



SECRETARIAT

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6 December 2012

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

### Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 3 December 2012

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Paris on 3 December 2012, with Ms Fatiha Saïdi (Belgium, SOC), Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Gender Equality, in the Chair,

as regards:

- **Activities of the Committee in 2012:** held an exchange of views on the basis of a memorandum prepared by the Secretariat upon the Chairperson's instructions;
- **Gender equality in South-East Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jean-Charles Gardetto, Monaco, EPP/CD*): decided to change the title of the report to "Gender equality in the countries of the former Yugoslavia", considered and approved a draft report, and unanimously adopted a preliminary draft resolution;
- **Gender equality and the reconciliation of family and professional life** (*Rapporteur: Ms Carmen Quintanilla Barba, Spain, EPP/CD*): decided to change the title of the report to "Gender equality, reconciliation of personal and working life and shared responsibility", considered and approved a draft report, and unanimously adopted a preliminary draft resolution;
- **Parental leave as a way to foster gender equality** (*Rapporteur: Mr Andrea Rigoni, Italy, ALDE*): heard a statement by the rapporteur and considered a revised memorandum;
- **Violence against women:**
  - heard statements by Ms Federica Mogherini Rebesani (Italy, SOC) and Ms Fatiha Saïdi (Belgium, SOC) on the parliamentary seminars held respectively in Rome and Brussels to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women;
  - was informed by its Chairperson of similar activities organised in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Poland, respectively by Ms Ismeta Dervoz (Bosnia and Herzegovina, EPP/CD) and Mr José Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD);
  - heard a presentation by the Secretariat on the Facebook page of the Parliamentary Network "Women Free from Violence";
  - took note of the draft programme of the Regional Conference on the Istanbul Convention organised by the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Finnish Parliament and the Council of Europe (Helsinki, 17-18 January 2013), took note that members of the Parliamentary Network "Women Free from Violence" from the countries concerned had been invited and decided to propose that the Assembly contribute to covering the expenses for their participation, subject to financial availability;

- took note that Ms Sahiba Gafarova (Azerbaijan, EDG), Ms Maria Giannakaki (Greece, SOC) and Ms Carmen Quintanilla Barba (Spain, EPP/CD) would participate as members of their national delegations in the 57th meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York on 4 to 15 March 2013 (*at no cost to the Assembly*);
- **The rights of national minorities:** held an exchange of views with Mr Mark Lattimer, Executive Director of the Minority Rights Group International; heard a statement by Mr Boriss Cilevičs (Latvia, SOC) on his participation in the Launch of the Thematic commentary no.3 on the language rights of persons belonging to national minorities under the Framework Convention on National Minorities, organised by its Advisory Committee (Strasbourg, 15 October 2012);
- **The situation and rights of traditional national minorities in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Ferenc Kalmár, Hungary, EPP/CD*): held an exchange of views on the basis of an outline for a report;
- **Activities of the Gender Equality Commission (GEC):** held an exchange of views with Ms Carlien Scheele, Chairperson of the Gender Equality Commission of the Council of Europe;
- **Political parties and women's political representation** (*Former rapporteur: Ms Maria Stavrositu, Romania, EPP/CD*): held an exchange of views on the follow-up to be given to Resolution 1898 (2012) and the procedure to award the Gender Equality Prize;
- **Tackling discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity** (*Rapporteur: Mr Håkon Haugli, Norway, SOC*):
  - held an exchange of views on the basis of a revised memorandum;
  - authorised the rapporteur to conduct a fact-finding visit to Hungary, in the context of the preparation of his report;
  - endorsed the rapporteur's proposal to request the Venice Commission to give its opinion on the issue of the prohibition of so-called "propaganda of homosexuality" in the light of recent legislation in some Council of Europe member states, such as Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, in the context of the preparation of the report;
  - held an exchange of views on the rapporteur's proposal to organise a conference on freedom of expression and discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, subject to receiving an invitation by a Council of Europe member state;
- **Addressing age discrimination on the labour market** (*Rapporteur: Ms Sahiba Gafarova, Azerbaijan, EDG*): held an exchange of views on the basis of an outline for a report;
- **Appointment of rapporteurs:** appointed Ms Federica Mogherini Rebesani (Italy, SOC) as Rapporteur for the report on "*Equality and non-discrimination in the access to justice*" and heard from her a declaration on the absence of conflict of interest;
- **Meeting of the ad hoc Sub-Committee to take part in the Conference on "The Political and Socio-economic Empowerment of Women – based on Women's stories" (Istanbul, 5-6 November 2012):** heard a statement by Ms Saidi (Belgium, SOC), Chairperson of the ad hoc sub-committee;
- **Next meetings:** confirmed its meetings as follows:
  - Strasbourg, during the 1<sup>st</sup> Part-Session 2013 of the Assembly (21-25 January);
  - Strasbourg, during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Part-Session 2013 of the Assembly (22-26 April);
  - Strasbourg, during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Part-Session 2013 of the Assembly (24-28 June);
  - Paris, 11 September 2013;
  - Strasbourg, during the 4<sup>th</sup> Part-Session 2013 of the Assembly (30 September - 4 October);
  - Paris, 5-6 December 2013.

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cc. Secretary General of the Assembly  
Director General, Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly  
Secretaries of National Delegations and of Political Groups of the Assembly  
Secretaries of observer and partner for democracy delegations  
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  
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