

AS/Ega (2026) CB 04

5 June 2026

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

Synopsis

of the meetings held in Athens on 28 and 29 May 2026

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Athens on 28 and 29 May 2026,

- **Thursday 28 May from 9.30am to 5pm**, meeting of the **Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination** with Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:
 - **Welcome addresses**: heard welcome addresses by
 - Mr Athanasios Bouras, Vice-President of the Hellenic Parliament;
 - Ms Despina Chatzivassiliou, PACE Secretary General;
 - **Overview of the situation on equality and non-discrimination in Greece**: held an exchange of views with Ms Elena Rapti, Deputy Minister for Equality and Human Rights;
 - **Violent pornography** (*Rapporteur: Ms Laura Castel, Spain, UEL*): considered a draft report, adopted a draft resolution as amended, adopted a draft recommendation as amended and took note of the explanatory memorandum;
 - decided to change the title of the report as follows: *Violent pornography: a test for human rights*;
 - **Eliminating gender stereotypes in the media** (*Rapporteur: Ms Yevheniia Kravchuk, Ukraine, ADLE*): considered a draft report and adopted a draft resolution;
 - **Exchange of views with Ms Petra Bayr, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe**: held an exchange of views with Ms Petra Bayr, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
 - **The deterioration of women's rights in Afghanistan: a need for global response** (*Rapporteur: Ms Maria Syrengela, Greece, EPP/CD, Rapporteur for opinion of the Committee on Migration, International Protection and Economic Co-operation: Ms Sena Nur Çelik Kanat, Türkiye, NR*): held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Ms Sajia Behgam, Education Rights Activist;
 - Ms Homa Ahmadi, Former Member of Parliament, Logar Province, Afghanistan, Co-Founder of the Afghan Women Parliamentarians & Leaders Network (AWPLN);
 - Ms Elaha Hashimi, Youth representative;
 - Ms Elhama Hashimi, Youth representative;
 - Dr Nadina Christopoulou, Director & Co-Founder, Melissa Network;
 - UN Women Representative (*online*);
 - **Artificial intelligence and gender equality: risks and challenges** (*Rapporteur: Ms Edite Estrela, Portugal, SOC, Rapporteur for opinion of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media: Ms Mia Karamehić-Abazović, Bosnia and Herzegovina, NR*): considered an information memorandum;
 - **Work programme**: took note of the work programme;

- **Call for candidates for rapporteurs for report:** called for candidates for the reports on:
 - *Attacks on the rights of LGBTI persons in Europe: a threat to democracy* and took note of the candidature of Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE);
 - *Social media platforms, women and girls: harnessing democratic potential while safeguarding fundamental rights* and took note of the candidature of Ms Sevilay Çelenk (Türkiye, UEL);
- The rapporteurs for the above-mentioned reports will be appointed at the next committee meeting, during the June part-session;
- **Appointment of rapporteurs for report:** appointed by acclamation:
 - Ms Luz Martínez Seijo (Spain, SOC), rapporteur for report on *Preventing and combating vicarious violence as a form of gender-based violence against women* subject to the completion of the obligation to update her declaration of interests to include the rapporteur role, within the relevant deadline;
 - Ms Andrea Eder-Gitschthaler (Austria, EPP/CD), rapporteur for report on *The impact of artificial intelligence on the lives of older persons: opportunities, risks and policy responses* subject to the completion of the obligation to update her declaration of interests to include the rapporteur role, within the relevant deadline;
- **Appointment of representatives:** appointed:
 - Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD) and Mr Francesco Verducci (Italy, SOC) as members of the ad hoc Committee of the Bureau of the Assembly to participate in the 9th World Congress Against the Death Penalty (Paris, 30 June – 2 July 2026) (*at no cost to the Assembly*);
- **Activities of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence, the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance, the Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI persons in Europe and the General Rapporteur on Roma and Travellers:** heard statements by the General Rapporteurs, including a statement on the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHOT) (17 May);
- the General Rapporteur on combating violence against women asked members to save the date of the international conference “Promoting the Istanbul Convention and protecting women’s rights: the role of parliamentarians” (Madrid, 5-6 November 2026);
- **Reporting back:** heard reports from:
 - Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE) on her online participation in the European Social and Economic Committee (CESE) (Brussels, 29 April 2026);
 - Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD) on his participation in a visit to FIFA (Zurich, 19 May 2026);
 - Ms Kate Osborne (United Kingdom, SOC) on her participation in the 13th European IDAHOT+ Forum (Copenhagen, 19 May 2026);
- **Composition of the sub-committees:** took note that there were no modifications in the composition of the sub-committees;
- **Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment 2026:** was informed about the three shortlisted candidates selected during the Panel meeting held in Reykjavík on 6 May 2026; they are: The Girl Child Counselling Women Group (Kenya); My Voice, My Choice (Slovenia), and Sasane – Samrakshak Samuha (Nepal);
- **World Forum for Democracy, Strasbourg, 2–3 November 2026:** appointed Ms Yevheniia Kravchuk (Ukraine, ALDE) as a 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 Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE) to participate in the Council of Europe Gender Equality Commission (GEC) annual conference, under the aegis of the Monegasque Presidency of the Committee of Ministers on “Women forging lasting peace: Dismantling barriers to gender-inclusive conflict resolution and peacebuilding”, to be held on 9 June 2026 in Strasbourg;
 - decided to further discuss support for Afghan women during its next meeting in June;
- **Next meetings:** confirmed its next meetings as follows:

