



N°05-2004

EWL NEWSFLASH
May 2004

EDITORIAL

EWL SUBMITS STATEMENT TO IRISH PRESIDENCY MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON GENDER EQUALITY IN LIMERICK

At a time when the European Union begins a new phase in its history with ten new Member countries, and just before the 10-year review of the commitments made by all EU Member States in Beijing in 1995, it is essential that the EU leadership and its key institutions **continue to take steps to develop strong EU gender equality actions**

In view of the **meeting of Ministers for gender equality in Limerick on 7 May 2004** under the auspices of the Irish EU Presidency, EWL put forward the main elements of a revitalised and dynamic political commitment at EU level to achieve equality between women and men. In a statement to the Ministers, EWL highlighted its immediate requests in relation to gender equality, such as: the need for equality of women and men to be explicitly stated in the values article of the **European Constitutional Treaty** and the swift adoption of the new **directive on gender equality** on equal treatment in the access to and provision of goods and services. In the more medium-term perspective, EWL underlines that the EU commitment to gender equality needs to be reformulated and strengthened in a **new EU Framework Strategy/ 'EU Road map for gender equality'** - based on the critical areas of concern and the commitments made in the Beijing Platform for Action. In order to support a revitalized policy-process at EU level, EWL also calls for the creation of a **European Union Gender Equality Institute**. Finally, an absolute necessity to move forward in the struggle for equality between women and men in Europe, is to strengthen gender justice in distribution of resources, including a commitment to apply **gender budgeting** at EU level, particularly in the Structural Funds. Read the whole EWL statement on: <http://www.womenlobby.org/Document.asp?DocID=737&tod=143730>

EWL NEWS

GENDER EQUALITY IS A CORE VALUE OF THE EU! - Considering the commitment of the European Council to reach an agreement on the European Constitutional Treaty by June 2004, EWL launched a lobbying action on May 7 regarding Article 1-2 of the draft Constitutional Treaty (values of the EU). This action calls for the European Constitution to include "equality between women and men" stated explicitly in the first sentence of the values article. Equality between women and men in the first line of the values article would, *inter alia*, become an explicit criterion for the eligibility for Union membership (As stated in the draft Constitutional Treaty under Title IX: Union Membership); its violation may, under the conditions of Title IX, lead to a suspension of Union membership rights.

The text that is currently circulating on the values Article 2 is NOT acceptable as equality between women and men is a RIGHT not a "*principle*" as currently drafted. The text that EWL wants approved for the Values, Article 2 of the future European Constitutional Treaty read as follows:

"The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, liberty, democracy, equality, including equality between women and men, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minority groups. These values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice and solidarity prevail."

EWL PUBLISHES ANNUAL REPORT 2003 – The Annual report 2003 of the European Women's Lobby was published. This publication gives an overview of the EWL activities in 2003 in different areas including actions on the European elections 2004, the EU enlargement, the draft European Constitutional Treaty and the fight against violence against women. The EWL Annual Report is available in English, French, Spanish and German upon request (ewl@womenlobby.org) or on the EWL website: <http://www.womenlobby.org/publi.asp?sectionID=55>

REMINDER: EWL REPORTING FOR THE 10-YEAR REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION- EWL will draft an EU alternative report mapping the actions / legislation/ programmes of the European Union (i.e. EU institutions) undertaken to implement the Beijing Platform for Action at EU level similar to the 5-year report prepared in 2000. In doing this, we also would like to include good –or bad- practices or particular achievements from the national level in the form of examples and we therefore would be happy to receive contribution from women's organisations from EU member States in the form of short examples in English or French before 30.06.2004. We would also be very happy to receive copies of alternative /parallel national reports. A specific questionnaire to help integrate national information into the EU report is available from the EWL Secretariat. For more information, please contact Cécile Gréboval at the EWL Secretariat: greboval@womenlobby.org.

