

Committee of the Parties



Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention)

Report of the 7th meeting

Strasbourg, 1 – 2 April 2019

IC-CP/Inf(2019)RAP7

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Agenda item 1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

1. The members of the Committee were invited to adopt the draft agenda of the meeting. The Committee adopted the draft agenda as it appears in document IC-CP(2019)OJ7prov.

Agenda item 2. Administrative and Budgetary Information

2. The Executive Secretary informed the Committee about the latest developments regarding budget negotiations. Contingency plans have been prepared to take into account the budgetary constraints experienced by the organisation. At the moment, such contingency plans are only possible scenarios to be considered by the Committee of Ministers. If implemented, they are not expected to have major negative impact on the work of GREVIO.

Agenda item 3. State of signatures and ratifications of the Istanbul Convention

3. The Chair informed the Committee about ratification of the convention by Ireland. This brings the total number of ratifications to 34. The Executive Secretary informed the Committee about on-going cooperation to support member states' efforts and activities towards ratification of the convention. There was general agreement on the need to step up efforts to dismiss misconceptions about the convention and highlight its added value. The Council of Europe publication "Questions and Answers" about the convention can be a useful tool in this regard. The publication exposes and rectifies such misconceptions and highlights the contribution of the Istanbul Convention to ending violence against women and domestic violence and to protect women's human rights. GREVIO evaluation reports are also an important reference standard to highlight the added value of the convention and the monitoring process in identifying policy and legislative gaps and addressing such gaps through the findings and conclusions of GREVIO and the recommendations of the Committee of the Parties.

Agenda item 4. Election of ten members of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO)

4. The Chair recalled that 19 States Parties had submitted a total of 26 candidates for GREVIO membership and that all nominations had been submitted by the deadline of 1 February 2019. She noted that generally efforts had been made to ensure transparent and competitive national selection procedures to comply with Rules 9 and 10 of the Committee of Ministers' Resolution on rules on the election procedure of the members GREVIO. She regretted nevertheless that the objective of gender balance was not met by the nominating States Parties in their selection of suitable candidates and that further efforts were needed to achieve more diversity in professional backgrounds.

5. The Chair recalled Rule 12 of the CM/Res(2014)43 on the election of members and emphasised the need to elect experts who possess the competences and professional experience and expertise that is not sufficiently represented in the GREVIO and the need to take into account the importance of continuity, transfer of expertise, gender balance and geographical representation.

4.1 Examination of nominations of candidates for GREVIO membership (Rules 9 and 10 of CM/Res (2014)43)

6. The Committee proceeded with the examination of the nominations of candidates for GREVIO membership based on the curricula vitae received by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and information provided by the State parties on the manner in which candidates were selected at national level.

4.2 Election of ten members of GREVIO (paragraph 3 of Article 66 and paragraph 2 of Article 67 of the Istanbul Convention; Rules 11 and 13 of CM/Res(2014)43)

7. The Chair informed the Committee that equipment for electronic voting had been provided for the meeting, which ensured the secrecy of the ballot and calculated the results of the voting.

8. In accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 66 of the Istanbul Convention and Rule 14 of the Committee of Ministers Resolution, CM/Res(2014)43, the members of the Committee of the Parties proceeded toward the election of the ten GREVIO members. Following ten rounds of voting, the Committee declared the following candidates for GREVIO membership elected (in order of results for election round):

1. Ms Iris LUARASI (Albanian)
2. Ms Françoise BRIE (French)
3. Ms Helena LEITAO (Portuguese)
4. Ms Biljana BRANKOVIC (Serbian)
5. Ms Simona LANZONI (Italian)
6. Ms Marie-Claude HOFNER (Swiss)
7. Mr Ivo HOLC (Slovenian)
8. Ms Maria Andriani KOSTOPOULOU (Greek)
9. Ms Marceline NAUDI (Maltese)
10. Ms Asan ASKIN (Turkish)

9. In accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 66 of the Istanbul Convention and Rule 14 of the Committee of Ministers' Resolution CM/Res(2014)43, the Committee decided that these members of GREVIO were elected for a term of office of four years, beginning on 1 June 2019.

