

AS/Ega (2024) CB 05
28 June 2024

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

Synopsis

of the meetings held in Strasbourg on 25-27 June 2024

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Strasbourg on 25-27 June 2024, with Ms Mariia Mezentseva (Ukraine, EPP/CD), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Tuesday 25 June, from 8.30 to 10am:**
 - **Protecting the human rights and improving the lives of sex workers and victims of sexual exploitation** (*Rapporteur: Mr Fourat Ben Chikha, Belgium, SOC*): took note of an information memorandum and held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Ms Héma Sibi, Advocacy coordinator, Coalition for the Abolition of Prostitution (CAP International), France;
 - Ms PG Macioti, Programme coordinator, Jasmine project, Médecins du Monde, France ;
 - Ms Frankie Hermsen, Project lead, information on sexual health and safety for sex workers; case manager, Ugly Mugs and Complaints Desk, Soa Aids Nederland, the Netherlands;
 - **Preventing and combating gender discrimination in health** (*Rapporteur: Ms Camilla Fabricius, Denmark, SOC*): considered an introductory memorandum and agreed to declassify it;
 - **For a ban on so-called conversion therapies** (*Rapporteur: Mr Fourat Ben Chikha, Belgium, SOC*): took note of an introductory memorandum;
- **Thursday 27 June, from 8.30 to 9.40pm:**
 - **Preventing and combating violence and discrimination against LBQ women in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo, Monaco, ALDE*): heard a communication by the Rapporteur;
 - **Global rules to eliminate all forms of religious oppression** (*Rapporteur: Mr Francesco Verducci, Italy, SOC*): heard a communication by the Rapporteur;
 - **Work programme**: took note of the work programme;
 - **Appointment of a rapporteur**: appointed Ms Yevheniia Kravchuk (Ukraine, ALDE) as rapporteur for report on *Eliminating gender stereotypes in the media* and heard her declaration of absence of conflict of interest;
 - **Women in the economy: employment, entrepreneurship and gender budgeting** (*Rapporteur: Ms Sena Nur Çelik Kanat, Türkiye, NR*): considered an information memorandum;
 - **Appointment of a representative**: appointed Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE) to participate in the ILGA Europe Annual Conference, to be held in Bucharest on 16-19 October 2024 (*subject to the availability of funds*);
 - **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 the General Rapporteur on violence against women, Ms Etilda Gjonaj (Albania, SOC), and by the General Rapporteur on LGBTI rights, Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE);

- **World Forum for Democracy, Strasbourg, 6 to 8 November 2024:** appointed Ms Mariia Mezentseva (Ukraine, EPP/CD) as additional member 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*);
- **Conference “Promoting safety, integrity, equality and inclusion in sport”, Athens 4-5 November 2024:** appointed Ms Aysu Bankoğlu (Türkiye, SOC), Mr Roland Rino Büchel (Switzerland, ALDE), Mr Yuriy Kamelchuk (Ukraine, EPP/CD), Ms Ester Mieli (Italy, EC/DA) and Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD) as 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, to be held in Athens on 4-5 November 2024 (*at no cost to the Assembly*);
- **European Holocaust Memorial Day for Roma and Sinti, Auschwitz-Birkenau, Poland, 2 August 2024:** appointed Ms Petra Bayr (Austria, SOC) and Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD) to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau of the Assembly to participate in the European Holocaust Memorial Day for Roma and Sinti to be held in Auschwitz-Birkenau, Poland on 2 August 2024 (*at no cost to the Assembly*);
- **Composition of the Sub-Committees:** approved the following changes:
 - *Sub-Committee on the rights of minorities:* Mr Yuriy Kamelchuk (Ukraine, EPP/CD) and Ms Yevheniia Kravchuk (Ukraine, ALDE) join the Sub-Committee as full members;
- **Other business:** appointed Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE) to participate in the Network on the Situation of the Children of Ukraine, set up in the framework of the follow-up and implementation of paragraph 26 of Resolution 2529 (2024) on “the situation of the children of Ukraine”;
- **Next meetings:** confirmed its next meetings as follows:

Committee

 - 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 the Rights of Minorities, meeting in Strasbourg on 27 June 2024 from 9.40 to 9.50 am, with Ms Mariia Mezentseva (Ukraine, EPP/CD), 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.

The Sub-Committee on Disability and Multiple and Intersectional Discrimination, meeting in Strasbourg on 27 June 2024 from 9.50 to 10am, with Ms Mariia Mezentseva (Ukraine, EPP/CD), 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.

The No Hate Parliamentary Alliance, meeting in Strasbourg on 27 June 2024, from 1 to 2pm, with Mr Fourat Ben Chikha (Belgium, SOC), Coordinator of the Alliance, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Decoding bias: discriminatory effects of AI algorithms:** heard a presentation of the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law by Mr Kristian Bartholin, Secretary to the Council of Europe Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI) and Head of the Digital Development Unit, and held an exchange of views with the participation of Ms Mariagrazia Squicciarini, Chief of Executive Office and Director *a.i.* at the Social and Human Sciences Sector of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and Ms Adinde Schoolr, Office Manager, International Network against Cyber Hate (INACH);
- **Combating hate crime:** heard a presentation of Recommendation CM/Rec(2024)4 on Combating hate crime by Mr Wolfram Bechtel, Secretary of the Council of Europe Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI).

Penelope Denu, Carolina Lasén Diaz, Giorgio Loddò, Elodie Fischer, Louise Morlon

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