

Annual Report 2002

Women Shaping the Future of Europe

European Women's Lobby

The voice of women in Europe

The European Lobby brings together over 3,000 women's organisations working to achieve equality of women and men and to ensure that gender equality and women's human rights are taken into consideration in all European policies. EWL is a democratic organisation with transparent procedures of communication, decision-making and accountability. EWL recognises the diversity of women's lives and experiences and aims to include the interests of the many women who face multiple discrimination.

EWL has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and with the Council of Europe.

Budget: for the fiscal year 2002, the EWL budget was Euro 812,500. EWL receives 80% of this amount as a grant from the European Community and the remaining 20% is made up of membership fees and other independent sources of funding.

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Editorial

The Annual Report of the European Women's Lobby (EWL) for 2002 is being prepared at a time of deepening global crisis, with the threat of war looming ever larger. The General Assembly of EWL, meeting in September 2002, unanimously agreed a Declaration Against War which has since been signed by over 100 women's organisations. In this declaration, we call on the governments of Europe to pursue all avenues to reach a peaceful resolution. We point out that women are the first to be silenced in a culture of militarisation and war, and that modern warfare disproportionately affects civilian populations, especially women and children. Violence against women and girls in conflict and post conflict situation is extreme, systematic and widespread.

Against this background of global instability and the threat of war in Iraq -- where it is clear that women across the world have had thus far little influence in political, economic or military decision making -- the day to day activity of EWL in working to achieve equality of women and men in all areas of life is even more vital.

As the newly elected President of EWL I am delighted to present the Annual Report for 2002, where we see evidence of the challenges that women face, and of the successes that we have had. Although there have been set backs in some areas, alliances between women in Europe and globally continue to grow, and much hard work and dedication exists within the secretariat and among all the member organisations.

Working to influence the Convention on the Future of Europe has been of central importance throughout the year, as has our work in relation to employment and social policy, violence against women, monitoring the progress of the proposed new "Gender Directive" and extending our contacts with women in the accession countries.

One of my key tasks in the coming months is to guide the EWL through the process of preparing for and welcoming new national co-ordinations from the accession countries into membership, following the adoption of new statutes and internal rules at the General Assembly of 2002

This new legal framework will enable EWL to continue to grow and to change in the coming years, while our commitment to democratic accountability, transparency in decision making and membership consultation remains absolute. In our work, we recognise the multiple discrimination that many women face, for example, black women, elderly women, young women, disabled women and lesbian women, and the multiple identities that women hold in the world. EWL therefore welcomes the diversity of women as an added value to the organisation to be welcomed and celebrated.

As a disabled woman myself, and especially in 2003, the European year of disabled people, I want to focus on the common ground between all women and to work to include all women with their own respective abilities, skills, energy, and experiences

While highlighting the achievements and commitments of many women within the European Women's Lobby throughout this report, I would like to say a very special thank you to the former EWL President, Denise Fuchs, who successfully led the organisation through a time of growth and transition. I want to thank *all women*, and in particular the women active in the European Parliament, in the European Commission, in the governments of the member states, in the Trades Union movement and in NGOs across Europe who contributed to making 2002 such a successful, and inspiring year and to wish all women, men and children, all over the world a peace-full year to come!

Lydia la Rivière-Zijdel
EWL, President

The Convention on the Future of Europe – an opportunity or a setback

For equality of women and men. The Jury is still out.

The early months of the Convention on the Future of Europe highlighted once again the challenge facing women in public life, and the danger to gender equality posed by political processes that hide behind gender neutral selection criteria. The reality that we face today is one of a stark gender imbalance in the representation of women and men, with only 19 women out of 98 total members in the initial composition -- a mere 17%.

The Convention should be providing a unique opportunity to contribute to the shaping of a future constitutional treaty for the European Union. But women have been so completely underrepresented in its composition that it is hard to accept the Convention's deliberations as truly representative of the interests, concerns and aspirations of all citizens in Europe.

To raise awareness of this major gender deficit, on the eve of the opening of the Convention, EWL launched its postcard campaign "Put your weight behind equality in Europe" with a clear set of demands including:

- Parity democracy – the equal representation of women and men in decision making
- Women's human rights and equality of women and men reiterated as core European values
- Achievement of equality of women and men to be stated as an objective of the European Union with a legal base in the new Constitutional treaty
- Mainstreaming of gender equality to be reinforced across all policy areas with the introduction of gender budgeting as a key institutional mechanism for achieving equality.

