

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 7 April 2017

GEC (2017) Abridged Report April

GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION (GEC)

11th meeting
Strasbourg, 5-7 April 2017

**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 11th meeting in Strasbourg (France) on 5-7 April 2016⁷. The meeting was chaired by Eva Fehringer (Austria).
2. The GEC adopted its agenda as set out in the Appendix to the present abridged report.

Council of Europe Transversal Programme on Gender Equality

Work plan of the Gender Equality Commission 2016 - 2017

3. The GEC took note of the work plan for 2016-2017 as presented in document GEC(2016)1 revised 1.

Draft Terms of Reference of the Gender Equality Commission 2018 - 2019

4. The GEC took note of the draft terms of reference 2018-2019, as presented in document GEC(2017)4. The GEC discussed the proposal put forward to set up a Bureau. In light of the budgetary implications, as well as of existing structures and processes the, GEC decided not to set up a Bureau on this occasion. It may decide to review the situation in the future.

Draft Gender Equality Strategy 2018 - 2023

5. The GEC took note of the information contained in the discussion document GEC(2017)2 concerning the Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023.
6. The GEC agreed to keep the proposed structure and priority objectives and instructed the Secretariat to amend the document in line with the discussions which had taken place on this item, including revising the introduction as regards women and men in gender equality, as well as mainstreaming the following topics throughout the strategy: the role of men and boys in gender equality, women's economic independence digitalisation and access to the labour market, and equality bodies.
7. The GEC agreed to send written comments to the Secretariat by the end of April and instructed the Secretariat to prepare a revised draft strategy for circulation at the end of May.
8. The GEC will resume consideration on this item at its next meeting in November 2017 with a view to adopting the text of the new strategy at that meeting.

Gender Equality Strategy 2014 - 2017

Objective 1 - Combating gender stereotypes and sexism

- Preparation of a draft Committee of Ministers recommendation to prevent and combat sexism

9. The GEC welcomed the work carried out in the first meeting of the drafting committee preparing the Committee of Ministers recommendation to prevent and combat sexism and took note of the meeting report, as presented by the Chairperson of the drafting Committee in document GEC(2017)3. The GEC looked forward to continuing the discussion on this item at its next meeting.

Objective 2 - Preventing and combating violence against women

- Exchange of views with Feride Acar, President of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO)
10. The GEC took note of the information provided by the President of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) on the calendar and ongoing procedure for monitoring of the implementation of the Istanbul Convention by States Parties. The GEC took note of the information provided by several delegations on progress with the signature and ratification of the Istanbul Convention.

Objective 3 - Guaranteeing equal access of women to justice

- Regional Project on “Improving women’s access to justice in six EAP countries”
11. The GEC took note of the information provided by the Secretariat about the activities related to the Regional Project on “Improving Women’s access to justice in six Eastern Partnership countries”. The GEC expressed interest in the training manual for judges and prosecutors being prepared under this project, which will be made available to all member states.

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
12. The GEC took note of the information contained in the analytical report prepared by two external consultants about the 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 and instructed the Secretariat to take account of any factual corrections which would be **sent from member states to the Secretariat by Friday 28 April 2017.**

- Presentation by François Friederich, Head of the Electoral Assistance Division, of the regional study on “Women’s political representation in the Eastern Partnership countries”

13. The GEC took note of the regional study on “Women’s political representation in the Eastern Partnership countries” and other gender-related activities presented by François Friederich, Head of the Electoral Assistance Division of the Council of Europe.

Objective 5 - Achieving gender mainstreaming in all policies and measures

- Update from Carlien Scheele, Senior Gender Equality Advisor

14. The GEC took note of the presentation made by Carlien Scheele, Senior Gender Equality Advisor, on progress on gender mainstreaming in the different sectors of the Council of Europe.

- Gender Mainstreaming in Council of Europe Activities

15. The GEC took note of the 5th edition of the document ‘Gender Mainstreaming activities at the Council of Europe’, as well as the 2nd edition of the Gender Equality Newsletter.

- Draft Committee of Ministers Recommendation on Gender Equality in the audio-visual sector

16. The GEC took note of the information provided by the Chair and the Secretariat regarding the preparation of a draft Committee of Ministers recommendation on gender equality in the audio-visual sector and the further steps towards its adoption foreseen this year.

