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NFP (2014) RAP rev

**NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS
(NFP)**

**2ND MEETING OF GENDER EQUALITY NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS
10 OCTOBER 2014, HELSINKI (FINLAND)**

REPORT

1. Welcome address by the Acting Chairperson of the Gender Equality Commission

In the absence of the Chair of the Gender Equality Commission (GEC), Ms Isabel Romao, member of the GEC, welcomed participants to the second meeting of the National Focal Points (NFP) and chaired this meeting. The Agenda was adopted without amendments, as set out in Appendix I to this report. The list of participants appears in Appendix II.

2. Exchange of views with Ms Ioana Liana Cazacu, Secretary of State of the Department for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men of Romania

Mr Sorin Botezatu, Director for Gender Equality at the Romanian Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection apologised for the absence of the Secretary of State of the Department for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men of Romania, Ms Ioana Liana Cazacu, who was unable to be at the meeting due to health reasons. Mr Botezatu explained that he would present recent developments on gender equality policies in Romania under agenda item 3.

3. Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017

- *Progress on implementation of the Strategy by the Secretariat*

The Head of the Council of Europe Equality Division, Ms Liri Kopaçi-Di Michele informed participants about key developments in the implementation of the strategic objectives of the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017, including the following:

Objective 1: Follow-up to the Amsterdam conference on media and the image of women (Amsterdam, 4-5 July 2013), including dissemination of the conclusions and recommendations from the conference, Recommendation CM/Rec(2013)1 on gender equality and media, and preparation of a toolkit for the implementation of this Recommendation.

Objective 2: The entry into force of the Istanbul Convention on 1 August 2014 and an event to mark and celebrate this occasion, hosted by the Italian authorities on 19 September 2014, in Rome. The Convention has been ratified so far by the following Council of Europe member states: Albania, Andorra, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, France, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Portugal, Serbia, Spain, Sweden and Turkey. The next challenge is to extend the ratification of the Convention and to move towards implementation. Some member states can only ratify after fully aligning their legal systems with the Convention, as is the case for Germany. A presentation on the setting up of the Convention's monitoring body (GREVIO) will be provided at the GEC meeting in November.

Ms Liri Kopaçi-Di Michele also informed the participants that the Council of Europe has launched a collection of papers on the Convention as a specific tool for its implementation. Each of the existing and future papers in this collection is designed as an easy to use, 'how to' guide dedicated to a specific provision of the Convention. They follow a general structure that comprises a detailed description of the nature of the obligations contained in the respective article, good practice examples, and information on state-of-the-art research and resources for

the implementation of the provisions therein. The first three papers in this collection address the prevention of violence against women and in particular Articles 12 (“Preventing violence against women”), 13 (“Raising awareness of violence against women”) and 16 (“Domestic and sexual violence perpetrator programmes”).

Objective 3: The Hearing on ‘Access to justice for women victims of violence’ was held in Paris on 9 December 2013 and the seminar on ‘Tackling the gaps in research and the lack of data disaggregated by sex concerning women’s equal access to justice’ took place on 26-27 June 2014, also in Paris. The conclusions of both events, as well as all presentations made, can be found on the [gender equality website](#). A Factsheet on women’s access to justice is currently being finalised.

Objective 4: Preparations to launch the third round of monitoring the implementation of Recommendation (2003)3 on balanced participation of women and men in public and political decision making (*see agenda item 5 below*)

Objective 5: As regards gender mainstreaming, two exchanges of views have so far been held between the GEC and Gender Equality Rapporteurs (GERs) appointed within intergovernmental bodies of the Council of Europe. One training session for GERs was conducted in November 2013 and another one is being planned. A manual [“Supporting Gender Equality Rapporteurs \(GERs\) in their role”](#) was published in June 2014 and is available in the gender equality website of the Council of Europe (www.coe.int/equality). Paper copies are available and can be sent to member states upon request.

The Head of the Equality Division called on member states to refer to Council of Europe standards and activities, including the [Gender Equality Strategy](#), in their national reports prepared in the framework of the Beijing+20 review.

- *Tour de table on activities and measures undertaken regarding implementation of the Strategy in member states*

NFPs presented an overview of activities in the area of gender equality in their countries, with a particular focus on on-going work and progress in the implementation of the objectives of the [Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017](#). The discussions and presentations can be summed up as follows:

- Strengthening of legal and/or institutional mechanisms for gender equality, including action plans: **Albania, Belgium, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Lithuania, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Turkey;**
- Co-ordination efforts to implement the gender equality agenda, including domestic violence and gender-based violence: **Albania, Armenia, Latvia, Georgia;**
- Action plans and/or reports on protecting women against violence: **Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Denmark, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Norway, Ireland, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Turkey;**
- Work to improve services for women victims of violence: **Albania, Azerbaijan, Ireland (for cases of FGM), Norway, Turkey;**

- Ongoing work to ratify the Istanbul Convention: **Belgium, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania;**
- Promotion of parental leave: **Austria, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway;**
- Promotion of balanced participation on company boards and/or political decision-making: **Azerbaijan, Belgium, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Ireland, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Norway, Poland, Serbia;**
- Work to combat stereotypes: **Belgium** (in education), **Estonia** (in education), **Finland** (on men), **Greece** (in ICT and labour market), **Republic of Moldova** (in media advertising), **Norway** (hate speech and education), **Portugal** (education), **Spain** (media, education and employment), **Serbia** (media, economy);
- Activities on gender mainstreaming: **Denmark, Greece, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Norway, Portugal, Turkey.**

NFPs were encouraged to send the information presented to the Secretariat so that it can be disseminated through the gender equality website.

