

EURO-LETTER

no. 16

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THE NATIONAL DANISH ORGANISATION FOR GAYS AND LESBIANS
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A. Council of Europe Business

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

No news, but HACH of Switzerland has now joined our efforts to persuade members of the Parliamentary Assembly that it has a task toward gays and lesbians.

NGO status of ILGA to the Council of Europe

No news!

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

Scott Long has sent two reports about the situation in Rumania, they are enclosed together with a call for action from the Swedish Amnesty section.

As mentioned in EUROLETTER no. 15 we have got a report from Geir Hagland of FHILA about the situation for gay men and lesbians in the Baltic countries. Geir has now sent a translation of the report into English. The report is enclosed.

Lithuania, Estonia and Slovenia have just been accepted as members of the Council of Europe on the 14th of May.

News from Europe

Alexander Modinos has won his case against Cyprus at the European Court of Human Rights in Strassbourg! Congratulations!!

Two list are enclosed: An update of Alexandra Dudas Comparison of the Legal Situation for Homosexuals in Europe and a list of members of the Committee of Legal Affairs of the Parliamentarian Assembly of the Council of Europe.

Austria is now chairman of the Council of Europe and has planned a human rights summit next October in Vienna. Our input to that summit will be discussed in Barcelona.

B. The CSCE - CHD process

CSCE seminar on migration in Warsaw 19-23 April 1993

As mentioned in EUROLETTER no. 14 the LBL has produced an information package to the Danish delegation (in Danish) - but we did not participate in the seminar and we have not got any report back from the Danish delegation yet.

CSCE seminar on minorities in Warsaw 24-28 May 1993

It has been confirmed that this seminar will only deal with national minorities - so there is no sense in ILGAs participation.

CSCE Bulletin

The CSCE office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in Warsaw has started publishing a periodical "CSCE Bulletin" - and thank to the Danish foreign ministry we will receive it. In the first volume an article about NGOs and the Human Dimension of the CSCE is published. A copy of that is enclosed for your information.

C. EC Businesses

Denmarkification of the EC!

As you all might know now, a majority of Danes voted YES to the Maastricht Treaty as "amended" by the Edinburgh Decision at a referendum on May the 18th. Furthermore the LBL at its annual meeting has decided to allow active work towards the European Union as far as civil rights are concerned.

The EC Bureau

The members of the EC Bureau are:

Micha Ramakers

Peter Ashman

David Geer

Susie Jolly

Hein Verkerk

Wouter Wils

Mikkel Emborg

Unless somebody protests we will consider those approved by the working party as the ILGA EC Bureau.

Minutes from the bureau meeting of the 28th April are enclosed.

The report "Homosexuality - A European Community Issue" and the launch of it.

As mentioned in the minutes the launch in Bruxelles was successful. We had hoped to be able to launch the report in Copenhagen in the week that was agreed on at the Bruxelles meeting of ILGA in December. But as we did not get the report until the 12th May this was not possible. A launch with a press conference after the Danish referendum would be quite impossible as far as press coverage is concerned. So we decided to send out a press release together with the book to the main Danish newspapers.

We have not got any information from other EC countries about the launch.

Draft report of the EP Committee on Civil Liberties and Equal Treatment of Lesbians and Gays in the EC

A first draft of the Roth report are enclosed together with a letter including further information from Hein Verkerk.

The ILGA Asylum seekers Information Pool (LBL, Denmark) has produced a paper about Gay and Lesbian Asylum Seekers to be used for the further work on the Roth report in EP. The paper is enclosed.

The English MEP Mel Read has produced a paper about Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Rights in Europe (enclosed).

The ECAS-seminar on discrimination

No further news.

D. Editorial

As Peter Bryld has got a job as a librarian in Nakskov, which is situated in the most distant outskirts of Denmark, he is only occasionally member of the editorial board of the EUROLETTER. But he will happily still be around.