

AS/Ega (2024) CB 02
22 March 2024

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

Synopsis

of the meetings held in Paris on 18-19 March 2024

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Paris on 18-19 March 2024, with Ms Mariia Mezentseva (Ukraine, EPP/CD), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Monday 18 March, from 9am to 12.30pm and from 2 to 5pm:**
 - **Election of the Bureau of the Committee:** elected by acclamation Ms Nina Kasimati (Greece, UEL), as Third Vice-Chairperson;
 - **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; Rapporteur for report: Ms Dora Bakoyannis, Greece, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur for opinion;
 - **Appointment of general rapporteurs:** appointed:
 - following a vote, Mr Fourat Ben Chikha (Belgium, SOC) as General Rapporteur on combating racism and intolerance;
 - by acclamation, Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE) as General Rapporteur on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people;and heard their declarations of absence of conflict of interest;
 - **Freedom of expression and assembly of LGBTI people in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Christophe Lacroix, Belgium, SOC*): approved a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution as amended;
 - **Overcoming age-based discrimination against older persons** (*Rapporteur: Ms Andrea Eder-Gitschthaler, Austria, EPP/CD*): considered an information memorandum and held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Mr Daris Lewis Recio, Legal and Policy Officer, European Network of Equality Bodies (EQUINET), Brussels;
 - Ms Nena Georgantzi, Human Rights Manager, AGE Platform Europe (*online*);
 - **Work programme:** adopted a motion for a resolution entitled *Promoting the Istanbul Convention and improving its implementation: building on lessons learnt*, for tabling on behalf of the Committee;
 - **Appointment of rapporteurs:** appointed by acclamation:
 - Mr Fourat Ben Chikha (Belgium, SOC) as rapporteur for report on *For a ban on so-called conversion therapies*,
 - Ms Yevheniia Kravchuk (Ukraine, ALDE) as rapporteur for opinion on *Violence and hate speech against politicians: a threat to democracy*;and heard their declarations of absence of conflict of interest;

- due to a lack of candidates, postponed to its next meeting the appointment of a rapporteur for report on *The situation of national minorities in Ukraine*;
- **Composition of the Sub-Committees:** approved the following changes:
 - *Sub-Committee on Gender Equality:* Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), Ms Etilda Gjonaj (Albania, SOC) and Mr Boris Mugoša (Montenegro, SOC) join as full members;
 - *Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities:* Mr Arminas Lydeka (Lithuania, ALDE) joins as a full member and Ms Nina Kasimati (Greece, UEL) joins as the alternate to Mr Evripidis Stylianidis (Greece, EPP/CD);
 - *Sub-Committee on Disability and Multiple and Intersectional Discrimination:* Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE) joins as full member;
- **Gender-sensitive parliaments:** heard a presentation of EIGE's toolkit for gender-sensitive parliaments by Ms Carlien Scheele, Director of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) and Ms Elena Anchevska, EIGE Gender Mainstreaming team;
- **Promoting inclusive participation in parliamentary and political life** (*Rapporteur: Ms Maryna Bardina, Ukraine, ALDE*): 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*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on her fact-finding visit to Warsaw on 4-5 March 2024;
- **Sexual violence against men and boys** (*Rapporteur: Mr Fourat Ben Chikha, Belgium, SOC*): considered an information memorandum and held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Mr Gary Williams, CEO of SurvivorsUK, London;
 - Ms Katherine Gambir, Senior Research Advisor at the Women's Refugee Commission (*online*);
- **Tuesday 19 March, from 9.30 to 10.30am:**
- **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 21 March 2024:** considered and adopted a declaration as amended;
- **Activities of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence:** 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):** heard a communication by Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD), Chairperson of the *Ad Hoc* Sub-Committee, on the participation in the side-event *Parliamentarians as drivers for women's empowerment* on 11 March 2024 and other events;
- **Appointment of representatives** (*subject to the availability of funds*): following a written consultation, took note of the appointment of the following members to the ad hoc committee of the Bureau to participate in the Women Political Leaders Summit "Democracy for the 21st century" (Athens, 19-21 March 2024): Ms Nina Kasimati (Greece, UEL) and Ms Maria Syrengela (Greece, EPP/CD);
- **Reporting back:** heard a report by Ms Etilda Gjonaj (Albania, SOC) on her participation in the Inter-parliamentary Committee Meeting on the theme "Women in Sport", organised by the European Parliament Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM), held in Brussels on 7 March 2024, to mark the International Women's Day 2024 (8 March 2024);
- **Next meetings:** confirmed its next meetings as follows:
 - Strasbourg, during the second part-session 2024 of the Assembly (15-19 April);
 - Tirana, 5 and 6 (morning) June 2024;
 - Strasbourg, during the third part-session 2024 of the Assembly (24-28 June);
 - Paris, 12 September 2024 (Council of Europe Office);
 - Strasbourg, during the fourth part-session 2024 of the Assembly (30 September – 4 October);
 - Paris, 5 December 2024 (Council of Europe Office).

