

# EURO-LETTER

no. 20

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The Euroletter is published by the Eurosecretariat of  
THE NATIONAL DANISH ORGANISATION FOR GAYS AND LESBIANS  
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## A. Council of Europe

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

No news!

*NGO status of ILGA to the Council of Europe*

An application has been prepared and will be sent off by Hans Hjerpekjøn soon emphasizing the NGO status with the UN.

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

### *1. Romania*

We have received information that letter 1 to the council of Europe about Romania (see Euroletter 18) has been sent to representatives from Denmark, Iceland, Sweden, Lithuania, Malta, Turkey, Austria, Bulgaria, Poland, Hungary, Finland, Estonia, Portugal, Ireland, Switzerland and Liechtenstein. We have not received information from the rest of the CoE working Party.

*Letter 2:* A protest letter from SIRDO and the Helsinki Committee (from Rumania). The letter should have been faxed or sent from Rumania to LBL for further distribution, but in spite several reminders, we have not received this letter.

The Parliamentary Assembly has decided to recommend to the Committee of Ministers to adopt Romania as member of the Council of Europe, see the enclosed draft opinion. BUT two amendments dealing with homosexuality (no. 7 and 8, enclosed) were past.

The next step was then for the Committee of Ministers to adopt Romania - and this has already happened, so Romania is now member of the Council of Europe.

It would be a good idea to write to the foreign minister of the member states to protest against this decision. The addresses of the ministers are enclosed.

We have had a great success in putting homosexuality on the agenda of the Council as far as the application from Romania is concerned.

## **2. Ukraine**

As a side effect of the Romania campaign a Hungarian member of the Parliamentarian Assembly who is one of the rapporteurs of Ukraine has contacted HOSI Wien for information about the situation in Ukraine.

Anyone who has relevant information, please send it to:

Mr. Csaba Tabajdi  
MP, Socialist Party  
Magyar Köztársaság Országgyűlése  
Kossuth Lajos tér 1-3  
H-1055 Budapest  
Hungary

## **3. Lithuania**

Rumours have arrived that Lithuania has not repelled the ban on male homosexuality. It is said the Parliament has passed a plan to change the penal code, but not actually done it. The idea should have been to please the Council of Europe and not to upset the Pope! We have asked a person in Lithuania who has written to the LBL for information whether he can confirm the fate of the article 122.

### ***Draft European Convention on the Rights of the Child***

A summary of the survey of international instruments of the council of Europe dealing specifically with family laws that was mentioned in Euroletter 18 is enclosed.

### ***Draft European Convention on the Equality between Men and Women***

It was decided in Bruxelles that the working party should monitor this work. Who will do that?

### ***The CoE HIV and Aids policy***

The report from the Swiss Institute is expected to be publish in a short time.

### ***Other European issues***

An EC press release on the summit of the Council of Europe is enclosed

## **B. The CSCE - CHD process**

### ***The implementation meeting on Human Dimension issues; Warsaw 27 Sept. - 15 Oct.***

The secretary general Hans Hjerpekjön and Kurt Krickler took part in the final part of the meeting. Their report will be included in the next Euro Letter.

The Danish foreign ministry has sent us the statements of Denmark, Norway and The Netherlands at the meeting. They all mentioned homosexuality in a positive way (enclosed). Do not forget to thank the ministries - even though the attitude is expected.

### ***The Human Dimension seminar on Free Media 2 November - 5 November 1993***

The agenda and timetable are enclosed. Will anyone participate?

## **C. The European Community**

### ***Draft report of the EP Committee on Civil Liberties and Equal Treatment of Lesbians and Gays in the EC (The Roth report)***

The report is scheduled to be dealt with in the European Parliament in February 1994, and that is dangerously late, because if many amendments are tabled in the plenary the report will be referred back to the committee - and that will in practice mean to the next Parliament, which composition of course is unknown.

### ***Green paper on the future of European social policy***

In a very short time a green paper on this will be released from the Commission and for your information the request from commissioner Flynn is enclosed.

### ***Maastricht has been ratified in all member states!***

For your information charts of the decision procedures of the EC (the traditional, the cooperation procedure and the co-decision procedure) are enclosed.

## **D. Editorial**

As the costs of copying and sending the Euroletter are increasing and the financial situation of the LBL is extremely problematic, we have kindly asked the members of the two working parties to cover some of the expenses of LBL in publishing the Euro Letter.

### ***E-mail***

As the possibilities of e-mail are increasing, please inform us if you have an e-mail address.