



Strasbourg, 21 September 2021

GEC (2021) Bureau 5

**GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION**  
**9th Bureau meeting**  
**Monday, 20 September 2021**

**Report**

**1. Preparation of the 20th GEC meeting** (Strasbourg, 23-24-25 November 2021)

There were no comments on the preliminary draft GEC agenda.

**2. Terms of reference of the Gender Equality Commission (2022-2025) and the Committee of Experts on Artificial Intelligence, Equality and Discrimination (GEC/ADI-AI) (2024-2025)**

Caterina Bolognese informed the Bureau that the draft terms of reference of the GEC (2022-2025) would be discussed by the Committee of Ministers' Human Rights Rapporteur Group on Tuesday, 21 September and Thursday, 21 October. She explained that the duration of the terms of reference had been changed from two years to four years, but that they would be reviewed after two years. She encouraged the members to contact their delegations if they wished to comment on the terms of reference at this stage as amendments could not be proposed by the Secretariat. The terms of reference will be discussed at the Committee of Ministers' budget meeting in November and the GEC will be informed about the situation as regards their adoption at the GEC plenary meeting in November.

**3. Draft Recommendation on protecting the human rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls – current situation prior to the 5th meeting of GEC-MIG** (Strasbourg, 30 September-1 October 2021) [Compromise document](#)

Cecile Gréboval informed the Bureau about the consultation process that took place throughout the summer. Comments on the draft recommendation had been received from 13 member states, as well as from some other stakeholders. The compromise document for discussion at the 5th and final GEC-MIG meeting (30 September-1 October 2021) had been agreed upon with the Chair of the GEC-MIG, taking all comments received by the deadline into account. The aim of the GEC-MIG meeting is to have an agreed document for discussion and adoption at the GEC plenary meeting in November.

In view of the forthcoming discussion at the GEC plenary meeting in November, the Bureau agreed to invite Vera Eloi da Fonseca, the Chair of the GEC-MIG to a forthcoming Bureau meeting to discuss the draft recommendation prior to November's meeting.

#### 4. Study on men & boys prepared and presented by Claire Guiraud and Romain Sabathier – publication currently in preparation

Adrienne Looby informed the Bureau that the study on men and boys would be published shortly. The publication takes into account the discussions at the April plenary GEC meeting, as well as discussions which took place directly with some member states following that meeting.

Caterina Bolognese reminded the Bureau that men and boys and gender equality is a priority of the forthcoming Icelandic Presidency of the Committee of Ministers (November 2022 – May 2023) and that discussions at November's plenary meeting would focus on the GEC's future work in this area.

#### 5. Future events

- Conference on “The role of foreign policy in advancing gender equality: Addressing the challenges, pushbacks and obstacles faced by women”, organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus in partnership with the Council of Europe, Nicosia, 26 October 2021 *Draft concept note*

Adrienne Looby informed the members that this conference, organised in co-operation with the Cypriot authorities, will take place in the framework of the 60th anniversary of Cyprus joining the Council of Europe. It had been confirmed that the event, which will be livestreamed, will be in person for the speakers and online for the audience. More information would be sent to the GEC members shortly, inviting them to participate online, including the draft programme and link to the conference website.

The conference will concentrate on the role of foreign policy in the promotion of women's rights and achieving gender equality, including within the migration context, will assess current affairs on women's rights and women's participation on the multilateral level and will discuss the way forward.

- Thematic conference 2022 in the framework of the Italian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

Caterina Bolognese informed the Bureau that discussions had begun with the Italian authorities regarding the one-day conference which they have offered to host during their forthcoming Presidency of the Committee of Ministers (November 2021-May 2022). The subject of the conference would be reconciling the work-life balance. The Bureau agreed that this was a very important topic and they proposed to concentrate on one or two areas in detail rather than the wider subject in one short event.

Caterina Bolognese said that the Secretariat was carrying out a study to review the Committee of Ministers 1996 recommendation on work and family life. The results of this study, including any good practices identified, should be available by the end of the year, and could contribute to the discussions at the conference.

The Bureau agreed that the study could prove to be useful and asked to be kept informed of developments with regard to the conference.

- Conference on the Future of Europe

*Communication from DG Just*

Caterina Bolognese informed the Bureau about the communication from DG Just (Irena Moozova) about the Conference on the Future of Europe and proposed to distribute the document to the GEC members encouraging them to get involved to ensure that gender equality would be part of discussions on the future of Europe. The Bureau agreed to this proposal.

## **6. Any other business**

Basim Al-Alousi spoke about the International Conference on “Statelessness and the right to a nationality in Europe” in which he would participate on 23 and 24 September. The goal was to ensure that there was a gender perspective in the report of the conference which is organised by the European Committee on Legal Co-operation of the Council of Europe (see attached draft programme).

Caterina Bolognese asked the Bureau members to let the Secretariat know if they have ideas for possible side-events at the forthcoming CSW, which is likely to take place in a hybrid format in 2022.

## **7. Proposed date of next Bureau meeting: (15 November 2021, 3:00-4:00 pm)**

The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting on 15 November. However, a further meeting will be organised prior to that, with the presence of the Chair of GEC-MIG, which would focus solely on the state of play as regards the draft Recommendation on protecting the human rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls.

### **Participants:**

**Bureau:** Andreia Lourenço Marques (Chair), Basim Al-Alousi (the Netherlands), Kateryna Levchenko (Ukraine)

**Secretariat:** Caterina Bolognese, Cécile Gréboval, Adrienne Looby, Laurène Thil, Evrydiki Tseliou, Coralie Charlet