

AS/Ega (2025) CB 07

3 October 2025

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

Synopsis

of the meetings held in Strasbourg from 29 September to 2 October 2025

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Strasbourg on 29 and 30 September and 2 October 2025,

- **Monday 29 September 2025, from 2pm to 3pm:** held a joint meeting *in camera* with the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), with Ms Catia Polidori (Italy, EPP/CD), Chairperson of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, and Ms Mónika Bartos (Hungary, ECPA), Third Vice-Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee, in the Chair, as regards:
 - **The situation of national minorities in Ukraine** (*Rapporteur: Mr Christophe Lacroix, Belgium, SOC*): held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Mr Christophe Kamp, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities,
 - Mr Hallvard Gorseth, Director of Equal Rights and Dignity, Council of Europe,
 - Mr Ashot Avanesyan, Chair of the Council of National Communities of Ukraine (*online*);
- **Tuesday 30 September 2025, from 8.30am to 10am,** with Ms Catia Polidori (Italy, EPP/CD), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:
 - **Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment:** renewed the two-year mandate of Mr Robert Biedroń (Poland) and Ms Sandra Konstatzky (Austria), and appointed Ms Petra Stienen (Netherlands) for a first mandate of two years as the independent members representing the Assembly in the Selection Panel of the Prize, all three starting on 13 October 2025, for approval by the Bureau at its meeting on 3 October 2025;
 - **The deterioration of women's rights in Afghanistan: a need for global response** (*Rapporteur: Ms Maria Syrengela, Greece, EPP/CD*): 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 statements by the general rapporteurs;
 - **Activities of the General Rapporteur on Roma and Travellers:** heard an introductory statement by Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD), General Rapporteur on Roma and Travellers;
 - **Appointment of representatives:** appointed:
 - Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), General Rapporteur on the rights of LGBTI persons, to participate in the High-Level Launch of the Council of Europe Recommendation on equal rights for intersex persons (Strasbourg, 27 October 2025) (*at no cost to the Assembly*),
 - Ms Zita Gurmai (Hungary, SOC) to participate in the Roundtable "Digital gender-based violence: legal tools and public policies" (Barcelona, Spain, 9-10 December 2025) (*subject to the availability of funds*);

- **Reporting back:** heard reports from:
 - Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE) on her participation in the International Human Rights Conference (Budapest, 27 June 2025),
 - Ms Petra Bayr (Austria, SOC) on her participation in the 98th plenary meeting of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) (Strasbourg, 3 July 2025),
 - Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD) on his participation in the European Holocaust Memorial Day for Roma and Sinti (Auschwitz-Birkenau, Poland, 2 August 2025),
 - Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD) on his participation in the Annual Conference of the Gender Equality Commission on “Tackling sexism and violence against women: an essential step towards equal participation” (Siġġiewi, Malta, 17-18 September 2025);
- **Human rights situation of Roma and Travellers in Europe:** held an exchange of views with Dr Michael O’Flaherty, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights;
- **Thursday 2 October 2025, from 9.30am to 10.00am**, with Ms Catia Polidori (Italy, EPP/CD), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:
 - **Countering discrimination based on religion and protecting freedom of religion and belief in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Francesco Verducci, Italy, SOC*): considered an information memorandum;
 - **For a ban on so-called conversion therapies** (*Rapporteur: Ms Kate Osborne, United Kingdom, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on her fact-finding visit to Malta (15-16 September 2025) and decided to change the title of the report as follows: “For a ban on so-called conversion practices”;
 - **Work programme:** took note of the work programme; heard the declaration of absence of conflict of interest from Ms Wanda Nowicka (Poland, SOC), rapporteur on *Equal share of unpaid care work between women and men: a pre-condition to achieving gender equality*; called for candidates for rapporteur for report on *Promoting the Istanbul Convention and improving its implementation: building on lessons learnt* and took note of the candidature of Ms Zita Gurmai (Hungary, SOC); and called for candidates for General Rapporteur on violence against women and took note of the candidature of Ms Luz Martinez Seijo (Spain, SOC);
 - **World Forum for Democracy, Strasbourg, 5 to 7 November 2025:** appointed Mr Murat Cahid Cingi (Türkiye, NR) as member of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau of the Assembly to participate in the World Forum for Democracy (*at no cost to the Assembly*);
 - **Other business:** appointed Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD), General Rapporteur on Roma and Travellers, to participate in the Roma Women’s Conference (Zagreb, 25-28 November 2025) (*at no cost to the Assembly*);
 - **Next meetings:** confirmed its next meetings as follows:
 - Paris, 3 December 2025,
 - Strasbourg, during the first part-session 2026 of the Assembly (26-30 January);
- **Thursday 2 October 2025, from 2pm to 3pm:** held a joint meeting with the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media, with Ms Catia Polidori (Italy, EPP/CD), Chairperson of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, and Mr Mehmet Akalin (Türkiye, ALDE), First Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media, in the Chair, as regards:
 - **Sexual violence against men and boys** (*Rapporteur: Mr Edmunds Cepurītis, Latvia, SOC*): took note that no amendments had been tabled to the draft resolution;
 - **Eliminating gender stereotypes in the media** (*Rapporteur: Ms Yevheniia Kravchuk, Ukraine, ALDE; Rapporteur for opinion from the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media: Mr Benjamin Dalle, Belgium, EPP/CD*): held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Mr Gilles Fontaine, Head of the Department for Market Information, and Ms Agnes Schneeberger, TV and VOD Markets Analyst, Department for Market Information, European Audiovisual Observatory, Council of Europe,
 - Ms Anne Richardson, Senior Project Manager for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, European Broadcasting Union (EBU) (*online*);

The No Hate Parliamentary Alliance, meeting in Strasbourg on Tuesday 30 September 2025 from 1pm to 2pm, with Mr Francesco Verducci (Italy, SOC), Co-ordinator of the Alliance, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Addressing the mental health impact of racism and hate speech:** held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Ms Douce Dibondo, French journalist and feminist, writer,
 - Mr Kristijan Grđan, Senior Policy Advisor, Human Rights, Mental Health Europe,
 - Mr Eben Louw, Psychologist, specialist in psychotraumatology, therapist and counsellor, Germany,
 - Ms Pelin Yılık (Türkiye, NR), Rapporteur on Migrants' and refugees' access to healthcare.

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

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