EWL REPRESENTATION

- Lydia la Rivière-Zijdel, EWL President participated in a meeting on 1/5/2004 in Riga (Latvia) organised by the Latvian National Coordination for EWL.
- Lydia la Rivière-Zijdel, EWL President and Mary Mc Phail, Secretary general represented EWL at the Irish Presidency conference "New Horizons for Gender Equality" on 6/5/2004 in Limerick (Ireland).
- Denise Fuchs EWL Vice-president participated in the Council of Europe Ad Hoc Committee on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings on 11-12/5/2004 in Strasbourg (France).
- Lydia la Rivière-Zijdel participated in the General Assembly of the European Disability Forum on 15-16/5/2004 in Warsaw (Poland).
- Denise Fuchs, EWL Vice-president and Iluta Lace, EWL Board member for Latvia participated in a meeting of women's NGOs on 29/5/2004 in Warsaw (Poland).
- Karine Henrotte Forsberg, President of University Women of Europe (UWE) and Board Member of the European Women's Lobby, was elected Head of the NGO Equality/Parity grouping for a term of two years at the last Parliamentary session of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg,

EUROPEAN & INTERNATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

DAPHNE II PROGRAMME ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL - The Council has adopted a decision establishing an action programme to prevent and combat violence against children, teenagers and women, and to protect victims and at-risk groups (the DAPHNE II programme) for 2004-2008, accepting all the amendments adopted by the EP in second reading. DAPHNE II aims to avert all type of violence in public and private life against the above-mentioned groups, through preventative measures, aid for victims and at-risk groups and encouraging organisations working in this domain. You can access the text of this decision in the Official Journal at the following address: http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/archive/2004/l_14320040430en.html [source: Agence Europe]

Call for proposal: http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/funding/daphne/funding_daphne_en.htm

The new 5-year-programme (2004-2008) has a budget of 50 million Euro and the **DEADLINE for submission is 30 June 2004 at 16h00** (see calls for proposals section at the end of this Newsflash).

FOURTH PROGRAMME TO PROMOTE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION - On Thursday, the 29th of April, the European Commission adopted its fourth internal Action Programme for Equal Opportunities between Men and Women (2004-2008). Since 1988, the Commission has been organising awareness raising among Commission staff about questions of equality, improving social infrastructure and testing out more flexible work arrangements. Since 1995, quantitative targets have been set for managers and administrators. This has led to a rise in the proportion of women holding managerial posts, notes the Commission in a press release, citing the example of the number of women at Director level, which has risen from 2.6% in 1995 to 17.4% in 2003. [Source: Agence Europe]

CODE-OF-CONDUCT LAUNCHED BY UNICEF - The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) launched a code-of-conduct for the North American travel industry, while reports indicate that a quarter of international sex tourists are American, and that the number of children being exploited worldwide estimated at 2 million and growing. The code requires travel agencies to train staff in countries where children are exploited; provide information about the issue to travellers; explicitly repudiate the sexual exploitation of children in any contracts with local suppliers; develop ethical corporate policies; and report annually on the issue. For more info: www.thecode.org

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SEEING GREATER EU EFFORT IN FIGHT AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND YOUNG GIRLS TO KOSOVO - Amnesty International is calling on the European Union to increase its legal and financial support in the fight against trafficking in women and young girls to Kosovo. In a report published on Thursday 6 May, the organisation denounced the trafficking in women to work as prostitutes in Kosovo, as well as in similar trafficking to Moldova, Romania, Bulgaria and the Ukraine and sent on to other European Union countries (Italy, Netherlands, United Kingdom) via Kosovo. According to Amnesty International, members of the international community working in Kosovo make up 20% of these women and young girl's "customers". The report is available at: (www.amnesty-eu.org). (Source: Agence Europe)

UK GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT ON NEW GENDER EQUALITY DUTY – On 17 May 2004, the British Government published its White Paper, *Fairness for All: A new Commission for Equality and Human Rights*, which details the establishment of the new Commission on Equality and Human Rights (<http://www.dti.gov.uk/access/equalitywhitepaper.pdf>). The White Paper includes an announcement that the Government will now implement a public sector duty to promote equality between women and men - similar to the duty to promote race equality introduced since 2000, and the duty to promote equality of opportunity for disabled people contained in the current Draft Disability Discrimination Bill. A statement

welcoming this announcement from the Fawcett Society can be read at http://www.fawcettsociety.org.uk/Campaign_Equality.htm#psd