The Sub-Committee on Gender Equality, meeting in Paris on 18 March 2024 from 5 to 5.10pm, with Ms Wanda Nowicka (Poland, SOC), oldest member present, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Bureau of the Sub-Committee:**
 - elected by acclamation Mr Edmunds Cepurītis (Latvia, SOC) as Chairperson;
 - postponed the election of Vice-Chairperson due to a lack of candidates;
- **Next meeting:** left it to its Chairperson to propose the date and place of the next meeting.

The Sub-Committee on Disability and Multiple and Intersectional Discrimination, meeting in Paris on 18 March 2024 from 5.10 to 5.20pm, with Ms Petra Bayr (Austria, SOC), oldest member present, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Bureau of the Sub-Committee:**
 - postponed the election of the Chairperson due to a lack of candidates;
 - postponed the election of Vice-Chairperson due to a lack of candidates;
- **Next meeting:** decided to hold its next meeting during the April part-session 2024.

The Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities, meeting in Paris on 18 March 2024 from 5.20 to 5.30pm, with Mr Francesco Verducci (Italy, SOC), oldest member present, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Bureau of the Sub-Committee:**
 - postponed the election of the Chairperson due to a lack of candidates;
 - postponed the election of Vice-Chairperson due to a lack of candidates;
- **Next meeting:** decided to hold its next meeting during the April part-session 2024.

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance, meeting in Paris on 19 March 2024, from 10.30am to 12pm, with Mr Fourat Ben Chikha (Belgium, SOC), Coordinator of the Alliance, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Equality and non-discrimination for Roma and Travellers:** heard a presentation of the Joint European Union / Council of Europe Programme "Equality and Freedom from Discrimination for Roma" (EQUIROM) by Mr Manuel Demougeot, Chair of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (ADI-ROM) and held an exchange of views;
- **Activities of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance:** heard a statement by Mr Fourat Ben Chikha (Belgique, SOC), General Rapporteur on combating racism and intolerance and held a discussion on the priorities for 2024-2025.

The No Hate Parliamentary Alliance and the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, meeting in Paris on 19 March 2024, from 2 to 3pm, with Ms Mariia Mezentseva (Ukraine, EPP/CD), Chairperson of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and Mr Oleksii Goncharenko (Ukraine, EC/DA), Chairperson of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Person, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Approaching the theme of migration and asylum during election campaigns: policy instruments in preventing and combating hate speech:**
 - heard a statement by Mr Pierre-Alain Fridez (Switzerland, SOC), member of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance and rapporteur for a report on *The theme of migration and asylum in election campaigns and the consequences on the welcoming and rights of migrants* (Resolution 2525 (2024));
 - held an exchange of views with the participation of:
 - Ms Laura Castel, member of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance, member of the Council for Democratic Elections of the Council of Europe;
 - Mr Daris Lewis Recio, Legal and Policy Officer, European Network of Equality Bodies (EQUINET);
 - took note of the interest of participants to convey the outcome of the discussions to the Council for Democratic Election through a formal communication.

The *Ad Hoc* Sub-Committee to participate in the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68), meeting in New York, United States, from 11 to 13 March 2024, with Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Election of the Chairperson of the *Ad Hoc* Sub-Committee:** elected by acclamation Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD) as Chairperson;
- participated in the plenary session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68) and in the side events taking place on 11-13 March 2024;
- **Parliamentarians as drivers for women’s empowerment:** took part in the side event on 11 March 2024 from 3 to 4.15pm, co-organised by the Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence, Greece and Iceland, with the participation of:
 - Mr Guðmundur Ingi Guðbrandsson, Minister of Social Affairs and the Labour Market of Iceland;
 - Ms Maria Alexandra Kefala, Deputy Minister of Social Cohesion and Family of Greece;
 - Mr Theodoros Rousopoulos, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
 - Ms Despina Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
 - Ms Sena Nur Çelik Kanat (Türkiye, NR), member of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
 - Ms Zita Gurmai (Hungary, SOC), member of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
 - Ms Yevheniia Kravchuk (Ukraine, ALDE), member of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
 - Ms Wanda Nowicka (Poland, SOC), member of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
 - Ms Mariia Mezentseva (Ukraine, EPP/CD), Head of the Ukrainian Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Chairperson of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination.

Penelope Denu, Carolina Lasén Diaz, Élodie Fischer, Nathan Ménoret, Louise Morlon

Copy to:

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