



AS/Ega (2026) CB 01

30 January 2026

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

Synopsis

of meetings held in Strasbourg on 27 and 29 January 2026

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Strasbourg on 27 and 29 January 2026,

- **Tuesday 27 January 2026 from 8.30am to 10am**, chaired first by Ms Wanda Nowicka (Poland, SOC), the oldest member present, then by Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), Chairperson, as regards:
 - took note of the letter from Mr Vladimir Vardanyan, Chairperson of the Committee on Rules, Ethics and Immunities, establishing that the challenge, on procedural grounds, to the composition of the national delegation of Austria, was not in compliance with the Rules of Procedure, and therefore that there was no further action required from the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination;
 - **Election of the Bureau of the Committee:**
 - elected by acclamation Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), as Chairperson;
 - elected by acclamation Ms Luz Martínez Seijo (Spain, SOC), as First Vice-Chairperson;
 - elected by acclamation Ms Maria Syrengela (Greece, EPP/CD), as Second Vice-Chairperson;
 - re-elected by acclamation Ms Sevilay Çelenk (Türkiye, UEL), as Third Vice-Chairperson;
 - **Reconstitution of Sub-Committees:** decided to discontinue the Sub-Committee on Gender Equality in 2026 and fully integrate its work into the general activities of the committee, reconstituted the Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities and the Sub-Committee on Disability, Multiple and Intersectional Discrimination, and approved their composition as set out in appendices 1 and 2;
 - **Paving the way for a culture of consent** (*Rapporteur: Ms Zita Gurmai, Hungary, SOC*): considered a preliminary draft report;
 - **Promoting the Istanbul Convention and improving its implementation: building on lessons learnt** (*Rapporteur: Ms Zita Gurmai, Hungary, SOC*): considered a preliminary draft report;
 - **Equal share of unpaid care work between women and men: a pre-condition to achieving gender equality** (*Rapporteur: Ms Wanda Nowicka, Poland, SOC*): considered an information memorandum;
 - **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) (New York, United States, 11-13 March 2026):** approved the composition of the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee to participate in the 70th Session of the CSW (*at no cost to the Assembly*) - the full list of members can be found in appendix 3 - and held an online exchange of views, with the participation of:
 - Ms Yolanda Iriarte, UN Women Specialist in Strategic Partnerships, Intergovernmental Relations and Normative Engagement;
 - Ms Agustela Nini-Pauli, UN Women Human Rights Expert;
 - Ms. Elena Ratoi, UN Women, Member of the Intergovernmental and Normative Relations Team;

– **Thursday, 29 January 2026, from 2pm to 3pm**, chaired by Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), Chairperson, as regards:

- **For a ban on conversion practices** (*Rapporteur: Ms Kate Osborne, United Kingdom, SOC*): took a position on 10 amendments and one oral sub-amendment to the draft resolution, and asked its Chairperson to propose that amendments approved unanimously or rejected by a two-thirds majority be declared adopted or rejected by the Assembly in accordance with Rules 34.11 and 34.12 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly;
- **Work programme**: took note of the work programme;
- **Countering the backlash against women's rights: a European response**: considered and adopted a draft motion for a resolution on *Countering the backlash against women's rights: a European response* to be tabled on behalf of the committee;
- **Appointment of a rapporteur for report**: appointed Ms Aysu Bankoğlu (Türkiye, SOC) as rapporteur for the report *On the road to parity: supporting young women in politics* subject to the completion of the obligation to update her declaration of interests to include the rapporteur role, within the relevant deadline;
- **Appointment of a rapporteur for opinion**: appointed Ms Solveig Vik (Norway, SOC) as rapporteur for opinion on *Climate and gender equality – Strengthening the protection of women's rights in the face of climate change* subject to the completion of the obligation to update her declaration of interests to include the rapporteur role, within the relevant deadline;
- **Institutional representation of the Assembly**: appointed Ms Lucia Plaváková (Slovak Republic, ALDE) as representative to the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) for 2026;
- **Appointment of representatives**: appointed:
 - Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD) to participate in the National Forum “Decent Home, Secure Future: Housing Conditions as a Key Determinant of Child Rights” organised within the framework of the EU and Council of Europe Joint Programme ROMACT in partnership with the Bulgarian National Council for Cooperation on Ethnic and Integration Issues (Sofia, 24 February 2026) (*at no cost to the Assembly*);
 - Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD) to participate in the official event marking International Roma Day (London, 7 April 2026) (*at no cost to the Assembly*);
 - No members to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau of the Assembly to participate in the High-Level Conference (HLC) on the European Social Charter (Chişinău, 18-19 March 2026) (*at no cost to the Assembly*);
 - Ms Solveig Vik (Norway, SOC) as member of the Parliamentary Network for a Healthy Environment (*at no cost to the Assembly*);
 - Ms Yevheniia Kravchuk (Ukraine, ALDE), Ms Luz Martínez Seijo (Spain, SOC) and Mr Sam Rushworth (United Kingdom, SOC) as members of the Parliamentary Network on the Situation of Children in Ukraine (*at no cost to the Assembly*);
 - No member to the ad hoc Bureau committee to participate in the OECD Global Parliamentary Network (Paris, 11-13 March 2026) (*at no cost to the Assembly*);
- **Terms of reference of General Rapporteurs**: took note of the updated terms of reference of the General Rapporteurs;
- **Countering discrimination based on religion and protecting freedom of religion and belief in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Francesco Verducci, Italy, SOC*): considered a preliminary draft report;
- **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**: postponed the item to its next meeting due to lack of time;
- **Enhancing co-operation between parliaments and equality bodies** (*Rapporteur: Ms Tuula Haatainen, Finland, SOC*): heard a communication by the rapporteur on her fact-finding visit to Budapest (20-21 October 2025);
- **Activities of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance**: postponed the item to its next meeting due to lack of time;
- **Reporting back**: postponed the item to its next meeting due to lack of time;

