



AS/Ega (2025) CB 01

31 January 2025

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

Synopsis

of the meetings held in Strasbourg on 27, 29 and 30 January 2025

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meetings in Strasbourg on 27, 29 and 30 January 2025,

- **Monday 27 January, from 2.00 to 2.15pm**, with first Ms Petra Bayr (Austria, SOC), oldest member present, then with Ms Catia Polidori (Italy, EPP/CD), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:
 - **Election of the Bureau of the Committee:**
 - elected by acclamation Ms Catia Polidori (Italy, EPP/CD), as Chairperson;
 - re-elected by acclamation Ms Etilda Gjonaj (Albania, SOC), as First Vice-Chairperson;
 - re-elected by acclamation Ms Franziska Hoop (Liechtenstein, ALDE), as Second Vice-Chairperson;
 - postponed the election of the Third Vice-Chairperson to its next meeting;
- **Monday 27 January, from 2.15 to 3.30pm**, held a joint seminar with the Nordic Council of Ministers on “Calling men and boys into Gender Equality - How can parliamentarians be agents of change?”, with the participation of:
 - Ambassador Ragnhildur Arnjóltsdóttir Permanent Representative of Iceland to the Council of Europe;
 - Mr Xavier Bettel, Chair of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Luxembourg;
 - Mr Theodoros Rousopoulos, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
 - Mr José Campi Portaluppi, Director of Communications and Advocacy Equimundo;
 - Ms Elisa Fernandez Saenz, UN Women Deputy Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia;
 - Ms Etilda Gjonaj, General Rapporteur on Violence against Women;
 - Ambassador Pap Ndiaye, Permanent Representative of France to the Council of Europe;
 - Ms Ragna Árnadóttir, Secretary General of the Parliament of Iceland, Alþingi;
 - Ms Yevheniia Kravchuk, Member of PACE;
 - Mr Wessel Van Den Berg, Equimundo;
 - Ms Bibi Gramson, Deputy to the Swedish Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe;
- **Wednesday 29 January, from 2 to 3.30pm**, with Ms Catia Polidori (Italy, EPP/CD), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:
 - **Reconstitution of Sub-Committees:** re-constituted its Sub-Committees on Gender Equality; on the Rights of Minorities; and on Disability, Multiple and Intersectional Discrimination; and approved their composition, as set out in appendices 1, 2 and 3;
 - **Promoting inclusive participation in parliamentary and political life** (*Rapporteur: Ms Maryna Bardina, Ukraine, ALDE*): considered a preliminary draft report;
 - **Sexual violence against men and boys** (*Rapporteur: Mr Edmunds Cepurītis, Latvia, SOC*): heard a statement by the rapporteur;

- **Promoting the Istanbul Convention and improving its implementation: building on lessons learnt** (*Rapporteur: Ms Etilda Gjona, Albania, 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 people in Europe**: heard statements by the General Rapporteurs and unanimously adopted the terms of reference of the Network, the Alliance, the Platform and the General Rapporteur on the rights of LGBTI persons to be transmitted to the Bureau of the Assembly;
- **Violent pornography** (*Rapporteur: Ms Laura Castel, Spain, UEL*): held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Ms Noelia Igareda, Director, Antígona Research group, Autonomous University of Barcelona (*online*);
 - Dr José Luís García Fernández, sexologist, clinic psychologist and researcher on the impact of violent pornography on children;
 - Ms Johanna Nelles, Head of Division and Executive Secretary of the Istanbul Convention.
- **Thursday 30 January, from 2 to 2.45pm**, with Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE) in the Chair, as regards:
 - **Women in the economy: employment, entrepreneurship and gender budgeting** (*Rapporteur: Ms Sena Nur Çelik Kanat, Türkiye, NR*): took position on five amendments and an oral sub-amendment to the draft resolution, and asked its Chairperson to propose that the amendments unanimously approved, or rejected by at least a two-thirds majority, be declared as adopted or rejected by the Assembly under Rule 34.11 and Rule 34.12 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure;
 - **Overcoming age-based discrimination against older persons** (*Rapporteur: Ms Andrea Eder-Gitschthaler, Austria, EPP/CD*): took position on eight amendments to the draft resolution, asked its Chairperson to propose that the amendments unanimously approved, or rejected by at least a two-thirds majority, be declared as adopted or rejected by the Assembly under Rule 34.11 and Rule 34.12 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure;
 - **Gender equality in the functioning of the Assembly in 2024**: heard a statement by the Chairperson and held an exchange of views;
 - **Work programme**: took note of the work programme;
 - **Appointment of rapporteurs**: appointed following a vote Mr Christophe Lacroix (Belgium, SOC) as rapporteur for report on *The situation of national minorities in Ukraine* and heard his declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
 - **Declaration of absence of conflict of interest**: heard Mr Edmunds Cepurītis' (Latvia, SOC), declaration of absence of conflict of interest (rapporteur for report on *Sexual violence against men and boys*);
 - **Assembly's institutional representation**: appointed Ms Petra Bayr (Austria, SOC) as representative and Mr Francesco Verducci (Italy, SOC) as substitute to the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) for 2025;
 - **Appointment of representatives**:
 - appointed Ms Edite Estrela (Portugal, SOC) to participate in the meeting of the Committee of Experts on Artificial Intelligence, Equality and Discrimination (GEC/ADI-AI), Strasbourg, 26-27 February 2025 (*subject to the availability of funds*);
 - appointed Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD) as member of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau of the Assembly to take part in the Conference "Envisioning effective public policy to prevent & address cases of missing migrants", organised by the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, Strasbourg, 23-24 April 2025 (*at no cost to the Assembly*);
 - **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 69) (New York, United States, 10-12 March 2025)**: approved the composition of the ad hoc Sub-Committee to participate in the 69th Session of the CSW (*at no cost to the Assembly*) - the full list of members can be consulted in appendix 4;
 - **Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment**: took note of the procedure and the deadline of 28 March 2025 for the submission of nominations as well as the relevant information available on the Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment website;