Throughout 2002, EWL contributed significantly to the Convention debate by making sure that women's voices and views were heard, despite being under represented in the Convention's membership. EWL provided regular briefings and reports to Convention and Working Group members and posted written contributions to the Futurum website (http://europa.eu.int/futurum/index_en.htm). With women members of the Convention, EWL held briefings and breakfast meetings. It also facilitated active lobbying by member organisations of their national MEPs and government representatives.

EWL worked closely with other European sector non-governmental organisations and trade unions, chairing the Civil Society Contact Group, as a representative of the Platform of Social NGOs. The fruit of these partnerships was an explicit reference in the Civil Society Contact Group's common statement in June, which called for a

strengthened legal basis to ensure gender equality. EWL also helped to draft and widely disseminated the Social Platform's Tool Kit for Civil Society to support lobbying action across Europe.

The gender perspective message resonated in public debates and hearings throughout the year, as EWL representatives participated in many fora. In a presentation to the Convention members, EWL Secretary General Mary McPhail emphasised the core of EWL's message, **"We believe that the equal participation of women and men in all democratic processes is a pre-requisite for democracy.** We are therefore calling for the introduction of effective mechanisms which will ensure the equal participation of women and men in decision-making and in the composition of all assemblies, bodies and institutions of European Union."

While the shape of the new Constitutional Treaty is not yet finalised, what is clear is that women in Europe are expecting much more than a simple restating of existing legal provisions. They will settle for no less than an explicit commitment to gender equality as a value and a stronger legal basis in the European Treaty so as to underpin equality legislation in all areas of life.

Thoughts on the Convention...

"The Convention is a body reflecting the institutions and groups that make up European society. Institutions, which in their turn, should reflect the opinion of 500 million European citizens. How is it possible then that only 17 % of the members of the Convention are women?"

"A person with one leg does not walk very far. How far then can Europe really get in the construction of its future, hobbling along without the support of half of its people, the women?"

"European integration cannot move forward unless the population as a whole – men and women - fully participate in its construction."

Highlights from a speech given by Employment and Social Policy Commissioner Anna Diamantopoulou at EWL's seminar "Convention on the Future of Europe: Women Speak Out" in September 2002, where hundreds of women came together to discuss their hopes and aspirations for Europe's new constitution.

Graphic: Postcard – The future of Europe: have we got the balance right?

CAPTION The EWL received thousands of postcards from its campaign launched in February 2002, demanding equal participation of men and women in decision-making by introducing parity democracy in the upcoming treaty revisions.

Youth Convention puts women back into the equation

Following the disappointing representation of women in the Convention, EWL was successful in ensuring that the same mistake would not be made again in relation to a gender balanced representation vis a vis the Youth Convention. The result: fifty-five percent of the 210 representatives were young women.

Convention	Women (symbol)		Men (symbol)	
Total members	11	16.6%	55	83.3%
Presidium members	2	16.6%	10	83.3%
Observers from candidate countries	6	15.4%	33	84.6%
Youth Convention	115	55%	95	45%

New Directive on Gender Equality -- Extending gender issues beyond employment and social policy

A new Directive on Equality, based on the anti-discrimination Article 13 of the Amsterdam Treaty was eagerly awaited by women throughout Europe during 2002, as it would be the first time that equality would be considered in all areas of life. Gender equality is an explicit objective of the EU, and gender mainstreaming must be applied in the wider policy sphere, and such a directive would be a significant first step.

To support the active involvement of women's NGOs in monitoring and influencing the process of adopting this new piece of legislation, EWL drafted a Shadow Directive on achieving equality of women and men outside the fields of occupation and employment. The EWL Directive is an ambitious proposal that sets out priority areas in which action is needed to achieve equality of women and men within the EU.

