

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 19 April 2017

GEC (2017) Report April

GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION
(GEC)

11th meeting

REPORT

I. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

- *The GEC adopted its agenda as set out in Appendix I to this report, and the list of participants is attached at Appendix II.*

II. Council of Europe Transversal Programme on Gender Equality

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

The Chair presented the revised work plan for 2016-2017 indicating the major changes included therein, such as the drafting of a Committee of Ministers recommendation to prevent and combat sexism, and documents foreseen for publication.

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

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

The Chair presented the draft terms of reference of the Gender Equality Commission for 2018-2019 and informed the members that the major changes included the addition of references to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (5 and 16), the inclusion of the terms of reference for the drafting committee preparing a Committee of Ministers recommendation to prevent and combat sexism, as well as the preparation and implementation of the new gender equality strategy for 2018-2023. The Chair also put forward a proposal which had been received from the Ukraine representative to create a GEC Bureau. In the discussion which ensued, it was agreed that while there were some advantages to having a Bureau, the GEC did not wish to set up a Bureau if it meant reducing other GEC activities.

- *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.*

3. Draft Gender Equality Strategy 2018 - 2023

The Chair opened the discussion on the draft Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023 by explaining that the discussion document was drafted following the conclusions and recommendations of the Tallinn Conference. The five strategic objectives from the previous strategy remain as objectives in the new strategy, with the addition of a sixth priority theme about protecting the rights of migrant and asylum-seeking women. During the discussion which followed, there was agreement to amending the document with a view to mainstreaming throughout the new strategy: the role of men and boys in gender equality, women's economic empowerment, women's access to the labour market and the consequences of digitalisation for gender equality, and the role of equality bodies. In addition, further text will be added to address: links with other relevant SDGs, in addition to Goals 5 and 16; ongoing work to prepare the draft recommendation to prevent and combat sexism; and

reference to recommendations and resolutions of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).

- *The GEC took note of the information contained in the discussion document GEC(2017)2 concerning the Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023.*
- *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 the role of equality bodies.*
- *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.*
- *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.*

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

The Chair of the Drafting Committee (United Kingdom) informed the participants about the 1st meeting which took place in Paris on 2-3 March 2017. He said that there had been very interesting and positive contributions by the participants and input to the meeting had come from a wide variety of sources. The Chair of the Drafting Committee further informed the GEC that the draft recommendation under preparation would include a possible definition of sexism as well as tools to preventing and combating it. The 2nd meeting of the Drafting Committee will take place on 22-23 June 2017 in Paris.

- *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.*

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)

The Chair welcomed the President of GREVIO, who informed the participants about progress in the monitoring process established by the Istanbul Convention. The first two draft monitoring reports (Austria and Monaco) had been approved by GREVIO and will be sent to

the respective governments for comments, following which the GREVIO would again review the draft reports for final adoption in June 2017. The next two countries to be monitored will be Albania and Denmark. Many delegations took the opportunity to inform the GREVIO President and participants about progress with regard to signatures and ratifications of the Istanbul Convention. The President of GREVIO further informed the GEC about their perspective for future work, including institutionalised co-operation with CEDAW and the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences.

- *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.*

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

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

The Chair introduced Antonina Vykhrest, the new manager of this regional project who updated the participants about the ongoing activities, including 10 national training courses planned between May and September 2017, and the training manual for judges and prosecutors currently under preparation and which could be useful to all member states. Her [presentation](#) is available on the GEC website.

- *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.*

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

The Chair introduced the item and asked the Secretariat to inform the participants about the deadline for any factual corrections to be made to the report. A number of delegations said that the information contained in the report was already out of date because of elections which had taken place since the questionnaire had been submitted or about to take place. The Chair explained that as the analysis was based on the situation in the member states at a given time and therefore no new national datasets from could be accepted. She asked delegations to inform the Secretariat if they wished to have information included in the document as a footnote or appendix regarding the dates of elections in their country that will take place ahead of the publication of this report.

- *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 Committee of*

Ministers 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 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”

François Friederich gave an overview of the regional study that had been carried out in five countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine). The study identified the main barriers to women’s participation in political life, including stereotypes and the role of political parties. The study also identified some positive measures and formulated a number of recommendations addressed to political parties and national authorities. The follow-up to this study will include peer-to-peer reviews and debates among members of parliament from the beneficiary countries. The study would be sent to all parliamentarians in each of the five countries concerned. Mr Friederich said that he would contact/invite GEC members from the five countries to future activities to be organised in relation with this regional study.