- Strasbourg, during the third part-session 2026 of the Assembly (22-26 June);
 - Paris, 18 September 2026;
 - Strasbourg, during the fourth part-session 2026 of the Assembly (28 September – 2 October);
 - Paris, 30 November 2026.
- **Friday, 29 May, from 9am to 1pm:** held a Conference on “The power of remembrance: addressing antigypsyism through heritage and culture”, under the aegis of the committee and at the initiative of Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD), General Rapporteur on Roma and Travellers, with the participation of:
- **Opening remarks:**
 - Ms Petra Bayr, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
 - Mr Georgios Stamatis, General Rapporteur on Roma and Travellers;
 - Mr Michael O’Flaherty, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe (*video message*);
 - **Roundtable: History and culture of Roma in Europe:**
 - Ms Sini Paukkunen-Mykkänen, Ambassador, Permanent Representation of Finland to the Council of Europe (*video message*);
 - Mr Rui Macieira, Ambassador of Portugal to Greece;
 - Ms Carmen Ileana Mihalcescu, Ambassador of Romania to Greece;
 - Mr Wojciech Ponikiewski, Chargé d’Affaires a.i. of Poland to Greece;
 - Mr John Devlin, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Ireland to Greece;
 - **Session 1: Memory as resistance: Preserving Roma and Traveller history to counter antigypsyism** (moderator: Ms Eleni Tsetsekou, Head of the Roma and Travellers Division, Council of Europe):
 - Ms Simona Cruciani, Political Affairs Officer, UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect (*video message*);
 - Mr Mladen Antonijevic Priljeva, First Vice-President of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), Serbia;
 - Ms Beata Bislim Olahova, Senior Adviser on Roma and Sinti Issues, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR);
 - Ms Maria Kamilaki, Head of the Directorate-General for e-Administration, Library, and Publications, Hellenic Parliament;
 - Mr Ioannis Georgiou, Sociologist;
 - **Session 2: Reclaiming the narrative: Roma culture and identity to foster inclusion** (moderator: Ms Eleni Tsetsekou, Head of the Roma and Travellers Division, Council of Europe):
 - Ms Manuela Demir-Kariman, Head of Pride and Community Outreach, European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERAC);
 - Mr Donald Myrteli, Representative of ternYpe International Roma Youth Network, Albania;
 - Mr Nikos Batzalis, Author of the book *Gkogi-Memory*, ERAC Member;
 - Ms Vivi Konstantinidou, Food editor, Gastronomos magazine-Kathimerini;
 - Ms Evangelia Mama, Association of Greek Roma Mediators.

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

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