

# EURO-LETTER

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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).*

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. PLEASE REACT!!

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

Postponed, cf. Euroletter 22. Ole Espersen has contacted us and asked ILGA to apply for NGO status again - and he will recommend it to the new secretary general of the CoE. We have told him that ILGA will apply just after the New York meeting!

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

#### **1. Romania**

The Constitutional Court in Romania shall consider article 200 of the penal code at a hearing on May 5th. The Dutch Section of the International Commission of Jurists has submitted the enclosed statement, and IGLHRC has sent the enclosed letter - on behalf of IGLHRF and not as ILGA Action secretariat, which we find open to criticism.

Scott Long has produced a report about the legal situation of gays and lesbians in Romania. The report is of 40 pages and a copy can be obtained from LBL or from Scott himself.

Furthermore the hottest news from Scott Long of May 6 are enclosed.

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

Alexander Duda has informed us that a gay group has been established in Albania, and she will contact them soon.

### *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***

The Swedish Parliament will vote on a partnership law on June the 7th. Good luck to Sweden - we hope to be able to welcome it as the third country in the partnership club!

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

No news.

## **C. The European Union**

### ***The EU Bureau***

Minutes of the meeting of the bureau 15th March is enclosed. We would like to draw the attention of the bureau to the fact that the EU consists of 12 member states, and that lobbying also can be useful in the capitals and toward national members of the parliament. In short: do not forget us out here!

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

The EC bureau had promised to 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. If the campaign shall have any effect, it is very urgent that material is sent out now.

### ***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 about the further work towards the EU?***

Until now the EU Bureau, the LBL and the RFSL have expressed sympathy to the idea, and Kees Waaldijk has sent this statement:

"It would of course be good to have more discussions about ILGA's politics towards the European Union, but why should we not use our regional conferences for that purpose. Organising conferences, and travelling to them, costs a lot of time and money. And at ILGA European regional conferences there would be plenty of time to discuss things about the EU. In fact, in December 1993 in London, no one had put any real EU discussion topic on the agenda for the EU workshop(s). The Phare suggestion, and the Vota-rosa suggestion were only made orally in the workshop. If people really want to discuss about how to deal with the EU, they should put the topic on the agenda and into the pre-conference papers of the regional conference. I am sure the organisers in Helsinki, etc., would be able to schedule two or three EU workshops if there really is a list of prepared topics to be discussed and decided. Only if and when there would be a need

for space for more than three workshops, we should start to consider to have a special EU seminar at another time (and place, such as Sitges)."

We still need a reaction from C G-L of Barcelona!

### ***EU Budget***

EU budget lines of interest to NGO's are enclosed.

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

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

## **E. Other issues**

We have received this from IGLHRF:

Dear Euroletter recipients,

As part of Stonewall 25, there will be an organized series of lobbying days of missions to the United Nations regarding issues of concern to gays and lesbians from all over the world. So far, groups from over 60 countries have expressed interest in lobbying the missions of their country. A joint effort of ILGA, IGLHRC (The International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission) and GAAN (the Global AIDS Action Network), as well as other individuals from Amnesty International acting as individuals, are helping to facilitate these meetings and coordinate communication about the results of the meetings. There will be a drop in center open on Thursday, June 23 to Tuesday, June 28 (except Sunday) for activists to come in, receive informations and training materials as well as get support scheduling and preparing for their meetings with their government representatives to the United Nations. We need approximately 10-15 volunteers to help staff this drop-in center for those five days, and hope to count on some of you reading this notice. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Julie Dorf at IGLHRC by fax 415-255-8662 or by e-mail [IGLHRC@igc.apc.org](mailto:IGLHRC@igc.apc.org). Thank you.

Furthermore a proposal from RozeLinks about a seminar in the EuroPride Week in Amsterdam is enclosed.