

21. March 1992

E U R O - L E T T E R n o . 2
(CoE/CSCE letter no 12 and EC-letter no 3)

This letter is mainly about the CSCE-process, but also a few EC-businesses are mentioned.

Points to be responded at quickly: B.

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.
LBL will sent letters to ICJ and AI to ask for their continuing support.
Are there other NGO's that should be approached?
- 2) **NGO status of ILGA to the Council of Europe**
No news.
- 3) **Lesbian and gay rights in Central- and Eastern European countries applying for membership of the Council of Europe**
Still no response from either Peter Leuprecht nor Isabelle Jaques.
- 4) **Council of Europe model aids legislation**
Still no news.
- 5) **The situation in Ireland, The Isle of Man and Gibraltar**
Stonewall has become aware of the fact that homosexuality is not de-criminalised in Gibraltar, although the British government in 1985 promised that the law would be changed. As a response to a parliamentary question the government has again claimed it would urgently consider draft legislation on this matter.

When the local government of The Isle of Man (Tynewald) do demonstrate that it will not change the law of the island (which it is expected to do very soon), Stonewall will consider a petition to the European Commission of Human Rights. And ILGA should consider approaching our governments in order to persuade them

to action within the Council of Europe against Great Britain and Ireland (and Cyprus as well?).

B. The CSCE - CHD process

At the ILGA secretariats meeting in Cologne last weekend the present members of the working party had a meeting, and we agreed on the following:

- a) We should build up a list of civil servants and politicians who has been contacted in the process and who are (or might be) present at the CSCE-meeting in Helsinki and who thus are relevant to approach there.

Up to now the following can be mentioned:

Austria:	Dr. Buchsbawm
Switzerland:	P. Widmer
Denmark:	Harris Nielsen
United Kingdom:	D G Alexander
Germany:	Dr. W. Höynck
	Dr. W. Beuth
	Herr von Stuttnitz
Sweden:	Bo Petersson

Please inform us about other names, so that they can be circulated in due time.

- b) We should all react on the responses we get from government in order to keep up the issue in the minds of the civil servants! Keep the correspondence going! It might be very relevant to confront the government representatives with the facts of the legislative standards in the new states participating in the CSCE-process (i.e. the former Sovjet republics) and the actual cases of discrimination and punishment, e.g. the case of Vladimir Mirinov.
- c) Up till now we know of the following taken part in the SETA parallel activity in Helsinki 4-5 of April: John Clark, Kurt Krickler, Wolfgang Hulsmann, - Alexandra Duda, Tobias Wikström, Tor Johnsen and Steffen Jensen.

John will stay in Helsinki for a whole week and Wolfgang and Alexandra until wednesday - and they try to contact as many representatives as possible. In the next EURO LETTER we will circulate a list of states approached in Moscow.

- d) Since EURO LETTER no. 1 the following has taken place:

1. Another meeting with the Swedish government. RFSL was told that Sweden would not raise the issue, but (of course) would work against it, if another govern-

ment rose it. On the other hand the Swedish foreign minister as a response to a parliamentary question the week after RFSLs meeting promised in a press release that she would consider the prerequisites of bringing the issue up in Helsinki.

2. A letter sent from Peter Ashman and David Geer to the UK government, which has replied in a nasty way just by referring to the answer to John Clark (this answer is enclosed).

3. HACH has received an answer from the Swiss government (enclosed).

4. After a long correspondence The Action Secretariat has had a meeting with the German delegation (minutes from Alexandra are enclosed).

5. Another meeting with the Norwegian government has been scheduled.

Do not forget that though we might not get the actual text inserted in the final document the process is very important - and no matter what we already have succeeded in putting ourselves on the agenda!

C. EC-matters

- 1) **The EC-funded report on lesbians and gay men within the community.**
Should we (Stonewall?) try to raise EC-money for the study-conference in Barcelona following the report?
- 2) **A code of Practice on measures to combat sexual harassment.**
The recommendation is issued by the Commission - and not as wrongly claimed in EC letter no 1 by the Council of Ministers.
- 3) **Lesbian visibility project.**
Still no final confirmation from EC.
- 4) **The resolution in the European Parliament on gay men and lesbians.**
The draft resolution has been rejected from the Parliaments legal committee and transferred to a newly established committee on civil liberties and internal affairs.
- 5) **The definition of the concept of family.**
No news.
- 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.
- 9) **The Citizens Charter.**
The European Parliament adopted a resolution on 15 January 1992 asking the Commission, when it implements cooperation agreements, to see that the signatory states respect human rights and international agreements.
- 10) **Further funding possibilities for ILGA projects.**
A list of EC budgetary lines of interest to NGOs is enclosed. The first A 3030 might be of special interest for us. There ought be to possibilities for ILGA to get some money from that. Will Financial Secretariat look into that?
- 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.**
No news and no response to the question in EURO LETTER no 1:

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.**
LBL (and COC) are members of ECAS (European Citizens Actions Service) and information received through this channel will be distributed to you.
- 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**
No news.
- 25) **The hiv and aids field.**
No news.
- 26) **Internal organisation of the working party.**
Please send correct contact addresses, telephone and fax numbers to us.

Med k rlig hilsen

Steffen Jensen