

AS/Ega (2024) CB 06

16 September 2024

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

Synopsis

of the meeting held in Paris on 12 September 2024

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Paris on 12 September 2024, with Ms Mariia Mezentseva-Fedorenko (Ukraine, EPP/CD), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Preventing and combating violence and discrimination against lesbian, bisexual and queer (LBQ) women in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Ms Béatrice Fresko Rolfo, Monaco, ALDE*): considered and approved a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
- **Protecting the human rights and improving the lives of sex workers and victims of sexual exploitation** (*Rapporteur: Mr Fourat Ben Chikha, Belgium, SOC*): considered a draft report and adopted a draft resolution as amended;
- **Promoting inclusive participation in parliamentary and political life** (*Rapporteur: Ms Maryna Bardina, Ukraine, ALDE*): considered an information note, heard a presentation on OSCE tools for gender equality in parliaments, including gender audits for parliaments and political parties by Mr Saša Gavrić, Gender Adviser, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR), and held an exchange of views;
- **Overcoming age-based discrimination against older persons** (*Rapporteur: Ms Andrea Eder-Gitschthaler, Austria, EPP/CD*): considered a preliminary draft report;
- **Global rules to eliminate all forms of religious oppression** (*Rapporteur: Mr Francesco Verducci, Italy, SOC*): considered an information memorandum and decided to change the title of the report as follows: "Countering discrimination based on religion and protecting freedom of religion and belief in Europe";
- **Work programme**: took note of the work programme;
- **Preventing and combating gender discrimination in health**: (*Rapporteur: Ms Camilla Fabricius, Denmark, SOC*): held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Ms Melanie Hyde, Gender, Equity and Human Rights Technical Officer, World Health Organisation (WHO) Regional Office for Europe;
 - Ms Marina Kvaskoff, epidemiologist and tenured scientist, French National Institute for Health and Medical Research (INSERM);
- **Enhancing co-operation between parliaments and equality bodies** (*Rapporteur: Ms Tuula Haatainen, Finland, SOC*): considered an introductory memorandum;
- **The situation in Iran and the protection of Iranian human rights defenders in Council of Europe member States** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Mariia Mezentseva-Fedorenko, Ukraine, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the rapporteur for opinion;
- **Activities of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence, the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance and the Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI people in Europe**: heard communications by Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), General Rapporteur on the rights of LGBTI people, and by Mr Fourat Ben Chikha (Belgium, SOC), General Rapporteur on combating racism and intolerance;

- **Appointment of representatives:** appointed Ms Tuula Haatainen (Finland, SOC), in her capacity as Rapporteur on *Enhancing co-operation between parliaments and equality bodies* to participate in the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) annual seminar with Equality Bodies “Exposing Racism, Intolerance, and Inequalities”, to be held in Strasbourg, on 17-18 October 2024 (*subject to the availability of funds*);
- **Council of Europe Steering Committee on Anti-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI):** held an exchange of views with Mr Erik Adell Hellström, Chair of the CDADI;
- **European Holocaust Memorial Day for Roma and Sinti, Auschwitz-Birkenau, Poland, 2 August 2024:** heard reports from Ms Petra Bayr (Austria, SOC) and Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD), members of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau of the Assembly, on their participation in the European Holocaust Memorial Day for Roma and Sinti;
- **Conference “Artificial Intelligence and Democracy”, Oslo, 21 October 2024:** appointed Mr Mustafa Canbey (Türkiye, NR), Ms Edite Estrela (Portugal, SOC), Ms Meryem Göka (Türkiye, NR), and Ms Ester Mieli (Italy, EC/DA) as members to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau of the Assembly to participate in the Annual conference of the European Parliamentary Technology Assessment network (EPTA) on the theme “Artificial Intelligence and Democracy” (*at no cost to the Assembly*);
- **Conference “Promoting safety, integrity, equality and inclusion in sport”, Athens 4-5 November 2024:** appointed Mr Mustafa Canbey (Türkiye, NR), Ms Meryem Göka (Türkiye, NR), and Mr Francesco Verducci (Italy, SOC) as additional members to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau of the Assembly to participate in the Conference “Promoting safety, integrity, equality and inclusion in sport” organised by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Hellenic Parliament (*at no cost to the Assembly*);
- **World Forum for Democracy, Strasbourg, 6 to 8 November 2024:** appointed no additional members to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau of the Assembly to participate in the World Forum for Democracy which will be dedicated to *Democracy and Diversity - Can we transcend the divides?* (*at no cost to the Assembly*);
- **Other business:**
 - took note that the call for candidates for the **Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment** will be launched at the next Standing Committee meeting which will take place on 29 November 2024 in Luxembourg;
 - authorised Ms Etilda Gjonaj (Albania, SOC) to carry out a fact-finding visit to Austria in the framework of the preparation of her report on *Promoting the Istanbul Convention and improving its implementation: building on lessons learnt*;
- **Next meetings:** confirmed its next meetings as follows:
 - Strasbourg, during the fourth part-session 2024 of the Assembly (30 September – 4 October);
 - Paris, 5 December 2024 (Council of Europe Office).

Penelope Denu, Carolina Lasén Diaz, Giorgio Loddo, Elodie Fischer

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