

AS/Ega (2024) CB 07
7 October 2024

To the members of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination

Synopsis

of the meetings held in Strasbourg on 30 September and 3 October 2024

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meetings in Strasbourg on 30 September and 3 October 2024, with Ms Mariia Mezentseva-Fedorenko (Ukraine, EPP/CD), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Monday, 30 September 2024, from 2 to 3.30pm:**
 - **Election of the Bureau of the Committee:** elected by acclamation Ms Franziska Hoop (Liechtenstein, ALDE) as 2nd Vice-Chairperson;
with Ms Petra Bayr (Austria, SOC) in the Chair;
 - **The situation in Iran and the protection of Iranian human rights defenders in Council of Europe member States** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Mariia Mezentseva-Fedorenko, Ukraine, EPP/CD; Rapporteur for report: Mr Max Lucks, Germany, SOC*): considered and approved an opinion including 14 amendments to the draft resolution adopted by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy on 9 September 2024;
with Ms Mariia Mezentseva-Fedorenko (Ukraine, EPP/CD) in the Chair;
 - **Promoting the Istanbul Convention and improving its implementation: building on lessons learnt** (*Rapporteur: Ms Etilda Gjona, Albania, SOC*): held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Ms Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou, President of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO);
 - Ambassador Gilberto Jerónimo, First Vice-Chair of the Committee of the Parties (Istanbul Convention);
- **Thursday 3 October 2024, from 8.30 to 10am:**
 - **Preventing and combating violence and discrimination against lesbian, bisexual and queer women in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Ms Béatrice Fresko Rolfo, Monaco, ALDE*): took note that no amendments were tabled to the draft resolution;
 - **Protecting the human rights and improving the lives of sex workers and victims of sexual exploitation** (*Rapporteur: Mr Fourat Ben Chikha, Belgium, SOC*): took note of the intention of the Chair to move reference of the report back to committee (at the opening of the debate in plenary), in accordance with Article 37.1.d of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure; decided, subject to the adoption of the decision to refer back to committee, to ask the Bureau for a six-month extension of its validity; and took position on 37 amendments and 1 sub-amendment to the draft resolution;
 - **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**: held an exchange of views with Ms Florence Bauer, Regional Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA);
 - **European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)**: held an exchange of views with Mr Miltos Pavlou, Senior Programme Manager, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA);

- **Activities of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence, the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance and the Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI people in Europe:** heard a communication by Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), General Rapporteur on the Rights of LGBTI people;
- **Thursday, 3 October 2024, from 2 to 3pm:**
 - **Women in the economy: employment, entrepreneurship and gender budgeting** (*Rapporteur: Ms Sena Nur Çelik Kanat, Türkiye, NR*): considered and approved a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
 - **Violent pornography** (*Rapporteur: Ms Laura Castel, Spain, UEL*): considered an introductory memorandum;
 - **Work programme:** took note of the work programme;
 - **Appointment of rapporteurs for report:**
 - decided to postpone the appointment of a rapporteur for report on *The situation of national minorities in Ukraine* until the next meeting;
 - appointed Mr Edmunds Cepurītis (Latvia, SOC) as rapporteur for report on *Sexual violence against men and boys*, subject to his declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
 - appointed Ms Kate Osborne (United Kingdom, SOC) as rapporteur for report on *For a ban on so-called conversion therapies*, and heard her declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
 - appointed Ms Edite Estrela (Portugal, SOC) as rapporteur for report on *Artificial intelligence and gender equality: risks and challenges*, and heard her declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
 - **Appointment of General Rapporteur on combating racism and intolerance:** appointed Mr Francesco Verducci (Italy, SOC) and heard his declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
 - **Appointment of representatives** (*subject to the availability of funds*):
 - appointed Ms Mariia Mezentseva-Fedorenko (Ukraine, EPP/CD), in her capacity of Chairperson of the Committee, to participate in the fourth high-level Forum “Future of Democracy” on Empowerment of Democracies, to be held in Vilnius, on 7-8 November 2024;
 - appointed Ms Edite Estrela (Portugal, SOC), in her capacity as rapporteur on *Artificial intelligence and gender equality: risks and challenges*, to participate in the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, to be held in Geneva, on 18-19 November 2024;
 - appointed Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), in her capacity as General Rapporteur on the rights of LGBTI people, to participate in the European and Central Asian Trans Council organised by Transgender Europe (TGEU), to be held in Malta, on 21-24 November 2024;
 - **Composition of the Sub-Committees:** approved the following changes:
 - *Sub-Committee on Gender Equality:* Mr Christophe Lacroix (Belgium, SOC) joins the Sub-Committee as full member and Mr Bob De Brabandere (Belgium, EC/DA) as his alternate; Mr Konrad Fryszak (Poland, EPP/CD) joins the Sub-Committee as alternate member; Ms Jessica Stegrud (Sweden, EC/DA) joins the Sub-Committee as full member and Mr Markus Wiechel (Sweden, EC/DA) as her alternate;
 - *Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities:* Mr Bob De Brabandere (Belgium, EC/DA) joins the Sub-Committee as full member and Ms Alice Bernard (Belgium, NR) as his alternate;
 - *Sub-Committee on Disability and Multiple and Intersectional Discrimination:* Ms Alice Bernard (Belgium, NR) joins the Sub-Committee as full member and Mr Gilles Verstraeten (Belgium, NR) as his alternate, and Mr Michael Rubbestad (Sweden, EC/DA) joins the Sub-Committee as full member;
 - **Reporting back:** none;
 - **Other business:** considered the following items:
 - took note of a call for expressions of interest for the appointment of a Youth Rapporteur in line with Resolution 2553 (2023) “Strengthening a youth perspective in the work of the Parliamentary Assembly”;

- agreed that a short questionnaire could be circulated to all committee members upon Ms Maryna Bardina's request, to assist her with the preparation of the report on *Promoting inclusive participation in parliamentary and political life*, with a deadline for responses of 25 October 2024;
- **Next meetings:** confirmed its next meetings as follows:
 - Paris, 5 December 2024 (Council of Europe Office);
 - Strasbourg, during the first part-session 2025 of the Assembly (27-31 January 2025);
 - Paris, Tuesday, 18 March 2025 (place and date to be confirmed);
 - Strasbourg, during the second part-session 2025 of the Assembly (7-11 April 2025);
 - Paris, Monday, 12 May 2025 (place and date to be confirmed);
 - Strasbourg, during the third part-session 2025 of the Assembly (23-27 June 2025);
 - Paris, Friday, 12 September 2025 (place and date to be confirmed);
 - Strasbourg, during the fourth part-session 2025 of the Assembly (29 September – 3 October 2025);
 - Paris, Friday, 5 December 2025 (place and date to be confirmed).

The Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI people in Europe, meeting in Strasbourg on 3 October 2024 from 1 to 2pm, with Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), Co-ordinator of the Platform, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Intersectional inequalities: addressing the rights of LGBTI persons with disabilities:** held an exchange of views with the participation of:
 - Ms Bella FitzPatrick, Executive Director, International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex Youth and Student Organisation (IGLYO);
 - Ms Marine Uldry, Human Rights Policy Coordinator, European Disability Forum;
 - Ms Béatrice Pradillon, Co-Founder, and Ms Laetitia Rebord, member, Les Dévalideuses.

Penelope Denu, Carolina Lasén Diaz, Giorgio Loddò, Elodie Fischer, Louise Morlon

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