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## **Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination**

### **Activity report 2016**

#### **Information memorandum**

by Ms Elena Centemero, Chairperson, Italy, Group of the European People's Party

## Introduction

1. Since 2012, the mandate of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination is related to gender equality and all aspects of the fight against discrimination, on whatever ground (gender, age, national or social origin, sexual orientation, disability, etc.), as well as all forms of racism and intolerance.

2. Reviews of the committee's activities were carried out by my predecessors for the periods 2012-2013 and 2014-2015.<sup>1</sup> They provided useful guidelines for the committee's work. The purpose of this memorandum is to take stock of the activities of the committee in 2016 in order to facilitate the forthcoming discussions on the activities and working structures of the committee in 2017.

### 1. Thematic coverage

3. The work of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination centred on its four main themes: equality and equal opportunities across the board, gender equality, including combating violence against women, the rights of minorities including Roma and Travellers, and preventing and combating racism and intolerance. The committee also tackled more specific themes such as the rights of persons with disabilities and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation.

#### 1.1 Women in public space project

4. As Chairperson of this committee, I took the initiative to launch a project called "Women in public space", which aims to structure the activities of the committee in the field of gender equality and to develop a holistic approach.<sup>2</sup> Under this item on its agenda, the committee discusses the issue of equality between women and men in various areas (economy, education, political representation, etc.). Several exchanges of views and hearings were organised during the year, including through joint meetings with other committees of the Parliamentary Assembly, such as the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons and the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media.<sup>3</sup>

5. Through this project, the attention given by our committee to gender equality and its cross-cutting aspects has increased. It has also contributed to disseminating a gender equality perspective in the work of other committees of the Assembly and to strengthening co-operation with the relevant bodies of the Council of Europe such as the Gender Equality Commission and other international bodies and institutions.

#### 1.2 Reports and opinions

6. In 2016, the committee adopted **9 reports**, among which 6 were debated at plenary sessions and meetings of the standing committee.<sup>4</sup> The 3 other adopted reports will be debated in 2017. The themes addressed were as follows:

- violence against women (3 reports),
- gender equality (2 reports),
- racism, intolerance and hate speech (2 reports),
- combating discrimination on the grounds of religion (1 report),
- Roma and Travellers (1 report).

7. For the first time since 2006,<sup>5</sup> the committee was seized by the Assembly for an urgent debate following the Cologne attacks against women on 31 December 2015. This urgent debate on "Recent attacks against women in European cities - the need for a comprehensive response" had one of the highest media coverages during the January part-session of the Assembly.<sup>6</sup> Our committee is in charge of the follow-up to Resolution 2093 (2016) and will present in 2017 a report on "Putting an end to sexual violence and harassment of women in public space" (rapporteur: Ms Françoise Hetto-Gaasch).

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<sup>1</sup> AS/Ega/Inf(2013) 30, Activities in 2012-2013, Memorandum by Ms Tina Acketoft, Chairperson, Sweden, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, 29 November 2013; and AS/Ega/Inf(2015) 16, Activities in 2014-2015, Information memorandum by Ms Gülsün Bilgehan, Chairperson, Turkey, Socialist Group, 21 December 2015.

<sup>2</sup> See my proposal in AS/Ega (2016) 18 of 8 April 2016.

<sup>3</sup> See the list of the hearings in Appendix 4.

<sup>4</sup> See full list in Appendix 1.

<sup>5</sup> Doc. 10881 of 10 April 2006, Stop trafficking in women before the FIFA World Cup.

<sup>6</sup> SG-AS(2016)02, Communication by the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly at the 1247th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies (10 February 2016), p.3.

8. For the preparation of the reports, **8 fact-finding visits** were carried out: to Austria, Belgium (NATO), Bulgaria, Hungary, Germany, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

9. The variety of the subject matters is a feature of the reports currently being prepared which will be adopted and possibly debated in 2017:

- violence against women (2 reports),
- gender equality (2 reports),
- combating discrimination, including on the grounds of disability (1 report),
- the rights of LGBTI people (1 reports),

10. In 2016, the committee also presented **4 opinions**.<sup>7</sup> The list of these opinions shows that the committee played a major role in the process of awarding neighbouring states partner for democracy status and its implementation. The committee was also, for the first time, involved in the debates regarding the fight against radicalisation and terrorism. These opinions helped to increase the visibility of the committee and its various themes (notably women's rights, the rights of LGBT people and the fight against discrimination).

