

AS/Ega (2024) CB 03

18 April 2024

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

Synopsis

of the meetings held in Strasbourg on 15-16 April 2024

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Strasbourg on 15-16 April 2024,

- **Monday 15 April, from 2 to 3.15pm**, with Ms Mariia Mezentseva (Ukraine, EPP/CD), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:
 - o **Application by Kosovo* for membership of the Council of Europe** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo, Monaco, ALDE; Rapporteur for report: Ms Dora Bakoyannis, Greece, EPP/CD*): adopted an opinion including one amendment to the draft resolution;
 - o **Council of Europe Strategy on Gender Equality 2024-2029**: heard a presentation of the new Strategy on Gender Equality by Mr Ralph Kass, Chair of the Council of Europe's Gender Equality Commission (GEC);
 - **Tuesday 16 April, from 10.30am to 12.30pm**, with Ms Etilda Gjonaj (Albania, SOC), First Vice-Chairperson, then with Ms Mariia Mezentseva (Ukraine, EPP/CD), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:
 - o **Protecting women human rights defenders and people who defend women's rights in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Ms Petra Bayr, Austria, SOC*): considered a draft report; decided to change the title of the report as follows: *Protecting women human rights defenders in Europe*; and adopted unanimously a draft resolution;
 - o **Priorities of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights**: held an exchange of views with Mr Michael O'Flaherty, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights;
 - o **Co-operation with the European Union**: held an exchange of views with Mr Robert Biedroń, Chair of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) of the European Parliament;
 - o **Work programme**: took note of the work programme and adopted a motion for a resolution entitled *Violent pornography*, for tabling on behalf of the Committee;
 - o **Appointment of rapporteurs for report**:
 - appointed Mr Randolph De Battista (Malta, SOC) as rapporteur for report on *The situation of national minorities in Ukraine*;
 - appointed Ms Tuula Haatainen (Finland, SOC) as rapporteur for report on *Enhancing co-operation between parliaments and equality bodies*;
- and heard their declarations of absence of conflict of interest;

* Throughout this text, 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.

- **Request for extensions of reference:** decided to ask the Bureau of the Assembly to extend the validity of the reference for a period of one year for the following reports: *Promoting inclusive participation in parliamentary and political life* (Rapporteur: Ms Maryna Bardina, Ukraine, ALDE) until 27 June 2025, and *The situation of national minorities in Ukraine* (Rapporteur: Mr Randolph De Battista, Malta, SOC) until 3 October 2025;
- **Appointment of representatives** (*subject to the availability of funds*): appointed:
 - Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), in her capacity as General Rapporteur on the rights of LGBTI people to participate in the European IDAHOT+ Forum, to be held in the Hague on 15 May 2024;
 - Mr Fourat Ben Chikha (Belgium, SOC), General Rapporteur on combating racism and intolerance, and at no cost to the Assembly, Mr Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC), member of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance, to participate in the No Hate Speech Week 2024, organised by the Council of Europe Anti-discrimination Department in the framework of the EU-CoE joint project *Building Civil Society's capacities to tackle hate speech online*, to be held in Strasbourg on 17-20 June 2024;
 - Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD) to participate in the 9th meeting of the Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues of the Council of Europe (ADI-ROM) to be held in Strasbourg on 15-16 May 2024;
- **Reporting back:** heard reports by:
 - Ms Mireille Clapot (France, ALDE) on her participation in the first meeting of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Artificial Intelligence, Equality and Discrimination (GEC/ADI-AI), held in Strasbourg on 20-21 February 2024;
 - Ms Laura Castel (Spain, UEL) on her participation in the Women Political Leaders Summit "Democracy for the 21st century", held in Athens on 19-21 March 2024;
 - Ms Mariia Mezentseva (Ukraine, EPP/CD) on her participation in the webinar *Digital Revolution. With or without Her?* organised by the Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe and University Women of Europe, on 27 March 2024;
- **Composition of the Sub-Committees:** approved the following changes:
 - *Sub-Committee on the rights of minorities:* Ms Wanda Nowicka (Poland, SOC) joins the Sub-Committee as full member;
 - *Sub-Committee on Disability and Multiple and Intersectional Discrimination:* Ms Ayşegül Doğan (Türkiye, UEL) joins the Sub-Committee as full member instead of Mr Berdan Öztürk (Türkiye, UEL);
- **Meetings of the Committee and the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence, Tirana, Albania, 5 and 6 June 2024:** considered a draft programme of the meetings and took note of the practical information;
- **Next meetings:** confirmed its next meetings as follows:
 - Committee*
 - 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)
 - Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence*
 - Riga, 11 June 2024: Peer-to-peer Seminar *From policies to results: the role of parliamentarians in implementing and monitoring the Istanbul Convention*.

The Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI people in Europe, meeting in Strasbourg on 16 April 2024 from 12.45pm to 1.45pm, with Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), Co-ordinator, as regards:

- **Activities of the Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI people in Europe:** heard a statement by Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), General Rapporteur on the rights of LGBTI people and discussed priorities for 2024-2025;
- **Addressing discrimination and violence against transgender people:** heard an exchange of views with the participation of:
 - Ms Dinah Bons, Co-Chair, Transgender Europe (TGEU);
 - Mx Cianán B. Russell, Senior Policy Officer, ILGA-Europe;
 - Ms Erika Castellanos, Executive Director, Global Action for Trans Equality (GATE).

Penelope Denu, Carolina Lasén Diaz, Giorgio Loddo, Élodie Fischer, Louise Morlon

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