

AS/Ega (2025) CB 06

16 September 2025

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

### Synopsis

#### of the meetings held in San Anton (Malta) on 11 and 12 September 2025

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and the Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI persons in Europe, meeting in San Anton (Malta) on 11 and 12 September 2025,

- **Thursday 11 September from 2.30 to 6pm**, meeting of the **Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination** with Ms Catia Polidori (Italy, EPP/CD), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:
  - **Welcome address**: heard a welcome address from Hon. David Agius, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malta;
  - **Overview of the situation on equality and non-discrimination in Malta**: held an exchange of views with:
    - Dr Helena Dalli, former European Commissioner for Equality,
    - Ms Renee Laiviera, Commissioner of the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality,
    - Ms Samantha Pace Gasan, Commissioner on Domestic and Gender-Based Violence,
    - Ms Miriam Teuma, Chief Executive Officer of Malta's National Youth Agency;
  - **Sexual violence against men and boys** (*Rapporteur: Mr Edmunds Cepurītis, Latvia, SOC*): considered a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
  - **Preventing and combating gender discrimination in health** (*Rapporteur: Ms Camilla Fabricius, Denmark, SOC*): considered a draft report and adopted a draft resolution as amended;
  - **Eliminating gender stereotypes in the media** (*Rapporteur: Ms Yevheniia Kravchuk, Ukraine, ALDE*): considered an information memorandum;
  - **Work programme**: took note of the work programme;
  - **Appointment of rapporteurs**: appointed Ms Wanda Nowicka (Poland, SOC) as rapporteur for report on *Equal share of unpaid care work between women and men: a pre-condition to achieving gender equality*, subject to her declaration of absence of any conflict of interests at a future meeting;
  - **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**: decided to postpone the consideration of this item to its next meeting;
  - **Activities of the General Rapporteur on Roma and Travellers**: decided to postpone the consideration of this item to its next meeting;

- **Appointment of representatives:** appointed at no cost to the Assembly:
  - Ms Zita Gurmai (Hungary, SOC) and Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD) to participate 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);
  - Ms Aysu Bankoğlu (Türkiye, SOC), Youth Rapporteur, to participate in the events associated with the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth “Young People for Democracy: Youth Perspectives in Action” (Valletta, 8-9 October 2025);
  - Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD), General Rapporteur on Roma and Travellers, to participate in the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (ADI-ROM) (Strasbourg, 14-15 October 2025);
- **Reporting back:** decided to postpone the consideration of this item to its next meeting;
- **Composition of the sub-committees:** approved the following modifications: Mr Arminas Lydeka (Lithuania, ALDE) joins, as full member, the Sub-Committee on Gender Equality and the Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities; Ms Jessica Stegrud (Sweden, ECPA), as full member, and Mr Michael Rubbestad (Sweden, ECPA) as her alternate join the Sub-Committee on Gender Equality; Mr Michael Rubbestad (Sweden, ECPA) joins, as full member, the Sub-Committee on Disability, Multiple and Intersectional Discrimination;
- **World Forum for Democracy, Strasbourg, 5 to 7 November 2025:** appointed Mr Mustafa Canbey (Türkiye, NR), Ms Sevilay Çelenk (Türkiye, UEL), Ms Meryem Göka (Türkiye, NR) and Mr Yuriy Kamelchuk (Ukraine, EPP/CD) as members 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*);
- **Next meetings:** confirmed its next meetings as follows:
  - Strasbourg, during the fourth part-session 2025 of the Assembly (29 September – 3 October 2025);
  - Paris, 3 December 2025;
- **Friday, 12 September, from 9.30am to 1pm and from 2.30 to 5pm:** meeting of the **Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI persons in Europe**, with Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), Co-ordinator of the platform, in the Chair, as regards:
- **Ensuring equality for rainbow families in Europe:** held a conference with the participation of:
  - **Opening**
    - Hon. David Agius, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Malta,
    - Hon. Naomi Cachia, Chairperson of the Maltese delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly,
    - Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo, PACE General Rapporteur on the rights of LGBTI persons
    - Dr Helena Dalli, former European Commissioner for Equality,
    - Hon. Rebecca Buttigieg, Parliamentary Secretary for Reforms and Equality, Maltese Government,
  - **Session 1: The legal landscape for rainbow families in Europe** (moderator: Hon. Naomi Cachia, Chairperson of the Maltese delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly)
    - Dr Roberta Muscat, lawyer, Registry of the European Court of Human Rights,
    - Ms Evgenia Giakoumopoulou, Head of the SOGIESC Unit, Council of Europe,
    - Dr Alina Tryfonidou, Assistant Professor in EU law and Family law, University of Cyprus,
    - Mr Alexander Schuster, Lawyer, Italy,
  - **Session 2: Privacy and family life – protecting the rights of rainbow families** (moderator: Mr Aaron Giardina, Assistant Director, SOGIGESC Unit, Maltese Human Rights Directorate)
    - Ms Kate Osborne, member of the Platform for the rights of LGBTI persons, United Kingdom,
    - Ms Catherine Clavin, Co-President of the Association des parents et futurs parents gays et lesbiens (APGL), France,
    - Ms Denitsa Lyubenova, Head of the Legal Program, Youth LGBT Organisation Deystvie, Bulgaria,
    - Ms Colette Farrugia Bennett, family therapist and social worker, Malta,
    - Ms Angelica Polmonari, Chair of the Women's Committee of ILGA World; Co-Secretary of the EuroCentralAsian Lesbian\* Community; President of Arcigay Modena “Matthew Shepard”, Italy,

- **Session 3: Promoting inclusion for rainbow families – the role of parliamentarians** (moderator: Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo, PACE General Rapporteur on the rights of LGBTI persons)
  - Hon. Graziella Attard Previ, Shadow Minister for Equality, Civil Liberties, and Children's Rights, Malta,
  - Ms Lucia Plaváková, member of the Platform for the rights of LGBTI persons, Slovakia,
  - Ms Mirosława Makuchowska, Director, Campaign Against Homophobia, Poland,
  - Mr Daniel Martinović, President of the Network of European LGBTIQ\* Families Associations (NELFA) and President of Dugine obitelji (Rainbow families), Croatia.

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

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