- *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.*

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

- Update from Carlien Scheele, Senior Gender Equality Advisor

The Chair introduced Carlien Scheele who informed the participants about progress on gender mainstreaming inside the Council of Europe, including the preparation of the Organisation’s Programme and Budget for 2018-2019, the launch of a selected call for tenders regarding gender mainstreaming training for Council of Europe staff and specific gender mainstreaming discussions and activities carried out by different parts of the Council of Europe (e.g. EDQM, ECRI, ODGP). She supported keeping gender mainstreaming as a specific priority in the next Gender Equality Strategy and invited the GEC members to contact her with proposals for expertise and further work on gender mainstreaming in the Council of Europe. GEC members may be called upon to contribute to this work, on the basis of their particular areas of expertise.

- *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

The Secretariat informed the participants about the latest edition of the [document on gender mainstreaming](#), as well as the 3rd edition of the gender equality newsletter. The Chair said that these documents could be a very useful tool for national delegations. In reply to questions about Gender Equality Rapporteurs (GER), the Secretariat informed that about 50 GERs had been appointed and as a result of the annual training, they were starting to become more proactive within their committees. While there was no official monitoring of their activities, the achievements of Council of Europe Committees on gender mainstreaming are appended to each annual report on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy.

- *The GEC took note of the 5th edition of the document 'Gender Mainstreaming activities at the Council of Europe', as well as the 3rd edition of the Gender Equality Newsletter.*

- Draft Committee of Ministers Recommendation on gender equality in the audiovisual sector

The Chair introduced the item by informing members that she had participated in the first meeting of the Ad hoc Working Group on the drafting of a recommendation on gender equality in the audiovisual sector (CPP-ESA). The Secretariat provided input at the second and final meeting of CPP-ESA and the draft would now go to the relevant Steering Committee for adoption before being transmitted to the Committee of Ministers, where it was hoped that it would be adopted before the end of this year.

- *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 audiovisual sector and the further steps towards its adoption foreseen this year.*

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 Refugee

The Chair welcomed Ambassador Tomáš Boček, who informed the participants about his work. He stressed that gender is a very important factor to be considered at each stage of the migration journey. He spoke about gender sensitive asylum procedures and refugee status determination processes. He said that asylum seekers with gender-related fears of persecution must be treated with fairness, and that women migrants might not feel comfortable stating their gender-related fears of persecution in the presence of male officials. Accordingly, authorities should consider giving female asylum seekers the option of being interviewed by a woman and to have a female interpreter. He also said that Article 60 of the Istanbul Convention was very important for migrant women because of the recognition of gender-based violence as a form of persecution, the requirement to have a gender-sensitive interpretation of all grounds of persecution, and the requirement to have gender-sensitive reception and support services. He stressed the importance for migrant children, in particular girls, to have an education even when they are in transit countries for short periods. Ambassador Boček spoke about the Council of Europe Action Plan for the protection of refugee and migrant children (2017-2019) which would soon be adopted by the Committee of

Ministers. He stressed the links between the action plan and the preparation of the new Gender Equality Strategy for 2018-2023 which would be important for the implementation phase of both the action plan and strategy. In the exchange which followed, Ambassador Boček reiterated his willingness to co-operate with the GEC to introduce gender equality into each stage of the migration process, and remove gender-related barriers, including direct and indirect discrimination. He underlined the need for member states to exchange information and good practices for long-term solutions.

➤ *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

The Chair welcomed Inger Linge, who informed the participants about her recent report on “Women’s political participation and representation at local and regional levels” which she said was a contribution to the objectives of the gender equality strategy and which provides an overview of the solid legal and policy framework of the standards of the Council of Europe and the Congress. She also said that the area of migrant women and girls was an emerging topic for the Congress which had recently adopted the report “From reception to integration: the role of local and regional authorities facing migration”. In the ensuing exchange, the Gender Equality Rapporteur of the Congress pointed to the similarities between Roma and migrant women and girls in terms of their need for education and its contribution to integration. The discussion also focused on the impact of quotas, the role of political parties to remove barriers to allow for more women in politics, and the need for the GEC and the Congress to work together and aim for parity between women and men in political and public decision-making.

➤ *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, regarding recent gender equality-related reports adopted by the Congress.*

- Exchange of views with Rocio Cervera, Deputy Executive Director of the [European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity \(North-South Centre\)](#)

The Chair welcomed Rocio Cervera, who informed the participants about the gender-related activities being undertaken at the North-South Centre, in particular events relating to three objectives of the Gender Equality Strategy: achieving balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision-making, combating stereotypes and sexism, and combating violence against women. For 2018-2019, the North-South Centre will continue working on these topics, as well as on migrant and asylum-seeking women and access to rights through the labour market, and calls on the GEC to co-operate with the Centre in its fields of expertise. The [presentation](#) is available on the GEC website.

