

THE TARGETS AND ACTIVITIES OF EWLA

EWLA is registered in Belgium as an international non governmental non profit association (Association internationale sans but lucratif). It is a federation of national women lawyers associations from amongst the European Union countries and those of EFTA countries. Members of EWLA are also individual women lawyers and academics from these countries. EWLA pursues the co-operation of European women lawyers, in order to combine their specific expertise in monitoring law and politics seen from the angle of fundamental rights, and in particular gender equality. It aims to act on the European level as a pressure-group to promote the effective guarantee of fundamental rights, including gender equality, by means of law, as for instance by giving expert opinions to and by lobbying EU and national institutions, by proposing and even outlining drafts for EC/EU primary and secondary legislation, by bringing test cases to the European Courts, by informing and empowering women to claim their rights, by campaigning etc.

Target groups are women in all legal professions and women lawyers' organizations whose major concern is to enhance fundamental rights and promote gender equality by means of law, as well as the European public at large.

EWLA has given numerous statements and resolutions on various topics including the European Constitution, the Charter and the Agency of Fundamental Rights of the EU, the Period of Reflection on the future of the EU, the drafting or amending of EU directives, gender violence, trafficking, reproductive rights, immigration etc. EWLA also participates in public hearings at EU and national level.

EWLA has working groups which deal with various issues, such as gender equality, legal education, education on equal rights, business law, criminal law, family law, the Future of Europe, health law and reproductive rights, gender violence, trafficking, judicial cooperation and cross-border litigation.

All activities of EWLA are performed by the board members and other members of EWLA on a voluntary basis.

Members of the board

Leena Linnainmaa (Finland) President
 Beate Rudolf (Germany) Vice-President
 Katalin Daszkalovics (Hungary) Vice-President
 Herdis Thorgeirsdóttir (Iceland) Vice-President
 Ingrid Jodocy (Belgium) Treasurer
 Judith Willis (United Kingdom) Secretary
 Eva Matt (Austria)
 Svetlana Ganeva (Bulgaria)
 Iva Jermanová (Czech Republic)
 Caroline Bommart-Forster (France)
 Patrina Paparrigopoulou (Greece)

Eithne O'Doherty (Ireland)
 Maria Grazia Giammarinaro (Italy)
 Dace Liga Lutere-Thümmel (Latvia)
 Eugenija Sutkiene (Lithuania)
 Roselyn Borg (Malta)
 Anna Wilkowska (Poland)
 Maria Eduarda Figanier de Castro (Portugal)
 Camelia Costea (Romania)
 Zuzana Magurová (Slovakia)
 Tanja Koderman Sever (Slovenia)
 Belén Martín María (Spain)
 Regula Kägi-Diener (Switzerland)

Association Internationale sans but lucratif (AISBL)

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EWLA in 2009

Statements and resolutions of EWLA

1. 4 May 2009: Statement on the 2nd Meeting of the Fundamental Rights Platform convened by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
2. 10 February 2009: Contribution to the consultation with the Fundamental Rights Platform by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights on its Annual Work Programme 2010

Other Activities of EWLA

1. 29 January 2009: The Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men elected Leena Linnainmaa, President of EWLA, to be a member of the Jury of the Gender Equality Prize of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. The other members of the Jury will be: Ms Šimonović (Croatia) and Ms Hjelm-Wallén (Sweden; Chairperson of the Jury). The Prize will be awarded to political parties which strive to promote gender equality in politics through action that significantly improves women's participation in elected assemblies or political parties, or in their respective executive bodies.
2. 23 March 2009: Sabine Kräuter-Stockton, member of the EWLA Working Group on Domestic Violence, presented EWLA's work in this area to the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).
3. 23 March 2009: Beate Rudolf, Vice-President of EWLA, attended the joint conference of the Committee "Legal Affairs and Human Rights" of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and the Committee "Human Rights and Humanitarian Assistance" of the German Parliament in Berlin. The theme of the conference was "The state of human rights in Europe: The need to eradicate impunity." Beate Rudolf spoke on the topic "Impunity for Violence against Women and Other Forms of Discriminatory Violence – Permissive Culture and Failing Institutions."
4. 3 April 2009: Leena Linnainmaa, President of EWLA, attended the fourth meeting of the European network of women in decision-making in politics and the economy in Brussels.
5. 5-6 May 2009: Beate Rudolf, Vice-President of EWLA, represented EWLA at the 2nd Meeting of the Fundamental Rights Platform convened by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights.
6. 15 May 2009: Ms Helvi Sipilä, the 1st Honorary Member of EWLA, died at the age of 94. Helvi Sipilä qualified in 1939 as Master of Laws. She was the second woman in Finnish history to open her own practice as a lawyer in 1943, often representing women in court cases. In 1972 she became Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations – the first woman to hold this post. During her almost ten years of service, she led the United Nations in declaring 1975 International Women's Year and was instrumental in the first world conference for the advancement of women, the predecessor to the Nairobi and Beijing conferences. Ms Sipilä also set up UNIFEM, the UN fund supporting women in developing nations. In 1982 she was the first woman to be a Finnish Presidential candidate. Ms Sipilä holds honorary doctorates from 12 universities. She was a founding member of the Finnish Women Lawyers Association in 1945. In 1954-1956 she was President of the International Federation of Female Lawyers. She was also actively involved in the International Council of Women and was Past International President of Zonta. In 1965 she founded Finland's Refugee Council. She was Honorary President of the National Council of Women of Finland. Helvi Sipilä became the first recipient of the International Bar Association's

Outstanding International Woman Lawyer Award in 2001. In Finland she held the title Minister. On 5 May 2005 Helvi Sipilä was elected by the board as EWLA's first Honorary Member to celebrate her 90th anniversary. EWLA will gratefully remember Helvi Sipilä.

7. 15-16 June 2009: Leena Linnainmaa, President of EWLA, represented EWLA at the conference "Equality between women and men in a time of change" organised by the European Commission in Brussels.

9th Congress of EWLA:

3-4 July 2008 in Reykjavik, Iceland

European Lawmaking and Practice Fundamental Rights and Financial Markets

Venue:
National Centre for Cultural Heritage
115 Hverfisgata, 101 Reykjavik, Iceland

SOCIAL PROGRAM, 2ND JULY, BLUE LAGOON

The program starts in the late afternoon of 2nd July. We have been invited by the Icelandic Women Lawyers' Association to the marvelous Blue Lagoon to enjoy a light supper and refreshments! www.bluelagoon.com

CONGRESS AND ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF EWLA, 3-4 JULY

The following **plenary session panels** are scheduled for the 3 July, 2009:

Financial Crisis and Constitutional Implications
Fundamental Rights in the Future of Europe
New Equality Strategies for Very Uncertain Times

Workshops

Corporate Social Responsibility
Family Law - "Financial Crisis and Family Breakdown"
Markets and Risk Management
Gender-Based Violence and Justice
Law Making and Practice in Turbulent Times

Friday evening:

Boat trip to Viðey Island/dinner

Saturday afternoon and evening:

Departure for the Golden Triangle, Thingvellir, Gullfoss, Geysir. Dinner at Hotel Geysir.

EWLA in 2008

Statements and resolutions of EWLA

1. 5 July 2008: Resolution on Fundamental Rights in Europe
2. 5 July 2008: Resolution on Changing Attitudes and Approaches to Anti-Discrimination and Gender Equality Laws in Europe
3. 5 July 2008: Second Resolution on the Balanced Participation of Women and Men on the Boards of Listed Companies
4. 9 May 2008: Statement on the Signing of the Treaty of Lisbon by the Member States of the European Union

