



SECRETARIAT

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2 May 2023

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

### Synopsis

#### of the meetings held in Strasbourg on 25 and 27 April 2023

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Strasbourg on 25 and 27 April 2023, with Ms Mariia Mezentseva (Ukraine, EPP/CD), Chairperson, in the Chair:

- **Tuesday 25 April, from 10.30 to 12.30pm**, as regards:
  - **Preventing and combating violence against women with disabilities** (*Rapporteur: Ms Béatrice Fresko Rolfo, Monaco, ALDE*): considered an information memorandum, authorised the rapporteur to carry out a fact-finding visit to Denmark (*subject to the availability of funds*) and held a joint hearing with the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence, with the participation of:
    - Ms Ana Peláez Narváez, Chairperson of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Secretary General of the European Disability Forum and Executive Vice-President of CERMI Women's Foundation;
    - Ms Iris Luarasi, President of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO);
  - **Freedom of expression and assembly of LGBTI people in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Christophe Lacroix, Belgium, SOC*): heard a communication by the rapporteur and authorised him to carry out a fact-finding visit to Poland (*subject to the availability of funds*);
  - **Preventing and combating violence and discrimination against LBQ women in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Ms Béatrice Fresko Rolfo, Monaco, ALDE*): considered an information memorandum;
  - **Institutional racism of law enforcement authorities against Roma and Travellers** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jean-Pierre Grin, Switzerland, ALDE*): heard a communication by the rapporteur and authorised him to carry out a fact-finding visit to Romania (*subject to the availability of funds*);
  - **PACE Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment**: considered the information memorandum prepared by the Secretariat;
  - **Work programme**: took note of the work programme;
  - **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 reports by:
    - Mr Christophe Lacroix (Belgium, SOC) for his participation in the conference on *Advancing the human rights of intersex people* hosted in the framework of Iceland's Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and organised by the SOGI Unit in co-operation with the Permanent Representation of Iceland, on 26 January 2023, in Strasbourg (France); and
    - Ms Petra Stienen (Netherlands, ALDE) for her participation in the EIGE workshop on the *Role of Men, Boys and Masculinities in Gender Equality research and policies* on 10 February 2023 in Vilnius, Lithuania;

- **Thursday, 27 April, from 9.15am to 10.30am**, as regards:
  - **Closing the digital divide: promoting equal access to digital technologies** (*Rapporteur: Ms Edite Estrela, Portugal, SOC*): approved a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
  - **PACE Vigdís Prize for Women’s Empowerment**: unanimously adopted the rules of the Vigdís Prize and invited the Chairperson to forward them to the Bureau of the Assembly;
  - **Women’s economic empowerment**: held an exchange of views with Ms Anita Bhatia, UN Women Deputy Executive Director for Resource Management, Sustainability and Partnerships;
  - **Next meetings**: confirmed its next meetings as follows:
    - Committee*
      - Paris, 12 May 2023 (Council of Europe Office);
      - Strasbourg, during the third part-session 2023 of the Assembly (19-23 June);
      - Marrakech, 14-15 September 2023;
      - Strasbourg, during the fourth part-session 2023 of the Assembly (9-13 October);
      - Paris, 7 December 2023 (Council of Europe Office).
    - No Hate Parliamentary Alliance*
      - Vienna, 8 May 2023.
    - Parliamentary Platform for the rights of LGBTI people in Europe*
      - Brussels, 22 May 2023.

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**The Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities**, meeting in Strasbourg on 27 April 2023 from 8.30 to 9.15am, with Ms Elvira Kovács (Serbia, EPP/CD), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the entry into force of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages**:
  - heard introductory remarks from Mr Tiny Kox, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
  - held a hearing with the participation of:
    - Ms Maria Ruotanen, Director General, Council of Europe Directorate General of Democracy and Human Rights Dignity (DG II);
    - Mr Jarmo Lainio, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair of the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages;
    - Mr Davyth Hicks, Secretary General, European Language Equality Network (ELEN).
- **Next meeting**: left it to its Chairperson to propose the date and place of the next meeting.

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

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