

UWE NEWSLETTER 2008 number 1

Dear UWE-members,

In the first newsletter 2008, you will find information on the following topics:

1. UWE event 2008 and General Assembly 2008
2. Organisational messages
3. News on the Council of Europe
4. News on the European Women's Lobby
5. Upcoming Events and Special Days

1. UWE event 2008 and General Assembly 2008

The General Assembly 2008 will take place on Saturday September 13 in Kyrenia, North Cyprus.

The theme of the UWE 2008 event is "Women's Role in Creating Peace". The programme will start Thursday evening the 11th with a welcome drink in the hotel.

Friday morning the Greek Cypriot Researcher and Writer, Dr. Rita Severis and Italian Journalist, Ms. Gabriella Simoni will do a presentation.

Friday afternoon we will discuss the UWE strategic Plan and the European Projects.

For the Saturday evening they are organising a gala dinner.

Sunday you have the opportunity to visit historical places around Famagusta and the old town of Famagusta.

For the complete programme and accommodation offers see: www.ifuw.org/uwe/conferences.htm

2. Organisational messages

a) The weekend of January 12 the executive and the UWE Secretary met in Amsterdam.

We had a lot of fruitful discussions on several UWE topics; the review of the Constitution and By-laws, the strategic plan, the agenda of the coming general assembly and the UWE meeting at Turkish Cyprus amongst others.

- A call for candidates for Vice president and Treasurer has been send to the CER's/UWE Representatives (see profiles on <http://www.ifuw.org/uwe/history.htm>)

- The proposed amendments to the Constitution and by-laws will be sending to CER's/UWE Representatives by March 15.

- A call for candidates for the Jans Gremmee award has also been send to the CER's/UWE Representatives (deadline: April 15)

b) A new year has started. Please remember to pay the annual dues by June 1.

c) We have a new member since January: The new IFUW affiliate in Scotland (<http://sfuw.org.uk/>)

d) The Project group "European Mentoring" (Sponsor request under Gruntvig Partnership Action Programme Life Long Learning) has held a preparatory meeting in Finland, 12-17 December 2007. Participating countries are Finland, Turkey and the Netherlands. For a report and more information see: <http://www.ifuw.org/uwe/european-project.htm>

3. News on the Council of Europe

Renée Gérard attended the winter session of the INGO Conference.

The main event of this session was the annual General Assembly of the INGO Conference during a full day. A large number of associations attended it. Fifteen new international or European wide associations had applied for membership raising the membership well beyond 400. The new participative Status implying new expectations and a closer cooperation between the Conference and the other pillars of the COE being required, the nine thematic groupings of the Conference have been called upon to contribute to different events. An example in 2007 was a hearing on feminisation of poverty by the grouping Equality between women and men.

INGOs act as watchdogs close to the grass roots of civil society, giving an echo its needs and its demands. Read Renée's entire report (in French or English on: www.ifuw.org/uwe/reports.htm)

1st February 2008: Entry into force of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against trafficking in Human Beings [CETS no. 197]

Trafficking in human beings constitutes a violation of human rights and is an offence to the dignity and the integrity of the human being. It treats human beings as a commodity to be bought and sold. The victims are put to forced labour, usually in the sex industry but also, for example, in the agricultural

sector or in sweatshops, for a pittance or nothing at all. Trafficking in human beings directly undermines the values on which the Council of Europe is based. For more information on this convention and the countries that have ratified it see: www.ifuw.org/uwe/ewl-cedaw.htm

4. News on the European Women's Lobby

In the weekend of January 26, the EWL held their Board of Administrations meeting in Brussels. As usual, the UWE vice-president attended this meeting. 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 and some national issues emerging from Member States, notably concerns for sexual rights.

Following the Board decision to support Lithuanian women's organisation protest on the draft anti-abortion law, the EWL President has sent a letter to the Lithuanian President and Prime Minister and to the Lithuanian Parliament.

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.

Besides the 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. for more information see: www.ifuw.org/uwe/ewl-cedaw.htm

5. Upcoming Events and Special Days

25 Feb. – 6 March	52 nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York Theme: "Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women"
8 March	International Women's Day
15 March	General Assembly of the French Association in Lyon
5 April	General Assembly of the Swiss Association in Fribourg
14-17 April	Spring INGO Conference Council of Europe in Strasbourg
18-20 April	Chancengleichheit in Europe by the German Federation in Freiburg
19 April	European Day by the British Federation in Nottingham!
17 May	90 th Anniversary of the Dutch Association in Rotterdam; Theme: "Choices and Chances"

Arielle Wagenknecht did the French translation of this newsletter. Arielle thanks a lot!

Warm regards,

Willemijn van der Meer
President UWE/GEFUDU
+31622508567
Fax: +31 847366707
uwepresident@ifuw.org
www.ifuw.org/uwe