Other Activities of EWLA

1. 8-9 December 2008: Caroline Bommart-Forster, EWLA board member from France represented EWLA at the Fundamental Rights Conference entitled Freedom of expression, cornerstone of democracy - Listening and communicating in a diverse Europe, organized by the European Union's Agency for Fundamental Rights in cooperation with the French Ministry of Justice in Paris.
2. 14 November 2008: Eimear Farrell, EWLA member from Ireland, represented EWLA at the Round Table meeting on Homophobia of the Fundamental Rights Agency in Riga, Latvia.
3. 12 November 2008: The graduation event of the Director Training Program for Women Lawyers was held in Helsinki. Most of the program's 40 participants received a certificate of the program, requiring attendance at most of the 21 seminars and keeping of a learning diary. The event was hosted by the Guarantee Foundation.
4. 30-31 October 2008: Nancy Gage-Lindner, EWLA member from Germany represented EWLA and spoke at the "1st Congress on the three years of application of law against gender violence" organized by the Fundación Themis de Mujeres Juristas in Madrid.
5. 14 October 2008: Second meeting of the European Network of Women in Decision-making in Brussels. Leena Linnainmaa, President of EWLA was rapporteur of the Network's working group on women in economic decision-making.
6. 7-8 October 2008: Beate Rudolf, Vice President of EWLA, represented EWLA at the First Meeting of the Fundamental Rights Platform of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights in Vienna, Austria.
7. 2 October 2008: Leena Linnainmaa, President of EWLA, received an award of 10.000 euros as an influential person in the society for promoting equality and public awareness of legislation, from the WSOY Literature Foundation (Finland).
8. 30 September 2008: Leena Linnainmaa, President of EWLA, was keynote speaker at the Multi country study tour on women in business organized by the European Commission in Brussels. The topic of her speech was Women in the corporate world. Overview issues. Success stories, covering Women in the public administration, Women in economy and business world, and Strategies to improve balance in

decision making positions. The participants of the event were representatives of the civil society organisations from the Western Balkans and Candidate Countries

9. 22 September 2008: EWLA held a seminar with the theme "Functions of a Company Secretary" in Helsinki in cooperation with the Finnish Women Lawyers Association. Speakers included Ms Kaarina Ståhlberg, Assistant General Counsel and Company Secretary of Nokia, and Ms Maire Laitinen, Senior Legal Counsel of Fondia. The event was hosted by Fondia. Leena Linnainmaa, President of EWLA chaired the event.
10. 3 September 2008: The EU Agency for Fundamental Rights invited EWLA to participate in its Fundamental Rights Platform.
11. 5 July 2008: EWLA board meeting in Brussels.
12. 12 June 2008: Mariana Kancheva, Brussels-based EWLA member from Bulgaria represented EWLA at the "Women's Enterprise - Fostering Business Creation" during "Microsoft's 4th EU SME Day" in Brussels.
13. 10-11 June 2008: Beate Rudolf, Vice President of EWLA and Dr Maria Alvanou, EWLA member from Greece, represented EWLA and spoke at the consultative expert meeting on Access to Efficient and Independent Justice organised by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA).
14. 2 June 2008: Leena Linnainmaa, President of EWLA, attended the first meeting of the European network of women in decision-making in politics and the economy in Brussels.
15. 1 May 2008: Leena Linnainmaa, President of EWLA, gave a presentation on promoting women on company boards and Beate Rudolf, Vice President of EWLA, gave a presentation on gender mainstreaming at the annual German Lawyers Congress (Deutscher Anwaltstag) in Berlin.
16. 10 March 2008: Leena Linnainmaa, President of EWLA, spoke at the conference on the European Private Company (SPE) organised by the European Commission in Brussels. Dace Liga Luters-Thümmel, EWLA board member from Latvia, also represented EWLA at the event.
17. 7 March 2008: The European Commission invited Leena Linnainmaa, President of EWLA, to become a member of European network of women in decision-making in politics and the economy.
18. 11 February 2008: Dace Liga Luters-Thümmel, EWLA board member from Latvia, represented EWLA at a public hearing at the European Parliament concerning candidates for the post of Director of the Fundamental Rights Agency, in the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE), in Brussels.

8th Congress of EWLA:

4-5 July 2008 in London "Being Heard in the Future Europe"

The 8th Congress of EWLA was held in London 4th and 5th July 2008, with social program on the evening of July 3rd. The theme of the congress was "Being Heard in the Future Europe". Congress venue: BPP Law School, 68-70 Red Lion Street, London WC1R 4NY.

The plenary session speakers included Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe; Lenia Samuel, Deputy Director General of DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, the European Commission; and Diana Wallis, Vice President of the European Parliament, UK MEP.

The second day plenary session speaker was Hanne Severinsen who spoke on "Being heard in Eastern Europe." Ms Severinsen was a Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe for 17 years and Rapporteur Ukraine for 12 years. She is now advisor to Ukraine's Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and in her speech compared the situation in Ukraine to that of Denmark and the Nordic countries.

With workshops on:

Family Law

Leadership in Business and Public Life

Women in the criminal justice system

The EU constitution/treaty and the FRA

Legal education

Anti-discrimination and diversity law

Work-life balance

Competition law

We were invited to enjoy our Gala Dinner within the Palace of Westminster, in the Member's Dining Room of the House of Lords. Baroness Cohen gave a speech at the occasion.

Conferences and seminars of EWLA

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS

EWLA organised a Corporate Governance conference in Brussels at the European Economic and Social Committee on 10 November 2008 in cooperation of the Employers Group. Among the speakers were Diana Wallis, Vice President of the European Parliament; Belinda Pyke, Director for Equality between Men and Women, European Commission DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities; Leena Linnainmaa, President of EWLA and Director at the Central Chamber of Commerce of Finland; MEP Klaus-Heiner Lehne, European People's Party, Member of the Legal Affairs Committee and Rapporteur on European Private Company; Corinna Ullrich, from the European Commission, DG Internal Market and Services; Joëlle Simon, Director of Legal Affairs, MEDEF French Business Confederation, and Member of the Advisory Group on Corporate Governance and Company Law; Julia Casson, Director of Board, Insight Limited, London; and Justice Dr. Egils Levits, European Court of Justice.

Director Training Program for Women Lawyers in Helsinki

The program was launched in August 2007 (see year 2007 for details) and continued in 2008. Seminars in 2008:

- Project Management
- Process Management
- Successful Recruitment
- Leadership in an International Environment
- Personal well-being
- A case-study: Leadership at Marimekko
- Networking evening
- Quality Management
- Time Management
- Management Group Work
- Work Well-being Management

- Leadership and Ethics
- Corporate Governance and Board Work
- Securities Markets and Compliance Programs

The closing event of the training program was held on 12 November 2008 at the Guarantee Foundation. Certificates of the training were distributed to those participants who attended at least 80 per cent the training seminars and presented a learning diary of the training course.

EWLA in 2007

Statements and resolutions of EWLA

1. 7 December 2007: Statement on the Consultative Meeting of the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency with Civil Society, Brussels, 10-11 December 2007
2. 29 November 2007: Statement on the Commission Proposal for a Multiannual Framework of the European Fundamental Rights Agency
3. 15 November 2007: Second Statement on 2007 – European Year of Equal Opportunities for All
4. 12 May 2007: Resolution on Age Discrimination Against Women
5. 12 May 2007: Resolution on Combating Gender Discrimination and Promoting Substantive Gender Equality through Public Procurement
6. 12 May 2007: Resolution on European Network Promoting Women in Decision-Making Positions
7. 12 May 2007: Resolution on the Future of the Constitutional Framework of the European Union
8. 12 May 2007: Resolution on Gender Mainstreaming
9. 12 May 2007: Resolution on Reconciling Employment and Family Life
10. 5 March 2007: Statement on Women in Economic Decision-making Positions
11. 28 January 2007: Statement on 2007 - European Year of Equal Opportunities for All and the Period of Reflection on the Future of Europe

Other Activities of EWLA

1. 14 December 2007: Dr Maria Alvanou, EWLA member from Greece, represented EWLA and spoke at the Conference on the implementation of the acquis on non-discrimination organised by the European Commission in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and Public Order of Cyprus, in Nicosia, Cyprus.
1. 10 December 2007: Beate Rudolf, EWLA Vice-President, represented EWLA at the Consultative Meeting of the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency with Civil Society.
2. 8 December 2007: EWLA board meeting in Brussels
3. 3 December 2007: Elisabeth Müller, Past President of EWLA represented EWLA at the 51st congress of the UIA (Union Internationale des Avocats) and spoke at the round table on "Positive Action and access to power".
4. 29-30 November 2007: Beate Rudolf, EWLA Vice-President, represented EWLA at the Conference "Chancengleichheit als Mehrwert" (Equality of Chances as an Added Value"), organized by the German Federal Anti-Discrimination Body, in Berlin.

