

EURO-LETTER

no. 23

20 February 1994

The Euroletter is published by the Eurosecretariat of
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A. Council of Europe

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

It was decided at the ILGA London meeting that the working party should write to the ten members of the Parliamentarian 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. In Euroletter 22 groups were appointed to do that, but we have not received any information about any contact.

NGO status of ILGA to the Council of Europe

Postponed, cf. Euroletter 22

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

1. Romania

The situation is still not clarified. The proposal from the Juridical Committee has not been endorsed by the parliament, but it seems as if the parliament will pass a change of the law which will mean that homosexual activities causing "public scandal" will be an offense. See the attached annexes: Two press releases from IGLHRF and faxes from Scott Long and Alexandra Duda.

In the Halonen resolution a time limit of six months was set, and in February or March the Council of Europe will monitor the laws of Rumania. Please follow the suggestion from Alexandra Duda in her fax of 17 February 1994.

In a letter to LBL Ole Espersens has told that he has risen the question at a meeting in the Political Committee in such a way that the Romanian representative left the meeting!

The Danish foreign minister has expressed his support. But he also writes to us that he has received a letter from ILGA about the same issue. Who has written to the Danish minister of Foreign Affairs without informing us?? It is essential that our efforts are coordinated, and the whole idea with this Euroletter is that actions must be coordinated.

2. Albania, Moldova and Belarus

It was decided at the London meeting that the "Romania - mechanism" should be used on these three countries. Further information from Alexandra Duda 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It has been confirmed that Lithuania has repealed its sodomy laws, see the attached letter from the Lithuanian foreign ministry.

B. The CSCE - CHD process

No news.

C. The European Union

The Resolution on equal rights for homosexuals and lesbians in the EC

The final (Roth) report with recommended resolution together with the decision of the Parliament.

This resolution marks an important step forward. The EC bureau will produce a brief article for the Euroletter about the discussions in the Parliament, but we have not received it yet.

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.

Vote Pink Campaign

See ILGA London meeting resolution in Euroletter 22. No further progress has been reported.

PHARE application

The EC bureau will draft an application (to be discussed within the Secretariats Committee) and try to get a co-sponsorship from WHO. We have not received any further information.

Another Sitges seminar?

We have only received two (positive) reactions to the proposal in Euroletter 22 about a seminar. Reactions to the proposal should be sent to the Euro Letter.

D. European non-discrimination campaign

See ILGA London meeting recommendation in Euroletter 22. GLEN has not as yet send any proposal.