

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)
September 13th 2009, Kyrenia, N. Cyprus.

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

1. ***Opening by the President*** - After welcoming the guests and the delegates the president underscores the importance of the fact that 17 of the 23 countries that are member of UWE are represented. She thanks TCAUW for organising the Assembly. She directs a special welcome to the representatives of Israel, VGIF, IFUW (Marian Haslegrave and Shirley Randell) and mentions the wishes, sent by Louise Croot (IFUW-president), Phyllis Scott (IFUW vice-president) and Catherine Bell (IFUW-treasurer).

The president explains the necessity of reviewing the constitution and by-laws and as many of the activities of UWE are not supported by official documents of developing internal policies and regulations as well.

2. ***Speech by IFUW-representative, Marianne Haslegrave*** – the IFUW-representative thanks the Turkish Cypriot ladies for their hospitality; she brings greetings from the IFUW Board and Staff and she mentions the priority-areas of the IFUW Board. Moreover she draws attention to the elections for the European Parliament that will take place say at the beginning of June 2009. In this context the IFUW-VP emphasizes the responsibility of all of us for the future of millions of women worldwide.

3.. ***Introduction remarks : Attendance, Identification of voting delegates and the voting committee*** – Present there are the voting members of: Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Finland, France, Germany, England & Wales, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, Romania, Scotland, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkish Cyprus, Turkey. Absent: the voting members from Norway, Spain, Belgium, Luxemburg, Moldova, Lithuania. Members of the voting committee: Atie Blom (NL), Carita Martin (Finland), Fernanda Wessels (NL), Andreja Jarc (Slovenia)

4. ***Adoption of the Agenda*** : England & Wales poses a point of order in which it expresses its concern about the fact that no discussion will take place about the proposals to review the Constitution & By-Laws (items 13, 14 and 15). Therefore it suggests:

a. to just discuss the items 13, 14 and 15 of the agenda within a limited time and not to vote on the Constitution, By-laws and Internal policies and regulations

or alternatively in order to make it possible to enlarge the board:

b. to discuss about the reviewed articles 13 and 14 of the Constitution and the amendments of The Netherlands and to vote on these items and to postpone voting on the other matters to next year.

5. ***Adoption of the Minutes of the UWE GA of August 15th 2007, Manchester*** - with 17 votes in favour the minutes are adopted.

6. **Matters arising from the minutes** – no matters arise from the minutes.

7. **Adoption of the Activity Report by the President** – (attached to the agenda) adopted with 17 votes in favour.

8. **Activity report by the VP on the Council of Europe (CoE)** - (attached to the agenda): adopted with 17 votes in favour.

9. **Activity report by VP on European Womens'Lobby (EWL)** (attached to the agenda) : 17 votes in favour.

10. **Report by the UWE Treasurer** – (attached to the agenda) : adopted with 17 votes in favour

11. **Report by the Examiners** – The accounts have been reviewed and approved of by Arielle Wagenknecht (CH) and Clodagh Bowen (Ireland). Both are not present.

12. **Approval of the Accounts** – (attached to the agenda) - the UWE-Accounts 2007 are unanimously approved by the GA.

13. **Vote on the revised Constitution and the proposed amendments to the revision** (attached to the agenda) - The proposal of order by England & Wales, seconded by France is re-written: “ *vote about the revised articles 13, 14 of the Constitution and postpone until next years'meeting voting on the whole Constitution.*” This proposal is completed by the proposal from The Netherlands and England & Wales that *despite the fact that there was no nomination, for the coming year the current secretary will be ad interim a member of the board.*

The proposal is accepted with 10 votes in favour, 4 against, 3 abstentions.

The proposed article 13 of the Constitution is:

13.1. UWE/GEFDU shall have an Executive consisting of five persons.

13.2. The Executive consists of members of at least three national federations or associations.

13.3. No more than two members shall be a member of the same national federation or association

13.4. The Executive shall consist of a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer.

Accepted with 15 votes in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention.

Switzerland withdraws its amendment on Article 14.

Voting about the Amendment of The Netherlands: “*All members of the Board serve a term of three years, renewable once.*” In Favour: 13; Against: 3; Abstentions: 1

The proposed article 14 is:

14.1. The Executive shall be elected by the Assembly

14.2. All members of the Executive shall serve for a term of three years, renewable once

14.3. The members of the Executive can be removed from office by decision of the Assembly taken by a majority of two-thirds of the delegates entitled to vote and voting.

Accepted with 17 votes.

Deletion of Article 15- In favour 16; abstention: 1.

Nomination of the current secretary to be part of the Executive: In favour: 16; Abstention: 1.

Voting about the Amendment to article 10, proposed by The Netherlands (article 10.3.): *"No member shall be entitled to vote at the meetings of the General Assemblée if they are in arrears of payment of their dues to UWE."*

The intention behind this proposal is to prevent that non-paying members, which also, mostly, are not present at the meeting, count for the quorum, necessary to make decisions and to vote.. In favour: 14; abstentions: 3.

Discussion about articles of the Constitution & By-laws –

Suggestions are made by England & Wales and France amongst others about: the definition of "Europe", the definition of "member" and the definition of the tasks of the members of the Executive, about "tying up" the Constitution articles with by-laws, about the liability according to article 23, about keeping article 18 unchanged and to again form a committee to work on the proposals for 2009.

Committee to work on Constitution and By-laws The following persons will be member of this Working Party: Griselda Kenyon (England & Wales) Terry Oudraad (NL) Jean Mc. Donald (UK), Marie-Jose Jonczy (FR), Hildegunde Raible (GE) and Monika Potenchi (RO)

14. *Vote on the revised by-laws* (attached to the agenda): no voting and postponed until 2009.

15. *Vote on the document internal policies and regulations* (attached to the agenda) – no voting and postponed until 2009.

