

**SECRETARIAT GENERAL**

DIRECTORATE GENERAL  
HUMAN RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW



**GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION**  
– THE CHAIRPERSON

Strasbourg, 23 November 2012

Dear Gender Equality Rapporteurs,

It was a pleasure to meet you all last Friday at the first exchange between the Gender Equality Commission (GEC) and the Gender Equality Rapporteurs (GER). I do hope that you found it as stimulating and as useful an exchange as members of the GEC and I did.

I should like to express my thanks to all of you who were able to attend and for your interventions which led to a lively exchange among the participants. Please find attached a short report of the meeting as well as the two presentations which were made by the external consultants (Hanna Onwen-Huma and Catherine Bij de Vaate).

As a result of our meeting, I believe we have found ways of co-operating between our different groups and I would like to summarise some of them here:

- Increased co-operation between the GEC and GER through future exchanges, invitations to GER to attend GEC meetings, and invitations by the Steering Committees to GEC members to attend their meetings;
- GER could suggest the involvement of GEC members in conferences and events organised by their Steering Committees and vice versa;
- Contact information of the GEC, GER and the NFP to each different group;
- Training on gender mainstreaming for GER.
- Exchange information and resources (recommendations, resolutions, studies and other relevant documents) on subject matters of the GER Steering Committees;
- Regular exchange of information and contacts;
- Bilateral contacts in areas of interest to GER and GEC members.

Now that we have embarked upon this programme, it is up to each of us individually and as members of our respective Committees, to continue in this manner. I encourage you to contact myself, or the members of the Gender Equality Commission or the Gender Equality Secretariat for any information or assistance you may require.

I look forward to our continued co-operation!

Yours sincerely



Carlien Sheele  
Chairperson

**Exchange of views between the  
Gender Equality Commission (GEC)  
and the Gender Equality Rapporteurs (GER)  
(Strasbourg, Friday 16 November 2012)**

The Gender Equality Commission (GEC) held an exchange of views with the Gender Equality Rapporteurs (GER) from the different Steering Committees. The Chair gave some background about the GEC, and the place of the GEC and the GER in the overall Gender Equality Transversal Programme of the Council of Europe. The first part of the exchange consisted of presentations by two experts on gender mainstreaming, which was then followed by a question and answer session.

In the second part of the exchange, the GEC and the GER looked for ways of working together. The GER were asked to describe the work of their Committees, their experiences with regard to gender equality, how they thought the GEC could be helpful to them, what sort of information or co-operation they would like and what they expected from the GEC.

Interventions were made by the majority of those GER present and members of the GEC. There was an exchange among the participants on topics such as education, media, number of women mayors, cultural and landscape heritage, terminology, standardised language and the possibility of training. Questions were raised as to how gender equality and gender mainstreaming could be incorporated into the work of the committees and into the committees themselves. Some examples of how this was being done were put forward and information was shared as to where reference documents could be found. Many participants expressed their appreciation for holding the exchange and looked forward to increased co-operation among the two groups, as well as with the National Focal Points (NFP).

### **Useful links to websites:**

[Gender Equality](#)

[Violence against Women](#)

[Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe](#)

[Parliamentary Assembly Network "Women free from violence"](#)

### **Quick links to documents – all available on the Gender Equality website:**

[Gender Equality Factsheet](#)

[Recommendation Rec\(2003\)3 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision making](#)

[CM Recommendation CM/Rec\(2007\)13 on gender mainstreaming in education](#)

[Study on combating gender stereotypes in Education](#)

[Women and media](#)

[Study on "Combating the isolation of Roma Women and Girls and promoting their empowerment" invisible lives – Roma Women in Greece](#)