- *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.*
 - Presentation of the gender equality-related work of the Youth sector by Antje Rothemund, Head of the Youth Department

The Chair welcomed Antje Rothemund. In her [presentation \(available on the gender equality website\)](#), Ms Rothemund informed the members about the structure of the Youth Department and the aim of the youth policy to provide equal opportunities and experience for young women and men, girls and boys. She spoke about the European Youth Foundation's funding of youth activities such as promoting gender sensitive action plans in Serbia, combating hate speech in Turkey, empowerment of young Roma women in Moldova, and problems and needs of young migrant women in Spain, as well as the empowerment of women and LGBTQ communities in Armenia. Ms Rothemund also spoke about the work on sexist hate speech undertaken by the Youth Department "No Hate Speech Movement" campaign. She also informed the participants that at the recent meeting of the Joint Council of Youth, a document with "Measures for further gender equality in the Youth Department's programmes" had been adopted, and that the Gender Equality Rapporteur had made a report about her participation in various activities. Both these documents are available on the [gender equality website \(English only\)](#). A "Gender toolbox" prepared by the European Youth Foundation will soon be [available online](#)

- *The GEC listened with interest to the presentation by Antje Rothemund, 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)

The Chair introduced Isabela Mihalache, who gave a presentation about JUSTROM, a joint project between the European Union and the Council of Europe which targets Bulgaria, Greece, Ireland, Italy and Romania. The aims of the project are to improve Roma and Traveller women's access to justice by empowering Roma women to know more about human rights and discrimination, and supporting them to report cases and receive legal assistance. The project includes legal clinics in the five countries to facilitate legal assistance for Roma women. It will run until March 2018. Ms Mihalache's [presentation](#) is available on the gender equality website.

- *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.*
- Presentation by Emmanuel Baron, Programme Manager, about the gender equality activities carried out within the South Mediterranean Programme

The Chair welcomed Emmanuel Baron, who informed the participants about the ongoing activities in the fields of gender equality and violence against women in the South Mediterranean Programme, which covers Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia (and Palestine, from now on). He spoke about using the relevant Council of Europe standards and conventions, as well as the experience in these countries, to strengthen reform processes. Events have focused on awareness-raising, capacity-building and technical assistance, organised with the involvement of representatives of ministries, parliaments, civil society, media and universities. After three years of co-operation activities, the Council of Europe standards are better known (with 26 events in three years involving 900 participants). Mr Baron also pointed out that representatives from the three countries in the programme have participated at each GEC meeting.

- *The GEC took note of the co-operation activities carried out by the Council of Europe in Jordan, Morocco 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.*

III. 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)

The Chair introduced Keiko Nowacka, who made a [presentation](#) about the OECDs programme for measuring, monitoring and promoting gender equality. She spoke about the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) which measures discrimination against women such as in the family, physical integrity, access to resources and restricted civil liberties which they encounter. She said that gender-based discrimination is estimated to cost the global economy up to \$12 trillion. She also spoke about inequalities relating to the labour force, particularly on care work, mostly carried out by women. Ms Nowacka also informed participants about the Wikigender portal which is a platform for constructive dialogue and a bridge towards other resources, including statistics, country information, thematic articles and online discussion.

- *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)

The Chair introduced Bernadette Gemmell, who presented EIGE's recent report on the economic benefits of gender equality. In answer to questions, she said that the methodology used in the report was very detailed and robust, and available for anyone who wished to see it. She also informed the participants about forthcoming studies on gender and education (gender-related challenges in education, gender segregation in tertiary education, training and the labour market), violence against women (risk of FGM; improving the administrative data collection by the police and the judiciary on intimate partner violence), and the third update of the Gender Equality Index, with new information on health, social power (sports, media, academia) and a focus on intersecting inequalities, foreseen for October 2017. Ms Gemmell's [presentation](#) is available on the Gender Equality Commission website.

- *The GEC took note of the presentation by Bernadette Gemmell of the recent report on the economic benefits of gender equality, 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

The Chair welcomed Veronica Birga, who informed the participants about OHCHR's gender-related work. She also spoke about the independent mandate given from the United Nations General Assembly to promote gender equality and women's human rights and the bodies that oversee this work. She mentioned that many of their priorities mirror the priorities of the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017. She spoke about the two studies which OHCHR had conducted in the area of gender stereotypes in the judiciary: on violence against women, and sexual and reproductive health and rights. In the area of violence against women, Ms Birga said that OHCHR are pleased to build on the Istanbul Convention and use the knowledge and expertise of GREVIO. As regards the impact of stereotypes, the OHCHR is conducting research on several topics: girls' access to education; intersecting forms of discrimination; and a model protocol for investigations of femicides (with UN Women). She also spoke about gender mainstreaming within OHCHR, including trainings for diplomats, an application on women's human rights, compiling sex-disaggregated statistics on the composition of delegations, who takes the floor, the subject of their interventions. Within the OHCHR Secretariat, online training in gender human rights is available for staff, and they are also looking into the question of unconscious bias and its impact on recruitment and promotion.