## 2. Diversification and visibility of activities and structures

11. In 2016, the committee pursued its goal of diversifying its activities, striking an effective balance between report-drafting and other activities aimed at heightening the impact and prominence of its work.

### 2.1 Parliamentary networks

12. The **Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence** pressed ahead with its efforts to raise awareness and promote the Istanbul Convention, thanks to the voluntary contributions which it received, in particular from Germany and the Netherlands.<sup>8</sup> In 2016, the Network focused on the role of national parliaments in implementing the Istanbul Convention, notably by establishing fruitful working relations with the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) and by promoting the Network members as facilitators and interlocutors during the monitoring phase carried out by the GREVIO. The Network also strengthened its relations with the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) of the European Parliament, notably in the context of the decision taken by the European Union to join the Istanbul Convention. Two newsletters were issued in 2016. The German, English, French and Azerbaijani versions of the Handbook for parliamentarians on the Istanbul Convention were updated. To date, the Handbook is available in 14 languages.<sup>9</sup>

13. The **No Hate Parliamentary Alliance** developed its activities through national seminars (in Italy, France and Bosnia and Herzegovina) and hearings on issues such as anti-Gypsyism in Europe and violence and discrimination on the ground of ethnic origin. Its coordinator and members participated in several meetings organised by key partners such as the OSCE and the Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup (ARDI) of the European Parliament. Co-operation with the Council of Europe No Hate Speech Movement was reinforced through mutual invitations to events and joint initiatives. As of 1 November 2016, the Alliance had 56 members.

### 2.2 General rapporteurs and sub-committees

14. The **three general rapporteurs** (on violence against women, on the rights of LGBT people and on combating racism and intolerance) have helped to raise awareness of the issues within their respective remits and to raise the Assembly's profile in these areas by participating in external events and making public statements.

15. The terms of reference of the **three sub-committees** (on gender equality, on the rights of minorities and on disability and inclusion) were renewed in 2016 and hearings were held during the Assembly sessions, as well as in Berlin and Paris. Each sub-committee met twice in 2016.

<sup>7</sup> See full list in Appendix 1.

<sup>8</sup> The activities of the Network were also supported by financial contributions from Andorra, Austria, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal and Switzerland.

<sup>9</sup> Albanese, Arabic, Azerbaijani, Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian, English, French, Georgian, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Romanian Russian and Spanish.

### 2.3 Visibility

16. The visibility of the committee's work was significantly increased over the period under review, thanks to social media. The hearings held in connection with the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance and the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence were relayed on social media. The network's Facebook page has grown significantly and in November 2016, the number of *likes* passed the 2,450 mark. In addition, the Twitter account of the committee (@PACE\_Equality) greatly contributed to providing real-time information on the activities of the committee and its members. It reached 450 followers in November 2016 and the number has continued to grow since then. The Twitter account is followed by key governmental and non-governmental organisations working in the field of equality and non-discrimination, which also disseminate information about our activities.

## 3. Co-operation

### 3.1 Co-operation with other Assembly committees and Council of Europe structures

17. In carrying out its activities, the committee attached considerable importance to co-operation with other Assembly committees, thus recognising the cross-cutting nature of many of the issues that it tackles.

18. As mentioned above, in the context of the "Women in public space" project, joint meetings were organised with the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons in June, and with the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media in October.

19. I also participated in the meetings of the Committee on the Election of Judges to the European Court of Human Rights, where the chair of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination sits in an *ex officio* capacity. This participation enables our committee to have a say in the process of selecting judges for the European Court of Human Rights and to introducing a gender perspective to this process.

