



SECRETARIAT

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

Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg from 23 to 26 June 2014

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Strasbourg from 23 to 26 June 2014, first with Ms Gisela Wurm (Austria, SOC) and then Ms Ismeta Dervoz (Bosnia and Herzegovina, EPP/CD) in the Chair, as regards:

- on Monday 23 June 2014, from 2 to 3 pm:
 - **Equality and the crisis** (*Rapporteur Mr Nikolaj Villumsen, Denmark, UEL*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur following his fact-finding visit to Iceland (4-5 June 2014), authorised him to conduct a fact-finding visit to Greece and held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Mr Nils Muižnieks, Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe;
 - Mr Alejandro Cercas, member of the European Parliament, Coordinator of the S&D Group at the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs since 2009 and rapporteur on the Role and operations of the Troika with regard to the euro area programme countries - Employment and social aspects of the role and operations of the Troika;
- on Tuesday 24 June 2014, from 8.30 to 10 am:
 - **Equality and non-discrimination in the access to justice** (*Rapporteur: Mr Viorel Badea, Romania, EPP/CD*): considered a memorandum;

The situation of women in emerging democracies following the Arab revolutions (*Rapporteur: Ms Fatiha Saïdi, Belgium, SOC*):
 - heard a statement by the Rapporteur following her fact-finding visits to Tunisia (16 June 2014) and Morocco (17-18 June 2014);
 - held an exchange of views with Ms Nezha El Ouafi and Mr Mohammed Mehdi Bensaid, members of the Partner for Democracy delegation of Morocco;
 - and heard a statement on the participation of the ad hoc sub-committee in the 3rd international Conference of the North-South Process for the Empowerment of Women on "Women's participation in political life in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries: Challenges and opportunities" (Rabat, 17-18 June 2014) by its Chairperson, Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD);
 - **World Forum for Democracy**: appointed Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/CD) and Ms Maria-Edera Spadoni (Italy, NR) as its representatives in the ad hoc committee of the Bureau attending the World Forum on Democracy on 3-5 November 2014 in Strasbourg ;

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- **on Tuesday 24 June 2014, from 2 to 3.30 pm**, holding a meeting of the Parliamentary Network “*Women Free from Violence*”:
 - ***Violence against women with disabilities***: held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Ms Gabriella Battaini-Dragnoni, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
 - Ms Ana Peláez Narváez, member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Director of International Relations at the Spanish National Organisation of the Blind (ONCE) (*by video-conference*);
 - and Emeritus Professor Gill Hague, Professor of Violence Against Women Studies, Centre for Gender and Violence Research, School for Policy Studies, University of Bristol, United Kingdom;
- **on Thursday 26 June 2014, from 2 to 3.30 pm**:
 - ***Celebrating the entry into force of the Istanbul Convention***:
 - heard a statement by Mr José Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD) on the coordinated activities to be conducted by the members of the Parliamentary Network “*Women Free from Violence*” to mark the entry into force of the Istanbul Convention (1 August 2014);
 - considered a draft programme for the Conference ‘Safe from fear, safe from violence. Celebrating the entry into force of the Istanbul Convention’, co-organised by the Council of Europe, the Italian Chamber of Deputies and the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs (Rome, 18-19 September 2014);
 - decided to set up an ad hoc sub-committee to take part in the Conference and appointed as its members: Mr Viorel Badea (Romania, EPP/CD), Ms Bernadette Bourzai (France, SOC), Ms Silvia Bonet Perot (Andorra, SOC), Ms Ismeta Dervoz (Bosnia and Herzegovina, EPP/CD), Ms Sahiba Gafarova (Azerbaijan, EDG), Ms Maria Giannakaki (Greece, SOC), Ms Guguli Magradze (Georgia, SOC), Mr José Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD), Ms Tülin Erkal Kara (Turkey, EDG), Ms Fatiha Saïdi (Belgium, SOC) and Ms Gisela Wurm (Austria, SOC);
 - ***Changes in the composition of sub-committees***: approved the replacement of Mr Epameinondas Marias by Mr Dimitrios Saltouros as an alternate in the sub-committee on the rights of minorities and the replacement of Ms Angeliki Gkerekou by Ms Eleni Kountoura as a member in the sub-committee on Gender Equality;
 - ***Appointment of rapporteurs***: appointed:
 - Ms Milena Santerini (Italy, NR) as rapporteur on ‘Recognising and preventing neo-racism’, subject to hearing from her a declaration on conflict of interest;
 - subject to the transmission of the reference, Mr José Mendes Bota (Portugal EPP/CD) as Rapporteur on ‘Promoting best practices in tackling violence against women’ and heard from him a declaration on the absence of conflict of interest;
 - ***Appointment of representatives***: at no cost for the Assembly, appointed:
 - Mr José Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD) to participate in the Nordic Seminar on ‘Best practices in combating violence against women’ (Reykjavik, 25 September 2014);
 - and Mr Nikolaj Villumsen (Denmark, UEL) to participate in the High-level Conference on the European Social Charter ‘Europe restarts in Turin’ (Turin, 17-18 October 2014);
 - ***Reporting back***: heard a statement by Mr Robert Biedroń (Poland, SOC) on his participation in the first meeting of the Committee on the European Committee for Social Cohesion, Human Dignity and Equality (CDDECS, Strasbourg, 3-5 June 2014);
 - ***Consideration of motions referred by the Bureau for consultation***: following an exchange of views, decided:
 - to organise exchanges of views on ‘The employment rights of female workers from Eastern Europe’ and ‘Gay to straight conversion therapy and regulation of psychotherapists’ before suggesting the Bureau a follow-up to the respective motions;

- to ask Ms Maria-Edera Spadoni (Italy, NR), first signatory of the motion on 'The creation of a European observatory on violence against women' to redraft it focussing on the need for a common methodology for data collection in Europe;
- **Next meetings:** decided to hold its next meeting in the French Senate, in Paris, on 8 September 2014 and confirmed its subsequent meetings as follows:
 - Strasbourg, during the 4th Part-Session 2014 of the Assembly (29 September-3 October);
 - Paris, 2 and 3 December 2014 (on 2 December 2014, joint meeting with the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development);
 - Strasbourg, during the 1st Part-Session 2015 of the Assembly (26-30 January).

The Sub-committee on disability and inclusion, meeting in Strasbourg on 25 June 2014, from 2 to 2.45 pm, with Ms Mechthild Rawert (Germany, SOC) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Future activities:** held an exchange of views with Ms Irena Kowalczyk-Kedziora, Secretary of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on the Rights of People with Disabilities (DECS) and agreed to discuss the issue of independent living during the side-event on disability to be held during the 4th part-session 2014 of the Assembly;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** decided to hold its next meeting in Strasbourg during the 4th part-session 2014.

The Sub-committee on gender equality, meeting in Strasbourg on Wednesday 25 June 2014, from 2.45 pm to 3.30 pm, with Ms Sahiba Gafarova (Azerbaijan, EDG) in the Chair, as regards:

- **Women's parliamentary network of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia:** held an exchange of views with the participation of Ms Marija Obradović, first coordinator of the Women's parliamentary network of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to its Chairperson to decide the date and place of the next meeting.

Sonia Sirtori, Giorgio Lodo, Elise Cornu, Elodie Fischer and Géraldine Grenet

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
Director of Communication
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe