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Background + objectives of the 1st meeting of the Drafting Committee

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Background:

- In **April 2016** the GEC agreed to prepare a draft Rec. on combating sexism for submission to the CM (GE Strategy 2014-2017, Obj. 1 “combat gender stereotypes and sexism”)
- The GEC **instructed the Secretariat** to take the necessary action incl. relevant expertise in MS and involving other CoE sectors
- **Brainstorming meeting** on 15 Nov. 2016
- In **Nov. 2016**, the GEC agreed that 15 MS would participate in the 1st meeting of the Drafting Committee in March 2017



Background (cont.):

- Informal brainstorming in Nov. 2016 - Need to:
 - review **relevant CoE materials/standards**
 - discuss **consultations** on draft Rec (GMT, etc.)
 - focus on **sexist actions, their origin + impact**
 - cover **sexism in public/private** and **language**
 - **no distinction between ordinary+violent sexism**
 - include/refer to **good practices in MS**
 - focus on **exemplary role of public authorities**
 - address **intersectionality**
 - be **concrete, practical, operational/add value...**



Background (cont.):

- The GEC agreed (in Nov. 2016) that the 1st meeting of the Drafting Committee should:
 - discuss a **definition of sexism**
 - explore the **links between sexism, discrimination and violence**
 - identify the **tools needed to address sexism**
 - **No set deadline for this work** – to be included in GEC's Terms of Reference for 2018-2019 (also the Drafting Committee)



Objectives of the meeting:

- **Discuss possible elements for a definition of sexism**, on the basis of existing standards and experience in member states
- **Get input from experts** on how to address the links between sexism, sex-based discrimination and violence against women
- **Review a preliminary draft outline** of the Rec. focusing on both structure and content
- **Decide on next steps** to prepare the 2nd meeting of the Draft. Committee (June 2017)



CoE Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017

Five objectives :

1. combating gender stereotypes and sexism;
2. preventing and combating VaW;
3. guaranteeing equal access to justice;
4. achieving balanced participation in political and public decision-making;
5. achieving gender mainstreaming in all policies and measures.



This work is central to all of them:

- 1: Combating gender stereotypes and sexism, includes sexist hate speech (previous CoE work on **gender stereotypes in media + education**)
- 2: Prevent and combat violence against women: **stalking, bullying, sexual harassment, threats..**
- 3: Balanced participation of women and men in decision-making: **sexism and women in power**
- 4: Women's access to justice: **measures needed to provide victims of sexism with redress**
- 5: **Gender mainstreaming of all CoE policies**, (intersectionality, Media and Internet Governance)



Any questions/clarification?

- We will get back to the **links between the different sectors and issues** later on today; tomorrow we will discuss how to best address them when we start considering the substantive content of the preliminary draft recommendation
- Tomorrow afternoon, we will start by discussing the **objectives of the draft recommendation** before we get into the content to be included in the different sections...