

12. April 1992

**E U R O - L E T T E R   n o .   4**  
(CoE/CSCE letter no 14 and EC-letter no 5)

A. Council of Europe Business

- 1)    **Additional protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights.**  
Ole Espersen has reported that he is still working on the proposed protocol.  
LBL will send letters to ICJ and AI to ask for their continuing support.  
Peter Ashman has proposed that we approach the International Federation of Human Rights in Paris.  
LBL will do that as well.
- 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.  
Action Secretariat has promised to make a phone call to Isabelle Jaques to enquire about a reply.
- 4)    **Council of Europe model aids legislation**  
Still no news.
- 5)    **News from Europe**
  - a) The lower house of the Isle of Man parliament Tynewald has repealed the criminalisation of male homosexuality. It now goes to the upper house for a final vote, but its repeal is all but sure.
  - b) The European Commission of Human Rights has come to a conclusion in the Alecos Modinos case. It states that Cyprus violated Article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights (report enclosed). The case will now be heard by the European Court of Human Rights in October, 1992.
  - c) The Netherlands has passed an anti-discrimination law.

d) It has now been confirmed that Ukraine has repealed its ban on homosexuality!

e) Latvia also repealed its ban on homosexuality on March 1!!

## **B. The CSCE - CHD process**

As mentioned in Euro-letter No. 3, the Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg in his initial speech to the CSCE meeting in Helsinki raised the question of a person's right to live in accordance with his/her sexual orientation.

The Finnish organization SETA hosted the parallel activity on Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Rights in New Europe. The meeting sent the enclosed "Helsinki Appeal" to all of the delegations.

Several members of the ILGA Working Party attended the parallel activity. Before, during, and after the parallel activity, several delegations were lobbied.

It is as yet unclear whether an actual proposal for the Final Document will be forwarded, but it is clear that there is widespread support amongst the delegations.

The meetings with the delegations gave birth to a slightly altered strategy. Our first aim should be to get an appendix passed to the Moscow Document on Human Rights. If that is not possible, we should try to make the Helsinki meeting recommend to the next Conference on the Human Dimension that the issue be brought up.

On June 11-12, the CSCE will have workshops on tolerance and non-discrimination. ILGA will try to be present.

A full report on our lobbying efforts will be given in the next ILGA Bulletin.

You are all kindly requested to put pressure on your government to ensure support. If anyone would like suggestions on lobbying your governments, good ideas can be obtained from John Clark (home: +43 1 602 4056, work: +43 22 36 71521240), Wolfgang Hülsmann (home: +49 221 730504), or Alexandra Duda (home: +49 211 412719, work: +49 211 458 6244).

If anyone would like to get the names of delegates of the Helsinki meeting, they can be obtained from the persons listed above or from LBL.

Furthermore, COC, Netherlands, and Lambda Krakow, Poland have been in contact with their governments (see letter from Jerzy Krzyszpian enclosed).

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

- 1) **The EC-funded report on lesbians and gay men within the community.**  
Stonewall has agreed to try to raise EC-money for the study-conference in Barcelona following the report.
- 3) **Lesbian visibility project.**  
Still no final confirmation from EC.
- 4) **The resolution in the European Parliament on gay men and lesbians.**  
No news.
- 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.**  
The possibilities for ILGA to get some money from A 3030 will probably be much greater when the study is finished.
- 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).**  
We have learned from the EC Commission that the EC has denied an employee within the EC registered under the Danish partnership law the same pay that a married person receives. LBL is trying to find out who that person is and will try to raise this question within the European Parliament.
- 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 is working on a draft to be considered by the working party before Paris.
- 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

Torry Kjeldsen

Peter Bryld

and temporary coeditors:

Wolfgang H lsmann, Jeffrey Stanton (secretary) and  
Heiko Jessen