EWL Shadow Directive – a gender manifesto for achieving equality in the EU

Areas include:

Parity participation of women and men in decision making

Equality in access to and supply of goods and services

Taxation and social protection – the individualisation of rights

The right to reconcile work and family life for women and men

Equal access to education

Violence against women

Healthcare and family planning services adapted to the needs of women

Images of women and men in advertising/pornography

Although the proposal was due to be published in June 2002, in early 2003 agreement still had not been reached within the Commission about the text of this very important piece of legislation in the area of equality.

The women of Europe are still waiting with great expectations, and EWL will continue to ask political leaders to make achieving real equality between men and women central to the process of developing a more humane and truly democratic society. Redressing the unequal situation of women and safeguarding and promoting women's human rights must not be seen as a set of bureaucratic problems to solve, but rather as a vital element of a European society based on equality and social justice for all.

Economic and social policies: has gender equality made inroads?

Reaching some of the strategic objectives set at the Lisbon Council in 2000, such as increasing employment and participation rates of women to 60% from its current 54.9% by 2010, will not be easy to achieve unless a more systematic and comprehensive gender analysis is integrated in the implementation of such goals.

The Barcelona Spring Council Summit in 2002 brought together European leaders to discuss ways in which to make social, economic and employment policies more integrated and coherent, and was thus a major advocacy opportunity for EWL.

EWL guidelines to the Summit set out how to strengthen the gender equality perspective in the overall analysis of policy areas, with a specific focus on employment policies, social protection reforms and the integration of a gender equality perspective into EU macro-economic policies.

One positive outcome from the Summit leaders was agreement on an important target: *Improvement of the provision of childcare by 2010 to at least 90% of children between 3 years old and mandatory school age, and at least 33% of children under 3 years of age.*

Future European Employment Strategy

Many opportunities existed in 2002 to bring a sharper gender focus on European employment policies including an evaluation of how the five-year European Employment Strategy (1997-2001) had been implemented.

A EWL paper, entitled 'European Employment Policies as a core mechanism for achieving equality between women and men', highlighted what actions would be needed in the European Employment Strategy to increase women's participation and position within the job market. Recommendations included a strategy to **increase provision of care services for children and dependant persons**, the **individualisation of social protection rights**, policies to **improve women's working conditions** and **tackling the gender pay gaps**.

Reducing poverty and social exclusion: how long will women remain invisible?

In its evaluation of the first round of National Action Plans Against Poverty and Social Exclusion (2000-2002), EWL highlighted the absence of gender equality measures. EWL pointed out that recognition of the feminisation of poverty and gender inequality will be one of the core challenges for achieving social inclusion. A wider range of policies such as the individualisation of rights in social protection systems, adapting public policies and services to support the growing number of one-parent families should also be included in future national plans.

Gender equality top priority to fight against poverty

Henriette Kjaer, Danish Minister for Social Affairs and Gender Equality stated that equality was the first priority to be considered in defining National Action Plans for 2003-2004 at the First European Round Table on the European Strategy Against Poverty and Social Exclusion. EWL participated in the roundtable organized by the Danish presidency and the European Commission in Aarhus, Denmark.

Distribution of Structural Funds – tipping the gender balance

In a seminar on “*Equal opportunities for women and men in the Structural Funds*”, EWL presented its views on whether the new Structural Funds regulations, adopted in 2000, had made a difference to the lives of women. Although the Community regulations contain strong proposals for achieving gender equality, they have been left out in the drafting and implementation of the Structural Funds Programmes at national level. To bring women back into the picture, solutions suggested by EWL include increasing financial support to projects and programmes run by women and reinforcing gender equality as a horizontal and cross-cutting aim of the Structural Funds interventions.

Maternity and Parental leave: vast differences between member states

The EWL completed a comparative study on Maternity, Paternity and Parental Leave regulations in all 15 European Union Member States in 2002. The Study compares several factors including the length of leave and levels of payment during leave. .

Maternity, Paternity and Parental leave in EU Member States 2002 weeks per family with two parents

Country	Length of leave in weeks			Allowance, % of full salary		
	Maternity	Paternity	Parental	Maternity	Paternity	Parental
Austria	16	0	88	100	0	Other
Belgium	15	2	26	75-82	100-	Other
Denmark	4	2	64	100	100	90
Germany	14	0	142	100	0	Other
Finland	18	3	27/93	70	70	70
France	16	2	104	not fixed	100	Other
Greece	17	0	30	100	0	0
Ireland	18/26	0	28	70	0	0
Italy	22/18	0/4	44	80	0	30
Luxembourg	16-20	0	26	100	0	Other
Netherlands	16	0,4	26	100	100	0
Portugal	17	1	26	100	100	0
Sweden	0	2	78		80	80
Spain	16	0,4	36	100	100	0
Great Britain	18/29	0	26	90	0	0

Other: refers to a flat-rate payment, not related to former income.

