



AS/Ega (2025) CB 05

30 June 2025

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

Synopsis

of the meetings held in Strasbourg on 23-26 June 2025

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Strasbourg on 23-26 June 2025,

- **Monday 23 June from 2 to 3pm**, with Ms Etilda Gjonaj (Albania, SOC), First Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:
 - **Election of a second Vice-Chairperson of the committee**: elected Ms Lucia Plaváková (Slovak Republic, ALDE) by acclamation;
 - **Debate under urgent procedure: Women's rights in Europe – Progress and challenges**: appointed Petra Bayr (Austria, SOC) as rapporteur and heard from her a declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
 - **General Rapporteur on Roma and Travellers**: called for expression of interest;
 - **Enhancing co-operation between parliaments and equality bodies** (*Rapporteur Ms Tuula Haatainen, Finland, SOC*): considered an information memorandum;
 - **Eliminating gender stereotypes in the media** (*Rapporteur: Ms Yevheniia Kravchuk, Ukraine, ALDE, Rapporteur for opinion of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media: Mr Benjamin Dalle, Belgium, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the rapporteur on her fact-finding visit to Dublin on 19-20 May 2025;
 - **Reply by the Committee of Ministers**: considered the reply of the Committee of Ministers to Assembly Recommendation 2291 (2025) on "Overcoming age-based discrimination against older persons";
 - **Appointment of representatives** (*at no cost to the Assembly*): appointed:
 - Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), in her capacity as General Rapporteur on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons, to participate in the International Human Rights Conference (Budapest, 27 June 2025);
 - Ms Petra Bayr (Austria, SOC), Ms Maria-Gabriela Horga (Romania, EPP/CD), Mr Georgios Stamatias (Greece, EPP/CD) and Mr Francesco Verducci (Italy, SOC) to the *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau of the Assembly to take part in the European Holocaust Memorial Day for Roma and Sinti (Auschwitz-Birkenau, Poland, 2 August 2025);
 - Ms Catia Polidori (Italy, EPP/CD) to participate in the Reykjavík Global Forum (10-11 November 2025);
 - Ms Sevilay Çelenk (Türkiye, UEL), Ms Edina Dešić (Montenegro, EPP/CD), Ms Yevheniia Kravchuk (Ukraine, ALDE), Mr Georgios Stamatias (Greece, EPP/CD) and Mr Francesco Verducci (Italy, SOC) as members and Ms Edite Estrela (Portugal, SOC) as alternate to the *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau to participate in the Conference on Artificial Intelligence (London, 15-16 December 2025);

- **Tuesday 24 June from 8.30 to 10am**, with Ms Catia Polidori (Italy, EPP/CD), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:
 - **Women's rights in Europe – Progress and challenges** (*Rapporteur: Ms Petra Bayr, Austria, SOC*): considered a draft report and adopted a draft resolution as amended;
 - **Paving the way for a culture of consent** (*Rapporteur: Zita Gurmai, Hungary, SOC*): considered an introductory memorandum;
 - **Activities of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence, the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance and the Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI persons in Europe**: heard a presentation by Mx Anne Heinisch, consultant, as part of the launch of the survey on the adaptation of the European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) course on violence against women and domestic violence for parliamentarians and heard communications by the General Rapporteurs;
- **Wednesday 25 June from 2 to 3 pm**, with Ms Catia Polidori (Italy, EPP/CD), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:
 - **Reporting back**: heard reports from:
 - Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), General Rapporteur on the rights of LGBTI persons, on her participation in the IDAHOT+ Forum (Valletta, 20 May 2025);
 - Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD), committee representative in the Parliamentary Alliance for Good Governance and Integrity in Sport, on his participation in the meeting of the Alliance (Trondheim, Norway, 3 June 2025);
 - Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD) on his participation in the No Hate Speech Week (Strasbourg, 18-20 June 2025);
 - **World Forum for Democracy, Strasbourg, 5 to 7 November 2025**: took note that no additional member of the committee had come forward to take part in the ad hoc committee of the Bureau of the Assembly to participate in the World Forum for Democracy;
 - **Promoting the Istanbul Convention and improving its implementation: building on lessons learnt** (*Rapporteur: Ms Etilda Gjonaj, Albania, SOC*): held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Ms Anca Ciupa, senior manager, Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE) Network (*online*);
 - Ms Pirkko Mahlamäki, Executive Committee member and Chair of the Women's Committee of the European Disability Forum (EDF) (*online*);
 - Ms Anne Bergheim-Negre, Vice-President, European Women's Lobby;
 - **Work programme**: took note of the work programme;
 - **Appointment of rapporteurs**:
 - called for a rapporteur for report on *Equal share of unpaid care work between women and men: a pre-condition to achieving gender equality*;
 - appointed Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD) as rapporteur for opinion on *The situation of Ukrainian soldiers who became disabled as a result of hostilities*;
 - appointed Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD) as General Rapporteur on Roma and Travellers; and heard his declaration of absence of conflict of interests for the two appointments;
 - **Request for extension of reference**: decided to ask the Bureau to grant an extension until 31 December 2026 of the reference for the report on *The situation of national minorities in Ukraine* (Rapporteur: Mr Christophe Lacroix, Belgium, SOC);
 - **Composition of the sub-committees**: approved the following modifications:
 - *Sub-Committee on Gender Equality*: Ms Birgit Bessin (Germany, ECPA) joins the sub-committee as full member and Ms Inge Gräßle (Germany, EPP/CD) as her alternate;
 - *Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities*: Ms Filiz Polat (Germany, SOC) joins the sub-committee as full member and Mr Falko Droßmann (Germany, SOC) as her alternate;
 - *Sub-Committee on Disability and Multiple and Intersectional Discrimination*: Ms Franziska Kersten (Germany, SOC) joins the sub-committee as full member and Mr Johann Martel (Germany, ECPA) as her alternate;

- **Meeting of the Committee and joint conference with the Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI persons in Europe, Malta, 11 and 12 September 2025:** took note of updated information;
- **Next meetings:** confirmed its next meetings as follows:
 - Malta, 11-12 September 2025;
 - Strasbourg, during the fourth part-session 2025 of the Assembly (29 September – 3 October 2025);
 - Paris, 3 December 2025;
- o **Thursday 26 June from 9.30 to 10am**, with Ms Catia Polidori (Italy, EPP/CD), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:
 - **Promoting inclusive participation in parliamentary life: gender equality, accessibility and inclusive policies** (*Rapporteur: Ms Maryna Bardina, Ukraine, ALDE*): took note that no amendments were tabled to the draft resolution;
 - **Women's rights in Europe – Progress and challenges** (*Rapporteur: Ms Petra Bayr, Austria, SOC*): unanimously approved two amendments to the draft resolution, and asked its Chairperson to propose that they be declared as adopted by the Assembly according to Rule 34.11.

The Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence, meeting with the contribution of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons on 25 June 2025, from 1pm to 2pm, with Ms Etilda Gjonaj, Co-ordinator of the Network, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Preventing and combating gender-based violence against women and girls on the move**, held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Ms Régine Komokoli, former migrant, survivor of gender-based violence, activist, Departmental Councillor for Ille-et-Vilaine
 - Ms Kate Osamor, First Vice-Chair of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons
 - Ms Cécile Gréboval, Senior Gender Equality Advisor, Gender Equality Division, Council of Europe
 - Ms Kaye Vassallo, Project Officer, Operational Information Analysis, European Union Agency for Asylum
 - Mr Denis Begic, member of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons

Louise Barton, Carolina Lasén Diaz, Giorgio Loddo, Elodie Fischer, Louise Morlon

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