Agenda item 5. Thematic discussion - IC-CP(2019)6

- a) Custody and Divorce (presentation by Belgium)
- b) Comprehensive and Co-ordinated policies (presentation by Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Monaco)

10. The Chair recalled the decision of the Committee to hold a thematic discussion on issues listed above. She drew attention to the fact that these exchanges are informal and aim to provide an opportunity for participants to allow for peer-to-peer exchange of information including on challenges and practical examples and practices that stem from their work and efforts to implement the convention, GREVIO's findings and the Committee of Parties recommendations.

11. Presentations by the representatives of the state parties focused on legal and policy frameworks in place, allocation of resources, data collection, inter agency and cross-sectorial cooperation, monitoring and accountability, political leadership and challenges with implementation of the convention in practice.

12. In the exchange that ensued, delegations had a possibility to discuss the presentations in detail and learn from each other on the practical aspects related to the implementation of the convention in their country in relation to the relevant provisions (Article 10 and Article 31). They stressed the important guidance that comes from GREVIO through its evaluation reports, findings and conclusions. They highlighted the importance of the Istanbul Convention as a common and progressive legally binding standard to mark progress tackling gender-based violence.

13. The Committee took note of presentations and instructed the Secretariat to make them available on the website of the Committee of the Parties. The Committee decided to have thematic discussions as a standing item in the agenda of its future meetings. It decided to discuss the following themes at its next meeting:

- a. Data collection on violence against women, including its presentation to the public and multi sector data collection (Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Turkey)
- b. Social and Health services (Albania)

Agenda item 6.: Information on co-operation activities of the Council of Europe of interest to the Committee of the Parties

14. The committee decided to postpone this item to its next meeting.

Agenda item 7. Date of next meeting

15. The Committee decided to hold its next meeting in the last quarter of 2019 in Strasbourg. The Executive Secretary recalled that the organisation of the meeting is subject to availability of resources.

Agenda item 8. Other business

16. The Executive Secretary informed the Committee about the activities of the GREVIO represented by its President at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63, March 2019). She highlighted interest among CSW63 participants in the Istanbul Convention and the work of GREVIO. She thanked the French authorities for their support in organising the side event on the promotion of the Istanbul Convention as a global tool to end violence against women and girls, as well as Switzerland for also sponsoring the event.

Agenda item 9. Adoption of the list of decisions taken

17. The Committee adopted the list of decisions as set out in document IC-CP/Inf(2019)LD7.

Appendix I **Agenda**

- 1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**
- 2. Administrative and Budgetary Information**
- 3. State of signatures and ratifications of the Istanbul Convention**
- 4. Election of ten members of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO)**
 - 4.1 *Examination of nominations of candidates for GREVIO membership (Rules 9 and 10 of CM/Res(2014)43)*
 - 4.2 *Election of ten members of GREVIO (paragraph 3 of Article 66 and paragraph 2 of Article 67 of the Istanbul Convention; Rules 11 and 13 of Resolution CM/Res(2014)43)*
 - Resolution CM/Res(2014)43 on rules on the election procedure of the members of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 19 November 2014 CM/Res(2014)43
 - Names and *curricula vitae* of the candidates submitted for the election of members of GREVIO IC-CP(2019)8
CONFIDENTIAL
 - Questions and answers on the election procedure of members of GREVIO IC-CP(2019)10
RESTRICTED
 - Information provided by the States Parties on the manner in which candidates were selected at national level IC-CP(2019)9
RESTRICTED
- 5. Thematic discussion - IC-CP(2019)6**
 - a) Custody and Divorce (presentation by Belgium)
 - b) Comprehensive and Co-ordinated policies (presentation by Netherlands, Norway, Portugal and Spain)
- 6. Information on co-operation activities of the Council of Europe of interest to the Committee of the Parties**
- 7. Date of next meeting**
- 8. Other business**
- 9. Adoption of the list of decisions taken**

Appendix II

List of attendees

Ms Elisabeth WALAAS
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Norway to the Council of Europe

M. Gilles HEYVAERT
Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plénipotentiaire
Représentant Permanent de la Belgique auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

M. João Maria CABRAL
Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plénipotentiaire
Représentant Permanent du Portugal auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

MEMBERS / MEMBRES

ALBANIA / ALBANIE

Ms Albana DAUTLLARI
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,
Permanent Representative of Albania to the Council of Europe

Ms Merita Xhafaj
General Director for Development Policies
Ministry of Health and Social Protection

Ms Avenilda DOKO
Deputy Permanent Representative
Permanent Representation of Albania to the Council of Europe

ANDORRA / ANDORRE

M. Josep ARENY ACHE
Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plénipotentiaire
Représentant Permanent de l'Andorre auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

Mme Geraldine SASPLUGAS REQUENA
Représentante Permanente Adjointe de l'Andorre auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

AUSTRIA / AUTRICHE

Ms Marie Theres PRANTNER
Austrian Federal Ministry of Education and Women's Affairs
IV/4 – Violence against Women and women-specific legislation

Mr Andreas BILGERI
Deputy to the Permanent Representative of Austria to the Council of Europe

BELGIUM / BELGIQUE

Ms Marijke WEEWAUTERS
Institut pour l'Egalité des femmes et des hommes

Ms Deborah KUPPERBERG
Ministère de la Communauté française de Belgique
Direction de l'Egalité des Chances

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE-HERZEGOVINE

Ms Samra HADŽIABDIĆ
Director of the Gender Equality Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ms Dragana KREMENOVIC-KUSMUK
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina
to the Council of Europe

CROATIA / CROATIE

Ms Sandra BATLAK
Advisor to the Minister at the Ministry for Demography
Family, Youth and Social Affairs of the Republic of Croatia

Ms Irena SARTA
Official at the Sector for International Cooperation
Service for Coordination of International and EU Affairs
Ministry for Demography, Family, Youth and Social Affairs of Croatia

CYPRUS / CHYPRE

M. Michael KARAGIORGIS
Représentant Permanent Adjoint de Chypre
auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

DENMARK / DANEMARK

Mr Arnold DE FINE SKIBSTED
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Denmark to the Council of Europe

Ms Annemette FALLENTIN NYBORG
Deputy to the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the Council of Europe

ESTONIA

Ms Anne KRUUSEMENT
Adviser
Penal Law and Procedure Division
Estonian Ministry of Justice

Ms Kerli TIHK
Deputy to the Permanent Representative of Estonia to the Council of Europe

FINLAND / FINLANDE

Ms Mia SPOLANDER
Deputy to the Permanent Representative of Finland to the Council of Europe

FRANCE

M. Alexis RINCKENBACH
Chef du bureau des affaires européennes et internationales
Direction générale de la cohésion sociale
Ministère des affaires sociales et de la santé

M. Maxime HUOT
Adjoint au Représentant Permanent de la France auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

GEORGIA / GÉORGIE

Ms. Maka PERADZE
Deputy Director of Department of Human Rights Protection
Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia

GERMANY / ALLEMAGNE

Ms Nele REICH
Division 403 – Protection of Women from Violence
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs,
Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

Ms Claudia BERGERHAUSEN
Deputy to the Permanent Representative of Germany to the Council of Europe

GREECE / GRÈCE

M. Panayiotis BEGLITIS
Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plénipotentiaire
Représentant Permanent de la Grèce auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

Mme Charikleia PERRI
Adjointe au Représentant Permanent de la Grèce auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

ICELAND / ISLANDE

Ms Hjördís Olga GUÐBRANDSDOTTIR
Deputy to the Permanent Representative of Iceland to the Council of Europe

ITALY / ITALIE

M. Michele GIACOMELLI
Ambassadeur
Représentant Permanent de l'Italie auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

M. Piero VAIRA
Représentant Permanent Adjoint

MALTA / MALTE

Renee LAIVIERA | Commissioner de l'Italie auprès du Conseil de l'Europe
National Commission for the Promotion of Equality

Ms Kathleen VELLA
Deputy Permanent Representative of Malta to the Council of Europe

MONACO

M. Rémi MORTIER
Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plénipotentiaire
Représentant Permanent de Monaco auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

Mme Véronique SEGUI-CHARLOT
Directrice de l'Action et de l'Aide Sociales
Gouvernement Princier
Principauté de Monaco

Mme Céline COTTALORDA
Conseillère Technique
Déléguée pour la promotion et la protection des droits des femmes de Monaco

M. Thomas MANRIQUE
Représentation Permanente de Monaco auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

MONTENEGRO

Ms Jovana OSTOJIC
Senior Adviser
Directorate for Social Welfare and Child Protection
Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare

Ms Ana Radusinovic,
Deputy to the Permanent Representative of Montenegro
to the Council of Europe

NETHERLANDS

Ms Aafje TIEMS
Co-ordinator, Violence in dependency relationships
Ministry of Health Welfare and Sport, Social Support Department

NORTH MACEDONIA

Ms Olgica VASILEVSKA
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative
of North Macedonia to the Council of Europe

Mr Ibrahim KADRIU
Deputy to the Permanent Representative
of North Macedonia to the Council of Europe

NORWAY / NORVEGE

Ms. Hilde Marit KNOTTEN
Senior advisor
Ministry of Justice and Public Security
Police Department

Ms Maria Thorsnes
Ministry of Justice and Public Security

POLAND / POLOGNE

Mr Janusz STAŃCZYK
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Poland to the Council of Europe

Ms Agnieszka Matysek
Ministry of Justice

Ms Bogumiła WARCHALEWSKA
Deputy to the Permanent Representative
Permanent Representation of Poland to the Council of Europe
Ms Agnieszka Matysek
Poland

PORTUGAL

Sara MOREIRA
Domestic and Gender based Violence Unit
Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality
Presidency of the Council of Ministers

ROMANIA / ROUMANIE

Ms Inginur RUSTEM
Deputy to the Permanent Representative of Romania
to the Council of Europe

SAN MARINO / SAINT-MARIN

Mr Stefano PALMUCCI
San Marino

SERBIA / SERBIE

Ms Ljiljana LONCAR
Adviser to the Deputy Prime Minister for Gender Equality

Ms Marija ANTONIJEVIĆ
Deputy Permanent Representative

SLOVENIA / SLOVENIE

Ms Eva TOMIČ
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the Council of Europe

Ms Sara SLANA
Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the Republic of Slovenia

Ms Mateja ŠTRUMELJ PIŠKUR
Deputy Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the Council of Europe

SPAIN / ESPAGNE

Ms Pilar VILAPLANA
Senior Advisor to Government Delegate for Gender-based Violence
MINISTRY OF THE PRESIDENCY, RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT AND EQUALITY

SWEDEN / SUÈDE

Karin FLARUP
Deputy to the Permanent Representative
Permanent Representation of Sweden to the Council of Europe

SWITZERLAND / SUISSE

Mme Anna Begemann
Adjointe au Représentant permanent de la Suisse
auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

TURKEY / TURQUIE

Mr Kaan ESENER
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Turkey to the Council of Europe

Ms Ayşenur Çoban
Expert at the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services

Ms Muzaffer Uyav GÜLTEKİN
Deputy to the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the Council of Europe

PARTICIPANTS**STATES WHICH HAVE RATIFIED BUT THE RATIFICATION HAS NOT ENTERED INTO FORCE****IRELAND**

Mr Keith MCBEAN
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

OTHER COUNCIL OF EUROPE BODIES / AUTRES INSTANCES DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE**Conference of the INGOs of the Council of Europe / Conférence des OING du Conseil de l'Europe**

Ms Anne Negre

European Court of Human Rights

Ms Sevim Sönmez
Lawyer
Registry of the European Court of Human Rights

SECRETARIAT / SECRÉTARIAT**Secretariat of the monitoring mechanism of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence / Secrétariat du mécanisme de suivi de la Convention du Conseil de l'Europe sur la prévention et la lutte contre la violence à l'égard des femmes et la violence domestique**

Ms Liri Kopaçi-DI Michele
Executive Secretary / Secrétaire exécutive
Head of the Violence against Women Division / Cheffe de la Division Violence à l'égard des femmes
Equality and Human Dignity Department / Service de l'Égalité et de la Dignité humaine

Ms Johanna NELLES
Administrator / Administrateur

Ms Christina OLSEN
Administrator / Administratrice

Ms Carmela APOSTOL
Administrator / Administratrice

Ms Cigdem KAYA
Administrator / Administratrice

Ms Louise HOOPER

Ms Irida VARFI-BOEHRER
Administrative Assistant / Assistante administrative

Ms Nadia BOLLENDER
Project Assistant / Assistante de projet

INTERPRETERS / INTERPRÈTES

Mr Christopher TYCZKA
Ms Clarissa WOSRDALE
Ms Christine TRAPP