

30 September 1992

E U R O - L E T T E R n o . 9

Main news in this letter:

New CoE attitude to ILGAS NGO status on its way.

CSCE seminar on tolerance in Warsaw 16-20 November with NGO participation.

EC money (40.000 ECU) to the Lesbian Visibility project of LBL, Denmark.

A. Council of Europe Business

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

We have received information that members of the CoE Parliamentary Assembly from Germany, Austria, Sweden and Denmark have been approached by members of the CoE working party.

Furthermore Alexandra Duda has sent a letter to the secretariat of the legal committee. The letter is enclosed.

We have again been in contact with Ole Espersen who is the rapporteur on the resolution in the legal committee. Things seem to be delayed because mr Espersen has had the expression that the word "sex" in the European Convention of Human Rights could be interpreted to cover also sexual orientation. We have re-informed him about the history! and send him detailed information.

As mentioned in Euroletter no. 6 we have send letters to among others Amnesty International in order to obtain their support in our efforts towards the CoE. AI has answered twice! The letters are enclosed. It seems something has happened between the two letters! We will of course answer the second letter.

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

Ole Espersen has informed us that the question of NGO status of ILGA has been raised again and the secretariat has promised to make a new recommendation.

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

Kurt Krickler has sent some additional remarks to the survey of lesbian and gay rights in Europe. The letter (in German) is enclosed. In this connection we can add that Iceland has repealed all its anti homosexual laws by July 1st 1992. It might interest you to know that The Faroe Islands has not adopted the Danish age of consent, nor the antidiscrimination law nor the partnership law!

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

No further news.

5) **News from Europe**

Neither news about nor responses to the contacts to foreign ministers about Ireland and Gibraltar.

Alexandra has sent copies from a booklet about the structure of the Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE. The copies are enclosed.

An international colloquium on human rights will be held in La Laguna 1 - 4 November 1992. Registration form is enclosed (though the date of registration is today!) in case someone would be interested to go there.

B. The CSCE - CHD process

The CSCE seminar on tolerance will be held in Warsaw November 16 - 20 1992 with NGO participation. We have received information about the agenda and other modalities from the Danish foreign ministry. The information is enclosed.

Kurt Krickler and John Clark are preparing the document mentioned in Euroletter no. 8 - and hopefully ILGA will be present at the seminar by one or both of them.

Note that the participating states are encouraged to pay the travel expenses for NGO participants.

Furthermore notes from a meeting with the German foreign ministry are enclosed.

C. EC Businesses

- 1) **The EC-funded report on lesbians and gay men within the community.**
The report will be ready for Sitges - we hope.
- 2) **The Sitges study conference on the report**
An updated agenda for the meeting is enclosed.
- 3) **Lesbian visibility project.**
LBL has received confirmation from EC that we will get 40.000 ECU to the ILGA Lesbian Visibility Project! The project is expected to start December 1992 and run for one year.
- 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.
- 6) The Information secretariat has initiated an attempt to get EC money (from the PHARE programme - promoting democracy in the central and eastern Europe) for a joint project to support gay/lesbian groups in central and eastern Europe.

Med k rlig hilsen

Steffen Jensen

Peter Bryld

Ken Egelund Thomassen