



## **TRIENNIAL REPORT OF THE IFUW ASSISTANT TREASURER IN SWITZERLAND**

The principal role of the Assistant Treasurer in Switzerland is to serve as liaison with IFUW Headquarters.

In response to the IFUW budget crisis, the 28<sup>th</sup> Conference in Perth 2004 resolved to set up a Task Force in order to review IFUW structure, office functions, priorities and finances. Task Force decisions were to be implemented from 2005 onwards. During this triennium there has been regular communication with the Finance Officer and the Secretary General at the Headquarters in Geneva to discuss and implement these.

The IFUW office was strongly affected by the Task Force decisions. As it was the most important item in the IFUW budget, office expenditure had to decrease. This meant staff reductions, as well as a relocation of Headquarters. Legal representatives from different public offices in Geneva were consulted in order to be in accordance with local laws and regulations concerning redundancy, social benefits, taxes and social plans, as well as how to proceed in case of the staff reduction.

Board decisions on primary objectives and priority programmes helped to define what kind of support and services would be required by a reduced staff. As a result, the IFUW office decreased from 5.6 to 3.2 full time jobs with salary savings of about 200'000 Swiss francs (CHF).

Staff members were consulted on new job positions and finally, in January 2006, the new office team was ready to start. In June 2006, the Secretary General Murielle Joye retired and Leigh Bradford-Ratteree took over this position.

Concerning the relocation of Headquarters, a Board decision was taken to maintain the office in Geneva. This meant finding new premises or sharing the existing space. Luckily, new premises were found and the move could take place in December 2005. CHF 20'000 in moving expenses were agreed by the Treasurer, covering among others phone, wiring and Internet installations. Annual expenditure for the new offices and upkeep has decreased about CHF 18'000.

The restructuring of the office and the relocation has allowed the expenditure for IFUW Headquarters to stay within the triennial budget.

This triennial period has been quite unusual and stressful to the staff; therefore, I particularly thank all the staff members for their efforts and their efficiency in helping the aims of IFUW. I would also highlight their interest in our Federation and their goodwill in continuing to work for our ideals.

Hillevi Perraudin, Assistant Treasurer in Switzerland  
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