

AS/Ega (2025) CB 04

13 May 2025

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

### Synopsis

#### of the meetings held in Paris on 12 May 2025

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Paris on 12 May 2025 from 9am to 3.30pm, with Ms Catia Polidori (Italy, EPP/CD), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Promoting inclusive participation in parliamentary life: gender equality, accessibility and inclusive policies** (*Rapporteur: Ms Maryna Bardina, Ukraine, ALDE*): considered and approved a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
- **Violent pornography** (*Rapporteur: Ms Laura Castel, Spain, UEL; Rapporteur for opinion of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development: Mr Joseph O'Reilly, Ireland, EPP/CD*): considered a preliminary draft report;
- **Preventing and combating gender discrimination in health** (*Rapporteur: Ms Camilla Fabricius, Denmark, SOC*): considered an information memorandum and held an exchange of views with the participation of Dr Tlaleng Mofokeng, UN Special Rapporteur on the right to health (*online*);
- **Women's rights in Europe – Progress and challenges**: held a hearing with the participation of:
  - Ms Isabelle Rome, Ambassador for Human rights and for the duty of memory relating to the international dimension of the Shoah and spoliation, and Former Minister Delegate for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunities, France;
  - Ms Camille Froidevaux-Metterie, Philosopher and professor of political science, University of Reims Champagne-Ardenne, France;
  - Ms Lola Schulmann, Advocacy Officer, Amnesty International;
- **Countering discrimination based on religion and protecting freedom of religion and belief in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Francesco Verducci, Italy, SOC*): heard a statement by the rapporteur on his fact-finding visit to London on 29-30 April 2025;
- **Work programme**: took note of the work programme;
- **Appointment of rapporteurs**:
  - appointed Ms Bisera Kostadinovska-Stojchevska (North Macedonia, SOC) as rapporteur for report on *Protecting ethnic and religious diversity in Syria*;
  - appointed Ms Maria Syrengela (Greece, EPP/CD) as rapporteur for report on *The deterioration of women's rights in Afghanistan: a need for global response*;
  - appointed Ms Zita Gurmai (Hungary, SOC) as rapporteur for report on *Paving the way for a culture of consent*;and heard their declaration of absence of conflict of interests;
- called for candidates for the opinion on *The situation of Ukrainian soldiers who became disabled as a result of hostilities*;

- **Roma and Travellers:** adopted the draft Terms of Reference of a General Rapporteur on Roma and Travellers and decided to submit them to the Bureau for approval, according to Rule 50.7 of the Rules of Procedure;
- **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:** heard communications by the General Rapporteurs and took note of Mr Francesco Verducci's initiative to promote an invitation to the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance to hold a meeting in Rome in 2026;
- **Rights of LGBTI persons:** decided to request the opinion of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) on the 15th amendment to the Fundamental Law adopted by the Hungarian National Assembly on 14 April 2025;
- **Reporting back:** heard reports from:
  - Ms Catia Polidori (Italy, EPP/CD) on her participation in the meeting between parliamentarians from the Nordic Council and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (Kristiansand, Norway, 5 May 2025);
  - Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD) on his participation in the parliamentary conference on "Envisioning effective public policy to prevent and address cases of missing migrants" (Strasbourg, 23-24 April 2025);
- **Composition of the sub-committees:** approved the following modifications:
  - *Sub-Committee on Gender Equality:* Ms Maria Gabriela Horga (Romania, EPP/CD) joins the sub-committee as full member and Mr Fabian Cristian Radu (Romania, ECPA) as her alternate;
  - *Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities:* Ms Georgeta Carmen Holban (Romania, SOC) joins the sub-committee as full member and Mr Csoma Botond (Romania, EPP/CD) becomes her alternate;
  - *Sub-Committee on Disability and Multiple and Intersectional Discrimination:* Mr Csoma Botond (Romania, EPP/CD) joins the sub-committee as full member and Mr Robert Ionatan Sighiartău (Romania, EPP/CD) as his alternate;
- **Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment 2025:** took note of the three applications shortlisted by the Selection Panel (Strasbourg, 2 May 2025);
- **World Forum for Democracy, Strasbourg, 5 to 7 November 2025:** appointed Ms Petra Bayr (Austria, SOC), Mr Roland Rino Büchel (Switzerland, ALDE), Ms Zita Gurmai (Hungary, SOC), Ms Kate Osborne (United Kingdom, SOC), Mr Robert-Ionatan Sighiartău (Romania, EPP/CD), Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD) and Mr Francesco Verducci (Italy, SOC) 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*);
- **Meeting of the Committee and joint conference with the Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI persons in Europe, Valletta, 11 and 12 September 2025:** considered a concept note;
- **Next meetings:** confirmed its next meetings as follows:
  - Strasbourg, during the third part-session 2025 of the Assembly (23-27 June 2025);
  - Valletta, 11-12 September 2025;
  - Strasbourg, during the fourth part-session 2025 of the Assembly (29 September – 3 October 2025);
  - Paris, Friday, 5 December 2025.

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**The No Hate Parliamentary Alliance**, meeting jointly with the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination in Paris on 12 May 2025, from 3.30pm to 5pm, with Mr Francesco Verducci (Italy, SOC), Co-ordinator of the Alliance, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Addressing discrimination against women and girls belonging to national minorities:** held a hearing with the participation of:
  - Mr Christophe Kamp, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (*online*);
  - Ms Tove H. Malloy, former General Rapporteur on gender equality, member of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, Denmark;

- Ms Jennie Brandén, Associate Professor in Social Work, Umeå University, Sweden (*online*);
- Ms Oana Taba, Co-Secretary to the Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (ADI-ROM), Council of Europe;
- Ms Alba Hernández Sánchez, Co-Founder of the Feminist Collective of Romani Gender Experts, Spain.

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

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