- **Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment:** took note of the procedure and the deadline of 27 March 2026 for the submission of nominations;
- **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize 2026:** took note of the procedure and the deadline of 30 April 2026 for the submission of nominations;
- authorised Ms Laura Castel (Spain, UEL), rapporteur for the report on *Violent Pornography* to carry out a fact-finding visit to the United Kingdom (*subject to the availability of funds*);
- **Next meetings:** took note of its next meetings as follows:
 - Paris, 20 March 2026 (Council of Europe office);
 - Strasbourg, during the second part-session 2026 of the Assembly (20-24 April);
 - 28-29 May 2026 (*venue to be determined and date to be confirmed*);
 - Strasbourg, during the third part-session 2026 of the Assembly (22-26 June);
 - Paris, 18 September 2026 (Council of Europe office) (*to be confirmed*);
 - Strasbourg, during the fourth part-session 2026 of the Assembly (28 September–2 October);
 - Paris, 30 November 2026 (Council of Europe office) (*to be confirmed*).

The Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI persons in Europe, meeting in Strasbourg on 28 January 2026, from 1pm to 2pm, chaired by Ms Béatrice FRESKO-ROLFO (Monaco, ALDE), General Rapporteur on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons, as regards:

- **Protecting the rights of intersex persons in practice: a new framework for inclusion:** held and exchange of views with the participation of:
 - Aaron Giardina, Chair, Committee of Experts on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics (ADI-SOGIESC);
 - Dan Christian Ghattas, Executive Director of the Organisation Intersex International Europe (OII Europe) (*online*);
 - Cianán Russell, Policy Officer, ILGA-Europe; and
 - Irene Simeonidou, mother of an intersex child, Secretary, Intersex Greece (*online*);

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

Copy to:

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 Secretaries of observer delegations and partners for democracy
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 Director General and Directors General
 Director of the Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
 Director of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights
 Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe



Appendix 1

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]	Armenia / <i>Arménie</i>
2.	DE BRABANDERE Bob [M.]	Belgium / <i>Belgique</i>
3.	FRANKOVIĆ Mato [Mr]	Croatia / <i>Croatie</i>
4.	SØNDERGAARD Søren [Mr]	Denmark / <i>Danemark</i>
5.	SILVANI Silvana [Mme]	France
6.	POLAT Filiz [Mr]	Germany / <i>Allemagne</i>
7.	STYLIANIDIS Evripidis [Mr]	Greece / <i>Grèce</i>
8.	STEPHENSON Patricia [Ms]	Ireland / <i>Irlande</i>
9.	VERDUCCI Francesco [Mr]	Italy / <i>Italie</i>
10.	DEŠIĆ Edina [Ms]	Montenegro / <i>Monténégro</i>
11.	HOLBAN Georgeta-Carmen [Ms]	Romania / <i>Roumanie</i>
12.	KOVÁCS Elvira [Ms]	Serbia / <i>Serbie</i>
13.	PEÑA Esther [Ms]	Spain / <i>Espagne</i>
14.	MICHEL Matthias [M.]	Switzerland / <i>Suisse</i>
15.	CANBEY Mustafa [Mr]	Türkiye
16.	KRAVCHUK Yevheniia [Ms]	Ukraine

Alternates / *Remplaçant·es*

BERNARD Alice [Mme]
THIÉBAULT-MARTINEZ Céline [Mme]
DROßMANN Falko [Mr]
PSYCHOGIOS Georgios [Mr]
MIELI Ester [Ms]
CSOMA Botond [Mr]
LATORRE José [Mr]
HESS Erich [M.]
ÇELENK Sevilay [Ms]
KAMELCHUK Yuriy [Mr]

Ex officio

Ms Béatrice FRESKO-ROLFO, Chairperson of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination /
Mme Béatrice FRESKO-ROLFO, Présidente de la Commission sur l'égalité et la non-discrimination



Appendix 2

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

Ukraine

Vice-Chairperson / Vice-Président·e

ZZ...