- **Increasing members' active participation in and contribution to the work of the Parliamentary Assembly and its committees** (*Rapporteur of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs: Ms Petra Bayr, Austria, SOC*): heard a statement by the rapporteur and held an exchange of views;
- **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize 2025**: took note of the procedure and the deadline of 30 April 2025 for the submission of nominations as well as the relevant information available on the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize website;
- **Next meetings**: confirmed its next meetings as follows:
 - Strasbourg, Tuesday, 18 March 2025;
 - 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 Sub-Committee on Gender Equality, meeting in Strasbourg on 30 January 2025, from 2.45 to 2.50pm, with Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Bureau of the Sub-Committee:**
 - re-elected by acclamation Mr Edmunds Cepurītis (Latvia, SOC) as Chairperson;
 - postponed the election of a Vice-Chairperson due to a lack of candidates;
- **Next meeting**: left it to its Chairperson to propose the date and place of the next meeting.

The Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities, meeting in Strasbourg on 30 January 2025, from 2.50 to 2.55pm, with Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Bureau of the Sub-Committee:**
 - postponed the election of the Chairperson due to a lack of candidates;

The Sub-Committee on Disability and Multiple and Intersectional Discrimination, meeting in Strasbourg on 30 January 2025, from 2.55 to 3.00pm, with Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Bureau of the Sub-Committee:**
 - elected by acclamation Ms Mariia Mezentseva-Fedorenko (Ukraine, EPP/CD) as Chairperson;
 - postponed the election of a Vice-Chairperson due to a lack of candidates;
- **Next meeting**: left it to its Chairperson to propose the date and place of the next meeting.

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

Copy to:

Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly
 Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly
 Secretaries of National Delegations and of Political Groups of the Assembly
 Secretaries of observer and partner for democracy delegations
 Secretary General of the Congress
 Secretary to the Committee of Ministers
 Directors General
 Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
 Director of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights
 Director of Communication
 Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe



Appendix 1

Sub-Committee on Gender Equality

Sous-commission sur l'égalité de genre

List of members / Liste des membres

Chairperson / Président-e

CEPURĪTIS Edmunds [Mr]

Latvia / Lettonie

Vice-Chairperson / Vice-Président-e

ZZ...

Full Members / Titulaires

1.	VELA Susanna [Mme]	Andorra / Andorre
2.	GRIGORYAN Hripsime [Ms]	Armenia / Arménie
3.	BAYR Petra [Ms]	Austria / Autriche
4.	LACROIX Christophe [M.]	Belgium / Belgique
5.	FABRICIUS Camilla [Ms]	Denmark / Danemark
6.	HAATAINEN Tuula [Ms]	Finland / Finlande
7.	THIÉBAULT-MARTINEZ Céline [M.]	France
8.	ENGELHARDT Heike [Ms]	Germany / Allemagne
9.	SYRENGELA Maria [Ms]	Greece / Grèce
10.	GARVEY Róisín [Ms]	Ireland / Irlande
11.	MAIORINO Alessandra [Ms]	Italy / Italie
12.	CRUCHTEN Yves [M.]	Luxembourg
13.	MUGOŠA Boris [Mr]	Montenegro
14.	NOWICKA Wanda [Ms]	Poland / Pologne
15.	TRUSKOLASKI Krzysztof [Mr]	Poland / Pologne
16.	ESTRELA Edite [Mme]	Portugal
17.	GORGHU Alina-Ştefania [Ms]	Romania / Roumanie
18.	CASTEL Laura [Ms]	Spain / Espagne
19.	PILLER CARRARD Valérie [Mme]	Switzerland / Suisse
20.	GÖKA Meryem [Ms]	Türkiye
21.	KRAVCHUK Yevheniia [Ms]	Ukraine
22.	BARDINA Maryna [Ms]	Ukraine
23.	CHOPE Christopher [Sir]	United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni

Alternates / Remplaçant-es

DE BRABANDERE Bob [M.]
Didier MARIE [M.]
SPELLERBERG Merle [Ms]
STAMATIS Georgios [Mr]
GAVAN Paul [Mr]
MIELI Ester [Ms]
WEYDERT Stéphanie [Mme]
FRYSZTAK Konrad [Mr]
BANKOĞLU Aysu
OSBORNE Kate [Ms]

Ex officio

Ms Catia POLIDORI, Chairperson of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination / *Présidente de la Commission sur l'égalité et la non-discrimination*



Appendix 2

Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities

Sous-commission sur les droits des minorités

List of members / Liste des membres

Chairperson / Président.e

ZZ...

Vice-Chairperson / Vice-Président.e

ZZ...

Full Members / Titulaires

1. MAMIJANYAN Hayk [Mr]
2. DE BRABANDERE Bob [M.]
3. FRANKOVIĆ Mato [Mr]
- 4.
5. SILVANI Silvana [Mme]
6. TÜRK-NACHBAUR Derya [Ms]
7. STYLIANIDIS Evripidis [Mr]
8. GAVAN Paul [Mr]
9. VERDUCCI Francesco [Mr]
10. CRUCHTEN Yves [M.]
11. ESTRELA Edite [Mme]
12. GORGHIU Alina-Ştefania [Ms]
13. KOVACS Elvira [Ms]
14. PEÑA Esther [Ms]
15. GUGGER Niklaus-Samuel [M.]
16. CANBEY Mustafa [Mr]
17. KRAVCHUK Yevheniia [Ms]
18. KAMELCHUK Yuriy [Mr]
19. CHAKRABARTI Sharmishta [Baroness]

Armenia / *Arménie*
Belgium / *Belgique*
Croatia / *Croatie*
Denmark / *Danemark*
France
Germany / *Allemagne*
Greece / *Grèce*
Ireland / *Irlande*
Italy / *Italie*
Luxembourg
Portugal
Romania / *Roumanie*
Serbia / *Serbie*
Spain / *Espagne*
Switzerland / *Suisse*
Türkiye
Ukraine
Ukraine
United Kingdom
Royaume Uni

Alternates / Remplaçant-es

BERNARD Alice [Mme]
SØNDERGAARD Søren [Mr]
POLAT Filiz [Mr]
KASIMATI Nina [Ms]
MIELI Ester [Ms]
BOTOND Csoma [Mr]
LATORRE José [Mr]
MICHEL Matthias [M.]
WHITTOME Nadia [Ms]

Ex officio

Ms Catia POLIDORI, Chairperson of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination / *Présidente de la Commission sur l'égalité et la non-discrimination*



Appendix 3

Sub-Committee on Disability and Multiple and Intersectional Discrimination

Sous-commission sur le handicap et la discrimination multiple et intersectionnelle

List of members / Liste des membres

Chairperson / Président·e

MEZENTSEVA-FEDORENKO Mariia
[Ms]

Ukraine

Vice-Chairperson / Vice-Président·e

ZZ...

Full Members / Titulaires

1. BAYR Petra [Ms]
2. BERNARD Alice [Mme]
- 3.
4. HAATAINEN Tuula [Ms]
5. SILVANI Silvana [Mme]
6. IONATAMISHVILI Rati [Mr]
7. LUCKS Max [Mr]
8. STAMATIS Georgios [Mr]
9. GARVEY Róisín [Ms]
10. WEYDERT Stéphanie [Mme]
11. CSOMA Botond [Mr]
12. PEÑA Esther [Ms]
13. BÜCHEL Roland Rino [Mr]
14. DOĞAN Ayşegül [Ms]
15. BRINTON Sal [Baroness]

Austria / *Autriche*
Belgium / *Belgique*
Denmark / *Danemark*
Finland / *Finlande*
France
Georgia / *Géorgie*
Germany / *Allemagne*
Greece / *Grèce*
Ireland / *Irlande*
Luxembourg
Romania / *Roumanie*
Spain / *Espagne*
Switzerland / *Suisse*
Türkiye
United Kingdom /
Royaume-Uni

Alternates / Remplaçant·es

DIERICX Manu [M.]
SØNDERGAARD Søren [Mr]

HEINRICH Gabriela [Ms]
SYRENGELA Maria [Ms]

LATORRE José [Mr]
GUGGER Niklaus-Samuel [M.]