It was agreed that, for future meetings, this information will be requested in writing from NFPs prior to the meeting, so that the meeting can be used for thematic discussions.

4. Conference of National Focal Points

- *Feedback from the 2nd NFP Conference on Combating Gender Stereotypes in and through Education*

The Chair asked participants for feedback on the Conference which had just taken place. A number of NFPs complimented the organisation of the conference, including the diversity and expertise of speakers. An indicator of the interest which arose from the Conference was the spontaneous discussion on this issue launched by many NFPs. Some NFPs expressed the need to focus future work on certain important issues, such as combating gender stereotypes in pre-school education, as well as prior to entering the labour market; the inclusion of women and men in Council of Europe activities in this field; the importance of training for female leadership in order to have good women in decision-making positions; and the importance of focusing on education on human rights and emphasising the cost of gender inequality.

The Secretariat encouraged NFPs to send more feedback about the Helsinki conference by email.

- *3rd NFP Conference, Bern 2015 – presentation by the Secretariat*

The Secretariat informed NFPs that the Swiss authorities will host next year's NFP conference ("Towards guaranteeing equal access of women to justice") and meeting in Bern, on 15-16 October 2015. The aims of the conference are to take stock of previous events on women's access to justice and move the debate forward; to address persistent barriers to women's equal access to justice, including gender stereotypes in the justice system; to propose measures to address existing gaps and needs; and to disseminate good practices and examples among member states.

A “save the date” message about this conference has been posted on the Council of Europe gender equality website. The GEC will discuss a preliminary draft concept note about the conference at their next meeting in November 2014.

5. Balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision-making: Review of the questionnaire for the third round of monitoring the implementation of CM Recommendation Rec(2003)3

GEC(2014)11

GEC(2014)5

The Secretariat informed NFPs about the on-going process to review the questionnaire used in the two previous monitoring rounds, with a view to launching the third cycle of monitoring the implementation by member states of Recommendation Rec(2003)3 on balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision-making. At their meeting in April 2014, the GEC instructed the Secretariat to explore a number of issues in order to update and expand the Questionnaire. A consultant was commissioned to prepare a document with proposals, which was circulated to NFPs prior to the meeting.

Feedback from NFPs indicated that it will be important to have comparable data in relation to previous monitoring rounds, and that some of the additional questions would make the questionnaire very long and heavy, in particular those related to the percentage of ethnic minority and migrant candidates for legislative elections, and questions addressed to political parties. NFPs expressed their preference to keep the revised questionnaire relatively short and to focus on the text of the Recommendation.

The Secretariat clarified that some of the additional questions to be considered for the revised questionnaire relate to issues covered in Recommendation (2003)3 (e.g. media, social partners, business boards) while others were raised at April’s GEC meeting, but are not included in the Recommendation (e.g. security forces and the military, universities).

Once agreed by the GEC, at its next meeting, the revised questionnaire will be sent to NFPs, who will be in charge of circulating it and collecting the answers.

Due to time constraints, NFPs were invited to submit to the Secretariat their comments on the proposals for a revised questionnaire by 31 October 2014.

6. Council of Europe contribution to Beijing+20: CSW-59 (March 2015)

The Secretariat informed NFPs that the Council of Europe would be represented at two important forthcoming meetings regarding the review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action: the High Level EU Presidency Conference on "Gender Equality in Europe: an unfinished business?" (Rome, 23-24 October 2014); and the Regional Review Meeting organised by UNECE (Geneva, 6-7 November 2014).

The Secretariat invited NFPs to send information regarding their plans for side-events during the 59th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW-59) that will take place in New York from 9 to 20 March 2015. The main focus of the CSW-59 will be the review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, including current challenges that affect its implementation and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The session will also address opportunities for achieving gender equality in the post-2015 development agenda.

7. Any other business

There was none.

