

**UNIVERSITY WOMEN OF EUROPE (UWE)
GROUPE EUROPÉEN DES FEMMES DIPLÔMÉES DES UNIVERSITÉS (GEFDU)**

**Minutes of the General Assembly (GA) of the University Women of Europe (UWE)
August 15th 2007 in Manchester.**

Chairperson Willemijn van der Meer, UWE President
Secretary Gerda Leushuis.

1. **Introduction and remarks** - The President opens the AGM and welcomes the members present. She especially welcomes new members: Spain and Turkish Cyprus and observers: Iceland and Scotland. She introduces Vice President, Mme Renée Gerard and Treasurer Mrs. Annette Neben. The president mentions that she met with Valentina Cherevatenko of the Russian Federation. Russia will now be connected to the UWE e-mail-list. The president states that according to the constitution every delegation can consist of three persons, however, every NFA has only one vote; moreover she stresses that dues have to be paid in time and on June 1st of each year at the latest.

The President expresses her regret that several eastern European NFAs are not able to attend the meeting because of lack of resources and furthermore that since they are no longer member of IFUW the NFAs of Hungary and Latvia are no longer members of UWE either.

2. **Identification of Voting delegates** - Present are the voting members from: Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey.

Absent are: the voting members from Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Luxemburg, Moldova, Rumania, Turkish Cyprus, Lithuania.

3. **Adoption of the Agenda:** confirmed.

4. **Approval of the nomination of the UWE Secretary** – the nomination of Gerda Leushuis as UWE Secretary is confirmed.

5. **Approval of the Minutes of the UWE GA of 29.09.2006 The Hague** – after a satisfactory answer to the question of France about the extension of the mandate of the former President of UWE to chair a grouping in the Council of Europe until June 2007 the minutes are adopted.

6. **Matters arising from the minutes** – Regarding Item 11 (Financial Matters): Great Britain prefers to use in the future the word "verifying" instead of "checking" of the financial papers and to have an "Examiner" in stead of an "Auditor". The President suggests this item to be part of the upcoming review of the constitution.

7. **Activity Report by the President** – the President explains that she intends

- to draw up a working plan for the future
- to visit as many NFAs as possible within her term of three years.

France would have preferred a longer report by the President. Great Britain says not to be too demanding on the president and suggests she finds more assistance. The president thanks IFUW for providing the meeting venues and Annemaria Vere for taking care of the website.

8. **Activity report by the VP on the Council of Europe (CoE):** see attachment to the agenda (e-mail of UWE President of July 14th 2007 to Delegates); in the summary of her

report the VP stresses that NFAs should get inspiration and support from the resolutions and the work of the Council of Europe to enrich their own projects..

Furthermore, the VP is calling for NFAs to lobby their governments to ratify the recent EUROPEAN CONVENTION Human Trafficking that needs **ten (10) ratifications** to become operational. She also calls for NFAs to support the Campaign of the Council of Europe for the year 2007 "Parliament united to combat violence against women included domestic violence " The VP says that in every country there is a parliament member who is the focal point; NFAs should contact this MP and lobby for this inclusion.

The report is adopted by the Assembly and the VP is thanked by the President for her active participation in the work of the CoE.

In connection with the report Ireland would like to have a summary of 4 or 5 non-ratified conventions so that all NFAs may try to get them ratified by their national governments. Gabrielle Suff (GB) will distribute a summary.

9. **Activity report by VP on European Women's Lobby (EWL)**: see attachment to the agenda (e-mail of UWE-President of July 14th to delegates).

The President expresses her appreciation for the work done by the VP within the EWL. Report adopted by the GA.

10. **Report by the Treasurer** – included in the papers and as attachment to the agenda (e-mail of UWE-President of July 14th to Delegates; printed copies at the GA). The Treasurer brings to the attention of the GA that Estonia has neither paid nor responded to e-mails. The Treasurer will continue with her efforts to get in contact with Estonia. The President thanks the Treasurer for her work. .

11. **Report by the Auditors** – The accounts have been reviewed by Arielle Wagenknecht (CH) and Clodagh Bowen (Ireland). Since Clodagh Bowen is not present the Treasurer reads her statement. Arielle Wagenknecht presents her report. Both agree with the records. The Treasurer is thanked for her good work and approval of the accounts proposed.

12. **Approval of the Accounts** – The UWE-Accounts 2006 are unanimously approved by the GA.

