

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 13 April 2018

GEC (2018) Abridged Report April

GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION (GEC)

13th meeting
Strasbourg, 11-13 April 2018

List of items discussed and decisions taken
Abridged Report

The Gender Equality Commission (GEC), chaired by Eva Fehringer (Austria):

1. adopted its agenda as set out in the Appendix to the present abridged report;
2. took note of the proposed GEC work plan for 2018-2019, as presented in document GEC(2018)1, and instructed the Secretariat to revise the draft document to take into account the changes agreed;
3. took note of the draft programme of the conference to launch the new Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023 which will take place in Copenhagen on 3 and 4 May 2018;
4. acknowledged the on-going work of the Drafting Committee preparing a draft Committee of Ministers recommendation to prevent and combat sexism, as presented by its Chairperson, and noted that its 4th meeting would take place on 20-21 September in Strasbourg;
5. took note of the presentation by the Secretariat to the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI) about their gender-related work, and agreed to prepare a joint follow up of the implementation of Recommendation (2013)1 on gender equality and media together with CDMSI;
6. took note of the presentation by the Head of the Capacity Building and Co-operation Unit of the Equality Division on current co-operation projects, funded by extra-budgetary resources, that support member States in their work to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence, as well as on other gender equality issues such as sexist hate speech;
7. welcomed developments in the member States in relation to the ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention, as well as on the monitoring work of GREVIO and the Committee of the Parties to the Istanbul Convention;
8. took note of the update on progress as regards work to improve women's access to justice, including the regional project "Strengthening access to justice for women victims of violence", in the framework of the Council of Europe/European Union Partnership for Good Governance;
9. agreed to continue promoting the results of the analytical report of 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 in the member States;
10. took note of the information provided by the Head of the Secretariat for the World Forum for Democracy and welcomed the theme of this year's Forum (to be held in Strasbourg on 19-21 November): women's participation in political, public and socio-economic decision making - the GEC requested to be kept informed of preparations for the Forum and offered its input;

11. took note of the information document providing an overview of Council of Europe legal and policy standards, actions and practical tools on the protection of the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls and instructed the Secretariat to prepare a factsheet summarising the commitments of member States in this field in line with the Work Plan;
12. took note of the exchange with the Counter-Terrorism Secretariat and agreed to keep in contact and provide input as regards the organisation of the Conference on the role of women and children in terrorism, taking place in 2019;
13. took note of the presentation by the Secretariat about the new gender mainstreaming website and video, as well as of the report of recent activities to promote gender equality across the Council of Europe;
14. took note of the presentations made during the thematic discussions on gender equality and sport (Croatia and Iceland), gender equality and youth (Malta) and gender pay gap policy (United Kingdom); welcomed the exchange of experiences and interesting debates, and agreed to continue such thematic debates during GEC meetings;
15. took note of the presentation by Henna Huttu, Gender Equality Rapporteur of the Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (CAHROM), on recent thematic meetings on early and forced marriages, and Roma women's access to justice;
16. took note of the presentation of the project "North-South Process for the Empowerment of Women 2018-2019", by Rocio Cervera, Deputy Executive Director of the Council of Europe North-South Centre (European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity);
17. welcomed the factsheet on the Council of Europe's contribution to the UN 2030 Agenda and in particular Sustainable Development Goals 5 and 16;
18. took note of the information provided about events held during the 62nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (New York, 12-23 March 2018), including those organised by member States in co-operation and/or with the participation of the Council of Europe;
19. welcomed the presentation by Eric Carlson, from the Gender, Equality and Diversity Branch of the International Labour Organization (ILO), on discussions on a possible standard-setting instrument/s on violence and harassment against women and men in the world of work, and encouraged members to liaise with their national counterparts attending the tripartite ILO negotiations in June 2018;
20. took note of the presentation by the Austrian and Bulgarian representatives about the gender equality agenda during their respective presidencies of the Council of the European Union;
21. took note of the information provided about events attended by GEC members and the Secretariat;

22. took note and welcomed the various initiatives and events organised by member States on International Women's Day (8 March 2018);
23. took note of the oral reports provided by the Danish and Croatian representatives about their respective Committee of Ministers' Chairmanships in 2018;
24. took note of the recent appointment of the GEC member from Ukraine, Kateryna Levchenko, as Governmental Commissioner for Gender Policy, and wished her well in her new and important role;
25. put forward a number of proposals for thematic debates on gender equality topics at future meetings and agreed to keep the Commission's working methods under review;
26. took note of the information provided by the Conference of INGOs about the event organised jointly with the Finnish delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) at its next Plenary session, on 27 June 2018, about the implementation of UN Security Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security;
27. took note of the dates of the Conference to launch the new Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023: 3-4 May 2018 in Copenhagen, Denmark; the 4th meeting of the Drafting Committee preparing a draft Committee of Ministers recommendation to prevent and combat sexism: 20-21 September in Strasbourg, France; and the 14th GEC meeting: 5-7 December 2018 in Strasbourg, France;
28. adopted the abridged report of the 13th GEC meeting (11-13 April 2018) and agreed to transmit it to the Committee of Ministers.

Appendix I

Agenda

- I. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda
- II. Council of Europe Transversal Programme on Gender Equality
 1. Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023
- III. Thematic discussions:
- IV. Co-operation with other Council of Europe sectors
- V. Co-operation with international/regional organisations
- VI. Events attended by GEC members, experts and the Secretariat
- VII. Current and future activities at national level and at international level
- VIII. Other business
- IX. Working methods/future planning
- X. Dates of forthcoming meetings
- XI. Adoption of the abridged report of the 13th GEC meeting (11-13 April 2018)