UK VICTORIAN SEX CRIME LAWS MODERNISED - The UK government has updated its sex crime laws, toughening measures against child sex abuse and Internet grooming while sweeping away a Victorian-era ban on intercourse between men. Described by the government as the most radical reform of sex offences in 100 years, the Sexual Offences Act will also simplify prosecution in rape cases to help increase the rape conviction rate, a mere seven percent. For more info: <http://www.reuters.co.uk/newsPackageArticle.jhtml?type=topNews&storyID=502808§ion=news>

NEWS FROM THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

DE KEYSER REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE WORLD IN 2003 FINALLY ADOPTED – Despite the opposition of the EPP-ED Group, the European Parliament adopted, on the 22nd of April, the report by the Belgian Socialist Véronique De Keyser on human rights in the world in 2003 by 189 votes to 111 and 29 abstentions. The amendments of the EPP-ED, aimed at removing the passages of the text on education and prevention in reproductive health were rejected.

Choosing to grant a large place of its report to reproductive health, Véronique De Keyser held significant criticism from those who believed that the right to health does not have a place in this debate. Ms De Keyser defended her argument passionately, evoking the fate of women - and men - who throughout the world do not have access to sex education or reproductive health provisions.

More info: Martha Roussou (EP Working Group on Population, Sustainable Development and Reproductive Health): tel:+32 2 551 54 50, fax:+32 2 551 54 59, e-mail: wgpop@mariestopes-org.be

WEB SITE SPECIAL EUROPEAN ELECTIONS 2004 - In view of the historic European elections which will take place simultaneously in all EU 25 States from 10 to 13 June, the European Parliament has launched a special European elections 2004 web site, accessible on www.elections2004.eu.int.

The aim of this web site is twofold: to give detailed information to the media on these elections and on the European Parliament and to generate interest among citizens for this unprecedented electoral rendez-vous. The site will be constantly updated during the pre-election period. On election night, 13 June, it will provide a platform for the publication of the election results in all 25 countries at both national and European level with the breakdown by the political groups of the incoming Parliament.

EURO-QUIZZ – You go on a journey throughout the whole enlarged EU and gather votes while answering question on the EU, Member States and the world. If you win the most votes, you become “the virtual President of the European Parliament!”. Let the virtual EP president be a woman! Visit: <http://www.europaquiz.org>

KALEIDOSCOPE PROJECT OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT OFFERS TO FILM YOUR EVENTS RELATED TO THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS. The *Kaleidoscope* is a project of the Audiovisual Division of the European Parliament. In the lead up to the European Parliamentary elections on the 13th of June 2004, *Kaleidoscope* will be filming events related to the European Elections in every one of the 25 member states. If you are organising events or if you know of interesting events, peoples and places that Kaleidoscope can cover, get in contact with the Kaleidoscope Project Team : kaleidoscope@europarl.eu.int

Project leader: Andréa Vermeer, tel. +32-2-2843714 or contact Carla Palmieri tel. + 32 2-2831707

EVENTS

CITIES AND PROSTITUTION : International conference organised by the City of Madrid, on 16, 17 and 18 of June 2004 in Centro Cultural Conde Duque, c/ Conde Duque 9-11, Madrid. The aim of the

conference is to discuss and propose strategies and actions to implement global policies in cities to combat trafficking in women and sexual exploitation. For information and to get the programme of the conference, please contact congresprost@munimadrid.es or fax : +34 91.480.12.57.

CONFERENCE ON GENITAL MUTILATIONS – The conference organised in Paris with the support of *l'Académie de médecine* and in association with the NGO *Equilibre et Populations* and *l'Institut Théramex, Bioéthique, Santé de la Femme et Société* will take place on Thursday 10 June 2004 in the locals of *l'Académie de médecine* in Paris. For further information and inscription, contact Anne Leroux at the Théramex Institute, tel. +33 1 53 67 63 32, e-mail aleroux@theramex.mc.

