

25. February 1992

**E U R O - L E T T E R   n o .   1**  
(CoE/CSCE letter no 11 and EC-letter no 2)

At the ILGA regional conference in Berlin and later several people have asked to receive the information from the working parties on Europe. Thus we have taken the opportunity to combine the letters to the two European ILGA working parties into one common letter.

Points to be responded at quickly: A3, A5, B and C15!

A. Council of Europe Business

1) **Additional protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights.**

No news on the progress in the legal committee of the Parliamentary Assembly.

At the Berlin conference it was decided that we should approach The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) and Amnesty International to make them confirm their support to the proposed protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights.

LBL will sent letters to ICJ and AI about this.

Are there other NGO's that should be approached?

2) **NGO status of ILGA to the Council of Europe**

No news.

At the Berlin conference it was decided to wait for a response from Ole Espersen, who has promised to take care of this issue, and then try to arrange a meeting with the general director of the Council of Europe, Md. la Lumiere.

3) **Lesbian and gay rights in Central- and Eastern European countries applying for membership of the Council of Europe**

John Clark has sent the attached letter to ms. Isabelle Jaques of the Directorate of Human Rights within the Council of Europe. Similar letters could be sent from members of the working party to make a pressure on the Council of Europe.

The Action Secretariat in Cologne has sent letters to the German members of the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe similar to the letter from ILGA (John Clark) to Mr. Leuprecht. Furthermore the Action Secretariat has sent the attached letter to Mr. Plate of the Legal Affairs Department of the CoE.

- 4) **Council of Europe model aids legislation**  
Still no news.
- 5) **The situation in Ireland and The Isle of Man**  
We suggest that members of the working party - and others - should write to their foreign ministers and make them put a pressure on Ireland and Great Britain to live up to the ruling of the European Court of Human Rights. Should this be an ILGA action?

#### B. The CSCE - CHD process

At the Berlin conference it was decided that we should sent out a letter to all European members of ILGA to give the background of the ILGA initiatives to the CSCE-process and make them lobby their governments.

You have probably all received the letter, but for the record it is enclosed.

Furthermore we enclose:

- a) Report of a CSCE-seminar in Oslo
- b) A letter from HOSI Wien to the working party
- c) Sample letter to Lambda Budapest
- d) Letter from the British government to ILGA (!!)

At the Berlin conference it was decided that the Scandinavian members should try to persuade the Scandinavian governments to table the ILGA proposal at the Helsinki meeting.

RFSL, DNF-48 and LBL have now been in contact with the governments of Sweden, Norway and Denmark. And even though all the governments were positive in Moscow it does not look as if it will be successful this time!

The report from Norway is enclosed. The Swedes have been positive without promising anything.

We have had a meeting with a civil servant of the Danish ministry of foreign affairs today. The general impression is the same as from Sweden and Norway: If only the ILGA proposal would have been put forward in Moscow there would have been good chances of getting it included in the final document. But the Helsinki-

meeting is a more general one and it deals not only with human rights issues.

The civil servant from the ministry on the other hand was positive towards the idea of using the fact, that several of (the new) CSCE-participating states still have a ban on homosexuality in their legislation, in the general human rights discussion within the CSCE-process. And he was not negative towards the idea of a common Scandinavian initiative - but he certainly did not promise anything!

It seems as if the time schedule of the CSCE-meeting will be made in the middle of March - and that approximately 10 days will be scheduled for human rights issues.

At the Moscow meeting Kurt Krickler did a very important and fruitful work lobbying most of the representatives of the participating states. But unfortunately we cannot be sure that Kurt will be able to be present in Helsinki at the right times during the upcoming meeting.

It is very important that ILGA is present at least sometimes during the meeting - so a crucial question is who will be able to represent ILGA if Kurt cannot be there?

### **C. EC-matters**

- 1) **The EC-funded report on lesbians and gay men within the community.**

Apart from the organisations mentioned in EC-letter no 1 Stonewall is a coordinator of the project.

Louis Prat from CIG has proposed that a conference following the report should be held in Barcelona in October 1992. We think this is a very good idea.

- 2) **A code of Practice on measures to combat sexual harassment.**

The text of the recommendation is enclosed.

- 3) **Lesbian visibility project.**

Still no final confirmation from EC.

- 4) **The resolution in the European Parliament on gay men and lesbians.**

We will get the official English translation of the recommendation and circulate it.

- 5) **The definition of the concept of family.**

Kees Waldijk has pointed out that one important document is missing in the overview: Regulation 1612/68 - and some decisions of the EC Court of

Justice. But as this will be included in the report (1) we will not get into that here.

- 6) **Contacts within the EC bureaucracy.**  
Further information will be given later.
  - 7) **The petition to EP about the Declaration of Fundamental rights and freedoms.**  
No news.
  - 8) **The follow-up of the Social Charter and other relevant EC-legislation.**  
We have ordered The People's Europe Information Disk Pack, which contains the latest information on the moves towards the single market - but we have not received it yet.
- The Maastricht agreement has now been signed by the governments - and are now subject to ratification in the member states, eg by a referendum as in Denmark. You can probably obtain the text from the EC information office in your own country.
- 9) **The Citizens Charter.**  
No news yet, but the Maastricht agreement contains a chapter on European Citizenship.
  - 10) **Further funding possibilities for ILGA projects.**  
Steffen is going to attend a meeting in Bruxelles (ECAS) about funding possibilities in March.
  - 11) **MEP database.**  
No news.
  - 12) **Encourage the EC to play a more prominent role in influencing other governments (i.e. LAAA-countries and Eastern European countries) 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) **Anti-discrimination resolution in Parliament .**  
Will wait until after the report - see no. 1. Will be discussed at the Paris meeting.
  - 15) **Model briefing document .**  
Kees Waldijk has proposed a complete rewriting of the briefing document, see attached letter from Kees, point 15. Kees is requested to draft the "problems" - part of a new briefing letter.

Who will draft the three other parts?

- 16) **Establishing an informal 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.**  
No new ideas.
- 18) **Lobbying the national MEPs.**  
Go ahead in informing them of our existence!
- 19) **ILGA exhibition in the EP?**
- 20) **Contact with "social partners".**  
No news from GLEN.
- 21) **Contact to other EC lobbies.**  
See Kees's letter.
- 22) **Internal guidelines for EC lobbying.**  
Will wait.
- 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**  
See Kees's letter.
- 25) **The hiv and aids field.**  
At the 2nd European Conference on HIV and Homosexuality in Amsterdam some important steps were taken to improve the cooperation between ILGA and Eurocaso. This will be discussed further in Paris.
- 26) **Internal organisation of the working party.**  
Please send correct contact addresses, telephone and fax numbers to us.

D. Other business.

The WHO has approved an updating of the European program Health for All year 2000, which includes a statement about living in accordance with one's sexual orientation, enclosed.

Med k rlig hilsen

Steffen Jensen

Torry Kjeldsen

Peter Bryld