20. At the same time, the committee established good working relations with the main Council of Europe bodies working in its areas of competence. I participated in the meetings of the Gender Equality Commission (GEC) of the Council of Europe in May and the Chair of the GEC was invited to speak before our committee in September. The committee also held exchanges of views with the Commissioner for Human Rights, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) and other bodies which come under the Directorate General of Democracy of the Council of Europe.

### 3.2 Co-operation with other international organisations and institutions

21. In 2016, the committee and its parliamentary networks held exchanges of views with or organised events involving representatives of the following bodies:

- European Parliament (FEMM and LIBE committees, ARDI),
- Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU),
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR),
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for Europe (UNHCR),
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),
- National human rights institutions.

22. Co-operation with parliamentary partners proved to be very positive and greatly contributed to improving the visibility and impact of the work of the Assembly in the fields of equality and non-discrimination.

## 4. Guest speakers

23. The committee had the honour of welcoming a number of prominent figures to its thematic exchanges of views. Ms Esabelle Dingizian, Third Deputy Speaker of the Riksdag (Sweden), Ms Åsa Regnér, Minister for Children, the Elderly and Gender Equality, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs of Sweden, Ms Alice Bah Kuhnke, Minister for Culture and Democracy of Sweden, Ms Ulla Schmidt, Vice-Chairperson of the Bundestag (Germany), Mr Christian Lange, Parliamentary State Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection of Germany, and Ms Elke Ferner, Parliamentary State Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth of Germany attended meetings of the committee, the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance and the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence.

## **5. Attendance and members' involvement**

24. The average attendance rate for committee meetings increased in 2016, reaching 51% (compared with 41% in 2015). This increase is particularly significant for committee meetings held outside Strasbourg, whose average attendance rate rose from 27% in 2015 to 37% in 2016. It should however be pointed out that attendance at sub-committee meetings remains extremely low overall, in particular during Assembly sessions, with some meetings failing to attract more than four members of the sub-committee concerned.

25. As regards the gender distribution amongst the rapporteurs, out of 10 reports and opinions debated in 2016, 7 rapporteurs were women and 3 were men, whereas men account for 45% of the members of the committee. I would thus encourage the male members of the committee to play a more active part in the work of the committee and to volunteer to act as rapporteurs.

26. Last but not least, I would like to congratulate the members acting as rapporteurs, general rapporteurs, bureau members, members of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence and the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance and all the members who have actively participated in the committee's work on their involvement and readiness to assist. In 2016, new members have also joined the committee and contributed positively to making its meetings lively and stimulating.

**Appendix 1**  
**List of reports and opinions of the committee adopted and debated in 2016**

**Reports debated**

- Res. 2093      *Recent attacks against women: the need for honest reporting and a comprehensive response*  
Rapporteur: Mr Gunnarsson, Sweden, SOC
- Res. 2101      *Systematic collection of data on violence against women*  
Rapporteur: Ms Spadoni, Italy, NR
- Res. 2106      *Renewed commitment in the fight against antisemitism in Europe*  
Rapporteur: Mr Cilevičs, Latvia, SOC
- Res. 2111      *Assessing the impact of measures to improve women's political representation*  
Rapporteur: Ms Centemero, Italy, EPP/CD
- Res. 2120      *Women in the armed forces: promoting equality, putting an end to gender-based violence*  
Rapporteur: Ms Blondin, France, SOC
- Res. 2135      *Female genital mutilation in Europe*  
Rapporteur: Ms Fresko-Rolfo, Monaco, EPP/CD

**Opinions debated**

- Res 2086      *Request for partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of Jordan*  
Rapporteur: Mr Ghiletschi, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD
- Res 2090      *Combating international terrorism while protecting Council of Europe standards and values*  
Rapporteur: Ms Bilgehan, Turkey, SOC
- Res 2103      *Preventing the radicalisation of children and young people by fighting the root causes*  
Rapporteur: Ms Heinrich, Germany, SOC
- Res 2105      *Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Palestinian National Council*  
Rapporteur: Ms Maij, Netherlands, SOC

