

EURO-LETTER

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THE NATIONAL DANISH ORGANISATION FOR GAYS AND LESBIANS (LBL)
Knabrostræde 3, DK-1210 Copenhagen K. Tel. + 45 33 13 19 48 Fax + 45 33 91 03 48
Editors: Steffen Jensen, Ken Egelund Thomassen, Peter Bryld and Lisbeth Andersen.

Due to the financial crisis of the LBL, the RFSL of Sweden has kindly undertaken the copying and distribution of the Euroletter. The edition and the mailing list are kept in Copenhagen.

This Euroletter contains updating after the annual meeting of ILGA in New York June-July 1994.

A. Council of Europe

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

It was decided in New York to reiterate the decision from the ILGA London meeting 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. In Euroletter 22 groups were appointed to do that, and so far only the Dutch members has been approached by the COC - still no answer.

NGO status of ILGA to the Council of Europe

After the decision in New York to expel paedophile member groups of ILGA, the NGO status with the UN is secured, and we can now apply for NGO status with the Council of Europe as decided in London. An application is nearly ready and be sent off by Hans Hjerpekjön soon.

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

1. Romania

The Hallonen report on Romania has now been published and the relevant pages are enclosed in this Euroletter.

Prior to the considerations of the Constitutional Court in Romania shall on article 200 of the penal code William Courson has sent the enclosed letters to the Court and to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Yves Nya Ngatchou has sent the enclosed report of the courts meeting on July 15.

2. Albania, Moldova and Belarus

A report from Scott Long is enclosed. Be aware of the proposed actions.

Draft European Convention on the Rights of the Child and

Draft European Convention on the Equality between Men and Women

It was decided in New York to strike these from the agenda of the Working party.

Other European issues

The Council of Europe has issued a guide to international youth work "Europa ABC" (European Youth Foundation) which contains relevant information.

B. The CSCE - CHD process

The enclosed "CSCE Lobbying Paper" was agreed upon at the New York meeting as the basis of our work in this field.

In the beginning of July the CSCE Parliamentary Assembly met in Vienna. Unfortunately NGO's were not allowed in, but it was possible to submit written statements. On behalf of ILGA Kurt Krickler has delivered the enclosed statement.

The next possibility to work on inclusion of a non discrimination based on sexual orientation clause in the papers of the CSCE will be the Budapest summit (see lobbying paper). The Dutch government has already said to COC that it will be ready to submit a formal proposal and they will contact other friendly government in order to obtain a joint stand (Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Canada and maybe Germany).

ACTION: Member of the working party should contact their foreign ministries as soon as possible to lobby for the Dutch proposal.

C. The European Union

The EU Bureau

For a number of reasons it was decided in New York that:

"The current EU Bureau in Brussels is regarded as now suspended, and the ongoing work is now the responsibility of the EU working party with members from each country. It is also their responsibility to bring forward proposals to re-establish a Brussels office by the European regional conference in Helsinki December 1994. This work to be a priority at the Sitges seminar in October."

Vote Pink Campaign

See ILGA London meeting resolution in Euroletter 22. Representatives of CG-L from Barcelona said in New York that they had not got any response to a fax they had sent to member groups within the member countries of the EU. Several delegates from such groups claimed they had not got any fax! For that reason the campaign had only taken place in Spain.

PHARE application

It was mentioned in New York that an application with ILGA as a contractor concerning work in Russia and the Baltic states had been sent off without consulting neither the Secretariats Committee nor the EU Working party as it was agreed in London. It was promised that a copy of the application would be sent to the Euroletter, so we hope to be able to at least inform the working party about what is going on in the name of ILGA at a later stage.

Another Sitges seminar about the further work towards the EU

It was decided to hold a seminar in **Sitges 22 - 23 October 1994**. Further information will be given in the next Euroletter.

Appeal to the UK Parliament and Government

A proposal from the group Egalité is enclosed for your follow up.

Other EU issues

Information about the new Committee of the Regions is enclosed.

D. European non-discrimination campaign

IGLYO is co-ordinating the sexual orientation aspect of a Council of Europe campaign on anti-discrimination. It was agreed in New York that only this initiative will be processed. Chris Robson of GLEN and Thomas Tickelmann of IGLYO will meet in Dublin to discuss the issue and report to the Euroletter.