



SECRETARIAT

AS/Ega (2023) CB 08
8 December 2023

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

Synopsis

of the meeting held in Paris on 7 December 2023

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Paris on 7 December 2023,

- **From 9am to 3pm: meeting of the Committee:** with Ms Mariia Mezentsseva (Ukraine, EPP/CD), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:
 - **Sexual violence against men and boys** (*Rapporteur: Mr Fourat Ben Chikha, Belgium, SOC*): considered an introductory memorandum;
 - **Freedom of expression and assembly of LGBTI people in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Christophe Lacroix, Belgium, SOC*): considered an information memorandum;
 - **Activities of the Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI people in Europe:** heard a communication from Mr Christophe Lacroix (Belgium, SOC), General Rapporteur on the rights of LGBTI people;
 - **Work programme:** adopted a draft motion for a resolution entitled *For a ban on so-called conversion practices*, for tabling on behalf of the Committee;
 - **Sub-Committees:** approved the following changes:
 - *Sub-Committee on Gender Equality:* Ms Tuula Haatainen (Finland, SOC) joins as a full member, and Ms Silvana Silvani (France, UEL) joins as the alternate to Mr Didier Marie (France, SOC);
 - *Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities:* Ms Silvana Silvani (France, UEL) joins as full member;
 - *Sub-Committee on Disability and Multiple and Intersectional Discrimination:* Ms Tuula Haatainen (Finland, SOC) and Ms Silvana Silvani (France, UEL) join as full members;
 - **Preventing and combating violence and discrimination against LBQ women in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Ms Béatrice Fresko Rolfo, Monaco, ALDE*): considered an information memorandum, authorised the rapporteur to carry-out a fact-finding visit to Italy in 2024 (dates to be confirmed), and held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Ms Ilaria Todde, Advocacy and Research Director, EL*C (Eurocentralasian Lesbian* Community), Belgium;
 - Ms Yasemin Öz, Lawyer, Co-founder of Kaos gl, Türkiye;
 - Ms Marame Kane, lesbian activist and artist, France;
 - Ms Maud Royer, President of the Association *Toutes des femmes*, France;
 - **Protecting women human rights defenders and people who defend women's rights in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Ms Petra Bayr, Austria, SOC*): held an exchange of views with Ms Naveen Hashim, Researcher on the role of women in the economic development of Afghanistan and women's rights activist;

- **Statutory Opinion on the application for membership set out in the letter of 12 May 2022 addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, in line with Statutory Resolution (51) 30** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Béatrice Fresko Rolfo, Monaco, ALDE*): heard a statement by the rapporteur on her fact-finding visit to Kosovo* on 3-6 December 2023;
- **Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment**: heard an update by the Chairperson and took note of the call for nominations for the 2024 Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment;
- **Activities of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence**: took note of the activities planned around the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, 25 November 2023 and 16 days of Activism and heard a communication by Ms Etilda Gjonaj (Albania, SOC), General Rapporteur on violence against women;
- **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 68) (New York, United States, 11-22 March 2024)**: decided to set up an *ad hoc* Sub-Committee to participate in the event, subject to the authorisation of the Bureau of the Assembly (*at no cost to the Assembly*);
- **Reporting back**: heard reports by:
 - Ms Etilda Gjonaj (Albania, SOC) for her participation in the 31st meeting of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), held on 23-26 October 2023 in Strasbourg and for her participation in a high-level panel on "Supporting the role of the Assembly of Kosovo* in monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul Convention through strengthening its internal and external co-ordination mechanisms", organised by the OSCE Mission in Kosovo and the Council of Europe Office in Pristina, held on 22 November 2023 in Pristina;
 - Mr Jean-Pierre Grin (Switzerland, ALDE) as member of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau of the Assembly for his participation in the World Forum Democracy dedicated to the theme "Democracy = Peace?", held on 6-8 November 2023 in Strasbourg;
 - Mr Georgios Stamatidis (Greece, EPP/CD) for his participation in the Council of Europe's 9th International Roma Women's Conference "Building Equality Together", held on 30 November and 1 December 2023 in Skopje, North Macedonia;
- **Next meetings**: confirmed its next meetings as follows:
 - at the invitation of the General Rapporteur on violence against women, on behalf of the Albanian Parliament, decided to hold a meeting in Tirana in June 2024 (to be confirmed), subject to the authorisation of the Bureau of the Assembly;
 - Strasbourg, during the first part-session 2024 of the Assembly (22-26 January);
 - Paris, 18 and 19 (morning) March 2024 (Council of Europe Office) (*to be confirmed*);
 - Strasbourg, during the second part-session 2024 of the Assembly (15-19 April);
 - Tirana, June 2024 (Council of Europe Office) (*to be confirmed*);
 - Strasbourg, during the third part-session 2024 of the Assembly (24-28 June);
 - Paris, 12 September 2024 (Council of Europe Office) (*to be confirmed*);
 - Strasbourg, during the fourth part-session 2024 of the Assembly (30 September - 4 October);
 - Paris, 5 December 2024 (Council of Europe Office) (*to be confirmed*);
- **From 3pm to 5pm: joint meeting of the Committee and the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance**: with Ms Petra Bayr (Austria, SOC), Coordinator of the Alliance; in the chair:
 - **Activities of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance**: heard a communication by Ms Petra Bayr (Austria, SOC), General Rapporteur on combating racism and intolerance;
 - **Global rules to eliminate all forms of religious oppression** (*Rapporteur: Ms Arta Bilalli Zendeli, North Macedonia, SOC*): held an exchange of views with Ms Nazila Ghanea, United Nations Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief (*online*);
 - **The theme of migration and asylum in the election campaign and the consequences on the welcoming and rights of migrants**: heard a presentation by Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez (Switzerland, SOC), member of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance and author of the draft resolution adopted by the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, and held a discussion on its follow-up by the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance.

* All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

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