



**THE NATIONAL DANISH ORGANIZATION
FOR GAYS AND LESBIANS, LBL/F-48**

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Member of ILGA, The International Lesbian and Gay Association

To the ILGA
EC-working party

4. January 1992

E C - L E T T E R n o. 1

This letter contains an overview over the ILGA EC-work as discussed at the European regional conference in Berlin (and in previous conferences).

After Berlin the EC-working party consists of the following members:

CIG (Spain), SETA (Finland), Gpl (France), SVD (Germany), GLEN (Eire), COC (The Netherlands), Homostudies (The Netherlands), DNF48 (Norway), RFSL (Sweden), Stonewall (UK) and LBL (Denmark). Apart from these Lambda Rechtsgruppe (Austria), UHA (Germany) and Stefan Reiss (Senatverwaltung für Jugend und Familie, Berlin) has asked to be kept informed. Action and information secretariats of ILGA are also kept informed.

The coordination of the work will be undertaken jointly by Stonewall (contact Peter Ashman) and LBL (contact Steffen Jensen).

Since the members of the CoE/CSCE-working party to a very high degree are the same as of the EC-working party and since the issues of the two working parties are related, I have taken the liberty of sending this EC-letter to the remaining members of the CoE/CSCE-working party (and vice versa).

The guidelines for ILGAs work towards the EC was passed at the Stockholm conference and has been confirmed at the Copenhagen conference and at the Berlin conference. The guidelines for our work are these:

"The ILGA has the responsibility of defending and promoting the needs of lesbians and gay men wherever and whenever possible, within the current powers of the EC institutions. Thus, if directives or recommendations emanating from the Commission, or Parliamentary reports or resolutions, are not sensitive to the needs of lesbians and gay men, or if any EC institution is failing to make use of its powers relating to lesbian and gay rights, the ILGA must speak and act. The role of the ILGA is to work actively to ensure protection and development of the rights of lesbians and gay men also within the EC. The ILGAs remit covers only lesbian and gay rights and thus the ILGA cannot campaign on the general issues of expansion of EC powers or harmonisation of social policies between EC states."

List of projects:

- 1) **The EC-funded report on lesbians and gay men within the community.**
The Commission (DGV) has agreed to pay 34.000 ECU (app. £25.000) to the study, which is done by a range of European experts from The European Human Rights Foundation (contractor), The European University in Milan and Homostudies. The report is due to be finished in the late summer this year and will be followed by a conference in the autumn in order to convince the Commission that appropriate initiatives should be put forward.

- 2) **A code of Practice on measures to combat sexual harassment.**
The recommendation from the Council of Ministers includes a sentence about lesbians, gay men and harassment on the ground of sexual orientation. See attached press release from Stonewall. We will try to get the recommendation in an English version and send it out.

- 3) **Lesbian visibility project**
At the Copenhagen European regional conference of ILGA in 1990 it was decided that LBL should try to get EC funds for the project. We have got informal information that we will get 40.000 ECU for the project.
./.. The latest version of the application is enclosed for your information.

- 4) **The resolution in the European Parliament on gay men and lesbians.**
On the initiative of LBL a Danish MEP (Kirsten Jensen) has put forward a draft resolution (p.t. dealt with in the legal affairs subcommittee). I have only got the Danish version of the draft resolution, but the key points are these:

.....
calls upon the member states to work for equalization of homosexual couples in relation to heterosexual couples,

calls upon the member states to include in their national legislation a recognition of homosexual registered partners on an equal footing with spouses as far as right of residence is concerned,

calls upon the Commission to change its interpretation of the concept "spouse" in relation to right of residence after 90/364/EC, 90/365/EC and 90/366/EC [three directives about the right of residence] to also contain registered partners according to the Danish law no. 372 of June 7th 1989.

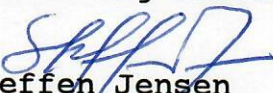
[my translation].