13. **New Dues and Subsidy-Structure of UWE** – The proposal is as follows:

1. Based on the number of members of each national affiliate the annual UWE membership-due for full members of UWE shall be
 - 500 Euro if the affiliate has more than 1.000 paying members,
 - 350 Euro if the affiliate has 300 up to 1.000 paying members,
 - 250 Euro if the affiliate has less than 300 paying members.
2. The annual UWE membership-dues for individual/associated members of UWE shall be 30 Euro.
3. UWE continues to offer a subsidy to eastern and central European affiliates to enable them to participate in the annual UWE - General Assembly. The subsidy is covered by the Reserve for Seminars and limited to 500 Euro for each delegation at a General Assembly.

The proposal is adopted by the General Assembly 2007 with 7 approvals, 3 against, 3 abstentions and comes into force from 2008 onward; however, in the process of reviewing the constitution and by-laws, the relation to the minimum and maximum fee should be reconsidered.

14. **Membership-issues** – see Item 10: Estonia.

15. **Discussion about the necessity to review the constitution/bylaws in 2008** –

The President mentions a few items that would need reviewing: name of the organisation, constitutional seat, official language, currency in which dues have to be paid etc.

The working party consisting of Helen Dunsmore, Renée Gerard, Anne Holden Ronning, Gerda Leushuis, Maya Nyagolova, and Gabrielle Suff already did much preliminary work; the working party is extended with Clare McCutcheon (Ireland) and Anne Nègre (France).

When reviewing the constitution, the aim will be to align it as much as possible with the constitution/bylaws of the IFUW

The president stresses that a lawyer specialised in European law will have to be consulted and that a civil-law notary will have to be hired to make the official record.

The proposal is passed with 13 votes

16. Programme 2007 – 2008 by the President - The president emphasizes that under “Activity Reports” activities will be published on the UWE website.

Ireland stresses again the importance of publishing a summary of 4 or 5 non-ratified conventions. The Netherlands draws attention to the loss of members by the different NFAs and suggests starting a project of “attracting more members”. Norway suggests including the latter in a strategic plan.

17. Budget 2007 – 2008 -The budget is approved with 12 approvals and 1 abstention with the amendment that the unsettled translation-budget 2007 of Euro 800,00 will be added to the budget of 2008.

18. Election of two members to check the accounts 2007 - Arielle Wagenknecht and Clodagh Bowen are again appointed as examiners.

19. UWE colloquium & general assembly 2008 –The president states that already much preliminary work has been done to prepare next years’ meetings. She explains that after her appeal in last April’s newsletter only Rumania and Turkish Cyprus have offered to take on the organisation. After the president contacted these NFAs several times it turned out that only Turkish Cyprus has the capacity and possibility to realise the plans. A pre-concept of the programme was recently discussed. The president emphasizes that she has a lot of confidence in it; moreover it would provide moral support to the position of graduate women in Turkish Cyprus if UWE were to decide to have her General Assembly of 2008 in their country. The dates will be September 17th until September 23th 2008 with the GA on Saturday.

The central theme is: “Women’s role in creating peace”.

Ireland, France and Germany object to the location: arguments such as “young member, not safe, politically unwise” etc. are put forward. Great Britain stresses: “we should go to Turkish Cyprus to bring a message of peace and to show we are not afraid”.

France suggests postponing the decision. Slovenia and Ireland offer to organise next years’ Colloquium and GA, however Ireland withdraws afterwards.

The President proposes that NFAs that are prepared to organise the 2008 meeting should have their plan ready by November 1st, after which a written vote will be taken about the item. The proposal is accepted by acclamation.

20. Friendship meetings – Austria (85th birthday) 19th – 21st of October 2007: Ceremonial Act & Friendship meeting;

Germany: Chancen für Gleichheit in Europa: Freiburg im Breisgau, 18th – 20th of April 2008.

21. **European Projects** – Mentoring: Finland (Sonia Höstman); UK: Concerns of elder women (Gabriëlle Suff); Switzerland: The problem of women trafficking (Uschi Kozomara): A discussion took place during the informal meeting 12.09./2007.

22. **Official acceptance of the Jans Gremmee Award by Uwe –**

- After a short presentation by Eileen Focke (NL) the Jans Gremmee Award is accepted by the assembly with 10 approvals and 3 abstentions.
- The Jans Gremmee Award 2007 is presented to Helen Dunsmore.

23. **Any Other Business** – the President states that in 2008's AGM there will be elections for a Vice President and Treasurer as the terms of both Renée Gerard and Annette Neben are expiring.

Amsterdam, September 21st 2007