

AS/Ega (2026) CB 06

21 September 2026

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

Synopsis

of the meeting held in Paris on 18 September 2026

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Paris on 18 September 2026, from 9.30 to 1pm and from 2.30 to 5.30pm, with Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- decided to propose to the Bureau that a current affairs debate on “Targeted attacks on the LGBTI community and its rights in Türkiye: a further alarming sign of democratic backsliding” be held during the autumn part-session 2026;
- **The need for systemic support to Ukrainian soldiers who became disabled as a result of hostilities** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD); Rapporteur for report of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development: Mr Jan Filip Libicki (Poland, EPP/CD)*): adopted an opinion;
- **The deterioration of women’s rights in Afghanistan: the need for a 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, ALDE)*): heard a statement by the rapporteur read by the Chairperson and held an exchange of views;
- **Countering the backlash against women’s rights: a European response** (*Rapporteur: Baroness Lyn Brown, United Kingdom, SOC*): considered an introductory memorandum;
- **Review of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo, Monaco, ALDE; Former rapporteur: Ms Petra Bayr, Austria, SOC; Rapporteur for report of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy: Ms Marietta Karamanli, France, SOC; Rapporteur for opinion of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights: Mr Serhii Kalchenko (Ukraine, ECPA)*): held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Ms Jamilya Jamanbaeva, Ombudswoman, Kyrgyz Republic (*online*);
 - Mr Ennio Boati, Regional Representative for Central Asia a.i., Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic (*online*);
 - Ms Maisy Weicherding, Researcher, Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office, Amnesty International (*online*);
- and heard a statement by Mr Dastan Bekeshev, Head of the Kyrgyz delegation to the Assembly;
- **Work programme**: took note of the work programme;
- **Call for candidates for rapporteurs for reports**:
 - called for candidates for the report *Preventing and combating femicides in Europe* and took note of the candidatures of Ms Iris Luarasi (Albania, SOC), Ms Edina Dešić (Montenegro, EPP/CD) and Ms Lucia Plaváková (Slovak Republic, ALDE);
 - called for candidates for the report *Access to support services, protection and assistance for all women victims of violence: from principles to reality on the ground* and took note of the

- candidatures of Ms Catia Polidori (Italy, EPP/CD) and Ms Valérie Piller Carrard (Switzerland, SOC);
- called for candidates for the report *Hate crimes, intolerance and discrimination against Christians in Europe* and took note of the candidature of Sir Christopher Chope (United Kingdom, ECPA) and Mr Dominik Oberhofer (Austria, ALDE);
- **Call for candidates for a rapporteur for opinion:**
 - called for candidates for the opinion *Fictional justice under occupation: a pseudo-legal system as an instrument of repression* and took note of the candidature of Ms Lucia Plaváková (Slovak Republic, ALDE);
 - called for candidates for the opinion *Securing refugee and migrant women's economic future in Europe – from fair work to funded entrepreneurship* and took note of the candidature of Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD);
- **Call for candidates for a General Rapporteur on combating racism and intolerance:** called for candidates for a General Rapporteur on combating racism and intolerance and took note of the candidature of Mr Francesco Verducci (Italy, SOC) for the renewal of his mandate;
- **Appointment of representatives:**
 - appointed Ms Sevilay Çelenk (Türkiye, UEL) and Ms Meryem Göka (Türkiye, NR) as representatives to the *ad hoc* Committee of the Assembly Bureau to take part in the 2026 Anticipation Summit (Geneva, Switzerland, 14-15 October 2026);
 - appointed Ms Aysu Bankoğlu (Türkiye, SOC) to participate in the Conference “The Unfinished Agenda: Women's Political Participation in Moldova” (Chişinău, 5 November 2026) (*at no cost to the Assembly*);
- **Respect of the confidentiality of Assembly documents:** took note of a letter from the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules, Ethics, and Immunities;
- **Comprehensive protection of children in rainbow families across Europe** (*Rapporteur: Ms Lucia Plaváková, Slovak Republic, ALDE*): held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Dr. Eszter Polgári, Hatter Society, Hungary;
 - Mr Florin Buhuceanu, ACCEPT, Romania;
 - Ms Susanne Branner Jespersen, LGBT+ Denmark;
- **Exchange of views with Ms Elena Jovanovska Brezoska, Head of Co-operation Unit from DGII, Council of Europe, , about projects in the field of gender equality and violence against women:** held an exchange of views;
- **Exchange of views with Ms Emma Wedner, Chair of the Advisory Council on Youth:** held an exchange of views;
- **Attacks on the rights of LGBTI persons in Europe: a threat to democracy** (*Rapporteur: Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo, Monaco, ALDE*): considered an introductory memorandum;
- **Activities of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence, 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;
- **Reporting back:** heard reports from:
 - Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD) and Mr Francesco Verducci (Italy, SOC) on their participation as members of the *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau of the Assembly in the European Holocaust Memorial Day for Roma and Sinti (Auschwitz-Birkenau, Poland, 1-2 August 2026);
 - Ms Kate Osborne (United Kingdom, SOC) on her participation in the Human Rights Conference organised during the WorldPride Amsterdam 2026 (Amsterdam, 5-7 August 2026);
- **World Forum for Democracy, Strasbourg, 2-3 November 2026:** appointed Baroness Lyn Brown (United Kingdom, SOC) as additional representative to the *ad hoc* Committee of the Bureau of the Assembly to participate in the World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 2-3 November 2026) (*at no cost to the Assembly*);

- **Composition of sub-committees:** noted that there were no modifications in the composition of the sub-committees and decided to discuss on the pertinence of maintaining the Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities at the next meeting on 30 November 2026;
- **Next meetings:** took note of its next meetings as follows:
 - Strasbourg, 28 September- 2 October 2026 (during the Assembly part-session);
 - Madrid, 5 and 6 November 2026, conference of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence;
 - Paris, 30 November 2026 (Council of Europe office).

Silvan Agius, Carolina Lasén Diaz, Elodie Fischer, Gaël Martin-Micallef, Louise Morlon

Copy to:

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