

Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination Commission sur l'égalité et la non-discrimination

Strasbourg, 4 September 2014

Dear Madam/ Sir,

I am writing to inform you that a role of General Rapporteur against racism and intolerance has been established within the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and that I recently had the honour of being elected to this function.

It will be my responsibility to intervene in the area of racism, intolerance, hate speech, racist violence and racial discrimination. My main priorities will include raising awareness on the need to combat racism and intolerance and following up on relevant resolutions and recommendations by the Parliamentary Assembly. I will also have the honour of coordinating the work of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance which will be launched in October 2014.

In my capacity as General Rapporteur, I will endeavour to follow relevant legal and policy developments within Council of Europe member states so as to ensure that international human rights standards are taken into account. Developing working relations with external bodies and institutions active in combating racism and intolerance is therefore a priority.

I should be very grateful if you could keep me informed of developments in this area in your country and look forward to being in contact.

Please do not hesitate to contact Ms Elodie Fischer, Co-Secretary of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination (tel. + (33) 3 90 21 5634, fax + (33) 3 90 21 56 52, email: elodie.fischer@coe.int) for further information.

Yours sincerely.

Maria Giannakaki

General Rapporteur on combating racism and intolerance Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe