



SECRETARIAT

AS/Ega (2023) CB 02

27 March 2023

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

### Synopsis

#### of the meeting held in Paris on 24 March 2023

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Paris, on 24 March 2023, with first Ms Mariia Mezentseva (Ukraine, EPP/CD), Chairperson, then with Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Closing the digital divide: promoting equal access to digital technologies** (*Rapporteur: Ms Edite Estrela, Portugal, SOC*): in the absence of the rapporteur, considered a preliminary draft report;
- **Freedom of expression and assembly of LGBTI people in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Christophe Lacroix, Belgium, SOC*): considered an information memorandum;
- **The situation of national minorities in Ukraine** (*Rapporteur: Ms Elvira Kovács, Serbia, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the rapporteur;
- **Protecting women human rights defenders and people who defend women's rights in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Ms Petra Bayr, Austria, SOC*): considered an introductory memorandum;
- **Work programme**: adopted a motion for a resolution on *Overcoming age-based discrimination against older persons*, for tabling in the name of the Committee;
- **The reintegration of persons trapped in prostitution and human trafficking survivors** (*Rapporteur: Ms Margreet De Boer, Netherlands, SOC*): considered an introductory memorandum and decided to change the title of the report as follows: *Protecting the human rights and improving the lives of sex workers and victims of sexual exploitation*; authorised the rapporteur to carry out a fact-finding visit to Belgium (*subject to the availability of funds*) and held a hearing with the participation of:
  - Ms Sabrina Sanchez, General Director, European Sex Workers Alliance (ESWA);
  - Ms Irena Ferčíková Konečná, Policy officer, European Sex Workers Alliance (ESWA) (*online*);
  - Ms Monica Costa Riba, Senior Campaigner - Gender in Europe, Amnesty International;
  - Ms Sarah-Marie Maffesoli, Sex Work Technical and Legal Advisor, Doctors of the World, France.
- **Sub-Committee on Gender Equality**: approved the following change: Ms Sabina Glasovac (Croatia, SOC) joins the Sub-Committee as full member;
- **Institutional racism of law enforcement authorities against Roma and Travellers** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jean-Pierre Grin, Switzerland, ALDE*): considered an introductory memorandum and held an exchange of views with Mr Bernard Rorke, Advocacy and Policy Manager, European Roma Rights Center, Brussels;

- **Activities of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence:** heard a communication by the Chairperson of the Committee on the *Seminar on the role and responsibilities of parliamentarians in supporting the Istanbul Convention*, held in London, 13 March 2023;
- **Activities of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance:** heard a communication by the General Rapporteur on combating racism and intolerance on the *Parliamentary seminar on countering hate speech and hate crime: intersectional approach – data collection – victims’ protection*, to be held in Vienna on 8 May 2023;
- **Activities of the Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI people in Europe:** heard a communication by the General Rapporteur on the rights of LGBTI people on the *Conference: Finding safety: Guaranteeing the rights of LGBTI refugees and asylum-seekers in Europe*, to be held in Brussels on 22 May 2023;
- **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 67) (New York, United States, 6-17 March 2023):** heard a communication by the Chairperson of the *ad hoc* Sub-Committee and Ms Petra Stienen (Netherlands, ALDE) on the participation in the event *Towards a Green and Digital Future: Challenges and Opportunities for Women and Girls* on 6 March 2023 and other events;
- **Appointment of representatives:**
  - invited members interested in participating, as part of the *ad hoc* committee set up by the Bureau of the Assembly, in the meeting of the OECD Global Parliamentary Network, held jointly with the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and in partnership with Women Political Leaders, on 4-5 April 2023 in Paris, to contact the Secretariat (*at no cost to the Assembly*);
  - appointed Mme Petra Stienen (Netherlands, ALDE) to participate in the Gender Equality Commission (GEC) Annual Conference on *Gender Equality: Engaging Men and Boys*, on 28 April 2023 in Strasbourg (*at no cost to the Assembly*);
  - appointed Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE) to participate in the IDAHOT+ Forum, to be hosted by the government of Iceland, on 11 May 2023 in Reykjavik (*subject to the availability of funds*);
- **Next meetings:** confirmed its next meetings as follows:
  - Committee*
    - Strasbourg, during the second part-session 2023 of the Assembly (24-28 April);
    - Paris, 12 May 2023 (Council of Europe Office);
    - Strasbourg, during the third part-session 2023 of the Assembly (19-23 June);
    - Marrakech, Morocco, 14-15 September 2023;
    - Strasbourg, during the fourth part-session 2023 of the Assembly (9-13 October);
    - Paris, 7 December 2023 (Council of Europe Office).
  - Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities*
    - Strasbourg, during the second part-session 2023 of the Assembly (24-28 April).
  - No Hate Parliamentary Alliance*
    - Vienna, 8 May 2023.
  - Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI people in Europe*
    - Brussels, 22 May 2023.

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**The Ad Hoc Sub-Committee to participate in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67)**, meeting in New York, United States, from 6 to 8 March 2023, with Ms Mariia Mezentseva (Ukraine, EPP/CD), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee:** elected by acclamation Ms Mariia Mezentseva (Ukraine, EPP/CD) as Chairperson;
- participated in the plenary session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67) and in the side events taking place on 6-8 March 2023;
- **Towards a green and digital future: challenges and opportunities for women and girls in public life and the workplace**, took part in the side event on 6 March 2023 from 1.15 to 2.30pm, co-organised by the Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence, the Netherlands and Estonia with the participation of:
  - Ms Marjan Hammersma, Vice-Minister of Education, Culture and Science, Kingdom of the Netherlands;
  - Ms Hanna Vseviiov, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Social Affairs, Estonia;
  - Ms Mariëlle Feenstra, NGO Representative, Dutch Delegation to CSW67;
  - Ms Mariia Mezentseva, Chairperson of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
  - Ms Petra Stienen, member of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
  - Ms Zita Gurmai, former General Rapporteur on violence against women, member of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
  - Mr Fourat Ben Chikha, Third Vice-Chair of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
  - Ms Margreet De Boer, member of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

Penelope Denu, Sarah Burton, Giorgio Loddo, Élodie Fischer

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