

AS/Ega (2025) CB 08
4 December 2025

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

Synopsis

of the meetings held in Paris

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Paris on 3 December 2025 from 9.30am to 1pm and 2.30 to 6pm, with first Ms Catia Polidori (Italy, EPP/CD), Chairperson, in the Chair, and then with Ms Sevilay Çelenk (Türkiye, UEL), Third Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **International Day of Persons with Disabilities – 3 December:** considered and adopted a draft statement;
- **For a ban on so-called conversion practices** (*Rapporteur: Ms Kate Osborne, United Kingdom, SOC*): decided to change the title of the report to *For a ban on conversion practices*; decided to request authorisation to invite Ms Helena Dalli, former member of the Maltese government and former member of the European Commission, as a guest speaker during the January first-part session plenary debate; considered and approved a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
- **Work programme:** took note of the work programme and held an exchange of views on priorities for 2026;
- **Comprehensive protection of children in rainbow families across Europe:** considered and adopted a motion for a resolution on *Comprehensive protection of children in rainbow families across Europe* to be tabled on behalf of the Committee;
- **Mainstreaming remembrance: preserving the historical memory of Roma and Travellers to counter Antigypsyism:** considered and adopted a motion for a resolution on *Mainstreaming remembrance: preserving the historical memory of Roma and Travellers to counter Antigypsyism* to be tabled on behalf of the Committee;
- **Appointment of a rapporteur for report:** appointed following a vote Ms Zita Gurmai (Hungary, SOC) as rapporteur for report on *Promoting the Istanbul Convention and improving its implementation: building on lessons learnt* and heard her declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
- **Appointment of a General Rapporteur on violence against women:** appointed by acclamation Ms Luz Martinez Seijo (Spain, SOC) as General Rapporteur on violence against women and heard her declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
- **Calls for candidates:**
 - called for candidates for the report *On the road to parity: supporting young women in politics* and took note of the candidature of Ms Aysu Bankoğlu (Türkiye, SOC);
 - called for candidates for the opinion on *Climate and gender equality – Strengthening the protection of women's rights in the face of climate disruption* and took note of the candidatures of Ms Sevilay Çelenk (Türkiye, UEL) and Ms Solveig Vik (Norway, SOC);
- **Request for extension of reference:** decided to ask the Bureau to extend the validity of the reference for the report on *Enhancing co-operation between parliaments and equality bodies* (*Rapporteur: Ms Tuula Haatainen, Finland, SOC*) until 30 June 2026;

- **Opinion of the Venice Commission on the compatibility with international human rights standards of the Fifteenth Amendment to the Fundamental Law of Hungary:** heard a statement by Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), General Rapporteur on the rights of LGBTI persons;
- **Artificial intelligence and gender equality: risks and challenges** (*Rapporteur: Ms Edite Estrela, Portugal, SOC; Rapporteur for opinion, Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media: Ms Mia Karamehić-Abazović, Bosnia and Herzegovina, NR*): held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Mr Leonhard den Hertog, Policy Officer, European Commission, DG JUST, Gender Equality Unit (*online*);
 - Ms Louise Hooper, Barrister, and independent expert at the Committee of Experts on Artificial Intelligence, Equality and Discrimination of the Council of Europe;
- **Activities of 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 communications by the General Rapporteurs;
- **Enhancing co-operation between parliaments and equality bodies** (*Rapporteur: Ms Tuula Haatainen, Finland, SOC*): postponed the item to its next meeting;
- **Violent pornography** (*Rapporteur: Ms Laura Castel, Spain, UEL*): decided to submit a request to the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) for a study on human rights and fundamental freedoms in connection with violent pornography;
- **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, Refugees and Displaced Persons: to be appointed*): held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Ms Nazifa Yusufi Bek, Professor and activist, human rights and women's rights defender, former Member of Parliament in Afghanistan, President of the Afghan Women Parliamentarians and Leaders Network (AWPLN) (*online*);
 - Ms Shah Gul Rezaie, former Member of Parliament from Afghanistan;
 - Ms Mobina Akbari, Founding Member, Afghan Women Parliamentarians and Leaders Network (AWPLN), and Former Policy and Programme Expert, Ministry of Women's Affairs of Afghanistan (*online*);
 - Mr Richard Bennett, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan (*online*);
- **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 70) (New York, United States, 9-20 March 2026):** appointed Ms Aysu Bankoğlu (Türkiye, SOC), Ms Petra Bayr (Austria, SOC), Baroness Lyn Brown (United Kingdom, SOC), Mr Mustafa Canbey (Türkiye, NR), Mr Murat Cahid Cingi (Türkiye, NR), Ms Sena Nur Çelik Kanat (Türkiye, NR), Ms Edina Dešić (Montenegro, EPP/CD), Ms Zita Gurmai (Hungary, SOC), Ms Maria-Gabriela Horga (Romania, EPP/CD), Ms Nina Kasimati (Greece, UEL), Ms Luz Martinez Seijo (Spain, SOC), Ms Kate Osborne (United Kingdom, SOC), Mr Sam Rushworth (United Kingdom, SOC), Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD), Mr Francesco Verducci (Italy, SOC), Ms Solveig Vik (Norway, SOC) and Ms Stéphanie Weydert (Luxembourg, EPP/CD) as members of the ad hoc Sub-Committee to participate in the CSW 70 (*at no cost to the Assembly and subject to the authorisation by the Bureau of the Assembly*);
- **Appointment of representatives:** appointed Ms Iris Luarasi (Albania, SOC) to speak at the Information Integrity Conference, in a panel discussion on "Social media that chill: Analysing online violence against women in politics" and to participate in a roundtable discussion with civil society organisations and women's shelters, both organised by the Council of Europe Office in Pristina, on 8 December 2025 (*at no cost to the Assembly*);
- **Reporting back:** heard reports from:
 - Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD), General Rapporteur on Roma and Travellers, on his participation in the 12th meeting of the Committee of experts on Roma and Traveller issues (ADI-ROM) (Strasbourg, 14-15 October 2025), the Roma Women's Conference (Zagreb, 25-28 November 2025) and the 46th Plenary Meeting of the Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Chisinau, 18-21 November 2025);
 - Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), General Rapporteur on the rights of LGBTI persons, on her participation in the ILGA-Europe's 27th Annual Conference (Vilnius, 22-25 October 2025) and in the High-Level Launch of the Council of Europe Recommendation on equal rights for intersex persons (Strasbourg, 27 October 2025);

