

AS/Ega (2024) CB 04
10 June 2024

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

Synopsis

of the meetings held in Tirana, Albania on 5-6 June 2024

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence meetings in Tirana, Albania, on 5-6 June 2024,

- **Wednesday 5 June, from 9am to 10am:** heard welcome addresses by Ms Etilda Gjonaj, PACE General Rapporteur on violence against women and First Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination; H.E. Lindita Nikolla, Speaker of the Albanian Parliament; Ms Louise Barton, Director of Committees, PACE Directorate Human Dignity and Sustainable Development; Dr Linda Rama, Public Policy Senior Analyst and Civil Society Activist; Ms Helga Schmid, Secretary General of the OSCE (pre-recorded video); and Ms Stella Ronner-Grubačić, Ambassador for Gender and Diversity, EEAS (pre-recorded video);
- **Wednesday 5 June, from 10am to 12.30pm: meeting of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence**, with Ms Etilda Gjonaj (Albania, SOC), Co-ordinator of the Network, in the Chair, as regards:
 - o **Addressing the intersection of psychological and online violence against women: challenges and best practices:** held an exchange of views with the participation of Ms Albana Kociu, Minister of Health and Social Protection, Albania; Ms Ogerta Manastirliu, Minister of Education, Sports and Youth, Albania; Ms Elif Sariaydin, Administrator, Violence against Women Division of the Council of Europe, Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity (DGII); Mr Michele Ribotta, UN Women, Representative and Chair of UN Albania Gender Group; Ms Luz Martinez Seijo, member of the Spanish Delegation to PACE; Ms Klodiana Spahiu, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Labour, Social Issues and Health, Parliament of Albania; and Ms Ines Leskaj, Representative of Albanian Women's Empowerment Network (AWEN);
 - o **Regional overview: the role of the media in countering online violence against women in politics:** heard presentations by H.E. Michel Tarran, Head of the OSCE Presence in Albania; and Ms Iris Luarasi, Director of the Counselling Line for Women and Girls (CLWG), former President of the GREVIO; held an exchange of views with representatives of the Parliament of Albania: Ms Flutura Acka, Chair of the Committee on Education and Public Information Media; Ms Evis Kushi, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Education and Public Information Media and Ms Valbona Sulçe and Ms Anila Basha, journalists;
- **Wednesday 5 June, from 2 to 5pm: meeting of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination**, with Ms Etilda Gjonaj (Albania, SOC), First Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:
 - o welcomed Mr Alain Berset (Switzerland), Mr Didier Reynders (Belgium) and Mr Indrek Saar (Estonia), candidates for the post of Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and agreed that they could attend the meeting as observers;
 - o **Exchange of views with the Albanian authorities:** held an exchange of views with the participation of Ms Klotilda Bushka, Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs, Public Administration and Human Rights; Ms Denada Seferi, Deputy Minister of Health and Social Protection; and Mr Ergys Qirici, Director, Directorate of Free Legal Aid, Ministry of Justice;

- **Women in the economy: employment, entrepreneurship and gender budgeting** (*Rapporteur Ms Sena Nur Çelik Kanat (Türkiye, NR)*): held a hearing with the participation of Ms Delina Ibrahimaj, Minister of State for Entrepreneurship and Business Climate of Albania; Ms Milva Ekonomi, Member of the Parliamentary Committee on Economy and Finance, Parliament of Albania; Ms Emiriana Sako, Mayor of Durrës; Ms Jonida Halili, Vice Mayor of Tirana; and Mr Emanuel Salinas, World Bank Country Manager for Albania;
- **A regional overview on equality and non-discrimination**: held a hearing with the participation of Mr Taulant Balla, Minister of Interior of Albania; Mr Robert Gajda, Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination, Albania; Ms Giulia Re, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Tirana; and Ms Vilma Shurdha, Commissioner, Albanian Ombudsperson Office;
- **Thursday 6 June, from 9am to 12pm: meeting of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination**, with Ms Etilda Gjonaj (Albania, SOC), First Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:
 - **Work programme**: took note of the work programme;
 - **Appointment of rapporteurs**:
 - appointed Ms Laura Castel (Spain, UEL) as rapporteur for report on *Violent pornography*;
 - appointed Ms Etilda Gjonaj (Albania, SOC) as rapporteur for report on *Promoting the Istanbul Convention and improving its implementation: building on lessons learnt*;
 - appointed Mr Francesco Verducci (Italy, SOC) as rapporteur for report on *Global rules to eliminate all forms of religious oppression*;
 - and heard their declarations of absence of conflict of interest;
 - **Global rules to eliminate all forms of religious oppression** (*Rapporteur: Mr Francesco Verducci, Italy, SOC*): held a hearing with the participation of Mr Genti Kruja, Secretary General and Ms Sheldiana Jano Agaraj, lawyer, Inter-Religious Council of Albania; and Ms Susan Kerr, Senior Adviser on Freedom of Religion or Belief, OSCE/ODIHR;
 - **Sexual and reproductive health and rights in Europe**: heard a presentation of the Human Papillomavirus Infection (HPV) Prevention Policy Atlas by Mr Leonidas Galeridis, Policy and Research Officer, European Parliamentary Forum for sexual and reproductive rights (EPF);
 - **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 Rapporteurs and held an exchange of views on current topics;
 - **Vigdís Prize for Women's Empowerment**: heard a report of the 1st meeting of the Selection Panel which took place on 2 May 2024 in Reykjavík (Iceland);
 - **World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 6-8 November 2024)**: appointed Ms Petra Bayr (Austria, SOC), Ms Sevilay Çelenk Özen (Türkiye, UEL), Mr Yuriy Kamelchuk (Ukraine, EPP/CD), Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD), and Mr Francesco Verducci (Italy, SOC) as members of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Bureau of the Assembly to participate in the World Forum for Democracy (*at no cost to the Assembly*);
 - **Composition of the Sub-Committees**: approved the following changes:
 - *Sub-Committee on Gender Equality*: Ms Lucia Plaváková (Slovak Republic, ALDE) joins the Sub-Committee as full member;
 - *Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities*: Ms Lucia Plaváková (Slovak Republic, ALDE) joins the Sub-Committee as full member;
 - **Reporting back**: heard reports by:
 - Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE) on her participation in the IDAHOT event, held in the Hague, on 15 May 2024;
 - Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD) on his participation in the 9th meeting of the Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues of the Council of Europe (ADI-ROM), held in Strasbourg, on 15-16 May 2024;
 - **Václav Havel Human Rights Prize**: recalled that the call for nominations for the 2024 Václav Havel Human Rights Prize had been extended until 30 June 2024;

- **Other business:** Mr Georgios Stamatis (Greece, EPP/CD) informed the committee about the event to commemorate the Holocaust of Roma to be held at the Birkenau memorial site on 2 August 2024 and encouraged members to attend;
- **Next meetings:** confirmed its next meetings as follows:

Committee

- 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*.

No Hate Parliamentary Alliance

- Strasbourg, 26 June 2024, from 1 to 2pm.

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

Copy to:

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