APPENDIX I

<p style="text-align: center;">2nd Meeting of Gender Equality National Focal Points Helsinki, Finland, 10 October 2014 1.00 – 4 pm</p>
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Agenda

1. Welcome address by Chairperson of the Gender Equality Commission
2. Exchange of views with Ms Ioana Liana Cazacu, Secretary of State of the Department for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men of Romania
3. Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017
 - *Progress on implementation of the Strategy by the Secretariat*
 - *Tour de table on activities and measures undertaken regarding implementation of the Strategy in member states*
4. Conference of National Focal Points
 - *Feedback from the 2nd NFP Conference on Combating Gender Stereotypes in and through Education*
 - *3rd NFP Conference, Bern 2015 – presentation by the Secretariat*
5. Balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision-making: Review of the questionnaire for the third round of monitoring the implementation of CM Recommendation Rec(2003)3

GEC(2014)11
GEC(2014)5
6. Council of Europe contribution to Beijing+20: CSW-59 (March 2015)
7. Any other business

APPENDIX II
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Albania/Albanie

Ms Etleva SHESHI
Specialist for gender equality, domestic violence
and LGBT rights
Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth

Armenia/Arménie

Ms Astghik MIRZAKHANYAN
Head of Social Affairs Department
Prime Minister's Office

Austria/Autriche

Ms Eva FEHRINGER
Deputy Head
Federal Ministry for Social Affairs

Azerbaijan/Azerbaïdjan

Mr Elgun SAFAROV
Head of Information and Analytical Research
Department
State Committee for Family, Women and
Children Affairs

Belgium/Belgium

Mme Alexandra ADRIAENSSENS
Directrice chargée de mission, Direction de
l'Égalité des Chances
Ministère de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles

Ms Marian VANDENBOSSCHE
Policy Officer (International Policy)
Equal Opportunities in Flanders

Croatia/Croatie

Ms Visnja LJUBICIC
Ombudsperson for Gender Equality

Denmark/Danemark

Ms Kira APPEL
Deputy Head of Department
Ministry of Children, Gender Equality,
Integration and Social Affairs

Estonia/Estonie

Ms Käthlin SANDER
Head of Gender Equality Policy
Gender Equality Department
Ministry of Social Affairs

Finland/Finlande

Ms Päivi YLI-PIETILA
Ministerial Adviser, Gender Equality Unit
Ministry of Social Affairs and Health

Georgia/Géorgie

Mr Beka DZAMASHVILI
Deputy Head of the Public International Law
Department
Ministry of Justice

Germany/Allemagne

Ms Nicole HERZOG
Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior
Citizens, Women and Youth

Greece/Grèce

Ms Georgia PAPAGEORGIOU
Head of European Policy Department
General Secretariat for Gender Equality
Ministry of Interior

Iceland/Islande

Ms Hugrún R. HJALTADÓTTIR
Adviser, Centre for Gender Equality

Ireland/Irlande

Ms Deirdre NÍ NEILL
Gender Equality Division
Department of Justice and Equality

Latvia/Lettonie

Ms Agnese GAILE
Senior Expert, Department of Social Policy
Planning and Development, Ministry of Welfare
of the Republic of Latvia

Lithuania/Lituanie

Ms Raminta UMBRASAITĖ
Division of Equality between Women and Men
Ministry of Social Security and Labour

Malta/Malte

Ms Renee LAIVIERA
Acting Executive Director
National Commission for the Promotion of
Equality

Republic of Moldova/République de Moldova

Ms Lilia PASCAL

Head, Department for ensuring equal opportunities, between men and women and violence policies, Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family

Netherlands/Pays-Bas

Mr Charles DE VRIES

Senior Policy Adviser, Gender Equality and LGBT Equality Department
Ministry of Education, Culture and Science

Norway/Norvège

Ms Lise ØSTBY

Senior Adviser, Director for Children, Youth and Family Affairs
Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion

Poland/Pologne

Ms Katarzyna WOLSKA-WRONA

Governmental Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment

Portugal

Ms Andreia LOURENCO MARQUES

Unit for International Affairs
Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality

Ms Isabel ROMAO

Acting Chairperson

Independent gender equality expert

Romania/Roumanie

Mr Sorin BOTEZATU

Director for Gender Equality
Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection

Serbia/Serbie

Mr Dragomir KNEZEVIC

Advisor, Gender Equality Unit
Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy

Spain/Espagne

Ms Ana ARRILLAGA ALDAMA

Deputy, General Directorate for International Relations
Ministry of Health, Social Affairs and Equality

Turkey/Turquie

Ms Gökür AKÇADAĞ

Head of International Organisations Department
Directorate General on the Status of Women,

Ukraine

Mr Serhiy VASYLENKO

Chargé d'Affaires a.i

Embassy of Ukraine to Finland

COUNCIL OF EUROPE***Directorate of Human Dignity and Equality – Equality Division***

Ms Liri KOPAÇI-DI MICHELE

Head of Division/Chef de la Division

Ms Carolina LASÉN DIAZ

Programme Officer, Equality Division/
Responsable de Programme, Division de l'Égalité

Ms Adrienne INGLEDOW

Principal Administrative Assistant, Equality Division/
Assistante administrative principale, Division de l'Égalité

Interpreters/Interprètes

Ms Françoise COMTE

Ms Barbara GRÛT