

1. June 1992

E U R O - L E T T E R n o . 5
(CoE/CSCE letter no 15 and EC-letter no 6)

A. Council of Europe Business

- 1) **Additional protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights.**
The LBL is still working on a letter to Amnesty International, The International Commission of Jurists, and The International Federation of Human Rights in order to obtain their support.
- 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**
Only a little progress has been made since the last Euroletter, cf. the attached letter from Alexandra Duda.
The LBL will contact Ole Espersen in accordance with Alexandra.
- 4) **Council of Europe model aids legislation**
Still no news.
- 5) **News from Europe**
Alexandra from the Action Secretariat has made a short survey over the legal situation for homosexuals in Europe. It is enclosed for your information and further use.

Alexandra has also made a short summary of some articles she has found in a newspaper from The Parliamentary Assembly of The Council of Europe. Her summaries are enclosed.

The working party wishes to thank Alexandra for her efficient and valuable contribution.

Tobias Wikström from RFSL Sweden has drawn our attention to the fact that the CoE member states apparently have elected representatives to The

Parliamentary Assembly. RFSL has approached all the Swedish members of the Assembly. You are all requested to do the same.

B. The CSCE - CHD process

Following the last Euroletter a summary of the Helsinki Meeting has been send out from the information Secretariat. It is enclosed for your information.

From the CSCE summit in Helsinki a newsletter is distributed. The second issue contained an proposal of a CSCE high commissioner for minorities and article about the rising profile of NGO's. They are both enclosed for your information.

Furthermore we enclose a diagram of the CSCE events since the beginning of the CSCE process in 1972.

John Clark has send a letter to all the delegates of the CSCE countries, who were approached during the parallel activity in Helsinki. The letter is enclosed.

During the week from the 2nd to the 14th of June meetings will be held in the workshop dealing with "tolerance". Kurt Krickler and Alexandra Duda will be present in Helsinki at that time lobbying on behalf of ILGA.

C. EC Businesses

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

It seems as if the report will be a little delayed compared with the first expectations, so that it cannot be dealt with at the ILGA Paris meeting, but a report will be given. This also means that a draft resolution to The European Parliament must be postponed to the European ILGA meeting in Brussels next Christmas.

The proposed Study Conference to be held in Spain in October has now been organized to take place in Sitges near Barcelona from the 16th to 18th October 1992. Like it was the case at the Copenhagen Study Conference on the expansion of the European Convention on Human Rights there is a limitation on the number of participants up to 30 persons.

We suggest that participants in the study conference are chosen in accordance with the following:

1. Representatives of the ILGA EC working party, primarily from EC member states and candidate member states (up to two representatives from EC member states and one from candidate member states).

2. The coordinator of the report, link-person to the European Commission and members of the coordinating groups.

Please sent your comments to this proposed invitation-list to us before July the 1st. Immediately after that date we will ask the organizing group CIG to sent out invitations.

- 3) **Lesbian visibility project.**
Still no final confirmation from EC.
- 4) **The resolution in the European Parliament on gay men and lesbians.**
The official English edition of the resolution is enclosed for your information.
- 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. A reminder will be send.
- 9) **The Citizens Charter.**
No news.
- 10) **Further funding possibilities for ILGA projects.**
The LBL has contacted one of the Danish MEP's in order to investigate into the possibilities of getting EC funding to both ILGA's and national organization's human rights work. And he has reported back that questions has been put to the Commission.
- 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.**

Whether this item should remain on the list will be discussed in Paris!

- 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.

A Danish MEP has promised to raise the question with the Commission.
- 14) **Anti-discrimination resolution in Parliament.**
Will wait until after the report - see no. 1. Will be discussed at the Brussels meeting.
- 15) **Model briefing document.**
Since only one member of the working party has responded to this item, it will be discussed in Paris whether it should remain on the list or not.
- 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?**
The remaining of this item of the list will be discussed in Paris.
- 20) **Contact with "social partners".**
No news from GLEN.

The LBL has got a letter from NALGO (National Lesbian and Gay Steering Committee of a British public sector trade union - through a Danish MEP), and we have invited NALGO to inform the working party of its initiatives towards the EC.
- 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 be discussed in Paris.

- 23) **Preparation of a resolution for the Paris Annual Conference of ILGA.**
See number 1).
- 25) **The HIV and AIDS field.**
The ILGA involvement will be discussed in Paris and at the 7th International AIDS Meeting in Amsterdam just after the annual ILGA meeting.
- 26) **Internal organisation of the working party.**
Please send correct contact addresses, telephone and fax numbers to us.

For your information a list of the members of the newly established Committee on Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs is enclosed.

Tomorrow the Danes will decide at a referendum whether Denmark will ratify the Maastricht agreement or not, so this might be the last Euroletter from the Sovereign State of Denmark.

See you all in EUROPE (union or not!).

Med k rlig hilsen

Steffen Jensen

Torry Kjeldsen

Peter Bryld