

## UWE NEWSLETTER 2008 number 2

Dear UWE-members,

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

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THE EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FEE (25 EUROS) IS STILL APPLICABLE UNTIL JUNE 1. AS SEPTEMBER IS STILL HOLIDAY SEASON AT NORTHERN CYPRUS THE BEST HOTEL ROOMS WILL ONLY BE GUARANTEED IF REGISTERED 31 MAY LATEST (For the registration form go to: [www.ifuw.org/uwe](http://www.ifuw.org/uwe) (see announcement)).

### 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 September 11 and will be concluded by a nice historic visit to Famagusta on Sunday September 14.

Many people have already registered. I hope you will also join us.

A wonderful coincidence is that on April 4 the last divided capital in Europe has opened their major shopping street (Ledrastreet). For the first time since 1964, the Cypriots can move freely from Nicosia north to Nicosia south.

For the complete programme of the UWE 2008 event and the registration form see: [www.ifuw.org/uwe](http://www.ifuw.org/uwe)

### 2. Bid for UWE 2009 event

As organising the annual UWE meeting is, quiet a lot of work I would like to receive bids from the countries that are prepared to organise the UWE meeting 2009.

Please send your bid in by June 30 ([uwepresident@ifuw.org](mailto:uwepresident@ifuw.org)).

### 3. Organisational messages

a) Several members have recently elected a new CER (Coordinator European Relations)

- Scotland: Dr Margaret Brown

I live in Glasgow, Scotland. I was born in Edinburgh on 8 September 1946

I have a BSc (Hons) in Zoology and a PhD in Ecology. I also have a Teaching Qualification. At present, I am a Research Fellow (part-time) in the Department of Computing Science in Glasgow University, evaluating new teaching initiatives.

- Switzerland: Catherine Bandle

Aesch, Switzerland

Retired Prof. of Mathematics University of Basel

- Germany: Ingeborg Mehser (1957)

Bremen, Information Technologies, Anglistic & Political Science. Working as coach.

- France: Marie-José Jonczy

Retired from the European Commission. She was the Director of the legal service and now lives partly in Paris and partly in Brussels. She is a very fine lawyer, which will be good for UWE

b) The Scottish Federation (SFUW) has organised two interesting event:

- On 27th March 2008, a seminar on "People Trafficking" at the Scottish Parliament and a Research Presentations Day on Saturday 26 April at the University of Glasgow when women post-graduates

students in the West of Scotland presented their research to a panel 2 Professors and an audience comprised of members and friends of SFUW (for more information see: [www.ifuw.org/uwe/reports](http://www.ifuw.org/uwe/reports)).

c) The Romanian Association has celebrated 9 May 2008, Europe's Day.

A meeting and a pictures exhibition, only paintress.

A round of chairs and Ileana Mustata told us about her trip and meeting to Freiburg and Strasburg.

d) The German Federation has organised a very successful and interesting event on Chancengleichheit including a visit to the European Institutions in Strasbourg (read more on [www.ifuw.org/uwe/reports](http://www.ifuw.org/uwe/reports)).

e) The British Federation has had their annual European Day in Nottingham. There were several speakers. Mr Clarke's talk on "The New European Treaty and the Future of Europe" ranged through a number of matters of importance to the European Union, but was mostly concerned with emphasising that the E.U. needed to clarify its aims and to follow a Common Policy (read more on [www.ifuw.org/uwe/reports](http://www.ifuw.org/uwe/reports)).

f) The work of the women within the French Association will be recognised during the annual distribution of ribbons.

Anne Nègre will receive the ribbon «la Légion d'Honneur» for her work on "Les Olympes de la parole" amongst others. Tita Valade for her work as Président of the French Association (AFFDU) and Simone Crapuchet for organising the UWE event 2004 and many other things.

I would like to congratulate the three of them with this great recognition!

Role models are very important and I am convinced we have so many of them within the UWE, but unfortunately, there is a lack of visibility.

#### 4. News on the Council of Europe

Renée Gérard attended the spring session of the INGO Conference.

