



Strasbourg, 28 October 2015

NFP (2015) RAP

**NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS
(NFPs)**

**3RD MEETING OF GENDER EQUALITY NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS
16 OCTOBER 2015, BERN (SWITZERLAND)**

REPORT

1. Welcome address by the Acting Chairperson of the Gender Equality Commission

Ms Kira Appel, Vice-Chair of the Gender Equality Commission (GEC), apologised for the absence of the GEC Chairperson, welcomed participants to the third meeting of the National Focal Points (NFPs) and chaired this meeting. She thanked the Swiss authorities for the meeting venue, the hospitality and the excellent organisation of the thematic Conference that had just ended (see agenda item 3 below). Ms Vanda Jurseniene, GEC member for Lithuania, had informed the GEC that she was stepping down from her duties and responsibilities. The Chair conveyed GEC's appreciation of her contribution to the work of the Gender Equality Commission. The Chair welcomed the newly appointed NFPs from Montenegro and Germany.

The Agenda was adopted without amendments, as set out in Appendix I to this report. The list of participants appears in Appendix II.

2. Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017

- *Progress on implementation of the Strategy by the Secretariat*

The Secretariat informed participants about the ongoing preparation of the second annual report on the implementation of the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017, which will be submitted to the next GEC meeting in November 2015, for discussion and eventual adoption before being forwarded to the GEC's parent committee (CDDECS), for transmission to the Committee of Ministers.

In reply to a question about the next monitoring cycle of the Committee of Ministers Recommendation (2003)3 on balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision making, the Secretariat informed NFPs about progress in the preparation of the on-line questionnaire, which is currently developed by the Council of Europe's IT Department.

- *Activities and measures towards the achievement of the objectives in the Gender Equality Strategy in member states*

The Secretariat thanked the 27 NFPs that submitted written information on their national activities contributing to the achievement of each of the five objectives of the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy. Those member States that did not submit information were encouraged to do so shortly after the meeting so that they can be included in the revised compilation of information from member States that will be circulated to GEC members (document GEC(2015)5). The NFPs from Ukraine and Lithuania announced that they would send their input to the secretariat after the meeting. Finally, in reply to a question about giving visibility to translation of CoE documents in the languages of member States, the Secretariat informed NFPs that this already the case and invited them to visit the Gender Equality website where translations of the CoE Gender Equality Strategy and other CoE publications are available in several languages (provided by national authorities).

- ✓ **The NFPs agreed to the proposal of making available the compilation document in the Gender Equality website.**

- *Thematic debate on gender mainstreaming*

As it was agreed at last year's NFP meeting, the submission of written information on national activities, in advance of the meeting, allowed for more targeted discussion time. The Secretariat explained that it has been proposed in the draft agenda to hold a thematic debate on gender mainstreaming as many NFPs had reported relevant activities on this topic in their written contributions.

A number of NFPs took the floor to raise certain difficulties associated with the promotion of gender equality and achieving concrete results on gender mainstreaming, **including terminology issues, the need for statistical data to support policy changes, and the importance of political will**. Gender budgeting was highlighted as an important tool to make progress on gender equality at the national level.

- ✓ **It was proposed and agreed to invite representatives from member States to give a presentation on an agreed issue at future NFP meetings.**

3. Conference of National Focal Points

- *Feedback from the 3rd NFP Conference 'Towards Guaranteeing Women's Equal Access to Justice'*

The Chair asked participants for feedback on the Conference which had just taken place. A number of NFPs complimented the organisation of the conference, including the diversity of issues covered and the expertise of speakers. The role of GEC members as moderators was also highlighted as a good practice that should be maintained. NFPs thanked the Swiss hosts for a very well organised conference and asked about the availability of the speeches and presentations made at the Conference. The Secretariat informed participants that all presentations would be made available in the Gender Equality website the following week.

- *4th NFP Conference – Estonia, 2016*

The NFP from Estonia presented the initial plans for next year's conference in Tallinn, which would take place during Estonia's Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (May-November 2016). Gender equality has been identified as one of the priorities of Estonia's chairmanship and the proposed conference could be a high-level stock-taking event on the implementation of the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy, including the review of progress made as well as the launch of discussions on the priority themes for the next strategy.

In addition to a general overview of the implementation of the Strategy, it is proposed that more attention could be paid to two of its strategic objectives: "combating gender stereotypes and sexism" and "achieving gender mainstreaming in all policies and measures".

The possible conference dates envisaged are: late June/early July 2016, or late September/early October 2016. EU countries expressed a preference for the end of June, in light of the EU calendar of gender equality meetings and events.

- ✓ **The GEC will discuss the proposal for next year's conference at its next meeting in November 2015.**

4. Adoption of the post-2015 agenda

The Secretariat informed participants about the adoption, at the end of September, of the UN post-2015 agenda, including the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved by 2030. Relevant goals are SDG 5 (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) and in the context of this year's NFP conference, also SDG 16 which includes a target about "promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all". The indicators to measure progress towards the SDGs are expected to be adopted in the first quarter of 2016.

In addition, the Secretariat informed that, at the Global Leaders Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: A Commitment to Action', held in New York on 27 September 2015, the Council of Europe's Secretary General had confirmed the Organisation's commitment to "Step it Up" to close the gender equality gap and to continue contributing to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and SDG 5, in particular through the implementation of the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy and the Istanbul Convention.