5. 19-20 November 2007: Leena Linnainmaa, President of EWLA, represented EWLA at the Closing Conference of the Year 2007 – Equal Opportunities for All in Lisbon, and disseminated EWLA's statement given for the occasion.
6. 18 October 2007: Leena Linnainmaa, President of EWLA, represented EWLA at Frauen Dinner Corporate Governance organised by the German Woman Lawyers Association DJB to promote women's participation in the boards of listed companies. The German Federal Minister of Justice Ms Brigitte Zypries, Director Belinda Pyke of the European Commission and the leading figure of German Corporate Governance Dr Gerhard Cromme were among the speakers of this high-level event with 150 women attending.
7. 27 August 2007: Director training program of EWLA and the Finnish Women Lawyers Association was launched in Helsinki. Ms Tuija Brax, Minister of Justice, gave the opening speech.
8. 26-28 June 2007, Beate Rudolf, EWLA Vice President, participated in the World Women's Peace Forum in Gwangju, Republic of Korea, and gave a presentation on "Women's Human Rights and Violence against Women from a European perspective".
9. 21 June 2007: Leena Linnainmaa, President of EWLA, had a meeting with Dr Unity Dow, the first female High Court judge of Botswana and human rights activist.
10. 4-5 June 2007: Angelika Nake, EWLA member from Germany, represented EWLA and spoke at the Conference Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence, organised by the Council of Europe.
11. 16 May 2007: Beate Rudolf, EWLA Vice President, represented EWLA and presented the Second EWLA General Assembly Resolution on Reconciling Employment and Family Life at the exchange of information meeting by the invitation of Dr. Ursula von der Leyen, German Federal Minister, in connection with the Informal Meeting of the European Ministers for Gender Equality and Family Affairs hosted by the German EU-Presidency in Bad Pyrmont, Germany.
12. 30 April 2007: Leena Linnainmaa, President of EWLA, had a meeting with Mr Vladimír Špidla, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, in Brussels, to discuss promoting women in decision-making positions.
13. April 2007: The book "Médecine et Droit, Questions d'actualité en droit medical et en bioéthique" was published based on the contributions at EWLA's conference LE DROIT FACE A LA MÉDECINE : GARDE-FOU OU TROUBLE FETE? Répercussions du droit dans le cycle de la vie, Brussels, 19 October 2006.
14. 14 March 2007: Beate Rudolf, EWLA Board member representing Germany, had a meeting with Dr. Martina Köppen, Head of the new German Anti-Discrimination Body, to discuss possibilities of cooperation.
15. 8 March 2007: Elisabeth Müller, Past President of EWLA represented EWLA at the EP-FEMM Seminar "1957-2007: The European Union and the advancement of women".
16. 7 March 2007: Elisabeth Müller, Past President of EWLA represented EWLA at the EP-FEMM Seminar "Female politicians and media".
17. 6 March 2007: Leena Linnainmaa, President of EWLA, Elisabeth Müller, Past President of EWLA and Sophia Spiliotopoulos, Board member of EWLA, represented EWLA at the Seminar organised by the European Commission *WOMEN IN DECISION MAKING POSITIONS, Sharing experiences and good*

practice in Brussels. The seminar was honoured by the participation of six European Commissioners as speakers. EWLA gave a Statement on Women in Economic Decision-making Positions and intervened in the discussion to present EWLA's positions.

18. 30-31 January 2007: Leena Linnainmaa, President of EWLA, and Beate Rudolf and Sophia Spiliotopoulos, Board members of EWLA, represented EWLA at First Equality Summit and Opening Conference of the 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for All in Berlin.

7th Congress of EWLA:

11-12 May 2007 in Zürich

"European Year of Equal Opportunities for All from Women Lawyers' Perspective"

The venue of the congress was the Sorell Hotel Zürichberg, www.zuerichberg.ch. Plenary sessions had the topics "2007: Year of Equal Opportunities for All" and "Combating Discrimination: EU Constitutional and Legislative Perspectives" with speakers from the European Institutions. The opening and welcome speeches of the congress were given by Regula Kägi-Diener, President of Women Lawyers Switzerland; Leena Linnainmaa, President of EWLA; and Patricia Schulz, Director of the Federal Office for Gender Equality, Switzerland.

The first congress day included a plenary session with the title "2007: Year of Equal Opportunities for all" 2007" with the following speakers: Lenia Samuel, Deputy Director General of DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities; Christa Prets, Member of the European Parliament and Rosmarie Zapfl-Helbling, Switzerland, Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Equal Opportunities of the Council of Europe, President of AllianceF. An address by Rodi Kratsa, First Vice-President of the European Parliament was read. In the afternoon, there were three different workshops: (1) Competition Law: A growing concern for companies and regulators (Chair: Astrid Waser, Zurich/Switzerland; Speakers: Anne Leppälä-Nilsson, Finland, Claudia Seitz, Switzerland/Germany Veronica Roberts, Belgium); (2) Gender Mainstreaming (Chair: Zita Küng, Switzerland, speakers: Susanne Baer, Germany, Elisabeth Holzleithner, Austria and Jackie Jones, UK); (3) Public Procurement and the fight against Gender Discrimination (Chair: Beate Rudolf, Germany; Speakers: Christa Tobler, Switzerland, Sajeela Regula Schmid, Switzerland and Helen Hartnell, USA)

The second congress day began with the plenary session "Combating Discrimination: EU Constitutional and Legislative Perspectives" with the following speakers: Anneli Jäätteenmäki (FI), Vice-Chairwoman of the Constitutional Affairs Committee of the European Parliament; Professor Dimitris Triantafyllou, Legal adviser of the European Commission; Petra Schott, European Commission, Directory General for Employment, Social affairs and Equal Opportunities, Legal service, and Sophia Spiliotopoulos, attorney and counsellor at law, member of the Commission's Equality Law Network, past Vice President of EWLA. In the afternoon, there were again three workshops: (4) Company law and representation of women (Chair: Leena Linnainmaa, Finland, Speakers: Vanessa Williams, UK, Kathrin Kilian, Switzerland), (5) Age discrimination against Women (Chair: Christa Tobler, Switzerland, Speakers: Liisa Nieminen, Finland, Patrina Paparrigopoulou, GR), (6) Women and International Trade (Chair: Marion Panizzon, Switzerland; Ximena Escobar de Nogales, Switzerland, Krista Nadakavukaren Schefer, Switzerland).

The General Assembly of EWLA was held at the end of the congress and six resolutions were adopted (see Statements and resolutions of EWLA for details).

Conferences and seminars of EWLA

ENHANCING CORPORATE GOVERNANCE IN EUROPE

Conference organised by EWLA, The Representative Office of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION and the Free University of Berlin, 19 October 2007, 9.00-17.00 hrs. Venue: Vertretung der Europäischen Kommission in Deutschland, Unter den Linden 78, 10117 Berlin.

Mr. Jean-Jacques Nuss, senior administrator at the Representation of the European Commission in Germany, and EWLA President Leena Linnainmaa gave the opening speeches. Speakers of the conference were Ms Corinna Ullrich of the Commission Directorate General "Internal Market and Services", professor Dr. Martin Schwab of the Free University Berlin, British business lawyer Vanessa Williams LLP Partner, Bates Wells & Braithwaite, London, Leena Linnainmaa, EWLA President and Director of the Finnish Central Chamber of Commerce, German business lawyer Dr. Claudia Junker, LL.M. (Cornell) and City treasurer Gabriele C. Klug. EWLA Vice-President Professor Dr. Beate Rudolf of the Free University Berlin gave the concluding speech of the conference.

A networking dinner followed the conference.

Lecture Series of Free University Berlin in cooperation with EWLA and the German Women Lawyers' Association (DJB) continued (see year 2006 for additional details).

The speakers in 2007 were EWLA members Prof. Dr. Christa Tobler (Switzerland), Sophia Spiliotopoulos (EWLA Board member Greece), Sabine Overkämping (Germany), and Beate Rudolf (EWLA Board member, Germany), as well as Gabriele Bischoff, Advisor to the German Presidency in the German Ministry of Labour.

Christa Tobler who teaches European Law at the Universities of Basle, Switzerland, and Leiden, The Netherlands, presented an overview of the development of European law to combat gender discrimination and to promote substantive equality. She emphasised the influence of this body of law on European anti-discrimination law, but also stressed the danger of the latter to consider women a minority.

Gabriele Bischoff introduced the audience to the European Social Dialogue. In her opinion, it could be a means of enhancing the democratic legitimacy of European law in this area provided that women are better represented in the dialogue, particularly in the European and national organisations of the social partners.

Beate Rudolf analysed the European Services Directive in light of women's concerns. She criticised that the European Commission had not carried out a Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) before introducing its proposal. Therefore, it is a positive development that social and health services will be covered by special legal acts. Here, women's organisations should lobby the Commission for carrying out GIAs.

