



Strasbourg, 24 May 2019

GEC (2019) Abridged Report May

**GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION
(GEC)**

15th meeting

22-23-24 May 2019, 9:30 am – 5:30 pm

List of items discussed and decisions taken

Abridged Report

The Gender Equality Commission (GEC), chaired by Charles Ramsden (United Kingdom):

1. adopted its agenda as set out in Appendix I to the present abridged report.
2. held an exchange of views with Snežana Samardžić-Marković, Director General of Democracy, Council of Europe, who informed the members about the current budgetary challenges the Council of Europe is facing and possible implications for the intergovernmental programme.
3. held an exchange of views with Dunja Mijatović, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights who informed the members about her gender-equality related work.
4. examined and provided input on the proposed draft 2020-2021 terms of reference of the GEC.
5. discussed the preliminary draft report of the Conference “Tackling Gender Stereotypes and Sexism” (Helsinki, 28-29 March 2019), as well as follow-up to be given; the members were asked to forward any comments/amendments to the report to the Secretariat by Thursday 13 June 2019.
6. discussed the follow-up to the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of the Recommendation on preventing and combating sexism (CM/Rec(2019)1) and ways in which the recommendation can be promoted in the member states; GEC decided to come back to the discussion, including future reporting on the implementation of the recommendation, at their next meeting.
7. held an exchange of views with Feride Acar, President of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), took note of her observations about issues of common concern and how the intergovernmental programme, gender mainstreaming and co-operation programmes can best complement the work of the GREVIO.
8. discussed ways to advance in the area of objective 3 of the Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023 - ensure the equal access of women to justice and instructed the Secretariat to prepare a concept note on the way ahead taking into account the proposals made during the discussion.
9. reported back on follow-up given in the member states to the recommendations of the 2017 analytical report on the third round of monitoring on the implementation of Recommendation Rec(2003)3 of the Committee of Ministers on balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision-making; the members also proposed actions for further work in this area.
10. examined the revised draft factsheet on the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls, agreed to its publication and instructed the Secretariat to ensure a shorter version of it is also produced for more strategic use when engaging with decision-makers.

11. took note of the presentation made by the Secretariat about gender mainstreaming within the Council of Europe activities and about how to strengthen mainstreaming in line with the Gender Equality Strategy.
12. discussed the draft comments on PACE Recommendation 2152 (2019) "Promoting parliaments free of sexism and sexual harassment" and PACE Recommendation 2155 (2019) "The situation of migrants and refugees on the Greek islands: more needs to be done", and instructed the Secretariat to amend them in the light of the discussions and transmit them to the Committee of Ministers.
13. discussed possible topics to be addressed in the new thematic section of the 2019 annual report on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023.
14. held an exchange of views with Verena Taylor, Director of the Office of the Directorate General of Programmes, and took note of the presentation by Marta Pietrobelli on co-operation projects being carried out by the Gender Equality Division and participated in the project fair.
15. participated in the conference "Women's Rights at the Crossroads: Strengthening International Co-operation to Close the Gap between Legal Frameworks and their Implementation" organised by the Council of Europe in co-operation with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences and with the French Presidency of the Committee of Ministers.
16. took note of the presentations made during the thematic discussions on "Women, peace and security - UN Security Council Resolution 1325" (Cyprus and Republic of Moldova) and the "gender equality backlash" (Serbia);
17. held an exchange with Clotilde Talleu, Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) of the Council of Europe/European Union joint project "ALL IN: Towards gender balance in sport".
18. held an exchange with Florence Mabileau, Pompidou Group – Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs.
19. held an exchange of views with Alia El-Yassir, Regional Director, UN Women, Europe and Central Asia on areas of common interest.
20. discussed and approved the draft factsheet on the Council of Europe's contribution to the Beijing+25 review process and agreed to explore ways to develop the factsheet to include reference to the Council of Europe's and the Gender Equality Commission's working methods, and to the need to involve men as partners for gender quality, as reflected in the Gender Equality Strategy.

21. took note of the information provided by the Romanian and Finnish representatives about their respective gender equality agenda during their presidencies of the Council of the European Union.
22. took note of the information in the summary document of events attended by GEC members and Secretariat and held a *tour de table* about the events which took place in the member states to celebrate International Women's Day 2019.
23. took note of the reports by the representatives of Finland and France about the gender equality agenda during their respective presidencies of the Committee of Ministers.
24. took note of an event being organised on the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325 during the CSW in 2020.
25. took note of the ILO negotiations on violence and harassment in the workplace.
26. proposed items for discussion at the next meeting (13-14-15 November 2019), particularly under the item "Thematic Discussions": Gender equality related work of the Municipalities and Regions work at the local level (Sweden); systematically have a point on the agenda regarding on good practices by the Committee of the Parties of the Istanbul Convention (Belgium); terms of reference 2020-2021 (Belgium); Exchanges with the Gender Equality Rapporteurs (Slovenia).
27. took note of the dates of the next GEC meetings: 16th GEC meeting, Strasbourg 13-14-15 November 2019 and 17th GEC meeting, Strasbourg 27-28-29 May 2020.
28. adopted the draft abridged report of the 15th GEC meeting (22-24 May 2019) and instructed the Secretariat to transmit it to the Committee of Ministers.

APPENDIX I
Agenda

- I. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda
- II. Exchange of views with Snežana Samardžić-Marković, Director General of Democracy, Council of Europe
- III. Exchange of views with Dunja Mijatović, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights
- IV. Draft 2020-2021 terms of reference of the Gender Equality Commission
- V. Council of Europe Transversal Programme on Gender Equality

Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023
 - a. Conference “Tackling Gender Stereotypes and Sexism” (Helsinki, 28-29 March 2019)
 - b. Committee of Ministers request for information and comments on Recommendations by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
 - c. 2019 annual report on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023
- VI. Co-operation activities
- VII. Thematic conference/discussions
- VIII. Co-operation with other Council of Europe sectors
- IX. Co-operation with international/regional organisations
- X. Events attended by GEC members, experts and the Secretariat
- XI. Current and future activities at national level and at international level
- XII. Other business
- XIII. Proposals for the agenda of the next meeting
- XIV. Dates of forthcoming GEC meetings
- XV. Adoption of the abridged report of the 15th GEC meeting (22-24 May 2019)