

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 26 October 2020

GEC (2020) Report October

**GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION
(GEC)**

**18th meeting
22-23 October 2020
Via videoconference**

Draft Report

- I. **Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**
- II. **Election of GEC Chair and two Vice-Chairs (January – December 2021)**
- III. **Council of Europe Transversal Programme on Gender Equality**
 1. **Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023**
 - a. **Conference** (Berlin, 11-12 May 2021)
 - b. **Objective 1 – Prevent and combat gender stereotypes and sexism**
 - Committee of Ministers Recommendation on preventing and combating sexism (CM/Rec(2019)1) – follow up/update on promotional activities
 - Exchange with Laura Albu, Vice President, European Women’s Lobby, regarding the grant for the implementation of the Project “Mobilise against Sexism!”
 - Men and boys and gender equality – the next steps
 - c. **Objective 2 - Prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence**
 - Exchange of views with Marceline Naudi, President of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO)
 - Sharing information and experiences on progress towards ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention
 - d. **Objective 3 - Ensure the equal access of women to justice**
 - Gender sensitive approaches to access to justice - update on current activities and proposals for future work
 - e. **Objective 4 - Achieve balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision-making**
 - Exchange of views with Jelena Drenjanin, Spokesperson on gender equality at the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and rapporteur on “Fighting sexism against women in politics at the local and regional level”
 - f. **Objective 5 - Protect the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls**

- Presentation by Vera Eloi da Fonseca (Portugal), Chair of the Drafting Committee on migrant women (GEC-MIG)

g. Objective 6 - Achieve gender mainstreaming in all policies and measures

- Gender mainstreaming in Council of Europe activities
- Exchange with Flora Vincent, scientist, author of “Artificial Intelligence, not without her!”, and Co-Founder of the WAX Science Association (What About Xperiencing Sciences), France
- Reports from GEC members who have participated in the following intergovernmental committee meetings:
 - 2nd meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAHAI)
 - 1st meeting of the Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI)

IV. Co-operation projects/programmes

- General overview of ongoing co-operation projects being carried out by the Gender Equality Division

V. Thematic discussion

- Presentation by Ana Puy Rodriguez, Gender Equality Officer in the Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, Spain, on “Climate change from a gender equality perspective”

VI. Co-operation with other Council of Europe sectors

- Exchange with Petros Stangos (Greece), member of the European Committee of Social Rights about the collective complaints on equal pay lodged by University Women Europe (UWE)

VII. Co-operation with international/regional organisations

- United Nations: CSW 2021; Beijing+25
- Council of the European Union gender equality agenda:
 - o German Presidency (June – December 2020)
 - o Portuguese Presidency (January – June 2021)

VIII. Current and future activities at national and international level

- Council of Europe gender equality agenda:
 - o Greek Presidency (May – November 2020)
 - o German Presidency (November 2020 – May 2021)

IX. Other business

X. Proposals for the agenda of the next meeting, including thematic discussions

XI. Dates of forthcoming meetings (to be confirmed)

- *2nd meeting GEC-MIG, Strasbourg, France, 14-15 December 2020*
- *3rd meeting GEC-MIG, 4 – 5 March 2021*
- *19th GEC meeting, Strasbourg, 14-16 April 2021*
- *Conference, Berlin, Germany, 11-12 May 2021*

XII. Adoption of the abridged report of the 18th GEC meeting (22-23 October 2020)

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. agreed to hold an exchange of views at its 19th meeting (April 2021) to evaluate its activities in line with its terms of reference. The GEC also agreed that the reply from the Chair to the Secretary General's questionnaire regarding the preparation of a four-year strategic framework reflecting the Council of Europe's priorities, would serve as a basis for the discussion to prepare the next mandate of the GEC.
3. took note of the deadline for receipt of member states' contributions regarding the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023, on 27 November 2020.
4. took note of the draft concept note regarding the conference to be held in Berlin, Germany, in May 2021 in the framework of the German Presidency of the Committee of Ministers (November 2021 – May 2021).
5. took note of the latest information regarding the campaign to promote the Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)1 on preventing and combating sexism, including the new brochure on sexism published in September.
6. took note of the presentation made by the Vice-President of the European Women's Lobby about the project "Mobilise against Sexism!" which is being implemented in nine member states and funded by the Council of Europe, expressed its appreciation for the ongoing activities and looked forward to hearing about the results of the project at a future date.
7. took note of the invitation from Denmark to participate in the virtual launch event on 25 November 2020 of "The Angry Internet – a threat to gender equality?".
8. discussed the subject of men and boys in the promotion of gender equality and extended the deadline for receipt of contributions on national activities in this area until the end of the year; instructed the Secretariat to engage a consultant to prepare a mapping study of existing initiatives and experiences at the national and international level on engaging men and boys in the promotion of gender equality policies; and agreed to discuss the mapping study at its next meeting (April 2021).
9. took note of the information presented by the Secretariat about ongoing activities and discussed future work in the area of ensuring equal access of women to justice, and agreed to invite the Chair of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) for an exchange of views with the GEC at its next meeting in April 2021.

10. took note of the information presented by the Secretariat about the projects being implemented in the area of women's access to justice.
11. took note of the report of the first meeting of the Drafting Committee on migrant women (GEC-MIG) by its Chair, Vera Eloi da Fonseca, and agreed on the future steps outlined.
12. took note of the exchange of views with Jelena Drenjanin, Spokesperson on gender equality at the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, and the report on "Fighting sexism against women in politics at the local and regional level" for which she was rapporteur.
13. took note of the exchange of views with Marceline Naudi, President of GREVIO, on GREVIO's current activities, as well as of the situation regarding the ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention.
14. took note of the presentation by Ana Puy Rodriguez, from the Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge of Spain, on "climate change from a gender equality perspective".
15. took note of the exchange of views with Petros Stangos, member of the European Committee of Social Rights, about the Committee's decisions regarding equal pay, agreed to follow developments on this issue and expressed its readiness to support the Committee of Ministers in any request that may come to the GEC in this respect.
16. discussed the forthcoming meeting of the UN Commission for the Status of Women and the related events planned by the member states and took note of the plans about the Generation Equality Forum, foreseen in Paris in June 2021.
17. took note of the gender equality agenda of the current German Presidency of the Council of the European Union (July – December 2020).
18. took note of the gender equality agenda of the forthcoming Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union (January – June 2021).
19. elected Andreia Lourenço Marques (Portugal) as Chair of the GEC, and Kateryna Levchenko (Ukraine) and Basim Al Alousi (the Netherlands) as the two Vice-Chairs of the GEC. The term of office of all three new Bureau members is one year, with effect from 1 January 2021.
20. took note of the summary and update from the Secretariat about the activities of the Council of Europe in the field of gender equality and gender mainstreaming.
21. took note of the presentation by Flora Vincent about her work on artificial intelligence and gender equality.

22. took note of the presentations made by Kätlin Sander (Estonia) following her participation in the Ad Hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAHAI) and its working group on Policy Development (PDG).
23. took note of the presentation on current and planned co-operation projects managed by the Gender Equality Division.
24. took note of the presentation made by Andreia Lourenço Marques following her participation in the Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) and its subordinate body, the Committee of Experts on Combating Hate Speech (ADI/MSI-DIS).
25. took note of the gender equality agenda during the Greek Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (May – November 2020), including the Seminar on “Advancing Gender Equality: The role and situation for gender equality mechanisms in the context of COVID-19” which took place on 21 October 2020, and looked forward to the report of the seminar.
26. took note of the gender equality agenda during the forthcoming German Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (November 2020-May 2021).
27. took note of the dates and places of the next meetings:
 - 2nd meeting of the GEC-MIG (Strasbourg), 14-15 December 2020;
 - 3rd meeting of the GEC-MIG (Strasbourg), 4-5 March 2021;
 - 19th meeting of the GEC (Strasbourg), 14-16 April 2021;
 - Conference (Berlin, Germany), 11-12 May 2021.
28. adopted the abridged report of the 18th GEC meeting (22-23 October 2020) and agreed to its transmission to the Committee of Ministers.

APPENDIX I

Agenda

- I. **Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**
 - *Draft Agenda* *GEC(2020)OJ2 Rev*
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- III. **Council of Europe Transversal Programme on Gender Equality**
 2. **Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023**
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Concept Note *GEC(2020)4*
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Information document
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Appendix II

List of participants

Andorra

Mireia PORRAS GARCIA

Austria

Valerie DORI

Azerbaijan

Sabina MANAFOVA

Belgium

Marian VANDENBOSSCHE

Barbara BRUNISSO

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Samra FILIPOVIĆ HADŽIABDIĆ

Croatia

Narcisa BEĆIREVIĆ

Martina BOSAK

Cyprus

Andri SAVVA

Czech Republic

Radan ŠAFARIK

Denmark

Kira APPEL

Jepp Holm NIELSEN

Estonia

Käthlin SANDER

Finland

Päivi YLI-PIETILÄ

France

Alexis RINCKENBACH

Maureen GOUVERNEUR

Georgia

Lela AKIASHVILI

Sophie JAPARIDZE

Germany

Stefanie FRIEDRICH

Greece

Christina AGORITSA

Georgia PAPAGEORGIOU

Hungary

Brigitta GYEBNÁR

Iceland

Tryggvi HALLGRÍMSSON

Ireland

Deirdre NÍ NÉILL

Italy

Stefano PIZZICANNELLA

Tiziana ZANNINI

Latvia

Agnese GAILE

Luxembourg

Ralph KASS

Malta

Annalise DESIRA

Republic of Moldova

Lilia PASCALE

Monaco

Corinne MAGAIL

Netherlands

Basim AL ALOUSI

Norway

Elin GROTNES

Poland

Lidia LEŚNIEWSKA-RÓŻYCKA

Portugal

Andreia LOURENÇO MARQUES
Vice-Chair

Romania

Andreea-Angela PASCU

Russian Federation

Olga OPANASENKO

San Marino

Stefano PALMUCCI

Serbia

Ljiljana LONCAR
Vice-Chair

Slovak Republic

Marek SIMON

Slovenia

Sara SLANA

Spain

Ana ARRILLAGA ALDAMA

Sweden

Karin BENGTON

Switzerland

Thomas THENTZ

Turkey

Onur DINÇER

Ukraine

Kateryna LEVCHENKO

United Kingdom

Charles RAMSDEN
Chair of the GEC

PERMANENT OBSERVER

Holy See

Anne-Julie KERHUEL

NON-MEMBER STATES

Morocco

Fatima BARKAN
Rachid MEZIANE

Tunisia

Anis ZAHRAZ

**ORGANS AND COMMITTEES OF THE
COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

**Congress of Local and Regional
authorities**

Jelena DRENJANIN
Spokesperson on Gender Equality

**Conference of International Non-
governmental Organisations**

Anne NEGRE
Vice-President for Gender Equality

**Group of Experts on Action against
Violence against Women and Domestic
Violence (GREVIO)**

Marcelline NAUDI
President

European Committee of Social Rights

Petros SANGOS
Member (Greece)/

**Drafting Committee on Migrant Women
(GEC-MIG)**

Vera ELOI DA FONSECA
Chair

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS
European Institute for Gender Equality
(EIGE)**

Zivile MACIJAUŠKIENE

Stakeholder Relations Officer

**UN Women Regional Office for Europe
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Yolande IRIARTE

Nordic Information on Gender

Jenny Pentler
Project Coordinator

* * *

OTHERS

European Women's Lobby

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Vice-President

Mae OCAMPO
Programme Director

**Ministry for the Ecological Transition
and the Demographic Challenge, Spain**

Ana PUY RODRIGUEZ
Gender Equality Officer

Wax Science Association

Flora VINCENT
Scientist, Author, Co-founder of the Wax
Science Association, France

COUNCIL OF EUROPE SECRETARIAT

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF DEMOCRACY

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Rocio CERVERA
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* * *

**Interpreting, Travel, Events and
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Renaud MOREUILLE

Interpreters

Barbara GRUT

Julia TANNER