- Ms Petra Bayr (Austria, SOC), representative of the committee to the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), on her participation in the Annual seminar with equality bodies “Advancing equality in an era of democratic backsliding” (Strasbourg, 23-24 October 2025);
- Ms Petra Bayr (Austria, SOC), Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE) and Ms Sevilay Çelenk (Türkiye, UEL), members of the ad hoc committee of the Bureau on the New Pact for Democracy, on their participation in the meetings of the ad hoc committee (Strasbourg, 4 November 2025 and Chisinau, 20 November 2025);
- Ms Petra Bayr (Austria, SOC) on her participation in the Roundtable on violence against women in the margins of the PACE Standing Committee meeting (Chisinau, 21 November 2025);
- Ms Petra Bayr (Austria, SOC), member of the ad hoc committee of the Bureau on her participation in the World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 5-7 November 2025);
- **Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment 2026:** recalled that the call for candidates for the third edition had been opened at the Standing Committee meeting in Chisinau on 21 November 2025, with a closing deadline of 27 March 2026;
- **Next meetings:** confirmed its next meetings as follows:
 - Strasbourg, during the first part-session 2026 of the Assembly (26-30 January)
 - Paris, 20 March 2026 (*to be confirmed*)
 - Strasbourg, during the second part-session 2026 of the Assembly (20-24 April)
 - 28-29 May 2026 (*venue to be determined, date to be confirmed*)
 - Strasbourg, during the third part-session 2026 of the Assembly (22-26 June)
 - Paris, 18 September 2026 (*to be confirmed*)
 - Strasbourg, during the fourth part-session 2026 of the Assembly (28 September – 2 October)
 - Paris, 30 November 2026 (*to be confirmed*)

The Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence, meeting jointly with the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination in Paris on 3 December 2025, from 11am to 1pm, with Ms Luz Martinez Seijo (Spain, SOC), General Rapporteur on violence against women, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Paving the way for a culture of consent:** held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Ms Evin Incir, member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs of the European Parliament, co-rapporteur on “The importance of consent-based rape legislation in the EU”, Sweden (*online*)
 - Ms Ellen O'Malley-Dunlop, member of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) and former CEO for the Rape Crisis Centre, Ireland
 - Ms Sara Uhnöo, Associate professor in sociology, University of Gothenburg, Sweden
- **Activities of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence:** heard a communication and held an exchange of views on the International Day for the elimination of violence against women and the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence campaign (25 November – 10 December); held an exchange of views on 2026 priorities, including to address attacks on the Istanbul Convention.

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

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