



AS/Ega (2026) CB 03

24 April 2026

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

Synopsis

of meetings held in Strasbourg on 20, 21 and 22 April 2026

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Strasbourg on 20, 21 and 22 April 2026,

- **Monday 20 April 2026 from 2pm to 3pm**, with Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:
 - **Violence and hate speech against politicians: a threat to democracy** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Yevheniia Kravchuk, Ukraine, ALDE; Rapporteur of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy: Ms Elisabetta Gardini, Italy, ECPA*): considered and approved an opinion including five amendments to the draft resolution adopted by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy on 9 March 2026;
 - **Statement by the Chairperson of the committee**: heard a statement by the Chairperson;
 - **Enhancing co-operation between parliaments and equality bodies** (*Rapporteur: Ms Tuula Haatainen, Finland, SOC*): considered and approved a draft report and adopted a draft resolution;
 - **Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment 2026**: heard a communication by the Chairperson;
- **Tuesday, 21 April 2026, from 2pm to 3.30pm**, with Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:
 - **Countering discrimination based on religion and protecting freedom of religion or belief in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Francesco Verducci, Italy, SOC*): took position on five amendments and an oral sub-amendment to the draft resolution;
 - **Promoting the Istanbul Convention and improving its implementation: building on lessons learnt** (*Rapporteur: Ms Zita Gurmai, Hungary, SOC*): took position on two amendments to the draft resolution ;
 - **Paving the way for a culture of consent** (*Rapporteur: Ms Zita Gurmai, Hungary, SOC*): took position on one amendment to the draft resolution;
 - **The deterioration of women's rights in Afghanistan: a need for global response** (*Rapporteur: Ms Maria Syrengela, Greece, EPP/CD; Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Sena Nur Çelik Kanat, Türkiye, NR*), *Committee on Migration, International Protection and Economic Co-operation*): 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:
 - *Preventing and combating vicarious violence as a form of gender-based violence against women* and took note of the candidature of Ms Luz Martínez Seijo (Spain, SOC) (*subject to reference to the committee*);
 - *The impact of artificial intelligence on the lives of older persons: opportunities, risks and policy responses* and took note of the candidature of Ms Andrea Eder-Gitschthaler (Austria, EPP/CD) (*subject to reference to the committee*);

- the rapporteurs for the above-mentioned reports will be appointed at the next committee meeting, in May;
- **Appointment of rapporteurs for report:** appointed by acclamation:
 - Baroness Lyn Brown (United Kingdom, SOC), Rapporteur for report on *Countering the backlash against women's rights: a European response* subject to the completion of the obligation to update her declaration of interests to include the rapporteur role, within the relevant deadline;
 - Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD), Rapporteur for report on *Mainstreaming remembrance: preserving the historical memory of Roma and Travellers to counter Antigypsyism* subject to the completion of the obligation to update his declaration of interests to include the rapporteur role, within the relevant deadline;
 - Ms Lucia Plaváková (Slovak Republic, ALDE), Rapporteur for report on *Comprehensive protection of children in rainbow families across Europe* subject to the completion of the obligation to update her declaration of interests to include the rapporteur role, within the relevant deadline;
 - Mr Francesco Verducci (Italy, SOC), Rapporteur for report on *Strengthening the affective and emotional dimension of comprehensive sexuality education to prevent and combat discrimination, hate crime and gender-based violence* subject to the completion of the obligation to update his declaration of interests to include the rapporteur role, within the relevant deadline;
- **Appointment of a General Rapporteur on the rights of LGBTI persons:** appointed by acclamation Ms Kate Osborne (United Kingdom, SOC) General Rapporteur on the rights of LGBTI persons subject to the completion of the obligation to update her declaration of interests to include the rapporteur role, within the relevant deadline;
- **Request for extension of reference:** decided to ask the Bureau to grant an extension for a period of two months for the reference for the report on *Eliminating gender stereotypes in the media* (Rapporteur: Ms Yevheniia Kravchuk, Ukraine, ALDE);
- **Request for authorisation to carry out a fact-finding visit to Brussels: Equal share of unpaid care work between women and men: a pre-condition to achieving gender equality** (Rapporteur: Ms Wanda Nowicka, Poland, SOC): authorised the rapporteur to conduct a fact-finding visit to Brussels (subject to the availability of funds);
- **Third part-session 2026 of the Assembly:** decided to ask the President to submit to the Bureau a proposal for an urgent procedure debate on *Women's access to justice*;
- **Appointment of representatives:** appointed no members to the *Ad hoc* committee of the Bureau of the Assembly to participate in the Black Sea Security Forum 2026 to be held in Odesa, Ukraine, on 29-31 May 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;
- **Wednesday, 22 April 2026, from 2pm to 3.20pm:** with first Ms Sevilay Çelenk, (Türkiye, UEL), 3rd Vice-Chairperson, then with Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:
 - authorised the presence, on their request, of the following NGOs at its meeting on the afternoon of Wednesday 22 April: the Federation of Catholic Family Associations in Europe (FAFCE), the European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual & Reproductive Rights (EPF) and Humanists International;
 - **Violent pornography** (Rapporteur: Ms Laura Castel, Spain, UEL): heard a communication by the rapporteur on her fact-finding visit to the United Kingdom on 14 and 15 April 2026;
 - **Gender breakdown in Assembly positions in 2025:** heard a statement by the Chairperson and held an exchange of views;
 - **Reporting back:** heard reports from:
 - Ms Iris Luarasi (Albania, SOC) on her participation in the Information Integrity Conference, in a panel discussion on “Social media that chill: Analysing online violence against women in politics” and on her participation in a roundtable discussion with civil society organisations and women's shelters, both organised by the Council of Europe Office in Pristina (Pristina, 8 December 2025);

