

EWL Spring Council
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by
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The spring council 2008 of EWL was held in Slovenia during the Sloven presidency of the European Union.

In 2007 EWL had to face different aspects of **staffing** with the departure of Mary Mc Phail and the delayed arrival of the new general secretary Myria Vassiliadiou. Since her arrival on October 1st, Myria has done an excellent work in presenting new projects to the European Commission (PROGRESS) and in representing EWL in different meetings. The team for Social Policy has been strengthened with the arrival of a new staff member, Amandine Bach, and two interns Anna Elomaki and Nuria Francoli Sanglas. Together with Mary Collins and the head, **Cecile Greboval**, it enables the Social Policy unit of the European Women Lobby to meet the increasing demands of the European Commission especially in the field of migration, immigration, follow up of the Lisbon strategy and other areas

The *French presidency* placed migration amongst its **priorities** in the perspective of the project for a new European Pact due in July. Climate changes and sustainable development are also *priorities of the European Commission*. EWL has to include these in the plan of work to be financed by the programme PROGRESS.

The format for requesting financing from EU has been changed and all requests should conform with the new format.

In the search for excellence, an **evaluation of EWL** has been requested and financed by the European Commission. It was contracted to Yellow window management consultants to assess the strengths of the EWL and the avenue for improvement.

This means new challenges for the EWL, bounding new procedures and the need for more staff members with high qualifications

As far as **programmes** are concerned, information was given to the Board about them, followed by intensive discussion to translate them at the national level by the national coordinations and europeanwide associations

- Migrations (migrant women) :EWL requested financing assistance linked to project EPIM. It has succeeded in the first step for selection and if its candidature is accepted, it will expand the current project (see above that this topic is a priority of the French presidency)
- Violence against women: is another programme that will be strengthened and expanded. The DAPHNE project came to an end and Colette de Troy, responsible for this project presented a request for European financing. To that end EWL had to reorganize the existing Observatory, to include it in a new structure called EUROPEAN POLICY ACTION :Center on VAW, to create links with the General Assembly and with EWL Secretariat. This heavy work proved successful. EWL had to find different financial partners* to collect 20% as matching budget of the 362.500 euros that the European Commission is giving EPAC VAW- DAPHNE III Hardwork

and a big success (partners are BGRF, Stigamot (Iceland) CELEM ,Danish Kvinderadet and EWL)

- Campaign for women in the European Parliament election

In the perspective of the elections to the European Parliament in 2009, EWL is starting a campaign to give more weight to women in European political life . It means encouraging women to get involved and to be more active in this election, standing as candidates, supporting women candidates and male candidates who are in favour of women's advancement. EWL Issues a statement. NO DEMOCRACY without PARITY
A power point was presented , materials will be produced , especially a kit to help the national coordinations and associations to mobilize their members . This relates directly to the item of the Roadmap on Women in decision making (in the area of political life)

General Assembly 2008

The next General Assembly of EWL will be held in Lyon (France) under the French presidency . After consultation on the web and discussion in the Board, the decision was made to select as a theme

“ Local authorities as actors in promoting equality between women and men in Europe- (realities and perspectives)”

In the format of the Assembly it was also decided that Issue Groups who had been successfully introduced and implemented at the General Assembly 2007 would continue in the GA 2008 in Lyon .Issue groups being proposed by member organisations. The aim is to facilitate the participatory processes, to deepen or initiate reflection and to shape EWL policy in the long term with the participation of the membership at large
The issue group committee will review the proposals and operate a selection ..

The meeting was hosted by the Sloven association and its new president Mocija .
Two Sloven members of UWE Hedvika Pavlicka and Elisabeta Baretic Kolar were involved in the preparation of social events, the gala dinner, a visit of Ljubljana Saturday morning and a lovely boat ride after the last meeting on Sunday .In spite of the short time we spent there they gave us the flavour of the city and enabled us to see its beauty and friendliness .