*
  - *7<sup>th</sup> meeting– Strasbourg, 15-17 April 2015*
  - *8<sup>th</sup> meeting- Strasbourg, 18-20 November 2015*

# APPENDIX I

Strasbourg, 19 November 2014

GEC (2014) OJ 2 rev 1

## GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION (GEC)

### *6th meeting*

9.00 am – 6.00 pm, 19-21 November 2014  
Strasbourg, Agora, Meeting Room G05

### AGENDA

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

- *Draft Agenda*

*GEC(2014)OJ 2 rev 1*

**II. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson**

**III. Council of Europe Transversal Programme on Gender Equality**

**1. Co-operation with the other sectors of the Council of Europe**

- a. Exchange of views with the Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers Rapporteur Group on Human Rights (GR-H)**
- b. Exchange of views with the European Committee on Social Cohesion, Human Dignity and Equality (CDDECS)**

***(Exchange will take place in Room 9 of the Palais Building)***

- *With the participation of Catherine Bij de Vaate, Policy Adviser, Institute on Gender Equality and Women's History (ATRIA)*

- c. **Exchange of views with Helena Lišuchová, Gender Equality Rapporteur of Groups of State against Corruption (GRECO)**
  - d. **Committee of Ministers request for information and/or possible comments on PACE Recommendation 2053 (2014) "Women's rights and prospects for Euro-Mediterranean co-operation"** *GEC(2014)16*
- 2. Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017**
- a. **Annual Report on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy** *GEC(2014)12*
  - b. **Combating Gender Stereotypes and Sexism**
    - Follow-up to the Amsterdam Conference on "Media and the image of women" (July 2013)
      - o *Draft handbook* *GEC(2014)14*
      - o *Compilation of key challenges and good practices on gender equality and the media at national level* *Publication*
    - Helsinki Conference on "Combating stereotypes in and through education" (9-10 October 2014)
      - o *Follow-up to the Helsinki Conference* *GEC(2014)13*
      - o *Dissemination of good practices on gender equality in education* *Publication*
  - c. **Preventing and combating violence against women**
    - Signature, ratification and entry into force of the Istanbul Convention *Oral Presentation*
    - Monitoring of the Istanbul Convention *Oral Presentation*
    - Council of Europe project "Preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence in Ukraine" (funded by SIDA) *Oral Presentation*
    - Activities covered by South Mediterranean Programme *Oral Presentation*



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

- Seminar on “Tackling the gaps in research and the lack of data disaggregated by sex concerning women’s equal access to justice”  
(Paris, 26-27 June 2014)

*Oral Presentation*

- 2015 Conference “Towards guaranteeing equal access of women to justice”
  - o *Preliminary draft concept paper* GEC(2014)10

**e. 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(2014)11
- o *2008 questionnaire* GEC(2014)5
- o *Comments on the memorandum received from member states* GEC(2014)15

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

- Exchange of views with Antje Rothemund, Head of the Youth Department
- Presentation by Aygen Becquart, Directorate of Internal Oversight of the (initial) findings of the evaluation of technical assistance programmes

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

2<sup>nd</sup> NFP meeting (Helsinki, 10 October 2014)

*NFP(2014)RAP rev*

**3. Beijing +20**

- Proposals for events to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary

**4. Glossary on Gender Equality**

- o *Concept paper for the creation of a glossary on gender equality* GEC(2014)7

#### **IV. Co-operation with other regional and international organisations**

Exchange of views with Anne Gaspard, Executive Director of the European Network of Equality Bodies (EQUINET)

Exchange of views with Ambassador Miroslava Beham, Senior Adviser on Gender Issues, OSCE

#### **V. Exchange of views with Salma Nims, Secretary General of the Jordanian National Commission for Women**

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

*GEC(2014)9 rev*

#### **VII. Current and future activities**

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

#### **VIII. Other business**

#### **IX. Date and place of next GEC meetings:**

##### **2015**

*7<sup>th</sup> meeting– Strasbourg, 15-17 April 2015*

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

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

##### **2014**

*1st International Women and Justice Summit, 24-25 November 2014, Istanbul*

*EU Advisory Committee on equal opportunities, 27 November 2014, Brussels*

*EQUINET-FRA meeting on combating violence against women, 9 December 2014, Brussels*

##### **2015**

*Global meeting of human rights ombudspersons, March, Geneva*

*Norway Grants Conference*

*CSW, 9-20 March, New York*

*High-level Session on Women and Girls during the World Education Forum, May, South Korea*

*Beijing+20 –“Global Leaders’ Commitment Forum on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment”, September, New York*

*2015 Conference, 15-16 October, Bern, Switzerland*

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

## APPENDIX II

### PARTICIPANTS LIST/ LISTE DES PARTICIPANT-E-S

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 Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection

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 Droits des femmes et égalité entre les femmes et les hommes  
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