**Reports adopted in 2016 and to be debated in 2017**

- Doc 14149      *Promoting the inclusion of Roma and Travellers*  
Rapporteur: Mr Zech, Germany, EPP/CD
- Doc 14217      *Ending cyberdiscrimination and online hate*  
Rapporteur: Ms Maij, Netherlands, SOC
- Doc....      *The protection of the rights of parents and children belonging to religious minorities*  
Rapporteur: Mr Ghiletschi, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD

**Appendix 2  
Meetings in 2016**

	<b>Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination</b>	<b>Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence</b>	<b>Sub-Committee on Gender Equality</b>	<b>Sub-Committee on Rights of Minorities</b>	<b>Sub-Committee on Disability and Inclusion</b>	<b>No Hate Parliamentary Alliance</b>
<b>Strasbourg</b>	January part-session (25-29.01.2016), April part-session (18-22.04.2016), June part-session (20-24.06.2016), October part-session (10-14.10.2016)	April part-session (20.04.2016)  October part-session (13.10.2016)	January part-session (28.01.2016)	January part-session (28.01.2016)	January part-session (28.01.2016)  October part-session 2016 (11.10.2016)	
<b>Berlin</b>		12.05.2016	12.05.2016			
<b>Stockholm</b>	17.05.2016					18.05.2016 morning
<b>Paris</b>	11.03.2016, 09.09.2016, 06.12.2016.	11.03.2016		27.10.2016 afternoon		05.12.2016 afternoon

### Appendix 3

#### **List of events attended by the Chairperson of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, Ms Elena Centemero (Italy, EPP/DC)**

3 February – Participation in the Workshop on “Electoral system design and increased women participation in politics” organised by the Council of Europe, Kyiv (Ukraine)

8 March – Participation in the Workshop on “Gender studies” organised by the University Niccolò Cusano, Rome (Italy)

8 March - Statement on the occasion of the International Women's Day

28 April – Participation in the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council of Europe Gender Equality Commission (GEC), Strasbourg (France)

30 May 2016 – Participation in the Seminar on parliamentary democracy organised at the Parliament of Jordan by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Amman (Jordan)

29-30 June – Participation in the Conference on “Are we there yet? Assessing progress, inspiring action – The Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017”, organised by the Council of Europe, Tallinn (Estonia)

28 September – Participation in the national seminar on the role of parliamentarians in empowering women and fighting violence against women, organised by the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence, Baku (Azerbaijan)

1 December – Participation in the regional conference on “Women’s political representation in the Eastern Partnership countries – regional study and exchange of information”, organised by the Council of Europe in co-operation with the Ukrainian Parliament, Kyiv (Ukraine)



**Appendix 4**  
**Lists of hearings and exchanges of views**  
**held by the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination in 2016**

*Human rights and intersex persons:* hearing with Mr Nils Muižnieks, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe (January).

*Presentation of ECRI's work on combating hate speech:* exchange of views with the participation of Mr Mirosław Wyrzykowski, member of ECRI in respect of Poland, and Mr Michael Whine, member of ECRI in respect of the United Kingdom (January).

*Women and radicalisation leading to terrorism:* hearing with the participation of Ms Véronique Roy, mother of a young man who converted, became radicalised to take part in the Jihad and died in Syria, Paris, France; and Ms Melanie Smith, Researcher and Coordinator, Institute for Strategic Dialogue, London, United Kingdom (March).

*Equality and non-discrimination: focus on Sweden:* exchange of views with Ms Åsa Regnér, Minister for Children, the Elderly and Gender Equality, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs of Sweden (Stockholm, May).

*The political rights of persons with disabilities: a democratic issue:* exchange of views with the participation of Ms Liri Kopaci-Di Michele, Head of the Equality Division, Directorate General on Democracy, Council of Europe (June).

*Council of Europe No Hate initiatives:* presentation of the No Hate Speech Movement by Mr Matthew Johnson, Director, Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Participation, Directorate General of Democracy, Council of Europe (June).

*The role of internet platforms and social media companies in countering online hate:* hearing with the participation of Ms Brittany Smith, Senior Policy Analyst, Google, and Mr Anton'Maria Battesti, Public Policy Manager, Facebook France (September).