- 5) **The definition of the concept of family.**
Torry Kjeldsen from LBL has compiled a short note on the
././ EC use of the concept of family (enclosed) based on the
././ documents listed on the enclosed paper.
././ Furthermore I enclose a paper about the new Danish defini-
tion of the concept of family.
- 6) **Contacts within the EC bureaucracy.**
Odile Quintin, head of the social security and social
action section of the Directorate General 5 (DGV) of the
Commission has been appointed responsible officer for gay
and lesbian issues. As far as the lesbian vivibility
project is concerned LBL has had a good contact to Eva
Eberhardt from the Equal Opportunities Unit in the Com-
mission. We will at a later stage try to compile a list of
relevant contacts within the bureaucracy.
- 7) **The petition to EP about the Declaration of Fundamental
rights and freedoms.**
As far as we know the petition (to include gay/lesbian
rights in the declaration) are dealt with in the petition
././ subcommittee of the Parliament. The declaration is enclosed
for your information.
- 8) **The follow-up of the Social Charter and other relevant EC-
legislation.**
The following documents I only have in Danish, so they are
not included, but could be obtained from the Commissions
office in your contry.
The Social Charter was passed by the European Council (i.e.
the heads of States and Governments) December the 9th 1989,
and the Commission has issued an action scheme for the
follow up of the charter a few days before (!), no. COM(89)
568 December 5th 1989.
We have not yet recieved the actual list of proposed
regulations and directive for this year, but when we have
got it, it will be send out so that we can discuss which
proposed legislation we should try to influence - and how.
- 9) **The Citizens Charter.**
A draft is said to be sent to the member states for consi-
deration. We will try to get hold of it and distribute it
with a later letter.
- 10) **Further funding possibilities for ILGA projects.**
No news apart from no. 1 and 3 (and the Iceberg project).
The possibilities of getting EC funds should be better
after the report. The Parliament decides about the
"loose" EC money.
- 11) **MEP database.**
Stonewall is working on this.

- 12) **Encourage the EC to play a more prominent role in influencing other governments (i.e. LAAA-contries and Eastern European contries) in their treatment of lesbian/gay citizens.**
How do we do that?
- 13) **Test cases to the European Court of Justice (Luxembourg).**
Ideas for possible test cases are welcome. Cases concerning the right of mobility / right of residence are likely to be the best examples.
- 14) **Antidiscrimination resolution in Parliament.**
Will wait untill after the report - see no. 1.
- 15) **Model briefing document.**
./.
Draft made by Stonewall and LBL last year is enclosed. Your comments are very welcome for a new edition.
- 16) **Establishing an informel network of MEPs (Intergroup).**
This will demand a MEP to take the initiative.
- 17) **The possibility of parliamentary questions to the Commission and/or submit petitions to the Parliament.**
The resolution mentioned in no. 4 was the result of an attempt from LBL to raise a question in EP.
- 18) **Lobbying the national MEPs.**
It is up to all of us to keep in good contact with our MEPs. A list can be obtained from the national office of the Parliament - or from me, if it is difficult to get it.
- 19) **ILGA exhibition in the EP?**
- 20) **Contact with "social partners".**
At the Copenhagen conference GLEN accepted to contact the European Trade Union Confederation and the European Employers Federation in order to lobby them to initiate gay/lesbian policies within the labormarket. Has anything happened?
- 21) **Contact to other EC lobbies.**
LBL is a corresponding member of ECAS (Euro Citizen Action Service), which means that we receive their monthly publication (the latest issue is enclosed). It contains quite a lot of relevant information.
./.
Are there other relevant lobbies to join?
- 22) **Internal guidelines for EC lobbying.**
I think such guidelines could be of good use. Who will make a draft?

- 23) **Preparation of a resolution for the Paris Annual Conference of ILGA.**
Peter Ashman has promised to make a draft to be considered by the working party before Paris.
- 24) **The Iceberg project?**
- 25) **The hiv and aids field.**
./.
Though this is not within our frame, I enclose for your information the programme "Europe against Aids".
- 26) **Internal organisation of the working party.**
Please send correct contact addresses, telephone- and faxnumbers to me.

Med k rlig hilsen


Steffen Jensen