- ✓ **NFPs welcomed this information and highlighted the importance for future GEC meetings to take into account the global agenda and support member States in achieving the SDGs and targets of the post-2015 agenda.**

5. Any other business

In reply to a question about the ongoing budgetary discussions at the Council of Europe and the likelihood that the new Terms of Reference of the GEC will include paid representatives of all 47 member States, the Secretariat informed participants that the discussions are so far positive and there had been no opposition. As regards the future of the network of NFPs, this will need to be discussed after the adoption of the new Terms of Reference of the GEC.

The Secretariat informed NFPs about a number of events being planned by the European Law Students Association (ELSA) on 25 November 2015, on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, in some member States.

The Turkish NFP informed participants of the Global Conference on Ending Violence against Women to be held in Istanbul on 9-10 December 2015. The conference is organised by UN Women Europe and Central Asia Regional Office, in partnership with the Turkish Ministry of Family and Social Affairs, the United Nations Population Fund and other partners, including the Council of Europe.

APPENDIX I

3rd Meeting of Gender Equality National Focal Points

Bern, Switzerland, 16 October 2015

2.00 – 4.00 pm

Draft Agenda

1. Welcome address by the Vice Chairperson of the Gender Equality Commission
2. Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017
 - *Progress on implementation of the Strategy by the Secretariat*
 - *Activities and measures towards the achievement of the objectives in the Gender Equality Strategy in member states*
 - *Thematic Debate on gender mainstreaming*

GEC(2015)5
3. Conference of National Focal Points
 - *Feedback from the 3rd NFP Conference on “Towards guaranteeing equal access of women to justice”*
 - *4th NFP Conference 2016 – Estonia [dates to be confirmed]*
4. Adoption of the post-2015 agenda
5. Any other business

ANNEXE II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS/LISTE DES PARTICIPANT(E)S

Armenia/Arménie

Ms Astghik MIRZAKHANYAN
Head of Social Affairs Department
Prime Minister's Office

Azerbaijan/Azerbaïdjan

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

Belgium/Belgique

Mme Carine JOLY
Conseillère, Institut pour l'Égalité des
femmes et des hommes

Bulgaria/Bulgarie

Ms Elena GYUROVA
State Expert, Ministry of Labour and Social
Policy

Croatia/Croatie

Ms Helena ŠTIMAC RADIN
Head of the Government Office for Gender
Equality
Government of the Republic of Croatia

Cyprus/Chypre

Ms Niki ANDREOU
Administrative Officer, Equality
Department, Ministry of Justice and Public
Order

Denmark/Danemark

Ms Kira APPEL
Deputy Head of Department. Ministry of
Children, Gender Equality, Integration and
Social Affairs

Estonia/Estonie

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

France

Mr Alexis RINCKENBACH
Chef du Bureau des affaires européennes et
internationales (BEI)
Direction Générale de la Cohésion Sociale,
Ministère des Affaires Sociales et de la
Santé, Ministère des Droits des Femmes

Germany/Allemagne

Ms Antje WUNDERLICH
Deputy Head of Unit, European and
International Gender Equality Policy
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior
Citizens, Women and Youth

Ms Nicole HERZOG
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior
Citizens, Women and Youth

Greece/Grèce

Ms Georgia PAPAGEORGIOU
Head of European Policy Department
General Secretariat for Gender Equality
Ministry of Interior

Iceland/Islande

Ms Hugrún R. HJALTADÓTTIR
Adviser, Centre for Gender Equality

Ireland/Irlande

Ms Deirdre NÍ NEILL
Gender Equality Division, Department of
Justice and Equality

Lithuania/Lituanie

Ms Rita ZEMAITYTE-TACK
Head of Unit, Equality between women and men
Ministry of Social Security and Labour,

Republic of Moldova/République de Moldova

Ms Lilia PASCAL
Head, Department for ensuring equal opportunities, between men and women and violence policies, Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family

Montenegro/

Ms Biljana PEJOVIĆ
First Adviser . Department for Gender Equality
Ministry of Justice and Minority Rights

Ms Tatjana ANDJELIC
Department for Gender Equality
Ministry of Justice and Minority Rights

Malta/Malte

Ms Nazzarena LAIVIERA
Acting Executive Director, National Commission for the Promotion of Equality
Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties

Netherlands/Pays-Bas

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

Norway/Norvège

Ms Lise ØSTBY
Senior Adviser, Director for Children, Youth and Family Affairs
Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion

Poland/Pologne

Ms Katarzyna WOLSKA-WRONA
Governmental Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment

Romania/Roumanie

Mr Sorin BOTEZATU
Director for Gender Equality, Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection

Serbia/Serbie

Mr Dragomir KNEZEVIC
Advisor, Gender Equality Unit
Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy

Slovakia/Slovaquie

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

Slovenia/Slovénie

Ms Sara SLANA
Senior Advisor, Equal Opportunities and European Coordination Service
Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

Spain/Espagne

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

Switzerland/Suisse

Mme Sylvie DURRER
Directrice, Bureau fédéral de l'égalité entre femmes et hommes
Département fédéral de l'intérieur

"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

Interpreters/Interprètes

M. Didier JUNGLING
Astrid KRÜGER
Jayne I. M. CRUICKSHANK

Turkey/Turquie

Ms Göknur AKÇADAĞ
Head of International Organisations
Department
Directorate General on the Status of
Women,

Ukraine

Ms Olena PETRENKO
First Secretary of the Human Rights and
Council of Europe Division
Directorate General for the International
Organizations
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

*Directorate of Human Dignity and Equality
– Equality Division*

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