

26. June 1992

E U R O - L E T T E R n o . 6
(CoE/CSCE letter no 16 and EC-letter no 7)

A. Council of Europe Business

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

LBL has sent letters to Amnesty International, The International Commission of Jurists, and The International Federation of Human Rights in order to obtain their support as well in regard to the additional protocol as in regard to ILGAs NGO status. Copies of the letters are enclosed.

RFSL, Sweden, has had meeting with two delegates to the Parliamentary Assembly to inform them about our attempts.

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

No further news.

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

LBL has contacted Ole Espersen asking for information about the status of the work.

4) **Council of Europe model aids legislation**

After it has been expected that The Standing Committee on Human Rights would initiate a study on how to combat health related discrimination in general, it was decided in October 1991 that the study should only deal with aids/hiv related discrimination. The Swiss Institute of Comparative Law has been asked to carry out the study, and the report is due to come out this autumn.

The contact person in the institute is Anne-Sophie Rieben, Swiss Institute of Comparative Law, Dorigny, CH-1015 Lausanne; tel. + 41 21 692 4311, fax. + 41 21 692 4343.

5) **News from Europe**

Kees Waldijk has pointed out that one small correction should be made to Alexandra Duda's very useful survey over the legal situation for homosexuals in

Europe: Page 3, point 5: Dutch provinces should be Dutch local authorities.

Furthermore Kees asks if anyone know about the legal situation in Greece as far as age of consent is concerned. A Greek lawyer has claimed that the age of consent is higher for gay (male) sex than for lesbian and hetero sex. Is that right? According to Iceberg the age of consent should be equalised in 1987.

A list of recent human rights publications from The Council of Europe is enclosed for your information.

We can recommend you to read page 15 of Capital Gay from June 15th 1992!

Not a word about Maastricht referendum in Denmark - nor about football.

B. The CSCE - CHD process

During the week from the 7th to the 14th of June meetings were held in the workgroup dealing with "tolerance" (WG3). Kurt Krickler, Alexandra Duda, Jukka Lehtonen and Mika Torvinen were present in Helsinki at that time lobbying on behalf of ILGA and doing a hell of a job - with a tremendous success!

They have met with delegates from the following countries: Austria, Finland, Georgia, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Norway, Rumania, Spain, Slovenia, Switzerland, Ukraine, Germany, Canada, US and Belarus.

In the WG3 Norway and Canada has brought up the issue of discrimination based on sexual orientation and were supported by a number of countries. It seems, however, that there will be no consensus on a non-discrimination approach to the issue, but the Canadians have proposed a ("tolerance")text against racial, ethnic and religious discrimination - and it looks for the time being as if it should be possible to include sexual orientation in this text in one way the other.

Two summary papers from Alexandra are enclosed for further information. Furthermore a page from no 3 of "CSCE Helsinki '92" is enclosed together with a paper on potential NGO contribution to and status with the CSCE from The University of Essex. This paper gives a good background on the UN and CoE NGO-status as well.

Amnesty International has produced a paper "Human Rights in the new Europe: The CSCE in search of a

role". We have got it from the Danish AI, but it is 18 pages long, so we will not copy it for you, but it is most likely available from your national AI.

The final document from the Helsinki meeting will be drafted from 22nd June till 3rd July and the concluding summit will be held 9th - 10th July.

C. EC Businesses

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

Kees Waldijk has proposed that an initial discussion on the content of a resolution from the European Parliament is discussed in Paris so that the authors of the report can take that discussion in consideration when finalising the report and the recommendations.

The 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 (dates are final).

To the proposed invitations list in Euroletter no. 5 we will add some outside experts. The final list will be discussed in Paris, so that the organizers can send out invitations just after Paris.

- 3) **Lesbian visibility project.**
Still no final confirmation from EC.
- 4) **The resolution in the European Parliament on recognition of the Danish partnership law.**
The official English edition of the resolution was enclosed in Euroletter no. 5.
- 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. No further news.
- 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).**
No answer yet from the Danish MEP.
- 14) **Anti-discrimination resolution in Parliament.**
(This is the common antidiscrimination resolution that was discussed at the Copenhagen Study Conference). Will wait until after the report - and will be included in the resolution following the report.
- 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.
No answer from NALGO as yet to our letter.
- 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 8th 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.
Kees Waldijk has changed telephone numbers at his Maastricht job: 31 43 883231 / 31 43 883126.
Aart Hendriks is best to be contacted at his home address: Groenesteg 31, NL-2312 TK Leiden, tel. + 31 71 144 702.

Med k rlig hilsen

Steffen Jensen

Torry Kjeldsen

Peter Bryld