16. *Budget 2008 – 2009* (attached to the agenda)- the treasurer proposes, since no decision is made for the new membershipfee, to stick to the amount of money for 2008 for the budget 2009 and to stick to the membershipfee that has been approved at the 2007-meeting. Moreover as there is no decision about the new reimbursement policy neither, she proposes to stick to the reimbursement rules, decided for 2008. As a consequence a rise in expenditure is not expected and therefore the treasurer proposes the budget for 2008 being the budget for 2009.

The president explains that extra money is needed merely to enable 5 in stead of 3 Executive members to attend the General Assemblée in 2009; therefore she proposes to put Euro 1.000,- extra for the post Executive. Moreover 5% will put extra to each separate post in order to compensate inflation.

This budget is accepted unanimously (the new budget is attached)

17. *Presentation of the candidates for Vice-President and Treasurer*

18 *Announcement new Vice-Presidents-* Marie-Jose Jonczy and Vera John-Mikolajewski are the newly elected vice-presidents.

19. *Announcement new Treasurer:* Elsbeth von Navarini is the new treasurer.

20. ***UWE Road Map 2008-2010*** (attached to the agenda) – The following members will participate in the Think-Tank : Vera Welti (Switzerland), Anje Wiersinga (NL) Vera John-Mikalojewski (VP), Marie-Jose Jonczy (VP), Renee Gerard (FR), Ferdiye Ersoy (Turkish Cyprus), Eileen Focke (NL), Mary Morrissey Ireland. The goal of the Think Tank is to create new ideas of how UWE can contribute to parity for Women in Europe.

Renee Gerard will lead a working party to recruit women from the EU countries as candidates for the 2009 Elections for the European Parliament. NFA's in EU countries will send to Renee Gerard the name of a contact person..

A working party headed by Anne Negre will work at the incorporation of CEDAW in the legislation of our different countries to start with a questionnaire to send eventually via UWE members to each stakeholder in Europe & in each country.

The president will compose a summary of the discussions of Friday September the 12th 2009 on the Roadmap and send this summary to each NFA

21. ***Election of two members to check the accounts 2008*** - Germany puts forward Annette Neben as a candidate for being Examiner. Ireland puts forward Clodagh Bowen. The candidates are unanimously elected.

22. ***Distribution Jans Gremmee Award*** – The 3rd Jans Gremmee Award is given by the president to Renee Gerard. In her speech a.o. Renee Gerard emphasizes to feel the reward as a tie with the great leaders that brought recognition for University Women in Europe and apart from Jans Gremmee she mentions the French ladies Maryvonne Stephan and Andree Savajol. During Renee's UN-career she was in charge of launching programmes for women; this career led her a.o. to W. Africa, S. Korea, Iran, Italy, Bangladesh, India, Rwanda and others. She mentions that she met marvellous people and marvellous women everywhere but that she became a feminist during her stay in Bangladesh because never before she saw women treated like they were in Bangladesh; even she herself was discriminated being the only woman among 247 male colleagues.

To women involved in decision making she gives the message to be ready for the hard blows that will come when they accede to responsibilities. She stresses really feeling a citizen of her country, France, but also a woman citizen of the world and especially of Europe.

23. ***Date place and arrangement for UWE colloquium and GA 2009*** – Ulrike Sachse (VAOE) presents Vienna (september 4th until 6th 2009) and Carita Martin (Finland) presents Helsinki as the place for the Colloquium and GA 2009.

Vienna is elected with 13 votes in favour. The theme will be: "The consequences of Project- and Flex-Jobs on the life of women and families".

24. ***Friendship meetings*** – Ireland: 10 – 12 October 2009 Annual Conference and Study Weekend hoisted by Queens' Women Graduates in Queen's University in Belfast.

25. ***Any other Business*** - the president emphasizes the big succes of the UWE European Mentoring Project–sponsorship: Euros 14.000 to Finland, Euros 17.000 to The Netherlands, 16.500 Euros to Turkey. She congratulates Sonja Hostmann and her team.

Shirley Randell, Vice President of IFUW and Secretary General of RAUW (Rwanda Association of University Women) says a few words about the international connection of the Rwanda Association. She too mentions that at the elections for the Rwanda Parliament for the first time in the world the percentage of women in a Parliament is more than 50% (website: www.ifuw.org/rwanda)

Eileen Menton president of VGIF presents the Virginia Gildersleeve Foundation and underscores once again that all the donation go to the grants. She also mentions the activities around the 40th birthday of the Virginia Gildersleeve Funds (website: www.thegildersleeve.org).

Vera Peek (The Netherlands) refers to the fact that modern meeting is done by e-mail. Therefore she expresses her hope that the Constitution Group will meet by e-mail indeed before the 2009 meeting and that during the 2009 UWE General Meeting there only has to be voted on the Constitution and the By-laws. Vera expresses her concern about losing more time on reviewing the constitution during meetings. She emphasizes that UWE ought to invest time primarily on discussion of contents.

The president announces that there will be elections for a new president and for the secretary at next years' meeting.

The yield of UWE Travel fund –shop is Euro 548,-- and Turkish Lyra 165,--
The president thanks the volunteers and all the members for their presents.

The necklace given by the Israelian delegation for the UWE Travel Fund will be subject of a lottery at the 2009 Annual Meeting.

The president thanks Eileen Focke, Fernanda Wessels, Arielle Wagenknecht, Anne Negre, Anne Harris-Henon and Gerda Leushuis, and the Turkish Cypriish Association of University Women.

Marie Jose Jonczy thanks the president, Willemijn van der Meer, for all she has done and will do next year.

26. Closing by the President - At 4 pm the president closes the meeting.

Amsterdam, october 2008
Gerda Leushuis
UWE Secretary