

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 18 November 2016

GEC (2016) Abridged Report November

GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION (GEC)

10th meeting

Strasbourg, 16-18 November 2016

List of items discussed and decisions taken
Abridged Report

Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

1. The Gender Equality Commission (GEC) held its 10th meeting in Strasbourg (France) on 16-18 November 2016. The meeting was chaired by Kira Appel (Vice-Chair) (16-17 November) and Sergiy Kyslytsya (Chair) (17-18 November).
2. The GEC adopted its agenda as set out in Appendix I to the present abridged report.

Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

3. The GEC elected Eva Fehringer (Austria) as Chair, and Charles Ramsden (United Kingdom) as Vice-Chair for one year as from 1 January 2017.

Exchange of views with Nils Muižnieks, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe

4. The GEC thanked the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights for the opportunity to have a second exchange of views with him and expressed its appreciation for the Commissioner's work to promote women's rights and gender equality during his mandate, including encouraging member states to sign and ratify the Istanbul Convention. The discussion also addressed possible ways to combat the increasing criticism and misinterpretation of the word "gender". The GEC also welcomed the Commissioner's willingness to co-operate with the members on topics with which he could assist in the member states.

Council of Europe Transversal Programme on Gender Equality

Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017

Follow-up to the conference "Are we there yet? Assessing progress, inspiring action – the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017", 30 June – 1 July 2016, Tallinn, Estonia

5. The GEC thanked the Estonian authorities for hosting this important event and adopted the conference report. The GEC took note of plans for the preparation of the next Gender Equality Strategy, based on the Tallinn Conference and feedback from members, including the preparation of a first draft to be discussed at the next GEC meeting.

Draft Annual Report on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy

6. Following a presentation of the Draft Annual Report, the GEC adopted it (taking into account some changes and updates to be made) and agreed to transmit it to the Committee of Ministers.

Objective 1 - Combating gender stereotypes and sexism

Follow-up to the meeting of 15 November to discuss the preparation of a draft recommendation on combating sexism

7. Following an oral report on the brainstorming meeting held the previous day to discuss the preparation of a draft recommendation on combating sexism, the GEC agreed that 15 members would participate in the drafting committee meeting(s) in 2017 with their costs covered by the Council of Europe. The first meeting would take place on 2-3 March 2017 (for 1.5 days).

Objective 2 - Preventing and combating violence against women

8. The GEC took note with interest of the information provided by
 - Bridget O'Loughlin, Executive Secretary of the GREVIO, on the ongoing monitoring process in the first two parties to be evaluated (Austria and Monaco); and
 - Taina Riski, Programme Advisor in the Equality and Human Dignity Department about co-operation activities in the field of violence against women and gender equality, funded by different donors.

Objective 3 - Guaranteeing equal access of women to justice

9. The GEC took note of information on the regional conference "Strengthening judicial capacity to improve women's access to justice" which took place in Chisinau on 24-25 October. The Conference gathered together more than 80 participants. The GEC expressed hope on a positive follow up to the request for the extension of the project "Improving women's access to justice in five Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) in 2017. The project extension will allow the Council of Europe to continue its work with the beneficiary countries to consolidate the results achieved and ensure sustainability in the long term.

Objective 4 - Achieving balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision-making

10. The GEC took note with interest of the preliminary findings of the third monitoring round of the implementation of the Committee of Ministers Recommendation (2003)3 on balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision-making. The preliminary findings presented by the consultants are based on the replies to the questionnaire received from 46 member states. The final analytical report will be published in 2017.

Objective 5 - Achieving gender mainstreaming in all policies and measures

11. The GEC took note of the work and activities of the new Senior Adviser on Gender Equality, Carlien Scheele, who is responsible for mainstreaming gender into all activities of the Council of Europe.

12. The GEC took note of the presentation by the Executive Secretary of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, Petya Nestorova, about the gender dimension in the 2nd round of monitoring the implementation of the Anti-Trafficking Convention.
13. The GEC took note of the presentation by Javier Gomez de Agüero of the Office of the Directorate General of Programmes about the integration of a gender equality dimension in co-operation projects.
14. The GEC took note of the presentation about the Balance in Sport (BIS) project by Sonia Parayre from the Sports Division, which focuses on the application of indicators on gender equality in sport.