PUBLICATIONS-WEB SITES

GENDERING EUROPEANISATION - This collection of essays shows how the Member States have applied the various equal opportunity directives since 1975 and lists the political controversies that have raised their heads over time. A very detailed book on gender equality and how it has changed. ULRIKE LIEBERT (Ed.): *Gendering Europeanisation*. Presses Interuniversitaires Européennes-Peter Lang (1 av. Maurice, B-1050 Brussels. E-mail: info@peterlang.com - Internet: www.peterlang.net). "Multiple Europe" series, No. 19. 2003, 304 pp. (Source: *Agence Europe*)

SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN – The new web site of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women is available: <http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/7/b/women/>

GUIDE DES ORGANISATIONS FRANCAISES ET INTERNATIONALES D'AIDE AUX PERSONNES EN DIFFICULTE ET EN DANGER DE PROSTITUTION - A guide on French and international organisations working in the field of prostitution has been published by *Fondation Scelles*, www.fondationscelles.org, fondationscelles@wanadoo.fr.

FEMINIST STUDY NETWORK PUBLICATION – The SOPHIA network works for the advancement of feminist- and gender studies at university level and promotes the collaboration between universities and associations. The report on the actions taken can be ordered from www.sophia.be.

WOMEN IN AN INSECURE WORLD – A brochure, a CD-ROM and a Policy Paper (*Making the World a more secure place: combating violence against women*), announce a new publication: A Handbook on Violence Against Women. It concerns the scope and magnitude of violence suffered by women in conflict situations, in their homes and in criminal circles, focusing on the active role of women in peace-making and post-conflict resolution. Edited by Marie Vlachova and Lea BIASON, the Geneva centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF). For more information: m.vlachova@dcaf.ch and <http://www.dcaf.ch/women/index.htm>

CALL FOR PROPOSALS / FUNDING

DAPHNE II PROGRAMME – The call for proposal was published on the website of the Commission (Monday 24/05/2004).

Website : http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/funding/daphne/funding_daphne_en.htm

Texts of the calls for proposals (EN only until publication in OJ) : there are two calls :

- Call 1 : specific projects (as with Daphne I) : deadline **30 June 2004**;
- Call 2 : projects in view of use and dissemination of existing good practices, development of indicators on violence, etc. : deadline : **30 July 2004**

- Application forms (EN, DE and FR) version 2004 : one for call 1 and one for call 2;
- Guidelines for applicants (EN and FR) version 2004 : a single one for both calls;
- A Budget form in Excel (EN only) : please pay attention that this document contains several "sheets" that should all be filled in.

For those who would not match the above deadlines, be aware that the **next round of calls will be published around beginning of November 2004 with a deadline around mid-February 2005.**

THE NETWORK OF EAST-WEST WOMEN (NEWW) AND THE BULGARIAN GENDER RESEARCH FOUNDATION (BGRF) CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING INSTITUTE - The goal of the Institute is to strengthen the ability of lawyers from Central and Eastern Europe and the Newly Independent States (CEE/NIS) to litigate women's human rights cases at the national, regional and international levels through the development of feminist legal analysis and litigation skills, cross-border cooperation, and networking. The project is a two-year, four-part series of workshops bringing together the same group of fifteen participants over the course of the training. **Successful applicants are required to commit to participate in the entire two-year, four-workshop Institute series. Deadline for applications: June 15, 2004. Selection notification: July 15, 2004.** For more information, contact Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation 5, Evlogi Georgiev, Blvd, fl. 2, ap.3 Sofia 1142 Bulgaria Sofia 1000 POB 938 Bulgaria tel/fax: + 359 2 963 53 57 e-mail: bgrf@fastbg.net web site: www.bgrf.org

FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR PROGRAM FOR FACULTY AND PROFESSIONALS 2005-06 - The Fulbright Scholar Program for Faculty and Professionals is offering research, lecturing, and lecturing/research awards to the Baltic states, Eurasia, and Central and Eastern Europe for the 2005-06 academic year. Scholars may conduct research independently or in collaboration with host country colleagues. Applications are welcome from scholars in a broad range of disciplines in the arts, humanities, social sciences and sciences. The application deadline for 2005-06 is August 1, 2004. For general information: <http://www.cie.org> or e-mail to: apprequest@cies.iie.org.

Y:\EWL info\Newsflash\NF2004\NF05_EN.doc