Co-operation with other sectors of the Council of Europe

- Exchange of views with Ambassador Tomáš Boček, Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees

17. The GEC took note of the presentation made by Ambassador Tomáš Boček, Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees, and welcomed his willingness to co-operate with the GEC, in particular with respect to plans to include a new objective on migrant and asylum-seeking women and girls in the new Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023.

- Exchange of views with Inger Linge, Gender Equality Rapporteur of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
18. The GEC took note of the exchange of views with Inger Linge, Gender Equality Rapporteur of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe for her presentation about recent gender equality-related reports adopted by the Congress.
- Exchanges of views with Rocio Cervera, Deputy Executive Director of the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (North-South Centre) and Emmanuel Baron, Programme Manager from the South Med Programme
19. The GEC took note of the information provided by the Deputy Executive Director of the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (North-South Centre) on their gender equality-related activities and their relevant contribution to the implementation of the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017.
20. The GEC took note of the co-operation activities carried out by the Council of Europe in Morocco, Jordan and Tunisia as part of the South Med Programme in the fields of gender equality and preventing and combating violence against women, presented by Emmanuel Baron, Programme Manager.
- Presentation of the gender equality-related work of the Youth sector by Antje Rothmund, Head of the Youth Department
21. The GEC listened with interest to the presentation by Antje Rothmund, Head of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe, particularly in the areas of sexist hate speech and the measures recently approved to further gender equality in the Youth Department's programme.
- Presentation by Isabela Mihalache, SRSG Roma Support Team about the Joint EU/Council of Europe project on Access of Roma and Traveller Women to Justice (JUSTROM)
22. The GEC took note of the presentation made by Isabela Mihalache from the SRSG Roma Support Team about the new joint project on Access of Roma and Traveller Women to Justice (JUSTROM) and its contribution to the objective to ensure women's equal access to justice under the Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017.

Co-operation with international/regional organisations

- Exchange of views with Keiko Nowacka, Gender Programme Co-ordinator, OECD Development Centre, Organisation for Economic Co-ordination and Development (OECD)
23. The GEC expressed its appreciation for the presentation made by Keiko Nowacka, Gender Programme Co-ordinator from the OECD Development Centre, about the organisation's gender-related activities, including the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI), Wikigender and GENDERNET. The GEC took note of the need to continue focusing on the implementation of standards, including bringing good practices from member states to the regional and international levels.
- Presentation of EIGE's new report on the economic benefits of gender equality and other relevant activities/publications by Bernadette Gemmell, Research Communications Officer, European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)
24. The GEC took note of the presentation of the recent report on the economic benefits of gender equality by Bernadette Gemmell, from the European Institute for Gender Equality and other forthcoming studies on gender and education, violence against women and the third update of the Gender Equality Index to be published in October 2017.
- Exchange of views with Veronica Birga, Chief, Women's Human Rights and Gender Section, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights about their work on women's access to justice
25. The GEC welcomed information provided by Veronica Birga about the work of OHCHR on gender equality, including women's access to justice, gender stereotypes, violence against women and gender mainstreaming in the activities of the OHCHR and within the organisation.
- Council of Europe side event during CSW61, New York
26. The GEC took note of the reports from the Chair and Secretariat about the Council of Europe side event at the CSW61 on sexist hate speech, organised jointly with the Permanent Missions to the United Nations of Cyprus, Bulgaria, Belgium, Andorra and Liechtenstein, other side-events co-organised or sponsored by the Council of Europe and information about the negotiations of CSW Agreed Conclusions.

- Council of the European Union - gender equality agenda:
 - o Slovakian Presidency (July – December 2016)
 - o Maltese Presidency (January – June 2017)
 - o Estonian Presidency (July – December 2017)

27. The GEC took note of the reports by the representatives of the Slovak Republic, Malta and Estonia about their respective Presidencies of the Council of the European Union.

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

28. 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

- Council of Europe gender equality agenda:
 - o Cyprus Chairmanship (November 2016 – May 2017)
 - o Czech Republic Chairmanship (May – November 2017)

29. The GEC took note of the reports from the Cypriot and Czech Republic representatives about their respective Committee of Ministers' Chairmanship. The GEC further noted the information from the representative of the Czech Republic about the forthcoming GEC meeting which will take place in Prague from 14-16 November 2017.

Other business

GEC working methods

30. The GEC discussed working methods and agreed to include in the agenda of future meetings presentations by member states to lead open discussions on topics related to the implementation of the strategy. They also agreed on a more proactive approach to the preparation of the agenda including items for discussion and speakers.