Co-operation with other sectors of the Council of Europe

15. The GEC held an exchange of views with Rob Linham, Chair and Rapporteur of the Drafting Group on Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage (CDDH-MF) of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH). The GEC underlined the need for ongoing work to build on existing Council of Europe instruments. It stressed the importance to continue appropriate co-operation with the GEC.
16. Following the presentation by Urska Umek, Secretary to the Committee of experts on Media Pluralism and Transparency of Media Ownership (MSI-MED) about the draft feasibility study on media coverage of elections and gender equality, the GEC agreed to send to the Gender Equality Unit any relevant information including studies, legislation, etc. on the media coverage of elections from a gender equality perspective, to be forwarded to the MSI-MED before the end of the year.

Co-operation with international/regional organisations

Exchange of views with Ambassador Mara Marinaki, Principal Advisor on Gender and on the implementation of USCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, European External Action Service, European Union

17. Following the exchange of views with Ambassador Mara Marinaki, the GEC agreed to pursue co-operation in areas of common interest, including preventing and combating violence against women, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the women, peace and security agenda.

Exchange of views with Pauline Chabbert, Founder of Autrement Conseil, groupe Egae, France

18. Following the presentation made by Pauline Chabbert, Founder of Autrement Conseil, groupe Egae, the GEC expressed interest in the database of women experts developed to improve the visibility and participation of women experts in the media. It underlined the need for co-operation and co-ordination with other similar initiatives.

19. The GEC took note of the presentation by Christian Veske of EIGE's gender equality glossary and thesaurus, which includes Council of Europe definitions and reference materials.
20. The GEC took note of the presentation by Pierrette Pape of the work of the European Women's Lobby (EWL) and expressed appreciation for the continued work of the EWL in the promotion of women's rights and gender equality in Europe.
21. The GEC took note of the reports from the representatives of the Netherlands, Slovakia and Malta, who informed the members about their activities and results in the field of gender equality of their respective Presidencies of the Council of the European Union.
22. The GEC took note of the plans to organise a side event at the CSW61 in New York in 2017 in the field of sexism and sexist hate speech. In line with previous events, the side event may be organised in partnership with the member state holding the Chairmanship of the Council of Europe (Cyprus).

Report of events attended by GEC member, experts and the Secretariat

23. The GEC took note of the written and oral reports made by members of the GEC and the Secretariat about events at which they participated since the previous GEC meeting.

Current and future activities at national level and at international level

24. The GEC took note of the very informative presentation made by Steve Binggeli from the Swiss Federal Office for Gender Equality about the self-assessment tool LOGIB to measure the gender pay gap in companies. Following an extensive exchange, the Swiss representative asked members to express their interest in a possible international workshop on this topic in 2017.
25. The GEC took note of the reports from the Estonian and Cypriot representatives about their respective Committee of Ministers' Chairmanship of the Council of Europe.

Date and place of next meetings

26. The GEC agreed to hold its 2017 meetings on 5-7 April 2017 in Strasbourg and on 22-24 November 2017 in Prague.

Adoption of the abridged report of the 10th GEC meeting (16-18 November 2016)

27. The GEC adopted the abridged report of the 10th meeting of the Gender Equality Commission (16-18 November 2016) and agreed to transmit it to the Committee of Ministers.

Appendix

AGENDA

- I. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda
Draft Agenda *GEC(2016)OJ 2 Revised 1*
- II. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson
- III. Exchange of views with Nils Muižnieks, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe
- IV. Council of Europe Transversal Programme on Gender Equality
1. Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017
- a. Follow-up to the conference "Are we there yet? Assessing progress, inspiring action – the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017", 30 June – 1 July 2016, Tallinn, Estonia
Report of the Tallinn Conference *Oral presentation*
GEC(2016)9
- b. Draft Annual Report on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy
GEC(2016)10
Activities and measures in member states towards the achievement of the objectives of the Gender Equality Strategy *GEC(2016)8*
- c. Objective 1 - Combating gender stereotypes and sexism
- Follow-up to the meeting (15 November) to discuss the preparation of a draft recommendation on combating sexism
- d. Objective 2 - Preventing and combating violence against women
- Presentation by Bridget O'Loughlin, Executive Secretary of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) about current issues
Oral presentation
- Presentation by Taina Riski, Programme Advisor, Equality and Human Dignity Department, about co-operation activities
Oral presentation