Sophia Spiliotopoulos spoke about women's rights and the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), sharing with the audience her experience from the negotiations leading to the Regulation setting up the FRA. Major achievements are that the members of the Board shall be independent human rights experts, not government representatives, that the scientific work of the Agency shall be under the responsibility of a Scientific Committee composed of independent, highly qualified human rights experts selected by the Board and there must be a balanced participation of women and men in the bodies of the FRA. Moreover, she emphasised that the prohibition of gender discrimination is to be applied by the FRA as a horizontal objective.

Sabine Overkämping concluded the lecture series with a presentation on the European Constitutional Treaty from women's perspective. She had represented both EWLA and the German Women Lawyers' Association (djb) in the Convention and explained why women's rights were weakened during that process. With respect to the debate on the future of Europe, she called for strengthening the social dimension of Europe.

The contributions to the lecture series will be published in winter 2007 (in German).

Director Training Program for Women Lawyers in Helsinki

EWLA is actively promoting women's advancement to decision-making positions. EWLA launched a regional Director Training Program for Women Lawyers in cooperation with the Finnish Women Lawyers Association in Helsinki. The program included ca 20 evening seminars during one year's time starting on 27 August 2007.

Forty-one women lawyers were accepted to participate in the program from a large number of applicants. The program gained considerable media coverage in Finland. The program covers different aspects of leadership including for example strategic planning, board work and personal development. The language of the program was Finnish. Ms Tuija Brax, Minister of Justice, gave the opening speech of the program.

Participation in the program was free of charge for EWLA members. This program would not be possible without the generous sponsorship of the Provincial Culture Foundation, and Amer Sports, Bützow Law Firm, Castren & Snellman Law Firm, Central Chamber of Commerce of Finland, Ernst & Young, Etera, Federation of Finnish Enterprises, Federation of Finnish Financial Services, Fennia Insurancy Company, HAUS Training Center, Kesko, KPMG, Marimekko, Nokia Siemens Network, OP Bank Group, Sampo Life, Teosto and WSOY. Numerous women directors and experts agreed to be trainers free of charge.

Participants of the program were required to keep a learning diary and participate in the seminars at least by 80 per cent in order to receive a certificate of participation in the program. The participants have given excellent feedback to the Finnish Women Lawyers Association and EWLA, and both have gained new members by the project.

Seminar programs

Monday 27 August 2007, 4.30 PM, KPMG

Opening Ceremony

Opening of the programme

Minister of Justice *Tuija Brax*

Opening Ceremony – Address, Networking, KPMG Women's Leadership Forum

Senior Manager *Helka Pirinen* and Partner *Tiina Tornainen*, KPMG

Programme Presentation and Objectives

EWLA President *Leena Linnainmaa* and Naisjuristit – Finnish Women Lawyers' Association – President *Miina Vuorela*

Comment about Leadership

Director General *Rauni Hagman*, Finnish Communications Regulatory Authority

Participants' Introduction

Mentoring and Advising

Senior Manager *Helka Pirinen*, KPMG

Coaching

Senior Manager *Varpu Välimaa*, KPMG

Monday 10 September 2007, 4.30 PM, WSOY

Leading and Knowledge

Opening Key Note

Rajja Renlund, Publishing Director, WSOYpro

Leading and Knowledge

Dr. *Leenamajja Ojala*, PhD in Engineering

Women in Leadership Positions

Director Dr. *Pia Letto-Vanamo*, KATTI, Institute of International Economic Law, Faculty of Law, University of Helsinki

Monday 24 September 2007, 4:30 PM, TEOSTO, Finnish Composers' Copyright Society

Strategic Planning

Opening Key Note

CEO *Katri Sipilä*, Solicitor Trained at the Bench

Strategic Planning as a Leadership Tool

Hans Nylund, Consultant for the Board, Leader's Communication-LC Oy

Session Chair

CEO *Katri Sipilä*, Solicitor Trained at the Bench

Strategic Planning

CEO *Päivi Takanen*, LLM, West Uusimaa Savings Bank

Monday 8 October 2007, 4:30 PM, Ernst & Young

Internal Control, Internal Inspection, Risk Management and Auditing as Leadership Tools

Opening Key Note – Ernst & Young

Anna-Majja Simola, Partner, Authorised Public Accountant

Women in Leadership Positions at Ernst & Young

Riitta Sedig, Partner, Legal Services

Internal Control, Internal Inspection and Risk Management

Ilona Halla, Director, Internal Audit Services, CIA

Auditing

Annamajja Simola, Partner, Authorised Public Accountant

Monday 22 October 2007, 4:30 PM, OP Bank Group

Human Resources and Management

Opening Key Note

Department Director *Taina Kallio*, Solicitor Trained on the Bench, OP Bank Group

Recruitment Manager *Maria Aaltonen*, KPMG

Friday 2 November, WTC Club

Keeping a learning diary

Audit Manager *Jaana Lamminperä*, Master of Laws, MBA

Lunch meeting

Monday 5 November 2007, 4:30 PM, Federation of Finnish Financial Services

Leadership and Change

Opening Key Note

Director *Lea Mäntyniemi*, LLM

Change – a Threat or an Opportunity? Changing Leadership Best Practices

Senior Manager *Helka Pirinen*, KPMG

Leading in Changing Circumstances – Women Directors' Views

CEO *Päivi Takanen*, LLM, West Uusimaa Savings Bank

Tiina Hellgrén, LLM

Monday 26 November 2007, 4:30 PM, Confederation of Finnish Industries

Financial Reporting, Business Indicators and Financial Statement as Leadership Tools

Opening Key Note

Chief Policy Advisor *Tytti Peltonen*, Confederation of Finnish Industries

What does a financial statement tell us?

Päivi Rätty, Financial Expert, Confederation of Finnish Industries

A CFO View on the Financial reporting
Financial Director *Raija Arasjärvi*, Kemira Corporation

Monday 3 December 2007, 4:30 PM, Federation of Finnish Enterprises

Entrepreneurial Activities and Company Taxation

Entrepreneurial Activities and Questions on Ownership and Leadership Responsibilities, Partnership Agreements
Solicitor *Kirsi Åkerlund*, Law Firm Puro Snellman Åkerlund,

Company taxation

Taxation Expert *Leena Romppainen*, Federation of Finnish Enterprises

Monday 17 December 2007, 4:30 PM, Law Firm Castrén & Snellman

Employer's Responsibilities

Opening Key Note

Pauliina Tenhunen, Partner, Law Firm Castrén & Snellman

Director's Powers and Responsibilities – Labour Law Considerations

CEO *Nina Meincke*, EK-Tieto Ltd

Solicitor *Anu Kaisko*, Law Firm Castrén & Snellman

EWLA in 2006

Statements and resolutions of EWLA

1. 20 May 2006, Resolution on Fundamental Rights
2. 20 May 2006, Resolution on Enlargement
3. 20 May 2006, Resolution on Trafficking
4. 20 May 2006, Resolution on the Balanced Participation of Women and Men on the Boards of Listed Companies
5. 20 May 2006, Resolution on Gender Equality and Employment
6. April 2006, Statement on The Roadmap towards Gender Equality for the period 2006 - 2010
7. April 2006, First Comments regarding the establishment of a European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

Other Activities of EWLA

1. 16 December 2006: Board meeting of EWLA in Amsterdam.
2. 23-25 November 2006: Sophia Spiliotopoulos, Past Vice President, member of the board of EWLA, spoke at the Congress of the European Lawyers Union "Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Judicial System", in Venice, on "The Charter of Fundamental Rights and Judicial Protection in the Member States: some concerns", with a focus on the amendments to the Charter by the Convention and the IGC, which attempted to restrict its scope and the relevant judicial protection – an issue addressed in EWLA's contributions to the Convention and the IGC. Speakers included the President, past President, judges and AGs of the ECJ, representatives of the European Parliament, presidents and members of international courts and national constitutional and supreme courts, academics and lawyers. The papers will be published by Bruylant (Brussels).
3. 24 October 2006: the French Association of Women Lawyers (AFFJ), organised its yearly conference in Paris, on "Equality in Law, Inequality in Practice". AFFJ is affiliated with EWLA. Its current President, Marie-Jeanne Campana, was until recently EWLA board member, while its Past President, Caroline Bommart-Forster, is now EWLA board member. The speakers in the five panels (equality and professional life, equality and politics, civil rights and equality in France, civil rights and equality in Europe and civil rights and equality in the world) attempted, in the light of practice, to suggest solutions and courses of reflection. Among them was Sophia Spiliotopoulos, Past Vice-President of EWLA, who dealt with the issue of reconciling family and work; she also recalled EWLA's activity regarding the European Constitution, and stressed the necessity for women lawyers to follow relevant developments and re-launch the campaign for the safeguard of the *acquis* in fundamental rights. The conference was a big success. As the discussions were fully recorded, they will be included in a publication, to be announced in due time on EWLA's website.
4. 24 October 2006: The Minister of Social Affairs in Iceland handed out the Equal Rights Award of the Equal Rights Council for 2006 and announced those who had been nominated: Two banks, one NGO and one individual, prof. Herdís Thorgeirsdóttir, Vice President of EWLA. This is the second time Dr. Thorgeirsdóttir is nominated, the first time being in 2004.

5. 10 October 2006: Leena Linnainmaa, President of EWLA, gave a presentation on EWLA's activities at the exhibition "100 Years of Women's Votes and Activities" in Helsinki, Finland.
6. 9 October 2006: Deuxième Dîner Festif des Juristes & Entrepreneures in Paris at Hôtel Sofitel Arc-de-Triomphe. Joint event of EWLA and the Women Interest Group (Paris Group) of the International Bar Association (IBA) and Le Salon des Juristes (a website founded by Odile Lajoix and Nicole van Crombrugge among others). Odile Lajoix, a French EWLA member, organized the event for EWLA and these other associations. Eighteen representatives of associations of lawyers or entrepreneurs attended with 69 participants altogether. The successful event attracted even more participants than the Dîner Festif of July 11, 2005. The website www.lesalondesjuristes.com includes many associations' mail addresses in the page "Liens" and announcements of conferences.
7. 4 October 2006: Media of several countries, e.g. The Times and BBC, published comments on the Cadman judgement of the European Court of Justice given by Leena Linnainmaa, President of EWLA.
8. 29 September 2006: Leena Linnainmaa, President of EWLA, gave a speech at the Conference Mobility and Equality: Entrepreneurial Participation Towards a European Labour Market, Riga, Latvia.
9. 15 September 2006: Leena Linnainmaa, President of EWLA, gave a speech on promoting gender equality in working life at the Conference Law and Gender Studies, Zürich, Switzerland.
10. 1-2 June 2006: Iceland - Network III - The Empowerment of Women - third annual conference initiated and organized by Dr. Herdís Thorgeirsdóttir, Professor at the Department of Law at Bifrost University and Vice President of EWLA. The conference was the largest annual conference in Iceland in 2006 with the participation of 400 women from different disciplines in Iceland. Famous feminist German Greer was key speaker at the conference, evoking much media attention. The foreign minister held a reception for the participants at the closing of the conference. The conference issued a resolution on the need for legislation to achieve gender equality on the board of listed companies where women are now 4.4 percent.
Herdís Thorgeirsdóttir was subsequently named one of Iceland's top twenty powerful women by an outstanding Business Review - publishing a list of Iceland's 80 most influential women.
11. 21 May 2006: meeting of the board of EWLA.
12. 20 May 2006: The Honorary Membership of Ms Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, was announced at the General Assembly of EWLA in Budapest.
13. 20 May 2006: The General Assembly of EWLA was held in Budapest.
14. 20 May 2006: Networking lunch in Budapest for the presidents or other representatives of national women lawyers associations.
15. 27 April 2006: Dace Liga Luters-Thümmel, board member of EWLA, represented EWLA at an informal meeting with NGOs at the Austrian Permanent Representation to the EU, regarding the establishment of a Fundamental Rights Agency for the EU.
16. 24 April 2006: General Assembly of EWLA. The agenda of the meeting concerned the article of association of EWLA as follows:
 - ratification of the modifications passed on 17 March 2005
 - amendment of article 9.2
 - amendment of article 10.1
 - amendment of article 10.5
 - amendment of article 14

- coordination of the articles of association.

17. 14 February 2006: meeting of the board of EWLA.

6th Congress of EWLA:

19-20 May 2006 in Budapest

"The Future of European Law from Women Lawyers' Perspective"

The congress venue was the Budapest Bar Association. The congress was organized in cooperation with the Hungarian Women Lawyers Association. The congress started with plenary sessions. Their topics included THE PERIOD OF REFLECTION ON THE FUTURE OF THE UNION. The plenary speakers included Ms Christine Stix-Hackl, First Advocate General, Court of Justice of the European Communities, Ms Kinga Gál (HU), Member of the European Parliament, Rapporteur on the Fundamental Rights Agency, Ms Katalin Lévai (HU), Vice-Chairwomen, Legal Affairs Committee of the European Parliament, Dr h.c. Renate Jaeger, Judge at the European Court of Human Rights, Dr. Clemens Ladenburger, Member of the Legal Service of the European Commission and Dr. Daniela Bankier, Head of Unit, Equality Action against Discrimination, Legal Aspects.

The congress workshops included the following topics:

- LEGAL EDUCATION IN EUROPE – will future changes make a difference for women?
- BUSINESS LAW - Corporate Governance
- CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
- ENLARGEMENT
- GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPLOYMENT
- TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS - The protection of Victims' Rights: New Legislation and Strategies
- THE FUTURE OF THE UNION AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

Conferences and seminars of EWLA

Lecture Series of Free University Berlin in cooperation with EWLA and the German Women Lawyers' Association (DJB)

Professor Dr Beate Rudolf, EWLA Board member from Germany, organized a series of lectures with the theme European Law from Women Lawyers' Perspective in cooperation with EWLA and Deutscher Juristinnenbund (German Women Lawyers Association) every Thursday starting on 2 November, 2006. The venue was Free University, Berlin. Lectures were held in German. A lecture on Women's Rights and the (Future) Fundamental Rights Agency were held in English by Sophia Spiliotopoulos, Past Vice President of EWLA, on 8 February 2007. Speakers included other EWLA members also.

Europarecht aus Frauensicht: Stand und Perspektiven

2.11.2006: Die Gleichberechtigung der Geschlechter als Kriterium für die Beitrittsreife eines Staates – Ein Praxisbericht
Gisela Lange, Bundesministerium für Gesundheit, Berlin

9.11.2006: Die Gleichstellung der Geschlechter in der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit der Europäischen Union
Dorothee Kuon, Freie Universität Berlin

16.11.2006: Die Zukunft der europäischen Verteidigungspolitik
Priv.-Doz. Dr. Heike Krieger, Freie Universität Berlin

23.11.2006: Neuere Entwicklungen im Recht der „Dritten Säule“ der EU
Dr. Sigrid Boysen, Freie Universität Berlin

30.11.2006: Neuere Entwicklungen der Unionsbürgerschaft
Alexandra Rüth, LL.M. (Eur.), Rechtsanwältin, Brüssel

7.12.2006: Frauenrechte in der Europäischen Menschenrechtskonvention
Dr. Julia Platter, Freie Universität Berlin

14.12.2006: Frauenrechte in der Europäischen Sozialcharta
Mirja Trilsch, LL.M. (McGill), Montreal

11.01.2007: Die Bekämpfung der Diskriminierung aufgrund des Geschlechts durch das Europarecht – Stand und Ausblick
Prof. Dr. Christa Tobler, LL.M., Universität Basel

18.01.2007: Gleichheit der Geschlechter oder Förderung von Diversity?
– Leitbilder des europäischen Antidiskriminierungsrechts
Andrea Eriksson, Freie Universität Berlin

25.01.2007: Der Beitrag des europäischen Sozialdialogs zur Gleichstellung der Geschlechter
Gabriele Bischoff, Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Soziales, Berlin

1.02.2007: Die europäische Dienstleistungsrichtlinie aus frauenrechtlicher Sicht
Prof. Dr. Beate Rudolf, Freie Universität Berlin

8.02.2007: Women's Rights and the (Future) Fundamental Rights Agency
Sophia Spiliotopoulos, Rechtsanwältin und Vizepräsidentin der EWLA, Athen

15.02.2007: Die Diskussion um eine Europäische Verfassung aus Frauensicht
Sabine Overkämping, Ministerium für Gesundheit und Soziales des Landes Sachsen-Anhalt

The title of the kick-off lecture was "Gender equality as a criterion for accession to the EU." It was given by Ms Gisela Lange, a senior officer at the German Ministry of Health who is both an EWLA and djb member. Mrs. Lange shared the insights she gained between 1995 and 2000, when she served as a temporary agent at the European Commission to prepare the accession of the ten new member states. The animated discussion after her presentation focused on the conditions for Turkey's acceding to the EU, and it was enriched by Mrs. Lange's experience from a two-year stay in Turkey as the leader of an EU sponsored ILO project to promote social dialogue in the Turkish Textile sector.

