

19 August 1992

E U R O - L E T T E R n o . 8

Message from glf Cologne:

"The newly elected ILGA Action Back-up Secretariat, glf Cologne, which is at the same time member of the CoE/CSCE working party, has redefined some of its former tasks. We are now compiling mailing lists that will be used for sending out information on ILGA and IGLHRC actions. We have repeatedly been told by politicians that they need specific cases of discrimination for action. It is our working party that might have the most valuable sources in the human rights field.

Please send addresses of contacts you consider appropriate to glf Cologne:

- Human rights organisations
- CSCE, CoE and UN contacts
- Gay and lesbian organisations working in the human rights field
- local politicians
- gay/lesbian and straight press
- any other."

One remark to the message: Sometimes it is more appropriate that information is sent by a national group, but general information can of course be sent out centrally.

As Torry Kjeldsen has moved to Århus to study the LBL Euro coordinating group has been changed; Ken Egelund Thomassen replace Torry - but Torry will still be around.

A. Council of Europe Business

- 1) **Additional protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights (prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation).**

A resolution urging adoption of the protocol (enclosed) has been forward in the Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE, but seems to be stuck in the legal committee of the Parliamentary Assembly. It was agreed in Paris that the resolution and the protocol need to be revived and that the groups in the CoE working party should contact their national members of the Parliamentary Assembly who are in the legal

committee (a list of the members is included in this Euroletter). The LBL will once again contact Ole Espersen in order to promote the resolution.

- 2) **NGO status of ILGA to the Council of Europe**
It was agreed in Paris that the CoE working party groups should contact their national members of the Parliamentary Assembly about this (see detailed information in Euroletter no. 7).
- 3) **Lesbian and gay rights in Central- and Eastern European countries applying for membership of the Council of Europe**
It was agreed in Paris that national members of the Parliamentary Assembly should be informed of the laws in Eastern Europe. An updated version of Alexandra Dudas survey is enclosed.
- 4) **Council of Europe model aids legislation**
No further news.
- 5) **News from Europe**
It was agreed in Paris that groups in the CoE working party should send information regarding the Irish government's decision to delay further a change in Irish law to comply with Norris to their national members of the Parliamentary Assembly and should contact their foreign ministers to put pressure on Ireland, and on UK to change the law in Gibraltar.

The Danish foreign ministry has been approached, but has not answered yet.

The Nordic prime minister has had a meeting with the Baltic prime ministers this week and the Nordic organisations has tried to make their prime ministers to take up the question of human rights - and especially the gay/lesbian issue. The Danish prime minister has promised to raise the human rights question.

B. The CSCE - CHD process

It was agreed in Paris that working party groups should contact their governments to make sure ILGA is invited to the tolerance workshop in Warsaw.

The workshop should be held before the end of 1992, but we have not yet got any further information. We have contacted the Danish Foreign Ministry, but they do not know anything yet.

A letter from Kurt Krickler is enclosed. It contains two good ideas for steps to be taken by the working party. For these purposes a presentation of lesbian and gay rights is needed. Will Kurt and John make

such a presentation? For inspiration we enclose a presentation by Douglas Sanders to the UN Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities given a few days ago in Geneva.

Some pages from the magazine "CSCE Helsinki '92" are enclosed for your information.

Pages 27-28 and 42-48 of the final document from the Helsinki summit are enclosed. The full text of the document can be obtained from your foreign ministry.

C. EC Businesses

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

The report will be ready for Sitges.

- 2) **The Sitges study conference on the report**

The members of the working party received together with Euroletter no 7 a registration formula for nominations of participants to be sent to

CG-L
C/. Carolines 13
Entresol 2a
E-08012 Barcelona

before September the 20th 1992.

Participants will receive detailed information directly from CG-L in due time.

Peter Ashman has drafted an agenda for the meeting. The agenda is enclosed.

- 3) **Lesbian visibility project.**

Still no final confirmation from EC.

- 4) **The resolution in the European Parliament on recognition of the Danish partnership law.**

No news.

- 5) **Motion for a resolution in the European Parliament on gay marriage**

No news.

The rest of the EC working party items will be postponed until after Sitges.

Med k rlig hilsen

Steffen Jensen

Peter Bryld

Ken Egelund Thomassen