



Notes on the Meeting of the Working Group “Gender Perspectives in Political Processes” (GPPP)

CoE Thursday, 11 April 2019, 08:10-09:20am, Agora, Room G06

1. **Adoption of the Agenda** - adopted by unanimous consent
2. **Adoption of the Report on the Meeting of the WG Monday, 25 June and Tuesday 26 June 2018** - adopted by unanimous consent
3. **Developments between June 2018 and March 2019**

Bettina Hahne gave a short overview on how the working group of Gender Perspectives in Political Processes had emerged, after Anje Wiersinga’s retirement as chair of the former WG Gender Perspectives in Political and Democratic Processes and the new formation under the aegis of Bettina as coordinator.

It was agreed that the WG’s name will be from now on “Gender Perspectives in Political Processes”, deleting the word “democratic” for the reason of shortness and clarity.

The key objectives of the group focus specifically on gender perspectives, observed by the group’s Gender Equality Rapporteurs (GER) for each WG of each Thematic Committee with the goal to watch closely gender mainstreaming (women’s rights and LGBTI’s aspects and rights) in all of their decisions and outcomes. This might be a challenge as the GPPP-Group will be kind of a cross-cutting group with one key objective and not a “normal” WG.

As the years before, GPPP will function under the umbrella of the Thematic Committee Democracy, Social Cohesion and Global Challenges, reporting to Chair Thierry Mathieu with copy to the vice-president for equality Anne Nègre.

For better and efficient networking, Hugo Castelli Eyre suggested setting up a Google group with a common Dropbox, which was agreed upon. He volunteered to create it.

Question on how the GER should submit their reports. Answer: there is no form yet. Anne pointed out the special training for GER scheduled for later during the morning session and how the GER should work together and feed their thoughts into the GPPP-Group.

4. Short progress reports

James Barnett shared his book project on gender, religion and the attitude of the Catholic Church towards gender and sex and will disseminate his preliminary paper to the members in French and English. Bettina suggests that James, Hugo and Gabriela Frey (and Carola Roloff) team up for a common recommendation on religion and gender.

For good translations Gabriela recommends the online translator www.deepl.com

5. New perspectives, goals, competencies, networks, activities

Some ideas were shortly presented and discussed:

- Gender studies will be reduced in Europe
- New family movements on the rise with extreme religious and social attitudes like the World Congress of Families
- Gabriela Frey is looking for WG members interested in the topic intercultural cities and cities of CEDAW.
- Anita Schnetzer-Spranger and Bettina stressed the importance of the topic "monitoring" of the implementation of conventions and international treaties like the Istanbul Convention and CEDAW and of issuing "shadow reports". Anne pointed out that forms for shadow reports can be found on the CoE website.
- It was agreed that the group would need some more information and training on monitoring in general and that this could be a special topic at the next meeting in October.
- The idea was raised to look into the participation of intersex persons in political processes.
- It was asked if the group would become active on surrogacy. It was agreed by unanimous consent not to look into this topic. It is a difficult issue. Two years ago the INGO had reached the agreement not to deal with surrogacy.
- The CoE treaties and conventions need the input of NGOs in order to become efficient tools. Bettina suggests to set up a team looking into possible ways how NGOs could make the Istanbul Convention known and useful within civil society. Later on, the method could be extended to other treaties. Gabriela: "train the trainers".

Anita Schnetzer-Spranger