Violence against women – a persistent barrier to women’s equality

The EWL’s European Policy Action Centre on Violence Against Women provides a forum for women’s NGOs from across Europe to engage with policy makers to strengthen the understanding of and commitment to action to combat all forms of violence against women within the European Union.

The EWL takes as its starting point the understanding that “Violence against women is a manifestation of the historically unequal power relations between women and men, which have led to the domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of women’s full advancement” (Beijing Platform for Action, paragraph 118).

Between 10% and 69% of women reported being physically assaulted by an intimate partner at some point in their lives in 48 population-based surveys from around the world (World Health Organisation Report on Violence and Health, 2002).

Key activities of the Policy Action Centre in 2002 included:

- coordinating the work of the European Observatory on violence against women, which has published a set of indicators to monitor progress in addressing violence against women in all EU Member States.
- launching the EWL Think Tank on violence against women, created to bring together representatives of European institutions, NGOs and academics to examine how violence against women can be addressed within existing and future EU policies and programmes
- substantial European and international policy work on trafficking and prostitution.
- submitting a report on Women’s Human Rights to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women

National observatories on violence against women

Denmark and Ireland officially launched their observatories in Dublin and Copenhagen.

With funding from the Daphne Programme, EWL continued to support the development of national observatories on violence against women with five partner countries. The observatories aim to provide an independent voice from the non-governmental sector on issues related to all forms of violence against women. In 2002, Greece, Portugal and Spain began the groundwork for setting up national observatories, while Denmark and Ireland officially launched their observatories.

In 2002, the terms of reference and a set of objectives to facilitate the work of developing observatories at national level were agreed upon by the experts of the EWL European Observatory. They include:

- monitoring government performance in relation to commitments and outcomes
- highlighting gaps in policies and service delivery;

- identifying emerging issues and formulating recommendations for action;
- drafting national reports on violence against women as an independent coalition of NGOs, using the common indicators contained in the EWL publication “Towards a common European framework to monitor progress in combating violence against women”.

Trafficking in Women and Prostitution

EWL’s commitment to addressing trafficking in women, prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation as a form of violence against women was stepped up 2002. EWL co-edited a “*Guide to the New UN Trafficking Protocol*” in collaboration with a number of international organisations. Forty countries must ratify the protocol before it enters into force. In late 2002, only one EU Member State (Spain) had ratified it, so EWL’s future work will include lobbying for ratification of all EU member countries.

EWL believes that trafficking and prostitution is a violation of women’s human rights, and had the opportunity to voice its position at a number of conferences and seminars throughout 2002. These included the International Organisation for Migration on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the EU Forum on the Prevention of Organised Crime, and the European conference on trafficking in women held in Syracuse.

2002 also marked the emergence of a consortium of women’s organisations who are developing a European network to combat trafficking in women for the purpose of sexual exploitation, and EWL looks forward to close collaboration with this new network.

EWL Campaign on Women Asylum Seekers keeps up momentum

(See PDF file GRAPHIC Illustration of Why, How, Who, End of Campaign postcard)

Postcards continued to pour in from EWL’s campaign, Persecution is not Gender Blind, in 2002 EWL collected thousands of signatures calling on national governments to develop gender sensitive asylum policies.

World Refugee Day dedicated to women refugees

To raise awareness of the gender obstacles experienced by women asylum seekers, EWL issued a press release on World Refugee Day, June 21, which was dedicated to women refugees. During 2002, EWL also monitored draft EU legislation in the area of asylum, particularly the proposal for a directive on the definition of a refugee, which refers to sexual violence as a legitimate ground for seeking asylum in the EU Member States.