During the spring session, one important issue was on the table i.e. restructuring of the governing bodies of the Conference of NGOs. It was felt that the whole Conference should meet to discuss the matter. In summary the change shows as willingness "toward excellence" to assume responsibilities as a fourth pillar.

Another important event of this spring session was the presentation of the draft for a Chart of good conduct of the NGOs of the Council of Europe. The working group led by Loic Tribot la Spiere has produced a document that was vehemently discussed. It will be finalized at a later session (UWE belongs to the drafting group)

#### 5. News on the European Women's Lobby

- Myria Vassiliadou, EWL Secretary General, was elected in the Management Committee of the Social Platform on 15.04.08. This will allow the EWL to be more involved in the Platforms activities and to strengthen the gender equality perspective in this forum. The Platform General Assembly also amended its Statutes and internal rules to introduce a mechanism to ensure gender parity within the Management Committee. The EWL supported the amendment and welcomes it wholeheartedly.

- Karen Serres, EWL Board member (representing COPA) is chairing the working group of the Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men on the revision of Directive 86/613, relating to equal treatment of self-employed, agriculture (assisting spouses) and the protection of self employed women during pregnancy and motherhood. This Directive has not been updated since adoption in 1986 (for the entire list of news facts by Fernanda Wessels see: [www.ifuw.org/uwe/womenslobby](http://www.ifuw.org/uwe/womenslobby)).

#### 6. European projects

The European Projects are a structured way of cooperation between the different UWE members and a good way to exchange best practices.

In Manchester, the Dutch CER has proposed a possible new project: How can we keep our membership vital and growing?

Currently the Dutch Association is investigating what the possibilities and ideas in this area are across Europe.

The steps the Dutch organisation, the VVAO, took so far last year.

- To free up time we closed our office, the secretarial work we outsourced. Now we are busy to make our member administration, finances and communication with the branches available on the website.
- By skipping one of our two General Assemblies we created the opportunity to organise a day with more content that suited all our members.
- Twice a year we have a board meeting with the boards of our branches. The last meeting we discussed how to get more women interested in the VVAO.
- Using statistical analysis, we found that many new members are joining us; they are younger than the average age of our members. However after a year most of them, specially the younger ones, leave us. The reason for this is yet unknown, but it is clear they did not find what they are looking for.
- A new process is created to ask members who are leaving us for their motivation for that action

Excellence 07 Austrian Association:

Gerhild Hansen attended the choice of professions market at the Graz University to promote the Austrian Federation and to convince Young ladies of the importance of being member of a women's network.

#### 7. DAB-Group Kiel invites for the Kiel Week- Regatta June 28 2008

The members of the DAB-Group Kiel invite UWE members to participate in a trip by one of the ferries of StenaLine in order to accompany and watch the parade of the Windjammer ships during the Kiel Week 2008. Our Kiel friends mention that even if there is much wind the big StenaLine ferryboats are very stable and quiet, which is important for us landlubbers.

The meeting point for the tour is the Stena Quay in Kiel at 09.30 am on Saturday June 28 2008. The ship leaves at 10.30 am and will be back at about 3 pm.

The cost of the trip is Euro 36,- each. There are many restaurants at the ship at which one can have a drink and food.

Application at the latest May 10 2008 with Uta Kroppe president of the Kiel Group [ukrope@googlemail.com](mailto:ukrope@googlemail.com) stating: first name; family name, nationality and sexe.

#### 8. Upcoming Events and Special Days

17 May	90th Anniversary of the Dutch Association in Rotterdam; Theme: "Choices and Chances"
23 May	Distribution of ribbons «la Légion d'Honneur » to three of our French Members
23-24 May	European Conference in The Hague:
24-25 May	EWL Board meeting in Slovenia
23-26 June	Summer INGO Conference Council of Europe in Strasbourg
28 June	Kiel Week- Regatta (German Federation)
11-14 September	UWE event 2008, Kyrenia, North Cyprus

Arielle Wagenknecht is taking care of the French translation of this newsletter. Arielle thanks a lot!

Warm regards,

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