Dorothee Kuon, a doctoral candidate at Free University, made a presentation on "Gender equality in EU development cooperation." Ms Kuon explained the changes in the legal background and the different stages that were necessary to make gender equality a central concept in the agreements of the EU and its member states with developing states, such as the Cotonou Agreement with the ACP(African, Caribbean, Pacific)GStates. However, the lofty ideals of gender equality and their heightened status under such agreements stand in stark contrast to the reduced budget for the promotion of women's projects under the new financial outlook for 2007. Nevertheless, Ms Kuon's presentation ended with a positive note when she presented some successful development cooperation projects.

"The future of European defence politics" was the topic of the lecture given by Dr. Heike Krieger, the newly appointed holder of the chair in public international law at Free University. Professor Krieger drew a comprehensive picture of the development of European defence cooperation and put particular emphasis on the relevant political situations and factors that influenced the positions in favour of NATO-structures or those favouring greater EU responsibility. Analyzing the Draft Constitutional Treaty, Professor Krieger concluded that its entry into force would not transform the EU into a "super-state:"

Alexandra R  th, a Brussels-based lawyer, spoke on "New developments concerning EU citizenship" Ms R  th, who is an expert in European Community law and holds an LL.M. in this field of law from the College of Europe in Bruges, showed how the ECJ gave Union citizenship a broad scope of application. Focussing on the student members in the audience, Ms R  th analysed the development of the case law of the ECJ in this area, thus exemplifying the practical importance of EU citizenship. In the ensuing discussion, questions were raised as to separating EU citizenship from the nationality of a member state in order to include family members or long-time residents from third countries.

Looking beyond EU law, Dr. Julia Platter spoke on "Women's rights within the European Convention on Human Rights." Dr. Platter, who is a lecturer at the Free University, examined leading cases of the European Court of Justice that helped put women's issues, such as rape, abortion, or domestic slavery, on the agenda of the Convention. She showed how the Court, true to its understanding of the Convention as a "living instrument", has gradually adopted a gendered view of the rights enshrined in the Convention. Most notably, the concept of "positive obligations" arising from the Convention rights has proved highly useful in ensuring effective human rights protection for women.

The look beyond EU law was complemented by the presentation on "Women's Rights in the European Social Charter." Mirja Trilsch, who earned an LL.M. at McGill University and recently submitted her doctoral thesis on economic and social rights, explained the particular regime of the European Social Charter and its newly created monitoring mechanism, the Collective Complaints procedure. She criticized the German government's scepticism towards social rights in general and towards the European Social Charter in particular. Drawing on case law of the European Committee on Social Rights, Mrs. Trilsch illustrated the European Social Charter's potential to address rights issues arising in women's professional and family lives.

The contributions to the lecture series will be published in winter 2007 (in German).

COMPANY LAW

In cooperation with Naisjuristit – Kvinnliga Jurister ry, Finnish Women Laywers Association
Helsinki, 24 November, 2006
Language: Finnish

EWLA organized a Company Law Conference in cooperation with Naisjuristit – Kvinnliga Jurister ry, Finnish Women Laywers Association. The new Finnish Companies Act entered into force on 1 September, 2006. Helsinki Takeover Code was scheduled to be given in December. These and many other company law issues including taxation and auditing were presented to the audience by a number of women experts. Women's participation in boards of listed companies was eagerly discussed. Ms. Tiina Astola, Director of Legislation at the Ministry of Justice gave the closing speech of the conference.

There was no conference fee for EWLA members. The conference venue was Deloitte House, Porkkalankatu 24, Helsinki. The conference was possible through generous sponsorship of Deloitte Finland.

LE DROIT FACE A LA M  DECINE : GARDE-FOU OU TROUBLE F  TE ?

R  percussions du droit dans le cycle de la vie
Brussels, 19 October 2006

On 19th November, EWLA held a medical law Conference in Brussels, organised by our Treasurer, Nicole van Crombrugge. The Conference was supported in part by sponsorship from GlaxoSmithKlein. The opening speech of EWLA's medical law conference was given by Dr. Daniela Bankier, Head of Unit, Equality Action against Discrimination, Legal Aspects, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG, European Commission. The conference venue was Sofitel Brussels Toison d'Or Hotel. The conference contributions have been published as the book "M  decine et Droit" in April 2007.

EWLA in 2005

Statements and resolutions of EWLA

1. 6 December 2005: First Position on the "Period of Reflection" on the Future of the Union, accompanied by a statement on the current status of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, drafted at the request of the European Ombudsman's services.
2. 13 October, 2005: EWLA gave its opinion to the Gender Equality Unit of the European Parliament on Indirect discrimination concerning the EPSO competition notices.
3. September 2005: EWLA gave a response paper to the Commission concerning the Green Paper on applicable law and jurisdiction in divorce matters.
4. 02 July 2005: 3rd Statement of EWLA on the Proposal for a Directive of the EP and the Council on the implementation of the principle of equal opportunities and equal treatment of men and women in matters of employment and occupation (recast version) COM(2004) 279 final.
5. 26 April 2005 2nd Statement of EWLA on the Proposal for a Directive of the EP and the Council on the implementation of the principle of equal opportunities and equal treatment of men and women in matters of employment and occupation (recast version) COM(2004) 279 final
6. 09 March 2005: Statement of EWLA on the Proposal for a Directive of the EP and the Council on the implementation of the principle of equal opportunities and equal treatment of men and women in matters of employment and occupation (recast version) COM(2004) 279 final
7. Resolution - Treaty on a Constitution for Europe (Strasbourg, 18 March 2005)
8. Resolution - Sexual and Reproductive Rights (Strasbourg, 18 March 2005)
9. Resolution - Trafficking in Human Beings (Strasbourg, 18 March 2005)

5th Congress of EWLA:

16-18 March 2005 in Strasbourg: "Access to Justice"

The Congress was held at the Council of Europe. A part of the congress was held at the European Court of Human Rights. Speakers included Ms. Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe; Mr. Jean-Paul Costa, Vice-President of the European Court of Human Rights; Mr. Peter Jann, President of the First Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Communities; Mr. Bo Vesterdorf, President of the First Instance Court of the European Communities; Mr. Jean-Michel Berloghey, President of the European Committee of Social Rights; Ms. Catherine Lalumière, President of the House of Europe of Paris, former Secretary General of the Council of Europe; Professor Nikiforos Diamandouros, European Ombudsman and Mr. Markus Jaeger, Deputy to the Director, Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights.

Other Activities of EWLA

1. End December: the special issue of the Maastricht Journal of European and Comparative Law, 2005, vol. 12, No 4, "Thirty years of EU Sex Equality Law" (ed. Tamara Hervey), includes a paper presented by Sophia Spiliotopoulos, past Vice-President, board member of EWLA, at the Expert Seminar in the Hague, in November 2004, on "The amended Equal Treatment Directive (2002/73): an expression of constitutional principles/rights". This paper also

presents the contribution of EWLA to the elaboration of the gender equality Recast Directive (*supra* Nos 3-6, *infra* Nos 18 and 21) and points out that most of EWLA's proposals were endorsed by the European Parliament and the Commission. The same issue includes papers by EWLA members Rikki Holtmaat and Christa Tobler, "CEDAW and the EU Policy in the Field of Combating Gender Discrimination" and Dagmar Schiek, "Broadening the Scope and the Norms of EU Gender Equality Law".

2. 6 December 2005: Sophia Spiliotopoulos, past Vice-President, board member of EWLA, and Christiane Bourloyannis, EWLA member, represented EWLA at a public workshop to mark ten years of the European Ombudsman institution and submitted EWLA's First Position on the "Period of Reflection" on the Future of the Union, as well as a statement on the current status of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU at the request of the Ombudsman's services.
3. 6 December 2005: Emma Ries, member of EWLA, represented EWLA at a public hearing of the European Commission on the Green Paper on applicable law and jurisdiction in divorce matters
4. 6 December 2005: Leena Linnainmaa, President of EWLA, attended the Independence Day Reception at the President's Castle by the invitation of the President of Finland, Tarja Halonen.
5. 11 November 2005: Leena Linnainmaa, President of EWLA, chaired the 60th Anniversary Seminar of the Women Lawyers Association in Finland. The President of Finland Tarja Halonen was the key speaker of the seminar. Linnainmaa also attended the Anniversary Gala Dinner where the Minister of Justice of Finland, Leena Luhtanen gave a speech.
6. 7-8 November 2005: Sophia Spiliotopoulos, past Vice-President, board member of EWLA, and Sophie Dimitroulias, EWLA member, represented EWLA at the European Economic and Social Committee's Forum "Bridging the gap: how to bring Europe and its citizens closer together".
7. 28 September 2005: Iva Jermanová, board member from the Czech Republic, represented EWLA on the Cocktail and Dinner organised by the Centre for International Legal Studies on the occasion of the International Bar Association Convention in Prague.
8. 07-09 September 2005: European Jurists Forum, Geneva. EWLA was represented by its Swiss Board member, Professor Regula Kaegi-Diener, and its Past President, Elisabeth Mueller.
9. 12 July 2005: Christiane Bourloyannis, EWLA member, represented EWLA at the meeting of the European Economic and Social Committee on the European Social Model.
10. 11 July, 2005, Joint event EWLA/WIG in Paris. A dinner was organized by EWLA with the Women Interest Group (Paris Group) of the International Bar Association (IBA) on Monday July 11, 2005 at the Sofitel Arc-de-Triomphe. Other Associations represented were AME and GEMME. Mrs Noelle Lenoir, former Minister for European Affairs in France, gave a speech on Europe and the functions of the Ministry for European Affairs. Eight Chairwomen or representatives of lawyers association and 55 attendants participated.
11. 23 June 2005, Brussels, Belgium: Past President Elisabeth Mueller represented EWLA at a meeting with participants of a study trip on European politics from a gender perspective. The trip was organized by The Women's Academy, Munich, a non-university institute for research and education. The group consisted of 23 women from Germany, Poland, Czech Republic and Slovakia.
12. June 2005, The European Lawyer magazine published in its issue 49 an article on EWLA's congress in Strasbourg by EWLA's President Leena Linnainmaa. The headline of the article was Women lawyers tackle trafficking.
13. 26 and 27 May 2005, Iceland: Network II - The Financial Empowerment of Women - second annual conference initiated and organized by Dr. Herdís Thorgeirsdóttir, Professor at the Department of Law at Bifröst University and Vice President of EWLA. The conference was attended by 200 women of different disciplines in Iceland. The President of Iceland, Dr. Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, held a reception for the participants at the presidential residence Bessastadir at the closing of the conference. Herdís invited Elisabeth Mueller, Past President of EWLA to come and speak at this popular event. She spoke about "Men on procreation strike - why academic women are childless to 40% in Germany". She also introduced EWLA and its activities.

14. 19 May 2005: Elisabeth Müller, Founding President of EWLA, represented EWLA at the Foundation of the Latin American Women Lawyers Association, Buenos Aires, Argentina, and spoke on the founding process of EWLA
15. 5 May, 2005: Helvi Sipilä was elected by the board as EWLA's first honorary member to celebrate her 90th anniversary. Helvi Sipilä qualified in 1939 as Master of Laws. She was the second woman in Finnish history to open her own practice as a lawyer in 1943, often representing women in court cases. In 1972 she became assistant secretary-general of the United Nations – the first woman to hold this post. During her almost ten years of service, she led the United Nations in declaring 1975 International Women's Year and was instrumental in the first world conference for the advancement of women, the predecessor to the Nairobi and Beijing conferences. Ms Sipilä also set up UNIFEM, the UN fund supporting women in developing nations. Ms Sipilä holds honorary doctorates from 12 universities. In 1954-1956 she was President of the International Federation of Female Lawyers. She has also been actively involved in the International Council of Women and is Past International President of Zonta. She was a founding member of the Finnish Women Lawyers Association in 1945. In 1965 she founded Finland's Refugee Council. She is Honorary President of the National Council of Women of Finland. In 1982 she was the first woman to be a Finnish Presidential candidate. Helvi Sipilä became the first recipient of the International Bar Association's Outstanding International Woman Lawyer Award in 2001. In Finland she has been awarded the title Minister.
16. 22 April, 2005: EWLA Board meeting in Brussels.
17. 19 April, 2005: Bruxelles Communauté française- invitation de la Ministre Présidente du Gouvernement de la Communauté française en charge de l'égalité des chances, mme Marie Aréna: L'Europe: quels enjeux et quelles perspectives pour l'égalité entre femmes et hommes? Past President Elisabeth Mueller presented the history of equality legislation in the EU, EWLA's work on the constitution, and the latest resolution of March 2005.
18. 03-05 April 2005: Leena Linnainmaa, President of EWLA, represented EWLA at the Think EQUAL! European Conference, Frankfurt/M and spoke on Forum 7 Between Judiciary & Executive – legal Requirements and Parameters.
19. 16 March 2005: Vice President Sophia Spiliotopoulos presented the statement of EWLA on the Proposal for a Directive of the EP and the Council on the implementation of the principle of equal opportunities and equal treatment of men and women in matters of employment and occupation (recast version) COM(2004) 279 final in Brussels at a meeting of the FEMM Committee of the European Parliament.
20. 05 March 2005. Judith Willis, Board Member UK, represented EWLA at the "Women Lawyers Forum" in London.
21. 04 March 2005 Conference "Institutions of Gender Equality: Legal Order and Reality", Budapest, Friedrich Ebert Foundation; EWLA was represented by Professor Csilla Kollonay Lehoczky (HU).
22. 23 February 2005: Vice President Sophia Spiliotopoulos presented a paper for EWLA at the informal meeting with Mrs Niebler, the shadow-rapporteurs and the draftspersons on the 'recast' - directive in Strasbourg, European Parliament, FEMM- Committee.
23. 02-04 February 2005: Conference of the Luxemburg presidency on Beijing +10, Luxemburg; Conférence présidentielle Pékin + 10- EWLA gave a statement on Feb. 2, between 16.30-18.00. EWLA was represented by President Elisabeth Müller (D), and the Board Members Anna Sporrer (A) and Viviane Ecker (LUX).

EWLA in 2004

Statements and resolutions of EWLA

1. 5 November 2004: EU Constitutional Treaty: Statement on the occasion of the signing of the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe, on 29 October, by the heads of State and government of the Member States and in preparation of the Session of Dialogue of the European Economic and Social Committee aimed at gathering the views of representatives of civil society organisations and networks on the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe, held on Tuesday 9th November 2004 at the EESC Headquarters in Brussels.
2. 30 August 2004: Response to the Commission's Green Paper on Equality and Non-discrimination in an Enlarged European Union.
3. 05 April 2004: 3rd Appeal to the Intergovernmental Conference.
4. 29 March 2004: 6th Position on the adoption of a Directive on gender Equality in fields not covered by Article 141 TEC.
5. 21 January 2004: 2nd Appeal to the Intergovernmental Conference.

Conferences

14 May 2004 in Prague

"New Trends and Developments in Law and for Lawyers in Europe & Launching of the Czech Women Lawyers Conference"

This European Conference was co-organized and supported by EWLA.

Other Activities of EWLA

1. 15 December 2004: Elisabeth Mueller, president of EWLA, represented EWLA at the XXXVe Anniversary of the AFJE (Association Française des Juristes d'Entreprise- French Corporate Counsel Association) in Paris, 15 December 2005, and met with the President and the Past president of the French Women Lawyers Association (preparations for the Strasbourg Congress of EWLA).
2. 20 November 2004: Elisabeth Mueller, president of EWLA, spoke at the Expert Conference "Progressive Implementation; New developments in European Union Gender Equality Law", organized under the Dutch EU Presidency by the Grotius Centre, University of Leiden, 20-21 October 2004, The Hague, on: "Forward looking strategies: What is on our agenda for the coming years?"
3. 20 November 2004: EWLA Board meeting The Hague.
4. 21 October 2004: Elisabeth Mueller, president of EWLA, represented EWLA at the European Conference of the Council of Europe « The Civil Code and Europe : Influence and modernity" Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg, 21 and 22 October 2004.
5. 01 October 2004: Viviane Ecker and Anna Sporrer, Board members from Luxemburg and Austria, represented EWLA at the Conference of the Hungarian Women Advocates Association on 1 October 2004 in Budapest/ Hungary.