- *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

The GEC took note of the reports from the Chair and Secretariat about the Council of Europe side event at CSW-61 on sexist hate speech, organised jointly with the Permanent Missions to the United Nations of Cyprus, Bulgaria, Belgium, Andorra and Liechtenstein, as well as about other side-events co-organised or sponsored by the Council of Europe. The Vice-Chair and United Kingdom representative informed the participants about recurrent difficulties in the negotiation of the CSW Agreed Conclusions and the poor quality of the text finally adopted.

- 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)

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.

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

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.

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)

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. The GEC meeting would be preceded by an event on 14 November (afternoon) about statistics on gender-based violence and the Istanbul Convention.

The representative of Norway informed participants about the four priorities of their Presidency of the Nordic Council this year, including a conference on hate speech on 21 June, and another conference about the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in the Nordic region, to be held in November 2017.

The representative of Azerbaijan informed about an international conference they organise on women's empowerment and entrepreneurship (on 25 April) and another one on domestic violence (second half of 2017).

VI. Other business

GEC working methods

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 by the member states towards the preparation of the agenda including items for discussion and speakers. In this regard the members agreed on four themes for discussion at their November meeting, to be introduced by short presentations by member states: lessons learnt from the preparation of a gender equality policy brief (Netherlands), the situation of migrant women (Czech Republic and Germany), case law in Cyprus about quotas (Cyprus), and men/boys and gender equality (Iceland).

The Chair recalled the mandate of the GEC to guide other parts of the Council of Europe in their gender equality-related work, which explains the presentations from other sectors at GEC meetings. She proposed to keep presentations short and ask presenters to put forward concrete recommendations for member states.

Committee of Ministers thematic debate

The representative from Iceland proposed holding a "Barbershop event" in the margins of a thematic debate on gender equality at the Committee of Ministers in Strasbourg. The proposal was well-received by many delegations and the Chair encouraged all members to speak to their authorities about holding the event which could take place around the time of the adoption of the next gender equality strategy.

Annual conference 2018

The representative from Denmark confirmed the proposal to hold the 2018 annual conference in Copenhagen on 18 (afternoon) and 19 May 2018 during the Danish Presidency of the Committee of Ministers. The conference will launch the Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023, following its adoption by the Committee of Ministers.

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

The abridged report of the 11th meeting was adopted for transmission to the Committee of Ministers.

APPENDIX I

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
 6. Work plan of the Gender Equality Commission 2016 - 2017
GEC(2016)1 revised 1

 7. Draft Terms of Reference of the Gender Equality Commission 2018 - 2019
GEC(2017)4

 8. Draft Gender Equality Strategy 2018 - 2023
Discussion document *GEC(2017)2*

 9. Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017
 - f. 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](#)

 - g. 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](#)

h. 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
Conference video *Online version only*
Video

i. 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](#)

j. 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

10. 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 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:
 - o Slovakian Presidency (July – December 2016)
 - o Maltese Presidency (January – June 2017)
 - o 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: 14-16 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

APPENDIX II

List of participants/liste des participant-e-s

Representatives / Représentant-e-s

Albania / Albanie

Etleva SHESHI
Head of Gender Equality Sector
Department of Social Inclusion and Gender
Equality
Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth

Andorra / Andorre

Mireia PORRAS GARCÍA
Head of the Equality Policies Service,
Social Affairs Department,
Ministry of Social Affairs, Justice and
Interior / Chef du Service des Politiques
d'Égalité, Département des Affaires
Sociales, Ministère des Affaires Sociales, de
la Justice et de l'Intérieur

Armenia / Arménie

Karine SUJAYAN
Head of Human Rights and Humanitarian
Issues Division
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Austria / Autriche

Eva FEHRINGER
Chair of GEC / Présidente de la GEC
Deputy Head International and European
Social Policy and Labour Law

Valerie ZIERING
International and European Social Policy
and Labour Law

Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan

Elgun SAFAROV
Head of Information and Analytic
Research Department
State Committee for Family, Women and
Children's Issues
Government House

Belgium / Belgique

Alexandra ADRIAENSSENS
Directrice
Direction de l'Égalité des Chances

Bulgaria / Bulgarie

Ani EVGENIEVA
Department on "Equal Opportunities and
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