

UWE NEWSLETTER 2007 number 3

Dear UWE-members,

This is already the third newsletter in 2007. In this newsletter you will find information on the following topics:

1. Agenda General Assembly UWE 2008 (August 15th)
2. Review of the Constitution and by-laws
3. Agenda Brainstorm evening UWE 2008 (August 12th)
4. Report on the second INGO Conference of the Council of Europe
5. Portugal's law on quotas
6. Board meeting European Women's Lobby in Potsdam
7. Report on the third INGO Conference of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg
8. Upcoming Events and Special Days

1. Agenda General Assembly UWE 15 August 2008

The UWE-board has had its meeting on 25 June. Amongst other things, we have discussed the agenda for the coming General Assembly. The draft agenda will soon be circulated.

2. Review of the Constitution and by-laws

In my second newsletter 2006, I have introduced the working group for the review of the Constitution to you. The last two months they have worked hard and constructive to review the Constitutions and by-laws. They have suggested many proposals. I would like to thank Helen Dunsmore, Anne Holden Ronning, Gabrielle Suff, Anne Negre, Gerda Leushuis, Renée Gérard and Maya Nyagolova for all the work they have done so far. Please find the proposed amendments on the Constitution and the by-laws on www.ifuw.org/uwe/events.

3. Agenda informal evening UWE 12 August 2008

As the time for the General Assembly is limited and because I think all sort of content should not be discussed and prepared during the General Assembly itself, we will have a special evening on August 12.

The European Projects are part of the agenda this evening and the UWE and its role within the European Women's Lobby and the Council of Europe will be discussed.

Most likely, we will split ourselves in to small groups to brainstorm and after that; we will make a list of action points together.

4. Second quarterly INGO Conference 2007 Council of Europe in Strasbourg

The Vice President has attended the second INGO Conference of this year.

There were two very important events at the spring session of the Council of Europe.

1. A round table on the Russian legislation for NGO and the role of the COE Conference of INGOs to help establishing a dialogue between Russian administration and the NGOs
2. A round table about Europe for and with the children treating violence against children especially girls. The civil society grouping received a delegation of NGOs from Belarus we heard about the situation (extremely difficult) of the human rights defenders and we prepared a declaration urging the COE to take action to protect the human rights defenders who are actually imprisoned.

5. Portugal's law on quotas

Portugal has adopted a law on quotas last July.

It states that in case of elections for the Parliament, the European Parliament and City Councils, the lists have to include a minimum of 33% of female candidates and a minimum of 33% of male candidates.

6. Board meeting European Women's Lobby in Potsdam

Our vice President has attended the EWL Board Meeting that took place in Potsdam from 17 until 19 May.

They had very fruitful discussions. One of the results is that the huge amount of time scheduled for amendments is limited to emergency amendments only. They have introduced issue groups instead. During the coming Conference: 26-28 October in Borovets (Bulgaria) they will have issue groups on Women in decision making positions, Women and violence and lobbying amongst others.

7. Third quarterly INGO Conference 2007 Council of Europe in Strasbourg

The third INGO Conference was attended by the President, the vice President, the Treasurer and a member of the Dutch Federation, who is interested in participating in one or more of the groupings.

The INGO conference structure is under review. They are trying to set up a structure that facilitates more effective influencing of the different bodies within the Council of Europe.

They will also change the position and the number of groupings.

The INGO Conference is also actively participating in the discussion on Democracy within Europe.

8. Upcoming Events and Special Days

10-16 August	IFUW Conference in Manchester
12 August	Informal evening UWE in Manchester
15 August	UWE General Assembly in Manchester
28/29 September	Workshop Gender Justice and Democracy in the European Union in Belfast
1-4 October	INGO General Quarterly Meetings, Council of Europe, Strasbourg
26-28 October	EWL General Assembly 2007 / Assemblée générale du LEF 2007

Hanneke van der Meer does the French translation of this newsletter. Hanneke, thanks a lot!

Warm regards,

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