

Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire





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TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND MEN

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly Synopsis No. 2009/03 5 May 2009

The Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, meeting in Strasbourg, on 28 April 2009, with first Mr Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD), First Vice-Chairperson, and then Ms Frahm (Denmark, UEL), newly elected Chairperson, in the Chair:

As regards:

- *Composition of the Committee's Bureau:* following the resignation of Mr Sigfússson (Iceland, UEL), elected Ms Frahm (Denmark, UEL) Chairperson by acclamation;

- the Maltese list of candidates for the post of judges to the European Court of Human Rights: adopted a declaration on the issue and instructed its Chairperson to inform the Chairperson of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights thereof, asking the latter to bring the declaration to the attention of the members of her Committee prior to it taking a position on the question;

- Sexual violence against women in armed conflict (Rapporteur: Ms Smet, Belgium, EPP/CD): considered an introductory memorandum;

- Action to combat gender-based human rights violations, including abduction of women and girls (Rapporteur: Ms Papadopoulos, Cyprus, ALDE): took position on the amendments tabled, and held an exchange of views with Dr Humayra Abedin, survivor of an abduction, in the presence of her lawyer, Ms Anne-Marie Hutchinson;

Resuming its meeting on 29 April 2009 with Ms Frahm (Denmark, UEL) in the Chair:

as regards:

- Implementation of Recommendation 1847 (2008) on "Combating violence against women: towards a Council of Europe convention":

✓ heard a report from the Committee's representative on CAHVIO, Mr Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD), on the first meeting held in Strasbourg on 6-8 April 2009;

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- ~ considered, approved and declassified a working paper summarising the Committee's point of view on the scope of the proposed Convention prepared by the Committee's representative on CAHVIO;
- \checkmark prepared the meeting of the contact parliamentarians committed to combat violence against women to be held in Istanbul, on 15 May 2009.

The rights of today's girls: the rights of tomorrow's women (Rapporteur: Ms Circene, Latvia, EPP/CD): considered a revised draft report and unanimously adopted a preliminary draft resolution and a preliminary draft recommendation with a view to presenting the report to the May Standing Committee in Ljubljana;

Forum for the Future of Democracy: appointed the following members to take part in the ad hoc Committee of the Bureau of the Assembly (to participate in the Forum for the Future of Democracy) which will take place in Kyiv (Ukraine) on 21-23 October 2009: Ms Err (Luxembourg, SOC), Baroness Gale (United Kingdom, SOC) and Ms Memecan (Turkey, ALDE);

The wage gap between women and men (Rapporteur: Mr Wille, Belgium, ALDE): considered an introductory memorandum, and decided to return to the issue at its next meeting;

5th meeting of the women parliamentarians of the Parliamentary Assembly: decided to organise the 5th meeting of the women parliamentarians of the Parliamentary Assembly in the margins of the June 2009 part-session, and to invite the winners of the PACE Human Rights Prize as keynote speakers;

held an exchange of views with parliamentarians from Algeria and Tunisia, regretting the absence of a female MP in the Algerian delegation;

its Sub-Committees: approved the following changes:

 Sub-Committee on equal participation of women and men in decision-making Ms SMET Belgium Mr NOLLET

- Date and place of the next meetings of the Committee:
 - Istanbul (Turkey), Thursday, 14 May 2009: plenary Committee and Friday, 15 May 2009: meeting of the contact parliamentarians committed to combat violence against women;
 - Strasbourg, during the 2009 3rd part-session of the Assembly (22-26 June);

 - Paris (Council of Europe office), Tuesday, 8 September 2009;
 Strasbourg, during the 2009 4th part-session of the Assembly (28 September 2 October);
 - Paris (Council of Europe office), Monday, 30 November 2009.

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