- Update by the Secretariat on current and future publications
Oral presentation

Latest publication

Paper on Article 11 of the Istanbul Convention *Publication (French version)*

e. Objective 3 - Guaranteeing equal access of women to justice

- Regional Project on "Improving women's access to justice in five EAP countries"

Oral presentation

- Follow up to the regional conference "Strengthening Judicial Capacity to Improve Women's Access to Justice" - 24-25 October 2016, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

Oral presentation

Barriers, remedies and good practices for women's access to justice in five Eastern Partnership Countries *Online version only*

- Update from the Secretariat about other activities in the area of access of women to justice

Oral presentation

Latest publication

Report of Bern Conference *Publication*

f. Objective 4 - Achieving 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

Introduction by Secretariat

Oral presentation by Consultants

Preliminary findings by the consultants

GEC(2016)11

g. Objective 5 - Achieving gender mainstreaming in all policies and measures

- Gender Mainstreaming in Council of Europe Activities

Oral presentation

4th edition of information document (October 2016)

Online version only

- Presentation by Carlien Scheele, Senior Gender Equality Adviser, about her role regarding gender mainstreaming in the Council of Europe

Oral presentation

- Presentation by Petya Nestorova, Executive Secretary of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) about the 2nd round of monitoring concerning the gender dimension of trafficking in human beings

Oral presentation

- Presentation by Javier Gomez de Agüero, Office of the Directorate General of Programmes (ODGP), of gender mainstreaming guidelines in co-operation in projects

Oral presentation

- Presentation by Sonia Parayre, Sports Division, of the Council of Europe-European Union joint project on "Balance in Sport"

Oral presentation

2. Co-operation with other sectors of the Council of Europe

- Exchange of views with Rob Linham, Chair and Rapporteur of the Drafting Group on Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage (CDDH-MF) of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH)
- Presentation by Urska Umek, Secretary to the Committee of experts on Media Pluralism and Transparency of Media Ownership (MSI-MED) of the draft feasibility study on media coverage of elections and gender equality

V. Co-operation with international/regional organisations

- Exchange of views with Ambassador Mara Marinaki, Principal Advisor on Gender and on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, European External Action Service, European Union
- Exchange of views with Pierrette Pape, Policy and Campaigns Director, European Women's Lobby (EWL)
- Presentation of EIGE's new gender equality glossary and thesaurus by Christian Veske, Stakeholders Relations Coordinator, European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)
- Exchange of views with Pauline Chabbert, Founder of *Autrement Conseil, groupe Egae*, France
- European Union gender equality agenda:
 - o Netherlands Presidency (January – June 2016)
 - o Slovakian Presidency (July – December 2016)
 - o Maltese Presidency (January – June 2017)

- Update on co-operation with the United Nations

Oral presentation

*Overview of follow-up on progress in implementing the United Nations 2030
Agenda for Sustainable Development*

Information document

- Council of Europe side event during CSW61, New York

Oral presentation

VI. Report of events attended by GEC members, experts and the Secretariat

GEC(2016)6

VII. Current and future activities at national level and at international level

- Presentation of the tool "Logib" by Steve Binggeli, Economist, Federal Office for Gender Equality of Switzerland
- Council of Europe gender equality agenda:
 - o Estonian Chairmanship (May – November 2016)
 - o Cyprus Chairmanship (November 2016 – May 2017)

VIII. Other business

- Expertise of the members of the Gender Equality Commission

IX. Date and place of next meetings

11th meeting: Strasbourg, 5-7 April 2017

12th meeting: Strasbourg, 22-24 November 2017

Calendar of forthcoming events and meetings:

Council of Europe

Date tbc

Side event CSW61, New York

Other organisations

13-24 March 2017 61st session of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York

X. Adoption of the abridged report of 10th GEC meeting (16-18 November 2016)