***Hearings relating to the Women in public space project***

*A holistic approach: the Swedish way to gender equality:* hearing with the participation of Ms Drude Dahlerup, Professor of Political science, Stockholm University and Ms Nana Kalandadze, Programme Officer, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, Stockholm (Stockholm, May).

*Discrimination and violence against women refugees:* joint hearing with the PACE Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, with the participation of: Ms Mina Jaf, women refugees rights activist; Mr Arne Treves, Protection Officer, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for Europe (UNHCR), Geneva; Dr Richard Matis, Vice-Chair of Gynaecology without Borders (France); and Ms Baldé, refugee (June).

*Women's empowerment in the economy:* hearing with the participation of Ms Valerie Frey, Researcher, Social Policy Division, Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Directorate, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); Ms Sam Smethers, Chief Executive of the Fawcett Society, United Kingdom; and Mr Henrik Kristensen, Deputy Executive Secretary of the European Committee of Social Rights of the Council of Europe (June).

***Women in public space:***

- hearing with the participation of Ms Brigitte Gonthier-Maurin, Vice-Chairperson and former Chairperson of the Delegation for Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities Between Men and Women of the French Senate and Mr Sergiy Kyslytsya, Chairperson of the Gender Equality Commission of the Council of Europe (September);
- hearing with the participation of Ms Francesca Izzo, Chairperson of the NGO *Se non ora quando* (Italy) (October).

*Learning for success: promoting gender equality through education:* joint hearing with the PACE Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media, with the participation of Ms Nathalie Tournyol du Clos, Director of Training, National School of Administration (ENA), France, and Ms Katie McCracken, Opcit Research, London, United Kingdom (October).

**Appendix 5**  
**List of hearings organised in the framework of the sub-committees**  
**and activities of their respective members**

**Sub-Committee on Gender Equality**

*Joint meeting with the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence (Berlin, May):*

- Opening statement from Ms Ulla Schmidt, Vice-Chairperson of the Bundestag;
- Istanbul Convention – Germany on the way to ratification: exchange of views with Mr Christian Lange, Parliamentary State Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection of Germany; Ms Rosa Logar, First Vice-President of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic violence (GREVIO), Council of Europe, and Dr Petra Follmar-Otto, Head of the Unit Human Rights Policies Germany / Europe, German Institute for Human Rights;
- Best practices on Gender Equality: exchange of views with Ms Elke Ferner, Parliamentary State Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth of Germany, and Ms Hannelore Buls, President of the National Council of German Women's Organisations.

**Sub-Committee on Disability and Inclusion**

*The right to vote for all and legal capacity:* hearing with the participation of Mr Alfredo Ferrante, Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CAHDPH) of the Council of Europe and Mr Milan Šveřepa, Director of the NGO Inclusion Europe (October).

*Activities of members*

Ms Snežana Jonica (Montenegro, SOC) participated in the International Expert Level Conference on “Equal enjoyment of human rights and freedoms by persons with disabilities: achievements and challenges”, on 22 March 2016 in Sofia (Bulgaria).

Ms Mechthild Rawert (Germany, SOC) participated the Expert Seminar “Our right to participate – promoting the participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life” organised by OSCE/ODIHR, on 31 October 2016 in Helsinki (Finland).

**Sub-Committee on the Rights of Minorities**

*Scope of application of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities:* hearing with the participation of Ms Petra Roter, President, and Ms Barbara Wilson, member, of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention (Paris, October).

*Activities of members*

Mr Viorel Badea (Romania, EPP/DC) participated in the Conference on the Roma Genocide “Forgotten Voices” organised by the European Roma and Travellers Forum, on 6 April 2016 in Bucharest (Romania).

Mr Tobias Zech (Germany, EPP/CD) spoke at and Mr Jean-Pierre Grin (Switzerland, ALDE) participated in the high-level event on “Confronting Anti-Gypsyism: The role of political leaders in countering discrimination, racism, hate crimes and violence against Roma and Sinti communities”, organised by the OSCE Chairman in Office in co-operation with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Council of Europe and the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, on 6 September 2016 in Berlin (Germany).

