



SECRETARIAT

AS/Ega (2023) CB 05
23 June 2023

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

Synopsis

of the meetings held in Strasbourg on 20 and 22 June 2023

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Strasbourg on 20 and 22 June 2023, with Ms Mariia Mezentseva (Ukraine, EPP/CD), Chairperson, in the Chair:

- **Tuesday 20 June, from 10.30am to 12.30pm**, as regards:
 - **25th anniversary of the entry into force of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities**: held an exchange of views with Ms Petra Roter, President of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention;
 - **Protecting the human rights and improving the lives of sex workers and victims of sexual exploitation** (*Rapporteur: Ms Margreet De Boer, Netherlands, SOC*): heard a communication by the rapporteur on her fact-finding visit to Belgium on 7-8 June 2023 and considered an information memorandum;
 - **Follow-up to the Council of Europe 4th Summit (Reykjavik, 16-17 May 2023)**: took note of the information memorandum prepared by the Secretariat and held a discussion with members of the Committee;
 - **Work programme**: took note of the work programme;
 - **Extension of references**: decided to ask the Bureau of the Assembly to extend the validity of the reference for a period of 1 year for the following reports: *Promoting inclusive participation in parliamentary and political life* (*Rapporteur: Ms Maryna Bardina, Ukraine, ALDE*) until 21 June 2024 and *The situation of national minorities in Ukraine* (*Rapporteur: Ms Elvira Kovács, Serbia, EPP/CD*) until 27 September 2024;
 - **Motions for a resolution**: adopted two motions for a resolution on *Sexual violence against men and boys* and *Preventing and fighting gender-based discrimination in the field of health*, for tabling in the name of the Committee;
 - **Appointment of rapporteurs**: appointed by acclamation:
 - Ms Andrea Eder-Gitschthaler (Austria, EPP/CD) as rapporteur for report on *Overcoming age-based discrimination against older persons*;
 - Ms Arta Bilalli Zendeli (North Macedonia, SOC) as rapporteur for report on *Global rules to eliminate all forms of religious oppression*;
 - Ms Mariia Mezentseva (Ukraine, EPP/CD) as rapporteur for opinion on *The situation in Iran* (*Rapporteur of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy: Mr Max Lucks, Germany, SOC*);
- and heard their declarations of absence of conflict of interest;

- **References to the Committee:**
 - took note of the *Transmission by the Committee of Ministers for consultation on the application for membership set out in the letter of 12 May 2022 addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe (document DD(2022)200)*, in line with *Statutory Resolution (51) 30*, decision of the Bureau, transmitted to the Committee for opinion;
 - took note of the motion for a resolution on *Call for a change on rules relating to gender quota*, transmitted to the Committee for information;
 - **Council of Europe Campaign for the Safety of Journalists (Riga, 5-6 October 2023):** appointed Mr Jean-Pierre Grin (Switzerland, ALDE) as member to Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau of the Assembly to participate in the Council of Europe Campaign for the Safety of Journalists (*at no cost to the Assembly*);
 - **Institutional racism of law enforcement authorities against Roma and Travellers (Rapporteur: Mr Jean-Pierre Grin, Switzerland, ALDE):** held an exchange of views with Ms Sarah Mann, Director, Friends, Families and Travellers, United Kingdom;
- **Thursday, 22 June, from 8.30am to 10.30am**, as regards:
- **Sub-Committees:** approved the following changes:
 - *Sub-Committee on Gender Equality:* Ms Etilda Gjonaj (Albania, SOC), Ms Susanna Vela (Andorra, SOC) and Ms Alessandra Maiorino (Italy, NR) join the Sub-Committee as full members;
 - *Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities:* Mr Francesco Verducci (Italy, SOC) and Ms Bernadeta Coma (Andorra, ALDE) join the Sub-Committee as full members;
 - *Sub-Committee on Disability, Multiple and Intersectional Discrimination:* Ms Catia Polidori (Italy, EPP/CD) joins the Sub-Committee as full member;
 - **World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 6-8 November 2023):** appointed Mr Jean-Pierre Grin (Switzerland, ALDE) and Mr Francesco Verducci (Italy, SOC) as members to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau of the Assembly to participate in the World Forum for Democracy (*at no cost to the Assembly*);
 - **Women in the economy: employment, entrepreneurship and gender budgeting (Rapporteur: Ms Sena Nur Çelik, Türkiye, NR):** considered an information memorandum and took note that a questionnaire will be sent to the ECPRD;
 - **Closing the digital divide: promoting equal access to digital technologies (Rapporteur: Ms Edite Estrela, Portugal, SOC):** took position on 4 amendments and 2 oral amendments to the draft resolution and asked its Chairperson to propose that the amendments unanimously approved be declared as adopted by the Assembly under Rule 34.11 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure;
 - **Preventing and combating violence against women with disabilities (Rapporteur: Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo, Monaco, ALDE):** heard a communication by the rapporteur on her fact-finding visit to Denmark held on 12-13 June 2023;
 - **Appointment of representatives (subject to the availability of funds):** appointed Ms Petra Bayr (Austria, SOC) to participate in the 7th plenary meeting of the Council of Europe Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI), on 28 June 2023 in Strasbourg;
 - **Activities of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance and the Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI people in Europe:** heard communications from the General Rapporteurs;
 - **Reporting back:** heard a report by Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE) on her participation in the IDAHOT+ Forum, hosted by the Government of Iceland on 11 May 2023 in Reykjavik;
 - **Next meetings:** confirmed its next meetings as follows:
Committee
 - Paris, 14 (afternoon) and 15 September 2023;
 - Strasbourg, during the fourth part-session 2023 of the Assembly (9-13 October);
 - Paris, 7 December 2023 (Council of Europe Office);

- **Freedom of expression and assembly of LGBTI people in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Christophe Lacroix, Belgium, SOC*): authorised the rapporteur to carry out a fact-finding visit to Türkiye (*subject to the availability of funds*) and held a joint hearing with the Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI people in Europe, with the participation of:
 - Vladimir Simonko, Executive Director, LGL, Lithuania;
 - Florina Presadă, Executive Director, Accept Romania;
 - Claire Vandendriessche, Spokesperson, Acceptess-T, France.

Penelope Denu, Sarah Burton, Giorgio Loddo, Élodie Fischer, Solène Falk

Copy to:

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