Adoption of the abridged report of the 11th GEC meeting (5 - 7 April 2017)

31. The GEC adopted the abridged report of the 11th meeting of the Gender Equality Commission (5-7 April 2017) 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(2017)OJ 1 revised

II. Council of Europe Transversal Programme on Gender Equality

1. Work plan of the Gender Equality Commission 2016 - 2017

GEC(2016)1 revised 1

2. Draft Terms of Reference of the Gender Equality Commission 2018 - 2019

GEC(2017)4

3. Draft Gender Equality Strategy 2018 - 2023

Discussion document

GEC(2017)2

4. Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017

a. Objective 1 - Combating gender stereotypes and sexism

- Preparation of a draft Committee of Ministers recommendation to prevent and combat sexism

Report of the first meeting of the Drafting Committee preparing a draft Committee of Ministers recommendation to prevent and combat sexism (Paris, 2-3 March 2017)

GEC(2017)3

Report of the seminar on "Combating Sexist Hate Speech" (Strasbourg, 10-12 February 2016) French version

[Report](#)

b. Objective 2 - Preventing and combating violence against women

- Exchange of views with Feride Acar, President of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO)

Oral Presentation

[GREVIO statement](#)

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

- Regional Project on “Improving women’s access to justice in six EAP countries”
Oral presentation

Report of the regional conference “Strengthening Judicial Capacity to improve Women’s Access to Justice” – 24 - 25 October 2016 *Online version only*
Conference video *Video*

d. 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

Draft Analytical Report of the third round of monitoring of Recommendation Rec(2003)3

GEC(2017)5

- Presentation by François Friederich, Head of the Electoral Assistance Division, of the regional study on “Women’s political representation in the Eastern Partnership countries”

[*Study*](#)

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

- Update from Carlien Scheele, Senior Gender Equality Advisor
Oral presentation
- Gender Mainstreaming in Council of Europe Activities
Oral presentation

5th edition of information document (March 2017)

Online version only

- Draft Committee of Ministers Recommendation on Gender Equality in the audio-visual sector
Oral Presentation

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

- Exchange of views with Ambassador Tomáš Boček, Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees
- Exchange of views with Inger Linge, Gender Equality Rapporteur of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

- Exchange of views with Ambassador António Gamito, Executive Director and Rocio Cervera, Deputy Executive Director of the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (North-South Centre)
- Presentation of the gender equality-related work of the Youth sector by Antje Rothmund, Head of the Youth Department
- Presentation by Isabela Mihalache, SRSG Roma Support Team about the Joint EU/Council of Europe project on Access of Roma and Traveller Women to Justice (JUSTROM)
- Presentation by Emmanuel Baron, Programme Manager, about the gender equality activities carried out within the South Mediterranean Programme

III. Co-operation with international/regional organisations

- Exchange of views with Claudia Ritter, President of the Sofia Foundation
 - Exchange of views with Keiko Nowacka, Gender Programme Co-ordinator, OECD Development Centre, Organisation for Economic Co-ordination and Development (OECD)
 - Presentation of EIGE's new report on the economic benefits of gender equality and other relevant activities/publications by Bernadette Gemmell, Research Communications Officer, European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)
 - Exchange of views with Veronica Birga, Chief, Women's Human Rights and Gender Section, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights about their work on women's access to justice
 - Council of Europe side event during CSW61, New York
- Oral presentation*
- Council of the European Union - gender equality agenda:
 - Slovakian Presidency (July – December 2016)
 - Maltese Presidency (January – June 2017)
 - Estonian Presidency (July – December 2017)

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

GEC(2017)1

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

- Council of Europe gender equality agenda:
 - o Cyprus Chairmanship (November 2016 – May 2017)
 - o Czech Republic Chairmanship (May – November 2017)

VI. Other business

VII. Adoption of the abridged report of the 11th GEC meeting (5 - 7 April 2017)

Calendar of forthcoming events and meetings:

Council of Europe

2017

- *2nd meeting of the Drafting Committee preparing a draft Committee of Ministers recommendation on combating sexism 22 – 23 June 2017, Paris*

- *12th GEC meeting: 15-17 November 2017, Prague, Czech Republic*

2018

- *13th GEC meeting: 11-13 April 2018, Strasbourg, France*

- *Conference to launch the new Gender Equality Strategy, dates to be confirmed, Copenhagen, Denmark*