

On 25, 26 and 27 January the **EWL Executive and Board meetings** took place in Brussels. The Board, which constitutes 34 representatives of national and European-wide co ordinations, had a large agenda for this first meeting of the year. Amongst themes discussed, were the follow up of the EU Year on multiple discrimination and the need to continue the active participation of diverse women's group in EWL, including migrant women; the preparation of the 52d session of CSW (see below) and some national issues emerging from Member States, notably concerns for sexual rights. The next Board meeting will be held in May, in Slovenia.

EWL participated in the conference 'Building a value-based EU budget, for the future: what role for NGOs?' on 24th January. The conference, organised by the EU Civil Society Contact Group, was looked at how European values can be better integrated in the EU budget and how NGOs can influence it. These are important issues, particular, in view of the current EU budget review consultation. Please, [click here](#) for more information.

EWL presented a paper on gender stereotypes in early childhood at the Slovenian Presidency Conference "Elimination of Gender Stereotypes: Mission (Im)Possible?» in Brdo, Slovenia on 29-30 January 2008 - EWL stressed the fact that gender stereotyping starts as early as infancy and needs therefore to be tackled in the earliest stages of life for both girls and boys. If the gender roles they observe around them in their families, attitudes, images, school material etc convey traditional gender roles and stereotypes on what girls and boys "should" be or do, it is likely that they will try to fit as much as possible with this model, thereby continuing the cycle of inequalities between women and men throughout the life cycle. EWL calls for a concerted and coordinated action in different areas, including awareness raising of parents, pressure and education directed at industry such as the media, toy and clothing manufacturers, reform of education systems and material. It also calls for new legislation concerning the media. Please, [click here](#) to read the paper.

EWL preparation for the 52nd UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) - New York, 25 February - 7 March 2008. As previously announced, the theme of this session will be: "Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women" and the review theme "Women's participation in conflict prevention, management, conflict resolution, and in post-conflict peace-building". During the session, EWL will organise a side event entitled '**Financing for women's rights, a European perspective**'. It will look at financing for women's rights in Europe from the point of view of 1) financing policies on equality between women and men; 2) gender budgeting as a tool to advance women's rights and equality between women and men and 3) funding for women's organisations at national and European level. EWL will present its position paper which contents three issues highlighted above. The facilitator of the event will be Myria Vassiliadou, EWL Secretary General.