**Appendix 6**  
**List of activities of the General Rapporteur on the rights of LGBT people**  
**Mr Jonas Gunnarsson (Sweden, SOC)**

17 May – Adoption by the Committee, on the proposal of the General Rapporteur, of a statement on the occasion of International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia

13 June - Statement “Grief and outrage at mass homophobic shootings in Orlando”

21-22 October – Participation in ILGA-Europe’s 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on “Power to the People - Celebrating 20 years of the strength within”, Nicosia (Cyprus)

24 October - Statement on the occasion of the International Day of Action for Trans Depathologisation

26 October - Statement on the occasion of the Intersex Awareness Day

17 November - Participation in the European Governmental LGBTI Focal Point Network Roundtable, Strasbourg (France)

20 November - Statement on the occasion of the Transgender Day of Remembrance

**Appendix 7**  
**List of activities of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence**  
**and of the General Rapporteur on Violence against Women and political coordinator,**  
**Ms Sahiba Gafarova (Azerbaijan, EC)**

11 March - Meeting of the Network with the participation of Ms Feride Acar and members of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), Paris (France)

14-16 March - Participation of the General Rapporteur and of a Network delegation in the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Committee on the Status of Women, New York (USA)

13 April – Regional Conference on the Istanbul Convention, The Hague (The Netherlands)

20 April - Meeting of the Network and hearing on Violence against women in the armed forces, Strasbourg (France)

12 May - Joint meeting with the Sub-Committee on Gender Equality, Berlin (Germany)

15-16 June - Participation of Network members in the Round-table on the Istanbul Convention organised by the Council of Europe, Kyiv (Ukraine)

28-29 September - National seminar on the role of parliamentarians in empowering women and fighting violence against women, Baku (Azerbaijan)

13 October - Meeting of the Network and hearing on Men against violence, Strasbourg (France)

21 November - Working seminar on the role of parliamentarians on implementing the Istanbul Convention, Paris (France)

25 November - Statement on the occasion of the International Day on combating violence against women

12-13 December – Participation of the General Rapporteur and of a Network delegation in the Regional conference on the Istanbul Convention and gender equality organised by UNDP-Montenegro with the support of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence, Budva (Montenegro).

**Appendix 8**  
**List of activities of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance**  
**and of the General Rapporteur on combating racism and intolerance,**  
**Ms Milena Santerini (Italy, SOC)**

16 February – Participation in the Round Table on “Combating Antisemitism and Islamophobia in Europe” organised by the Intergroup on Anti-Racism and Diversity (ARDI) of the European Parliament and meeting with Mr Moares, Chairperson of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) of the European Parliament, Brussels (Belgium)

18 March - Statement “Racist acts recently perpetrated against Roma women cannot be accepted”

21 March - Statement on the occasion of the International Day against Racism

4 April - National seminar on hate speech, Rome (Italy)

8 April - Statement on the occasion of International Roma Day

18 May - Meeting of the Alliance and hearing on Anti-Gypsyism in Europe, Stockholm (Sweden)

25 May - Meeting with media and NGOs, organised by the Council of Europe Liaison Office in Brussels, and participation in the conference on “The righteous of our time against fanaticism, for dialogue and hospitality”, Brussels (Belgium)

22 July - Statement on the occasion of the European Action Day for Victims of Hate Crimes

2 August - Statement on the occasion of Roma Genocide Remembrance Day

6 September - Participation in the High-level event on “Confronting Anti-Gypsyism: The role of political leaders in countering discrimination, racism, hate crimes and violence against Roma and Sinti communities”, organised by the OSCE Chairman in Office in co-operation with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Council of Europe and the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, Berlin (Germany)

8 September - National seminar on combating racism, hatred and intolerance, Paris (France)

7-9 November - Participation in the World Forum for Democracy as moderator of Lab. 1 on Reinventing school governance, Strasbourg (France)

5 December - Meeting of the Alliance and hearing on Violence and discrimination on the ground of ethnic origin, Paris (France)

15 December - National seminar, Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina)