

# EURO-LETTER

no. 22

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

The minutes from the CoE/CSCE workshop at the European Regional Meeting of ILGA London December 1993 are enclosed.

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

It was decided that the working party should write to the ten members of the Parliamentary Assembly, who originally put forward the recommendation (as far as they still are members of the Assembly) asking them what is going on with the proposal. The member organization that should write is indicated in brackets:

The ten members were:

Denmark: Inger Harms, Bjørn Elmquist (LBL)

Norway: Inger Lise Gjørsv (LLH)

Spain: Miquelge Martinez (C G-L)

Switzerland: Peter Sager (HACH)

Germany: Carl Ahrens (Iglf)

The Netherlands: Veerbeek, Tummers (COC)

France: Bassinet (Jonathan & David)

Belgium: Noerens (ILGA Admin. Office)

### *NGO status of ILGA to the Council of Europe*

It was decided at the London meeting that the application should be postponed until after the solution of the UN/NAMBLA problem at ILGAs annual meeting in New York this summer. The new rules for NGO's within the CoE are enclosed for your information.

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

#### **1. Romania**

Replies have been received from Swedish and Danish members of the Parliamentary Assembly confirming that they will monitor Romania's change in its laws and referring to the Hallonen resolution (see Euroletter no 21).

Opinion no 176 about Romania's membership of the CoE is enclosed.

Kurt Krickler has participated in a seminar in Bucharest and his report is enclosed.

Amnesty has taken up three Romanian cases - see enclosed letter from GLEN - and a German court has granted a gay Romanian asylum in Germany because of his homosexuality using ILGA documentation.

The vice secretary general of the Council of Europe - Peter Leuprecht - has sent a letter to HOSI Wien (enclosed in German) telling that the Finish member Jansson is preparing a report on Romania in March 1994.

Copies of letters about Romania should be sent to the three organizations mentioned in the minutes.

## **2. Albania, Moldova and Belarus**

It was decided at the London meeting that the "Romania - mechanism" should be used on these three countries. Albania is the first in line for membership - and more detailed information about the legal situation will be given as soon as Peter Ashman has provided Alexandra Duda with it. A list of the rapporteurs on the three countries is enclosed.

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

Peter Ashman will follow these and report back to the Euroletter

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

It has been confirmed that Lithuania has repealed its sodomy laws.

A new updated version of Alexandra Dudas "Comparative Survey of the Legal and Social Situation of Homosexuals in Europe" is enclosed.

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

No news.

## **C. The European Union**

### ***The Roth report***

The draft report with recommendations and explanatory statement is enclosed together with the proposed amendments from the committee.

The report is supposed to be discussed in the committee at the January 24-25 meeting and in the European Parliament at the meeting in Strassbourg 7-11 February 1994.

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

The green paper was published on November the 15th 1993, but the EC Bureau has not yet sent us any information on the report.

### *Non discrimination policy inside the EU institutions*

#### **European Parliament decides on non discrimination measures for gays and lesbians.**

Friday November 19th the European parliament amended a proposal of the European Commission on equal treatment of female officials of the European Institutions and other personnel.

The Parliament explicitly added sexual orientation, health status and handicaps as qualities that are not allowed grounds for discrimination in the European Communities staff policies.

The Commission proposal is a - rather late - implementation of the directives on equal treatment. Commissioner *Padraig Flynn* stated that the Commission was pleased with this addition as far as it refers to sexual orientation.

"In order to avoid any misunderstanding I should say that the Commission sets its face clearly against any discrimination in so far as recruitment or career development are concerned. The Commission does not however intend to make a proposal at this stage to deal with what might be called family rights embodied in the Staff Regulations. He added however that with regards to the other elements (health status and handicaps) that " the Commission unfortunately cannot accept a blanket reference to non-discrimination with regard to health or handicap. But the Commission will continue the work towards the most open policy possible,"

By adopting this non-discrimination clause for the staff of the European Institutions the Parliament took over one of the recommendations of the research project "Homosexuality a Community issue", published earlier this year.

