

UWE NEWSLETTER 2007 number 5

Dear UWE-members,

First of all, Renée Gerard, vice-president, Annette Neben, treasurer, Gerda Leushuis, Secretary and I would like to wish you a healthy and happy 2008!

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

1. New UWE vice-president and treasurer needed in September 2008
2. UWE event 2008 and General Assembly 2008
3. Organisational messages
4. News on the Council of Europe
5. News on the European Women's Lobby
6. Upcoming Events and Special Days

1. New UWE vice-president and treasurer needed in September 2008

After several years of hard and useful work for the UWE both Renée Gerard, vice-president, and Annette Neben, treasurer, have fulfilled their full UWE executive term in September 2008.

UWE is looking for their successors. Please find the profiles on www.ifuw.org/uwe/historical background

I hope you will all come forward with names of enthusiastic women from your NFA.

2. UWE event 2008 and General Assembly 2008

The General Assembly 2008 will take place on Saturday September 13 in Kyrenia, North Cyprus. The Turkish Cyprus Association of University Women is busy preparing a programme on the theme of Peace and with a cultural programme to show the wonderful countryside of the Island. For the draft programme see: www.ifuw.org/uwe/Conferences & Events

3. Organisational messages

The Kiel Branch of the German Association of University Women is offering a Friendship tour during the Kieler Woche; June 21 until 29. The programme will follow, but it will include a boat tour with Stena-line to join the Windjammerparade on Sunday June 28.

4. News on the Council of Europe

As gathering all the information on the INGO part of the Council of Europe is time consuming I have recruited a reporter. Anuschka Bakker, a Young Member from the Netherlands, will follow the activities via the CoE-website.

As you, all know the UWE vice-president is representing us during the INGO Conferences of the Council of Europe.

Conference in Nis, Serbia, 5-6 November 2007

On 5-6 November a conference NGOs and Civil Society: Promoters of Democracy and Active Citizenship took place. The main aim of this activity is to facilitate contacts between Serbian NGOs and their counterparts at the European level; in particular, the INGO's enjoying participatory status with the Council of Europe. This should make it easier for Serbian NGOs to take part in the activities of the INGO's and the Council of Europe, thus strengthening the role of civil society in Serbia and increasing the visibility of Serbian NGOs in Europe. At the same time, it should offer them an appropriate institutional framework, thus fostering exchanges and partnerships.

The main topics discussed during this event were the Serbian legislation on NGOs, the relations between NGOs and public authorities, youth participation in policymaking, citizenship and human rights education as well as the role of NGOs in the Council of Europe's campaign to combat violence against women, including domestic violence.

Recommendation on Gender Mainstreaming in Education

At their 1006th meeting on 10 October 2007, the Council of Europe's Ministers' Deputies adopted the Recommendation on Gender Mainstreaming in Education CM/REC(2007)13.

The council recommends to the governments of member states that they:

- I. review their legislation and practices with a view to implementing the strategies and measures outlined in this recommendation and its appendix;
- II. promote and encourage measures aimed specifically at implementing gender mainstreaming at all levels of the education system and in teacher education with a view to achieving de facto gender equality and improve the quality of education;
- III. Create mechanisms, throughout the education system, to favour the promotion, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of gender mainstreaming in schools;
- IV. bring this recommendation to the attention of the relevant political institutions and public and private bodies, in particular, the ministries and/or public authorities responsible for framing and implementing education policies at central, regional and local level, school management bodies, local and regional authorities, trade unions and non-governmental organisations;
- V. monitor and evaluate progress arising from the adoption of gender mainstreaming at school, and inform the competent steering committees of the measures undertaken and the progress achieved in this field.

Commissioner Hammarberg presents human-rights report on Austria

The Commissioner for Human Rights presented today his report on the human-rights situation in Austria. Thomas Hammarberg underlined the positive steps undertaken by the Austrian authorities to improve the protection and promotion of human rights and welcomed the ongoing constitutional reform process as an opportunity to codify clearly all fundamental rights

The report is available on http://www.coe.int/t/commissioner/default_EN.asp

Section 5.2. of the report focuses on Gender discrimination and violence against women. Attention is paid to the gap between income of men and women and violence against women. The report contains the following recommendations in this field:

- Develop further structural and targeted policy measures to address the persistent inequality of women in the labour market.
- Enhance support services for the victims of domestic violence to ensure that all victims of violence, including migrant women, women and girls with disabilities and children who have experienced or witnessed violence in their homes, can access them effectively.

For more information: www.coe.int

5. News on the European Women's Lobby

To follow the activities of the European Women's Lobby I have also recruited a reporter. Fernanda Wessels, the Netherlands, will follow the activities via the EWL-website.

- 'Asylum is not gender neutral' is a lobbying tool/advocacy guide on the need for gender guidelines to implement the European Qualifications and Asylum Procedures Directives. This joint production with the Refugee Womens' Resource Project at Asylum Aid (UK) is now available online: http://www.womenlobby.org/SiteResources/data/MediaArchive/Publications/migrant-final_en.pdf
 - EWL participated in the closing conference of the European Year on Equal Opportunities for All in Lisbon on 19-20 November 2007. EWL President Kirsti Kolthoff stressed the need for new legislation on equality between women and men EU level, to complement the existing framework, and for government to dedicate sufficient resources to policies and action on gender equality at national level, including support to women's NGOs during the civil society panel.
 - The Conclusion of the Seminar Equal Rights, Equal Voices - Migrant Women in the EU that took place on 19-20 January 2007 within the EPIM Project of the European Women's Lobby are now available in Czech and in Portuguese on the [EWL website](#).
 - Job opportunities:
 - * EWL is looking for a full time Policy Officer in Brussels. [Job description](#)
 - * EWL is seeking for candidates for its internship programme from February-July 2008.
- For [More information](#)

6. Upcoming Events and Special Days

21-24 January	Winter INGO Conference 2008 Council of Europe in Strasbourg
21-23 January	FEMANET network organises a seminar in Brussels on "Women in decision-making - from Europe to the Company"
26-27 January	EWL boardmeeting in Brussels

14-17 February	IFUW Board and Committee meeting in Geneva
25 February –	52 nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York
6 March	Theme: “Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women”
5 April	General Assembly of the Swiss Association in Fribourg
18-20 April	Chancengleichheit in Europe by the German Federation in Freiburg
19 April	European Day by the British Federation in Nottingham!

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

Warm regards,

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