



European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination

NEWS REPORT

Country:	Estonia
Title:	Study committee on gender equality in the Parliament
Date:	12 February 2016
Expert:	Anu Laas
<u>Context</u>	
Issue at stake:	Attempt to form a study committee for analysing gender equality problems
Ground of discrimination:	Sex
Source:	Miscellaneous
Field:	Gender mainstreaming
Applicable law:	Equality legislation; Draft Resolution of the Riigikogu 'Formation of the Riigikogu Study Committee for Analysing Gender Equality Problems'

Content

Legislative development: The Constitutional Committee initiated a draft resolution on the formation of a parliamentary study committee for analysing gender equality on 13 October 2015. The draft resolution was discussed and passed the first reading in Parliament on 10 November 2015. Amendments were requested by 24 November 2015.¹ On 8 December 2015, Pro Patria and Res Publica Union faction (IRL)² opposed the formation of special study committees (one for analysing gender equality problems and another on HIV).³

Arguments for creating such committees used facts about persistent gender inequality and the high gender pay gap in Estonia. Those against the committee were connected with costs and a need to keep the number of committees at the Parliament as small as possible.

Work on the draft resolution and attempts to reach to common acceptance will continue in 2016.

Key points of analysis: The Parliament has standing committees, select committees, committees of investigation and study committees.⁴ Study committees can be formed in order to analyse problems of considerable importance. A study committee can be formed by the resolution of the Parliament, where the membership, functions and the mandate of the committee will be specified. Upon the termination of its work, the study committee

¹ There is no information whether proposals have arrived to MP Mikko by 24 November 2015.

² Christian democrats, coalition faction, 14 members in the Parliament, <http://www.riigikogu.ee/en/parliament-of-estonia/factions/pro-patria-res-publica-union-faction/>, accessed 26 December 2015.

³ Available in Estonian: <http://uudised.err.ee/v/eeesti/d26a9190-0882-4ee0-82f0-b23b2c39806f/irl-ei-toeta-probleemkomisjonide-loomist-riigikogus>, accessed 26 December 2015.

⁴ Article 17 of the Riigikogu Rules of Procedure and Internal Rules Act.

presents a report on that work to the Parliament.⁵

Internet link source:

Press Release of 10 November 2015,

<http://www.riigikogu.ee/en/sitting-reviews/lowering-of-voting-age-for-local-elections-was-not-passed-in-riigikogu-2/>, accessed 27 December 2015.

The *Riigikogu* Rules of Procedure and Internal Rules Act, RT I 2003, 24, 148. Available at <https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/512032015002/consolide>, accessed 27 December 2015.

Riigikogu otsus 'Riigikogu probleemkomisjoni moodustamine soolise võrdõiguslikkuse probleemide läbitöötamiseks' 107 OE (*Draft Resolution of the Riigikogu 'Formation of the Riigikogu Study Committee for Analysing Gender Equality Problems' 107 OE*). Available in Estonian, accessible at:

[http://www.riigikogu.ee/tegevus/eelnoud/eelnou/4d8ebbcc-be51-4740-8f56-51711e3c034a/Riigikogu%20otsuse%20%25E2%2580%259ERiigikogu%20probleemkomisjoni%20moodustamine%20soolise%20v%25C3%25B5rd%25C3%25B5iguslikkuse%20probleemide%20l%25C3%25A4bit%25C3%25B6%25C3%25B6tamiseks%25E2%2580%259C%20eeln%25C3%25B5u%20\(107%20OE%20I\)/](http://www.riigikogu.ee/tegevus/eelnoud/eelnou/4d8ebbcc-be51-4740-8f56-51711e3c034a/Riigikogu%20otsuse%20%25E2%2580%259ERiigikogu%20probleemkomisjoni%20moodustamine%20soolise%20v%25C3%25B5rd%25C3%25B5iguslikkuse%20probleemide%20l%25C3%25A4bit%25C3%25B6%25C3%25B6tamiseks%25E2%2580%259C%20eeln%25C3%25B5u%20(107%20OE%20I)/), accessed 27 December 2015.

⁵ Article 21 of the Riigikogu Rules of Procedure and Internal Rules Act.