

Dear UWE-member,

Today the UWE exists exactly 25 years, so I congratulate you all!

During my first two months as UWE-President I have tried to set up a good and easy communication system. I hope the UWE-list serve will serve this purpose.

I have written a letter to all the Presidents and CER's to find out if they are arranging events that are interesting for all of us. You will find them on the UWE-website under the heading Conferences & Events (www.ifuw.org/uwe). I have also asked them if they know members who want to be involved in UWE working groups. Thank you all for replying to my email. I hope the countries that did not reply yet, will soon react, so I can include their events in the agenda and hopefully some of their members in one of the UWE-working groups.

UWE Constitution

I am happy to inform you that we have a working group that is going to review the UWE-constitution. You can download the current UWE Constitution with the following link:

<http://www.ifuw.org/uwe/uwe-constitution.doc>

The Working Group members are: Willemijn van der Meer (UWE President), Helen Dunsmore (Past UWE President), Anne Holden Ronning (NKA), Gabrielle Suff (BFWG) and Maya Nyagolova (BAUW) (respectively the Norwegian, British and Bulgarian NFA).

If you still want to join this working group please let me know. (vdmwillemijn@hotmail.com)

UWE Website

I have updated our website. Mainly the information under the headings: Activity Reports, Conferences & Events and Women's Rights (European Women's Lobby, CEDAW). I hope everybody is looking at the website regularly to see what is going on.

Council of Europe and European Women's Lobby

Our Vice President, Renée Gerard, has travelled a lot for the UWE lately. She has represented us during the meeting of the Council of Europe (INGO-conference) in Strasbourg. You can read more about it on our website (www.ifuw.org/uwe) heading Activity Reports.

She has also represented us during the annual EWL-meeting in Prague. I am very proud of her, as she was elected for two years to the Board of Administration of EWL. UWE is one of the eight European wide associations sitting on that Board. For more information see: www.ifuw.org/uwe heading Women's Rights (European Women's Lobby)

Who Cares?

The European Women's Lobby is leading a campaign on care issues until March 2007. The campaign, entitled "Who Cares?", focuses on the provision of affordable, accessible and high quality care services for all dependents, available to all women and men whatever their financial situation. The "Who Cares" campaign was officially launched at the EWL Board meeting in May 2006 with the adoption of a Position Paper. You can download the papers in English and French from our website.

Roadmap on Gender Equality

The European Women's Lobby has defined six main themes with Strategic Objectives and concrete actions to be undertaken by the European Commission between 2006 and 2010.

These themes are partly inspired by the Strategic Objectives of the United Nations Beijing Platform for Action (1995). You can download the Roadmap in English and French from our

website. We are still looking for women who want to join the UWE-Roadmap equality Working group.

2007 The European Year of Equal Opportunities for All

The European Year of Equal Opportunities for All in 2007 will seek to make people in the EU more aware of their rights to enjoy equal treatment and a life free of discrimination. These are two of the basic principles underpinning the Union. The Year will also launch a major debate on the benefits of diversity for European societies.

The Year is set to have a budget close to Euro 15 million, so if we can create a UWE-working group on this theme we might arrange a sponsored event.

UWE financials

Of course our treasurer, Annette Neben, has kept the books updated and did the necessary payments.

I would like to once again thank the Irish Federation for the generous donation of €8.000 to UWE. I hope more affiliates will follow their good example, as we all know the budget of the UWE is very restricted.

UWE languages

The official languages are English and French, so I will try to send the majority of the information in both languages. I can speak and write reasonable French, but it costs me a lot of extra time to translate all the writings in French. Fortunately Audrey Kuhler (VVAO) and Arielle Wagenknecht (ASF DU) already offered to help with short translations, but I still need somebody who can easily translate longer text (vdmwillelijn@hotmail.com).

Warm regards,

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