- Ms Zita Gurmai (Hungary, SOC) on her participation in the Roundtable on digital gender-based violence: legal tools and public policies, organised by the Catalanian Parliament (Barcelona, 9 December 2025);
- Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD) on his participation in the 13th Plenary meeting of the Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (ADI-ROM) (Strasbourg, 1-2 April 2026);
- Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD) on his participation in the official event marking the International Roma Day (London, 7 April 2026);
- **Composition of sub-committees** : approved the following changes to the Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities: Ms Wanda Nowicka (Poland, SOC), becomes a full member;
- **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize 2026**: took note of the procedure and the deadline of 30 April 2026 for the submission of nominations;
- **Meeting of the committee (Athens, 28-29 May 2026)**: considered a draft programme and a practical information note;
- **Other business**:
 - appointed (*at no cost to the Assembly*) Mr Giorgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD) in his capacity of General Rapporteur on Roma and Travellers to participate in a meeting with FIFA to be held in Zurich, Switzerland, on May 2026
 - authorised the participation of NGOs and members of the Hellenic Parliament at its next meeting in Athens, on 28- 29 May 2026;
- **Next meetings**: took note of its next meetings as follows:
 - Athens, 28-29 May 2026;
 - 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 Network Women Free from Violence, meeting in Strasbourg, on 21 April 2026, from 1pm to 2pm, with Ms Luz Martínez Seijo (Spain, SOC), Co-ordinator of the Network, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Preventing and combating feminicides in Europe**: held an exchange of views with the participation of:
 - Ms Monica Barbovschi, Researcher, European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (*online*);
 - Ms Iris Luarasi, member of the Network, Albania;
 - Ms Aysu Bankoğlu, Youth Rapporteur of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, member of the Network, Türkiye;
 - Ms Françoise Kempf, Senior Legal Adviser, Violence against Women Division, Council of Europe.

The Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities, meeting in Strasbourg on 22 April 2026, from 3.20pm to 3.25pm, with Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), the oldest member present, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Bureau of the Sub-Committee**:
 - postponed the election of the Chairperson due to a lack of candidates;
 - postponed the election of the Vice-Chairperson due to a lack of candidates;

The Sub-Committee on Disability and Multiple and Intersectional Discrimination, meeting in Strasbourg on 22 April 2026, from 3.25pm to 3.30pm, with Ms Mariia Mezentseva-Fedorenko (Ukraine, EPP/CD), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Bureau of the Sub-Committee:**
 - elected by acclamation Mr Georgios Stamatidis (Greece, EPP/CD) as Vice-Chairperson;
- **Next meeting:** decided to hold a meeting during the third part-session 2026 of the Assembly.

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

Copy to:

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Secretaries of national delegations and political groups of the Assembly
Secretaries of observer delegations and partners for democracy
Secretary General of the Congress
Secretary of the Committee of Ministers
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*

MAMIJANYAN Hayk [Mr]
DE BRABANDERE Bob [M.]
FRANKOVIĆ Mato [Mr]
SØNDERGAARD Søren [Mr]
SILVANI Silvana [Mme]
POLAT Filiz [Mr]
STYLIANIDIS Evripidis [Mr]
STEPHENSON Patricia [Ms]
VERDUCCI Francesco [Mr]
DEŠIĆ Edina [Ms]
NOWICKA Wanda [Ms]
HOLBAN Georgeta-Carmen [Ms]
KOVÁCS Elvira [Ms]
PEÑA Esther [Ms]
MICHEL Matthias [M.]
CANBEY Mustafa [Mr]
KRAVCHUK Yevheniia [Ms]

Armenia / *Arménie*
Belgium / *Belgique*
Croatia / *Croatie*
Denmark / *Danemark*
France
Germany / *Allemagne*
Greece / *Grèce*
Ireland / *Irlande*
Italy / *Italie*
Montenegro / *Monténégro*
Poland / *Pologne*
Romania / *Roumanie*
Serbia / *Serbie*
Spain / *Espagne*
Switzerland / *Suisse*
Türkiye
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