



SECRETARIAT

AS/EGA/CB (2013) 02

22 March 2013

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Warsaw, Poland on 18 and 19 March 2013

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Warsaw on 18 March 2013 with Ms Acketoft (Sweden, ALDE) in the Chair,

heard a welcome address by Mr Andrzej Halicki, Chair of the Polish delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly.

As regards:

- **Equality and non-discrimination in Poland:** held an exchange of views with:
 - Ms Agnieszka Kozłowskiej-Rajewicz, Secretary of State, Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment,
 - Mr Ryszard Kalisz, Chairperson of the Committee on Justice and Human Rights of the Sejm and
 - Mr Józef Pinior, member of the Committee on Human Rights, Rule of Law and Petitions of the Senate;
- **Ending discrimination against Roma children** (*Rapporteur: Ms Nursuna Memecan, Turkey, ALDE*): approved a draft report and unanimously adopted a preliminary draft resolution, as amended, in view of a debate to be held during the April 2013 part-session;
- **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March):** held an exchange of views with Mr Alexei Avtonomov, Chairperson of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and approved a draft statement;
- **ODIHR's activities in the area of equality and non-discrimination:** held an exchange of views with Ambassador Janez Lenarčič, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR);
- **Tackling discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity** (*Rapporteur: Mr Håkon Haugli, Norway, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his fact-finding visit to Hungary from 28 February to 1st March 2013; held an exchange of views on a revised memorandum and declassified it; authorised the Rapporteur to conduct a fact-finding visit to Italy;

- **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 a memorandum and authorised the Rapporteur to carry out fact-finding visits to Italy and Serbia;
- **Criminalising the purchase of sex to combat the trafficking of people for sexual exploitation** (*Rapporteur: Mr José Mendes Bota, Portugal, EPP/CD*): held an exchange of views on the basis of a memorandum;
- **Violence against women** (*General rapporteur: Mr José Mendes Bota, Portugal, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the General rapporteur on his participation in the 57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW57), from 4 to 6 March in New York; held an exchange of views on the basis of a memorandum and took note of a motion for a resolution on violence against women in Europe;
- **Stalking** (*Rapporteur: Ms Gisela Wurm, Austria, SOC*): held an exchange of views on the basis of a revised preliminary draft report;
- **So-called “honour” crimes in the North Caucasus** (*Rapporteur: Ms Tina Acketoft, Sweden, ALDE*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and authorised her to conduct a fact-finding visit to the region;
- **Appointment of representatives**: appointed Ms Maria Giannakaki (Greece, NR) to take part in the meeting of the Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma issues (CAHROM), to be held in Strasbourg from 14 to 16 May 2013;
- **Meetings in 2013**: took note of an invitation to the Chair of the Spanish delegation to hold a meeting in Madrid in 2013, proposed that the meeting would take place on 16 and 17 September 2013 and decided to accept the invitation, subject to the Bureau’s authorisation;
- **Date and place of the next meetings of the committee**: decided to hold its next meetings as follows:
 - Strasbourg, during the 2nd part-session 2013 of the Assembly (22-26 April),
 - Paris, 24 May (to be confirmed)
 - Strasbourg, during the 3rd part-session 2013 of the Assembly (24-28 June),
 - Madrid, 16-17 September 2013 (*subject to Bureau’s authorisation*),
 - Strasbourg, during the 4th part-session 2013 of the Assembly (30 September – 4 October),
 - Paris, 5-6 December 2013.

Resuming its meeting on 19 March 2013, the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination held a **Conference on Freedom of expression for LGBT people**, organised in co-operation with the Sejm, focussing on freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and protection against homophobic speech and violence, with the participation of:

- Ms Wanda Nowicka, Vice-Speaker of the Sejm, Poland,
- Ms Agnieszka Kozłowskiej-Rajewicz, Secretary of State, Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment, Poland,
- Ms Birgitta Ohlsson, Minister for EU Affairs, Sweden,
- Mr Robert Biedroń, member of the Polish delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Justice and Human Rights of the Sejm,
- Sir Nicolas Bratza, former President of the European Court of Human Rights,
- Ms Barbora Bukovská, Senior Director for Law and Policy, Article 19,
- Ms Finola Flanagan, Law reform commissioner of Ireland, member of the Commission on Democracy through Law (Venice Commission),
- Mr Jan Jařab, Regional Representative, OHCHR Regional Office for Europe, Brussels,
- Ms Ulrike Lunacek, MEP, Austria, Vice-President of the Greens/European Free Alliance (EFA) and Co-President of the EP LGBT Intergroup,

- Mr Goran Miletić, Programme Director for the Western Balkans, Civil Rights Defenders, Serbia,
- Ms Jasmine O'Connor, Stonewall, United Kingdom,
- Ms Evelyne Paradis, Executive Director of ILGA-Europe,
- Ms Polina Savchenko, Acting Director, Coming Out, St. Petersburg,
- Ms Calliope Spanou, Ombudsperson, Greece.

Sonia Sirtori, Giorgio Loddo, Elodie Fischer

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
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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