WHITTOME Nadia [Ms]

Ex officio

Ms Catia POLIDORI, Chairperson of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination / *Présidente de la Commission sur l'égalité et la non-discrimination*

Appendix 4

Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination

Commission sur l'égalité et la non-discrimination

***Ad Hoc* Sub-Committee to participate in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 69)**

United Nations, New York, United States, 9-12 March 2025

***Sous-commission ad hoc* pour participer à la Commission sur le statut de la femme (CSW 69)**

Nations Unies, New York, Etats-Unis, 9-12 mars 2025

Members of the *Ad Hoc* Sub-Committee / Membres de la sous-commission *ad hoc*

1. Ms Aysu BANKOĞLU (Türkiye, SOC)
2. Ms Petra BAYR (Austria, SOC)
3. Mr Mustafa CANBEY (Türkiye, NR)
4. Ms Laura CASTEL (Spain, UEL)
5. Ms Sevilay ÇELENK ÖZEN (Türkiye, UEL)
6. Ms Sena Nur ÇELİK KANAT (Türkiye, NR)
7. Mr Yves CRUCHTEN (Luxembourg, SOC)
8. Ms Sabina ĆUDIĆ (Bosnia and Herzegovina, ALDE)
9. Ms Edina DEŠIĆ (Montenegro, EPP/CD)
10. Mr Alexandre DUFOSSET (France, ECPA)
11. Ms Camilla FABRICIUS (Denmark, SOC)
12. Mr Konrad FRYSZTAK (Poland, EPP/CD)
13. Ms Meryem GÖKA (Türkiye, NR)
14. Ms Alina Stefania GORGHU (Romania, EPP/CD)
15. Ms Zita GURMAI (Hungary, SOC)
16. Ms Tuula HAATAINEN (Finland, SOC)
17. Mr Yuriy KAMELCHUK (Ukraine, EPP/CD)
18. Ms Nina KASIMATI (Greece, UEL)

19. Ms Elvira KOVÁCS (Serbia, EPP/CD)
20. Ms Yevheniia KRAVCHUK (Ukraine, ALDE)
21. Ms Luz MARTINEZ SEIJO (Spain, SOC)
22. Mr Stéphane MAZARS (France, ALDE)
23. Ms Wanda NOWICKA (Poland, SOC)
24. Ms Tatjana PAŠIĆ (Serbia, SOC)
25. Ms Esther PEÑA (Spain, SOC)
26. Ms Catia POLIDORI (Italy, EPP/CD)
27. Ms Sandra REGOL (France, SOC)
28. Mr Michael RUBBESTAD (Sweden, EC/DA)
29. Mr Georgios STAMATIS (Greece, EPP/CD)
30. Ms Annika STRANDHÄLL (Sweden, SOC)
31. Ms Maria SYRENGELA (Greece, EPP/CD)
32. Ms Céline THIEBAULT-MARTINEZ (France, SOC)
33. Mr Krzysztof TRUSKOLASKI (Poland, EPP/CD)
34. Mr Francesco VERDUCCI (Italy, SOC)

Members of the Assembly / Membres de l'Assemblée

1. Mr Theodoros ROUSOPOULOS, President of the Parliamentary Assembly

Secretariat / Secrétariat:

Ms Louise BARTON, Director, Directorate on Human Dignity and Sustainable Development / Directrice, Direction de la Dignité humaine et développement durable

Mr Sergey KHRYCHIKOV, Head of the Private Office / Chef du Cabinet

Ms Penelope DENU, Head of the Secretariat of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination / Cheffe du Secrétariat de la Commission sur l'égalité et la non-discrimination

Ms Louise MORLON, Project Officer, Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination / Chargée de projets, Commission sur l'égalité et la non-discrimination

Mr Anastasios KAZAKONIS, Communication Advisor, Hellenic Parliament / Conseiller en communication, Parlement hellénique

Ms Eleni AGRAFA, Assistant to International Relations Department, Hellenic Parliament / Assistante au département des relations internationales, Parlement hellénique