In some months the European Parliament will deal with a report on the equal treatment of gays and lesbians in the European Community as a whole, prepared by Claudia Roth, German Green MEP.

Report made by: GroenLinks in the EG, Hein Verkerk Press Officer.

#### ***Vote Pink Campaign***

At the London meeting the following resolution was passed:

1. That the European Region of ILGA will run a Vota Rosa campaign for the European Parliament elections in June 1994, to be coordinated by Coordinora Gai-Lesbiana of Catalonia and including posters (and possibly stickers) with the following text in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish:

Europe June 1994

Vote Pink for Equality

(pink triangle symbol inside EC stars)

Vote for candidates/parties supporting equal rights for lesbians and gays.

International Lesbian and Gay Association + Brussels address

(Space for member organization to print own information, message and/or address).

2. That the European Region of ILGA will circulate a questionnaire among candidates and parties in the European Parliament Elections in June 1994, to be drafted and distributed among ILGA members by ILGA's EC Bureau in Brussels.

### ***Lesbian Visibility***

The report is now finished and sent to the EU Commission. A lesbian group in Germany has promised to print and distribute the report for free. A copy can be obtained (in March) - just sent name and address to the Womens Secretariat c/o LBL Denmark.

The recommendations and suggestions for further study from the report are enclosed in this Euro-letter.

### ***PHARE application***

It seems possible that a new ILGA application to the EU PHARE programme on Eastern Europe will be met by a grant of a considerable size.

It was decided at the London meeting that ILGA should act as one contractor in the application. 6 Eastern European groups and three Western European groups were interested in taking part in a project.

The EC bureau will draft an application (to be discussed within the Secretariats Committee) and try to get a co-sponsorship from WHO.

### ***Another Sitges seminar?***

It has been proposed by the EC Bureau and C G-L that we should have another Sitges seminar to discuss the further work towards the EU after the results of the upcoming elections and in the light of the three reports: "Homosexuality - A European Community Issue", The EP's Roth report and the Lesbian Visibility report.

It is proposed that the seminar will take place in October 1994.

Reactions to this proposal should be sent to the Euro Letter.

## **D. European non-discrimination campaign**

At the London meeting the following recommendation was passed:

*"That ILGA European Working Parties approach the Commission of The European Union and The Council of Europe to foster a general Anti-Discrimination Campaign on the model of the Spanish campaign. Stressing among other things the issue of race, disability, minority ethnic communities, hiv status, lesbian and gay rights and sexual orientation."*

So, we have got a new task - and it is not an easy one. Certainly we cannot undertake the task of initiate such a campaign (which was stressed at the plenary meeting). In our opinion we can refer the Commission (some relevant DG) and the Council of Europe (the secretariat) to the Spanish campaign telling them that a common European campaign would be a good idea.

Since Chris Robson from GLEN advocated the resolution, we propose that GLEN undertakes the task of finding out which is the relevant DG and draft a letter for discussion via the Euroletter.

## **E. E-mail**

Up till now we have obtained information about these e-mail addresses:

Mika Torvinen	micke@seta.fi
Jukka Lehtonen	jukka@seta.fi
Hannelee Lehtikuusi	haski@seta.fi
SETA office	bureau@seta.fi
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## **Annexes**

1. Minutes from the CSCE and CoE workshop in London (3 pages)
2. CoE resolution on NGO's (93)38 (8 pages)
3. CoE opinion no. 176 on Romania's membership (3 pages)
4. Report from Kurt Krickler (2 pages)
5. Amnesty call for action (1 page)
6. Letter from Peter Leuprecht (2 pages)
7. List of rapporteurs about Albania, Moldova and Belarus (1 page)
8. Comparative Survey of the Legal and Social Situation (6 pages)
9. Roth report part A (draft resolution) (5 pages)
10. Roth report part B (explanatory statement) (5 pages)
11. Proposed amendments to the Roth report (6 pages)
12. Recommendations from the Lesbian Visibility report (4 pages)