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9 June 2011

Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men

Synopsis N° 2011/4

The Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, meeting in Paris on 8 June 2011, with Mr Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD) in the Chair,

as regards:

- **Reform of the Parliamentary Assembly:** expressed support for the draft report of the ad hoc Committee of the Assembly;
- **Living together in 21st-century Europe: follow-up to the report of the Group of Eminent Persons of the Council of Europe** (Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Kovács, Serbia, EPP/CD): approved a draft opinion to the report tabled by the Political Affairs Committee;
- **Psychological violence** (Rapporteur: Ms Kovács, Serbia, EPP/CD): held a hearing with the participation of Ms Yael Mellul, lawyer, and Dr. Marie-France Hirigoyen, psychiatrist, and held an exchange of views on the basis of a revised memorandum;
- **Violent pornography: a threat to women's dignity and rights** (Rapporteur: Mr Stuligrosz, Poland, EPP/CD): held a hearing with the participation of Detective Inspector Andy Shortland, Human Exploitation and Organised Crime, Abusive and Extreme Images Unit, Metropolitan Police, United Kingdom, and Mr Markko Künnapu, Chairperson of the Council of Europe Cybercrime Convention Committee, and held an exchange of views on the basis of a revised memorandum;
- **Fighting the global backlash against women's human rights** (Rapporteur: Ms Err, Luxembourg, SOC), in the absence of the rapporteur, took note of a memorandum;
- **Request for Partner for Democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of Morocco** (Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Memeçan, Turkey, ALDE): in the absence of the rapporteur, took note of a preliminary draft opinion to the report tabled by the Political Affairs Committee;

cc. Secretary General of the Assembly
Director General, Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly
Secretaries of National Delegations to the Assembly
Secretaries of Political Groups of the Assembly
Observers to the Assembly
Secretary General of the Congress
Secretary to the Committee of Ministers
Directors General
Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe for Organisational Development and Reform
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Director of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights
Director of Communication
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

- **PACE Network of contact parliamentarians committed to combating violence against women and domestic violence:** decided to hold a hearing on *Rape: 'myths', media and reality*, to be held during the June part-session 2011;
- **Situation of women in Ukraine:** decided to invite Mr Popescu, in his capacity as Chairperson of the Ukrainian delegation to the Assembly, Ms Bondarenko (Ukraine, EPP/CD), and Ms Katerina Levchenko, lawyer and Director of La Strada (Ukraine) to intervene as speakers in the hearing to be held during the June part-session 2011;
- **Next Standing Committee meeting:** took note that the date of the next meeting of the Standing Committee coincides with the international day for the elimination of violence against women (25 November), decided to ask the Bureau to include in the agenda of the Standing Committee debates on psychological violence (Rapporteur: Ms Kovács, Serbia, EPP/CD) and European norms concerning the enforcement and supervision of restraining orders in case of gender-based violence (Rapporteur: Ms Kiuru, Finland, SOC), and suggested that the Bureau invite Ms Theresa May, Home Secretary and Minister for Women and Equalities, to address the Standing Committee in the context of these debates;
- **Appointment of rapporteurs:** appointed the following Rapporteurs for report:
 - Mr Gardetto (Monaco, EPP/CD) on *Gender equality in South East Europe*,
 - Ms Quintanilla Barba (Spain, EPP/CD) on *Gender equality and the reconciliation of family and professional life*;

as well as the following Rapporteurs for opinion:

- Ms Saïdi (Belgium, SOC) on *Putting an end to coercive sterilisations and castrations*,
- Ms Circene (Latvia, EPP/CD) on *Trafficking of migrant workers for forced labour: time for a closer look*,
- Ms Gautier (France, EPP/CD) on *Granting of participatory status to the international non-governmental organisation Andante*,
- Mr Rigoni (Italy, ALDE) on *Reaffirming the universal nature of human rights*;
- **Appointment of representatives:** appointed:
 - Ms Circene (Latvia, EPP/CD) to participate in the Seminar on gender budgeting organised by the Council of Europe Steering Committee on Gender Equality (CDEG) in Yerevan (Armenia) on 30 June – 1 July 2011;
 - Ms Gafarova (Azerbaijan, EDG) and Ms Saïdi (Belgium, SOC) to participate in the Forum for the future of democracy, organised in Cyprus on 13 and 14 October 2011;
- **Place and date of its next meetings:** confirmed its next meetings as follows:
 - Strasbourg, during the 2011 3rd part session of the Assembly (20-24 June);
 - Paris (Council of Europe office), 9 September 2011;
 - Strasbourg, during the 2011 4th part session of the Assembly (3-8 October);
 - Paris (Council of Europe office), 8 December 2011 (*to be confirmed*).

Sonia Sirtori, Giorgio Loddo.