Enlargement – expanding the voice of women

The year 2002 was the year when the EU and the future Member States were set to conclude all negotiations on the Accession Treaties. Agreements reached at the Copenhagen Summit in December 2002 means that EU will welcome ten new Member States in May 2004, including Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovak Republic, and Slovenia. Bulgaria and Romania are set to join the EU in 2007.

EWL looks forward to welcoming new member organisations from these countries in 2003, and made the relevant changes to its legal statutes in September 2002.

Gender equality in the accession process

One priority for EWL during the year was to achieve an increased focus on gender equality in the accession process. EWL advocated that effective implementation of EU gender equality, and not just its adoption, in future member states would be key. In this context, EWL worked with the rapporteur for the women's rights committee of the European Parliament to strengthen the gender equality perspective in the overall Enlargement report of the European Parliament. EWL presented its recommendations on enlargement to the European Commission's Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities in October, at which counterparts from accession countries were invited for the first time to take part.

Joint lobbying efforts

During 2002, the EWL further increased its collaboration and joint lobbying work with women's organisations in the future Member States. Many women's NGOs joined in EWL's campaigns in support of a New Directive on gender equality covering areas outside employment, and in the campaign for parity representation in the composition of the Convention on the future of Europe. The ongoing lobbying work targeting the members of the Convention has been of particular importance since both current and future Member States are equally represented. During the Danish EU Presidency in September, the EWL participated in the conference on Gender Equality in the Candidate Countries, organised by EWL member, the Danish Women's Council.

Polish Minister Danuta Hübner.

"There is a perception in the candidate countries that gender issues are better addressed in the EU.....During each and every meeting I have with women in Poland a question about 'what the EU membership will bring in terms of gender equality' is asked."

"In many of the future Member States inequalities between women and men have become more severe during the process of economic and social transition and therefore an increased emphasis on gender equality in the accession process is urgent in order to respond to these developments."

EWL statement at the meeting of the European Commission Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities on 10 October, 2002.

Visions from women political leaders across Europe

While there have been many positive developments for women in recent decades across Europe and globally, they have often been uneven, erratic and reversible in times of economic and political instability.

Women in the political and policy arena play a vital role in raising awareness and speaking out about what needs to be done in order to achieve full equality between women and men.

EWL has asked four women from different political parties and countries, who have played an active role in moving forward the gender equality agenda, to share their visions on what the 21st century could offer to this end, and how women's organisations can contribute.

Heidi Hautala, Member of the European Parliament and Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities Committee, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance
Guided through the groundbreaking European legislation on sexual harassment, which was adopted in 2002.

“The gender revolution that took place during the last century in Finland, from women's right to vote in 1906 to the election of a female president in early 2000, proves that when there is will to achieve gender equality, there is a way. In Europe we must achieve equality at the workplace and strive for more equal participation in decision-making and family life. We must not spare our efforts to create a more equitable world and support gender equality in the developing countries. Without organisations such as EWL and its members we would have never made it this far. We need to join forces to focus our efforts, to attain visibility and to reinforce our demands.”

Anne Van Lancker, Member of the European Parliament, Group of the Party of European Socialists

As a member of the Convention on the Future of Europe, she was an outspoken supporter of gender equality throughout the process.

“The Convention on the future of Europe is a unique opportunity to strengthen the gender agenda of an enlarged European Union. Women must be fully involved in debating and shaping our future, to ensure that peace, democracy, human rights, solidarity and equality are strongly enshrined in the new Constitution and to give Europe the means to live up to our expectations. Gender equality should be at the heart of all the Union policies. The strong gender-imbalance in the Convention proves that equality does not come naturally. That is why it is crucially important that we, members of the Convention who want to put equality high on the agenda, can count on the support of the European Women's Lobby as well as on women's organisations in the present and future Member States to raise awareness and make women's voices heard. I am particularly grateful for this warm cooperation!”

Miet Smet, Member of the European Parliament and Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities Committee, Group of the European People's Party and of the European Democrats

As budget rapporteur for EP's Women's Committee, she ensured that gender was mainstreamed in the development budget.

“The best way to be helped is to do it yourself. That is the reason why women need to be present in decision-making bodies. Only then they can pilot decisions in a certain direction and make a society adapted to both women and men. The role of Women's organisations such as EWL is then to develop a strategy to increase the number of women in decision-making arenas. I am a strong defender of the quota system.”