Full Members / Titulaires

1. GRIGORYAN Hripsime [Ms]
2. BERNARD Alice [Mme]
3. SØNDERGAARD Søren [Mr]
4. HAATAINEN Tuula [Ms]
5. SILVANI Silvana [Mme]
6. KERSTEN Franziska [Ms]
7. STAMATIS Georgios [Mr]
8. GRAVES Ann [Ms]
9. POLIDORI Catia [Ms]
10. ATTARD Ramona [Ms]
11. CSOMA Botond [Mr]
12. PEÑA Esther [Ms]
13. AMAUDRUZ Céline [Mme]
14. CINGI Murat Cahid [Mr]
15. MEZENTSEVA-FEDORENKO Mariia [Ms]
16. OSBORNE Kate [Ms]

Armenia / Arménie
Belgium / Belgique
Denmark / Danemark
Finland / Finlande
France
Germany / Allemagne
Greece / Grèce
Ireland / Irlande
Italy / Italie
Malta / Malte
Romania / Roumanie
Spain / Espagne
Switzerland / Suisse
Türkiye
Ukraine
United Kingdom /
Royaume Uni

Alternates / Remplaçant·es

DIERICX Manu [M.]

MARTEL Johann [Mr]
SYRENGELA Maria [Ms]

SIGHIARTĂU Robert Ionatan [Mr]
LATORRE José [Mr]
PILLER CARRARD Valérie [Mme]
BANKOĞLU Aysu [M.]
KRAVCHUK Yevheniia [Ms]
BAKER Richard [Mr]

Ex officio

Ms Béatrice FRESKO-ROLFO, Chairperson of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination /
Mme Béatrice FRESKO-ROLFO, Présidente de la Commission sur l'égalité et la non-discrimination



Appendix 3

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 70)

United Nations, New York, United States, 11-13 March 2026

Sous-commission *ad hoc* pour participer à la Commission sur le statut de la femme (CSW 70)

Nations Unies, New York, Etats-Unis, 11-13 mars 2026

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

1. Ms Aysu BANKOĞLU (Türkiye, SOC)
2. Baroness Lyn BROWN (United Kingdom, SOC)
3. Mr Mustafa CANBEY (Türkiye, NR)
4. Ms Laura CASTEL (Spain, UEL)
5. Ms Sevilay ÇELENK (Türkiye, UEL)
6. Ms Sena Nur ÇELİK KANAT (Türkiye, NR)
7. Mr Edmunds CEPURĪTIS (Latvia, SOC)
8. Mr Murat Cahid CINGI (Türkiye, NR)
9. Mr Botond CSOMA (Romania, EPP/CD)
10. Ms Edina DEŠIĆ (Montenegro, EPP/CD)
11. Mr Konrad FRYSZTAK (Poland, EPP/CD)
12. Ms Zita GURMAI (Hungary, SOC)
13. Ms Georgeta-Carmen HOLBAN (Romania, SOC)
14. Ms Maria-Gabriela HORGA (Romania, EPP/CD)
15. Ms Yevheniia KRAVCHUK (Ukraine, ALDE)
16. Ms Ester MIELI (Italy, ECPA)
17. Ms Wanda NOWICKA (Poland, SOC)
18. Ms Catia POLIDORI (Italy, EPP/CD)
19. Mr Michael RUBBESTAD (Sweden, ECPA)
20. Mr Sam RUSHWORTH (United Kingdom, SOC)
21. Mr Georgios STAMATIS (Greece, EPP/CD)
22. Mr Krzysztof TRUSKOLASKI (Poland, EPP/CD)
23. Mr Francesco VERDUCCI (Italy, SOC)
24. Ms Solveig VIK (Norway, SOC)
25. Ms Stéphanie WEYDERT (Luxembourg, EPP/CD)

Members of the Assembly / Membres de l'Assemblée

26. Ms Petra Bayr, President of the Parliamentary Assembly

Secretariat / Secrétariat:

Ms Despina CHATZIVASSILIOU, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly / Secrétaire Générale de l'Assemblée parlementaire

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