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Parliaments united in combating sexual violence against children: mid-term review of the ONE in FIVE Campaign

Reply to Recommendation¹: Recommendation 2013 (2013)
Committee of Ministers

1. The Committee of Ministers has studied Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 2013 (2013) on “Parliaments united in combating sexual violence against children: mid-term review of the ONE in FIVE Campaign” with interest and has brought it to the attention of the member States. It has also sent it to various competent Council of Europe bodies for possible comments.

2. The Committee of Ministers welcomes the active contribution of the Assembly to the ONE in FIVE Campaign to stop sexual violence against children since its launch in Rome in November 2010. It also supports the Assembly’s commitment to promote the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention as well as international standards in the field of children’s rights, stressing the responsibility of the authorities at the local, regional and national levels and the need to introduce a child rights perspective in all policies and activities. The Committee also appreciates the Assembly’s commitment to generate thematic discussions on the many topics it has addressed through the regular meetings of its network of parliamentarians.

3. The Committee of Ministers notes the importance and usefulness of the proposals made by the Parliamentary Assembly (paragraph 6 of the recommendation). It wishes to inform the Assembly that despite the difficult economic situation in member States, it has been possible to allocate adequate funding from the Ordinary Budget of the Council of Europe for the running of the Lanzarote Committee, including with a recent reinforcement of staff to the Committee Secretariat in 2013. The ONE in FIVE Campaign, launched in 20 countries, should soon be extended to five additional countries. Significant results have been achieved also thanks to voluntary contributions, secondments and pro-bono creative services. The budget for 2014-2015 should allow to capitalise on this effort.

4. The Committee of Ministers is pleased to inform the Parliamentary Assembly that since the recommendation was adopted, a number of States have ratified the Lanzarote Convention.² It invites all member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying the convention before the deadline referred to by the Assembly (i.e. November 2014).

5. The Committee of Ministers recognises the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach in the fight against sexual violence against children, uniting efforts of parliaments, governments, local and regional authorities and civil society. It encourages member States to consider allocating adequate financing to all stakeholders and to disseminate information on the Lanzarote Convention and on the ONE in FIVE Campaign as widely as possible.

6. The monitoring process of the Lanzarote Convention has now started with its first round devoted to “sexual abuse of children in the circle of trust”. The Committee of Ministers invites States Parties to co-operate in this first monitoring round and to make every effort to ensure that their national legislation is in conformity with the Lanzarote Convention and that its provisions are implemented.

1. Adopted at the 1189th meeting of the Ministers’ Deputies (22 January 2014).

2. The convention has been signed by 46 States, 29 of which have ratified it.



7. The Committee of Ministers also supports the Assembly's appeal to give special attention to redress for victims. In this respect, it refers to the relevant provisions of the Lanzarote Convention as well as to its Recommendations Rec(2006)8 on assistance to crime victims and CM/Rec(2009)10 on integrated national strategies for the protection of children from violence.

8. The Committee of Ministers is pleased to inform the Assembly that the issue of eliminating all forms of violence against children, including sexual violence, is an integral part of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2012-2015 which it adopted on 15 February 2012, and which states that it will decide by 2014 upon a European Day on the Fight against Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of Children, in order to raise public awareness and thus strengthen the fight against sexual violence against children. The Committee of Ministers invites the Assembly to co-operate and be fully involved. The Committee of Ministers also points out that it set up at the end of 2013 a new Committee of Experts on the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2019), which is to report on the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2012-2015) and draw up a draft Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child for 2016-2019.

9. Finally, the Committee of Ministers wishes to inform the Assembly that the Council of Europe will organise a mid-term review conference on the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2012-2015) in Dubrovnik on 27 and 28 March 2014, which will also focus on the Lanzarote Committee's work as well as on the ONE in FIVE Campaign.