Henriette Kjaer, Danish Minister for Social Affairs and Gender Equality, Conservative

During the Danish Presidency, she hosted the first roundtable on social exclusion and brought gender inequalities to the top of the agenda.

“My vision is to create the full framework for both women and men to live the life that they desire, regardless of their gender. To fulfil this vision, we shall continue our work to implement the gender mainstreaming principle and at the same time strengthen the fight against specific gender problems such as domestic violence and trafficking in women.

Gender equality is also about attitudes. Together, we shall move the debate forward. In this process the European Women's Lobby and its members are essential in order to keep the discussions alive and to be the representatives of ordinary women and men.”

Giving a voice to

3000 women's organisations in Europe

EWL structure and members

The EWL Executive Committee and Board of Administration were elected in September 2002.

Executive Committee

President: Lydia la Rivière-Zijdel, European Disability Forum

Vice President: Denise Fuchs, Coordination Française pour le Lobby Européen des Femmes

Vice President: Ana Coucello, Coordenação Portuguesa para o Lobby Europeu de Mulheres

Treasurer: Kirsti Kolthoff, The Swedish Women's Lobby

Board members representative of National Co-ordinations

Austria: Eva Salomon

Belgium: Michèle Bribosia

Denmark: Lene Bertelsen

Finland: Paulina Murto-Lehtinen

France: Denise Fuchs

Germany: Inge von Boenninghausen

Greece: Mika Ioannidou

Ireland: Mary Kelly

Italy: Ludovica Botarelli - Tranquilli-Leali

Luxembourg: Mady Molitor

The Netherlands: Jet Brummelhuis

Portugal: Ana Coucello

Spain: Teresa Blat

Sweden: Kirsti Kolthoff

United Kingdom: Annette Lawson

Board Members representative of European organisations

Matilda Casa

Committee of Agricultural Organisations in the EU (COPA)

Laura Finne-Elonen

European Centre of the International Council of Women

Eufemia Ippolito

European Federation of Business and Professional Women

June Jacobs
International Council of Jewish Women

Lucy Jones Hazlett
European Women's Network for Intercultural Action and Exchange (AKWAABA)

Karine Henrotte-Forsberg
University Women of Europe

Marilyn La Tona
International Alliance of Women

Nuala Ryan
European Network of Women (ENOW)

Sinead Tiernan
European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)

EWL Secretariat 2002
Secretary General: Mary McPhail

Staff: Malin Björk, Mary Collins, Clarisse Delorme, Colette De Troy, Renée Gengou, Cécile Gréboval, Marie-Anne Leunis, Eva Cruells Lopez, Virginie Niyonzima, Anne-Marie Struthers, Gabrielle Tzelepis (Accountant)

Member organisations of EWL

National co-ordinations

AUSTRIA: Bund Österreichischer Frauenvereine; Österreichischer Frauenring

BELGIUM: Conseil des Femmes Francophones de Belgique; Nederlandstalige Vrouwenraad; Comité de Liaison des Femmes (Coordination Belge du Lobby européen des femmes)

DENMARK: Women's Council in Denmark

FINLAND: NYTKIS - Coalition of Finnish Women

FRANCE: Coordination Française pour le Lobby Européen des Femmes (CLEF)

GERMANY: Deutscher Frauenrat

GREECE: Coordination of Greek Women's NGOs for the EWL

IRELAND: National Women's Council of Ireland (NWC)

ITALY: Coordinamento Italiano della Lobby Europea delle Donne LEF Italia

LUXEMBOURG: Commission Féminine Internationale du Mouvement Européen; Fédération Nationale des Femmes Luxembourgeoises; Conseil National des Femmes du Luxembourg

NETHERLANDS: Vrouwen Alliantie; Nederlandse Vrouwen Raad

PORTUGAL: Coordenação Portuguesa para o Lobby Europeu de Mulheres (CPLM)

SPAIN: Coordinadora Española para el Lobby Europeo de Mujeres (CELEM)

SWEDEN: The Swedish Women's Lobby

UNITED KINGDOM: National Alliance of Women's Organisations; Northern Ireland Women's European Platform; Women's Forum Scotland; Wales Women's Euro Network

