

Strasbourg, 26 November 2020

GEC (2020) Bureau Report 4

GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION
Bureau meeting

Via BlueJeans

Thursday, 26 November 2020

Draft Report

1. 19th GEC meeting (14-16 April 2021)

The Bureau reviewed the draft agenda for the 19th meeting of the GEC (14-16 April 2021), which had been prepared on the basis of a 2.5 day meeting in person. The Bureau considered that a decision on whether the GEC meeting could take place in person or online should be taken in mid-February. Should the GEC meeting be held in a virtual online format, the draft agenda would be revised, in co-operation with the Bureau, to take into account the need to reduce its duration.

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to contact the GEC members who had made proposals for thematic discussions, with a view to getting more information before a decision would be taken by the Bureau on the thematic debates for the next GEC meeting.

2. GEC-MIG: change in “paid countries”

As a result of the withdrawal of one of the members of the GEC-MIG, for whom participation costs are covered by the Council of Europe, the Bureau instructed the Secretariat to prepare a procedure for replacing this member state at the next GEC meeting.

3. Committee of Ministers request for GEC comments on a “Draft Declaration on equal pay and equal opportunities for women and men in employment”

The Bureau discussed the proposed comments put forward by the Secretariat on the draft Committee of Ministers declaration and took note of the Secretariat’s explanations about them. The Bureau agreed that the document should remain as it is so that the GEC can take the opportunity of making a useful contribution as regards the specific gender equality elements of the draft declaration. The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to forward the comments to the GEC members for their comments/approval by 8 December 2020. The Bureau will then review and adopt the final version of the comments to be transmitted to the Committee of Ministers.

The Bureau asked the Secretariat to keep them informed of the timetable of the future discussions on the draft declaration by the Committee of Ministers (possibly in January 2021). The Chair/Bureau agreed to send a message to GEC members to inform them about this, encouraging them to contact the relevant colleagues in their capitals so that they support the integration of GEC's comments in the final version of the declaration.

4. Date of the next Bureau meeting

The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting towards the end of January 2021, but should a meeting be required before then, the Secretariat would contact the members accordingly.

Participants:

Bureau: Charles Ramsden (Chair), Andreia Lourenço Marques (Vice-Chair)

Incoming Bureau 2021: Basim Al-Alousi, (the Netherlands), Kateryna Levchenko (Ukraine)

Secretariat: Daniele Cangemi, Carolina Lasén Diaz, Cécile Gréboval, Adrienne Looby, Evrydiki Tseliou