European member organisations

Committee of Agricultural Organisations in the EU (COPA)

Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CCRE)

European Centre of the International Council of Women (ECICW)

European Council of WIZO Federations

European Disability Forum (EDF)

European Federation of Business & Professional Women

European Federation of Women Working in the Home (FEFAF)

European Forum of Left Feminists

European Network of Women (ENOW)

European Network of Women Entrepreneurs (FEMVISION)

European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)

European Women's Management Development Network

European Network for Intercultural Action and Exchange

European YWCA'S

International Alliance of Women

International Council of Jewish Women

International European Movement

International Federation of Women in Legal Careers (IFWLC)

Medical Women's International Association

Soroptimist International Europe

Soroptimist International of Great Britain and Ireland

European Medium and Small Business Union

University Women of Europe

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations

Corresponding members

EWL has 85 corresponding member organisations in Germany, Armenia, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, Finland, France, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Morocco, Netherlands, Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, United Kingdom, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden.

Supporting members

Over 135 individuals across Europe are supporting members of EWL.

Join the largest women's movement for equality in Europe

The European Women's Lobby monitors EU legislative proposals and actively advocates a gender perspective by drawing on the expertise of its organisations and dedicated secretariat. Based on its statutes, which were revised in 2002, EWL's aims are to achieve equality of women and men and to achieve equal treatment and opportunities for women across Europe.

EWL's work is vital in raising awareness about gender inequalities and bringing proposals to political decision-makers in order to strengthen gender equality legislation and promote gender mainstreaming.

Benefits of becoming a member of EWL

All members

- Regular information briefings and the opportunity to support campaigns
- Increased visibility and information sharing of your organisation's activities

For full members

- Opportunities to be consulted and to participate in policy development
- The right to participate in and vote at the Annual General Assembly

EWL membership categories

1. Full Member

National Co-ordinations of non-governmental organisations and European-wide non-governmental organisations.

2. Associate Member

Non-governmental women's organisations or the women's sections of non-governmental organisations that are committed to EWL's purpose and aims.

3. Individual Supporting Member

Individuals who accept EWL's purpose and aims.

4. Supporting Organisations

Organisations which accept EWL's purpose and aims.

To find out more about becoming an EWL member, please consult our website for the appropriate membership application, or further details.

Inside back cover:

Special Thanks to:

Previous EWL President, Denise Fuchs, and Executive Committee and Board, Irish government and Danish Women's Council

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Back cover

EWL Speaks Out:

The European Women's Lobby represents the views and interests of over 3000 member organisations in many different for a.

Through its policy briefings, newsletters, speeches, campaigns, networking and informal discussions, EWL is an invaluable source of expertise and practical resources for all those working to achieve equality of women and men.

EWL contributes on a regular basis to:

- Advisory Committee of Equal Opportunity and working groups, European Commission
- United Nations Commission on the Status of Women
- Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities Committee, European Parliament
- Work of the EU Presidencies
- Convention on the Future of Europe
- Platform of European Social NGOs

NOVEMBER 25 – International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women

Did you know

In Europe, women make up over half of the population. However, women fall well below this percentage in the work place and in leadership positions at all levels of business, professional and political life.

On the Job

In the EU, In the EU, the employment rate of women is 54.09%, which is 18 percentage

- points behind men. However, women account . "for 77% of low-paid workers.
- On average, women in the EU earn only 76% of what men earn for work of equal value.

Equal opportunities for women and men in the European Union, Annual Report 2001, European Commission

In the Home

- **In the European Union, at least 1 in 5 women experiences violence by their intimate male partner. 95% of all acts of violence against women take place within the home.**

European Women's Lobby "Unveiling the Hidden Data on Domestic Violence in the EU", 1999

- **For women between 16 and 44 years of age, domestic violence is thought to be the major cause of death and invalidity, ahead of cancer, road accidents and even war.**

Council of Europe, Domestic Violence. Report: Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, July 2002.

In Politics

In the composition of the Convention on the Future of Europe, formed in 2002 to draw up a constitution for the European Union, only 17% of its members are women.

Women represent only 14.6% of parliamentarians across the world, and in Europe – 17.2%.

Interparliamentary Union, June 6, 2002.

EWL LOGO

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With the support of the European Commission 