6. 01 October 2004 Elisabeth Mueller, President of EWLA and Board member for Germany, spoke at the 4th Women's Political Banquet at the castle of Hambach, Germany, on "The viewpoint of Women Lawyers on the European Constitution: What could be (not) achieved?"
7. 27 September 2004: EWLA Board Meeting Brussels.
8. 24-25 September 2004: European Community Studies Association – Denmark Annual Conference 2004, University of Southern Denmark, Odense: Sophia Spiliotopoulos, Vice- president of EWLA, spoke on "From Nice to the Draft Constitutional Treaty and beyond: Which Charter and which fundamental rights?"
9. 23-24 September 2004: International Congress of the FIFCJ (Fédération Internationale des Femmes des Carrières Juridiques) "Law and Finance- The Contribution of Women Lawyers", Milano; EWLA was represented by its President, Elisabeth Mueller.
10. 16- 18 June 2004: International Conference Berlin Towards Power: Women in Decision Making Positions in the Economic Sector. EWLA was represented by its President, Elisabeth Mueller, who participated in the Panel: "Priority theme 2: Gender Equality- the legal situation on the EU level."
11. 30 April 2004: International Bar Association- Women's Interest Group France, Paris, has invited EWLA to speak on „The advantages of Networking for Women Jurists/ Lawyers on international, European, and national level". EWLA was represented by its President, Elisabeth Müller.
12. 30 April 2004: General Secretary of EWLA María Durán- Febrer participated in the Seminar "Seminario Derechos fundamentales y género", Barcelona.
13. 06 April 2004: Sophia Spiliotopoulos was invited as a representative of EWLA and AFEM and an expert to a meeting of the FEMM Committee of the EP and the Network of Parliamentary Commissions for Gender Equality.
14. 15 March 2004: EWLA President Elisabeth Mueller presents the work of EWLA at the Meeting of the German WLA Branch in Munich.
15. 30 January 2004: EWLA Business Law group Meeting, Paris.

EWLA in 2003

Statements and Resolutions of EWLA

1. 03 December 2003: 5th Position on the adoption of a Directive on gender Equality in fields not covered by Article 141 TEC.
2. 03 November 2003: 4th Position on the adoption of a Directive on gender Equality in fields not covered by Article 141 TEC.
3. 30 September 2003: First Appeal to the Intergovernmental Conference.
4. 5 September 2003: 3rd Position on the adoption of a Directive on gender Equality in fields not covered by Article 141 TEC.
5. 26 June 2003: 2nd Statement of EWLA on the Article 13 Gender Equality Directive and the Inadequacies of the Draft EU Constitution.
6. 21 June 2003: 12th Contribution of EWLA on the Future of the Union Following the Thessaloniki Council.
7. 08 June 2003: Resolution of EWLA on the Constitutional Treaty of the European Union, General Assembly, Helsinki.
8. 08 June 2003: Resolution of EWLA on Trafficking in Human Beings regarding a Future European Convention on Trafficking in Human Beings, General Assembly, Helsinki.
9. 08 June 2003: Resolution of EWLA on European Immigration, Asylum and Refugee Legislation and Gender Mainstreaming, General Assembly, Helsinki.
10. 23 February 2004: 10th Contribution of EWLA on the Constitutional Treaty of the European Union- Comments on the Draft of Articles 1-16 of the Constitutional Treaty- Renewed Appeal.
11. 03 February 2003: 9th Contribution of EWLA on the Future of the European Union- Comments on the Revised Preliminary Draft Report of the Working Group "Social Europe" – Appeal to the European Convention and Civil Society.
12. 22 January 2003: 8th Contribution of EWLA on the Future of the European Union – First Comments on the Preliminary Draft Constitutional Treaty.

4th Congress of EWLA

4-6 June 2003 in Helsinki, Finland

"The Future of Europe: Enlargement"

In cooperation with Naisjuristit – Kvinnliga Jurister ry – Women Lawyers in Finland. The topic of the congress was The Future of Europe: Enlargement. The congress was supported by Tarja Halonen, the President of the Republic of Finland. Among others the congress was sponsored by The Finnish Representation of the European Commission. The Congress was held at the House of the Estates.

Other Activities of EWLA

1. 22 November 2003, Irish Women Lawyers Association IWLA (www.iwla.ie), Dublin, Ireland, Conference "Women in Law in Europe" ; Elisabeth Mueller, President EWLA, speech on "Women in Law in Europe"; the other invited speaker is Fidelma Macken, Judge ECJ, also speaker at EWLA's Founding congress in Berlin in 2000.
2. 20-21 November 2003, Sevilla, Spain, INTERNATIONAL MEETING ABOUT LOCAL POLICIES FOR THE ERADICATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, Elisabeth Mueller, President EWLA, speech on "Judicial treatment of violence against women in the European framework".
3. 10 November 2003, Goettingen, Germany: Workshop on the Convention and the new European Constitutional Treaty; Elisabeth Mueller, President EWLA, speech on EWLA's lobbying work for EWLA's statements, especially for the Convention and the IGC.
4. 05-06 November 2003 Brussels, ELDR Meeting: Sophia Spiliotopoulos, Vice president EWLA: speech on "Convention and Gender"; Annick Masselot, speech on "New EU law on gender equality, sex discrimination outside the workplace" (presentation of EWLA's statements on the Art. 13 Directive).
5. 03 October 2003, Paris: Meeting of the Steering Committee of EWLA's Business Law Working Group).
6. 10 September 2003, Brussels, Sex discrimination outside the workplace Hearing – European Parliament, Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities, EWLA member Elena Savia represented EWLA.
7. 29 June 2003: World Women Bar leaders and Executives Day, International Bar Association, London; EWLA was represented by its President and its Board Members from Finland (Leena Linnainmaa).
8. 2nd World Women Lawyers Conference of the International Bar Association, London; EWLA was represented by its President and its Board Members from Belgium (Nicole van Crombrughe), Finland (Leena Linnainmaa) and UK (Judith Willis); EWLA had a stand with its Positions and Papers.
9. 30 April- 03 May 2003: 2nd European Jurists Forum Athens; EWLA was represented by its President and its Vice- President; EWLA had a stand with its Positions and Papers.
10. 02 April 2003: Collaboration with the Greek League for Women's Rights to organize a European Conference on 2 April 2003 in Athens, within the framework of the Greek Presidency of the European Union and with the support of the Greek General Secretariat for Equality, on "Social Rights: a Lever for Equality. Proposals for the European Constitution". EWLA was represented by its President and its Vice-President.
11. 04 March 2003 the European Commission organized a conference on GENDER EQUALITY AND EUROPE'S FUTURE. EWLA was represented by its Vice-president Sophia Spiliotopoulos.
12. 27-28 February 2003: EWLA has been invited to the Conference of the Economic and Social Council of Greece and the Greek Presidency on Immigration - Economic and Social Integration of Immigrants, Athens. EWLA was represented by its President Elisabeth Müller.
13. 20 February 2003 The EP held a Hearing of the European Parliament on the new Equal treatment directive EC 2002/73/EG (ex 76/207/EEC) in Brussels. EWLA was represented by its member Karen Erdmenger.
14. 31 January 2003: The Council of Europe has initiated a Expert Committee on the inclusion of gender specificity in health actions. Its inaugural session was held on Jan 31, 2003. EWLA was represented by Dr. Patrina Paparrigopoulou, who is teaching medical law at the Law Faculty of Athens University.

EWLA in 2002

Statements of EWLA

1. 5 November 2002. 7th Contribution of EWLA on the Future of the European Union European Convention - Call to support the Creation of a Working Group on Social Issues.
2. 27 October 2002: 6th Contribution of EWLA on the Future of the European Union- response to the Final report of the Working Group "Charter".
3. 27 September 2002: 5th Contribution of EWLA on the Future of the European Union.
4. 05 June 2002: 4th Contribution of EWLA on the Future of the European Union.
5. 05 June 2002: 3rd Contribution of EWLA on the Future of the European Union- What role should be given to Civil Dialogue?
6. 23 May 2002: 2nd Contribution of EWLA to the European Convention- Including Discussion on gender issues at the very heart of the Convention.
7. April 2002: 1st 8th Contribution of EWLA on Presented to the European Convention.
8. March 2002 First Position of EWLA on the Article 13 Gender Equality Directive.

3rd Congress of EWLA

20-21 September 2002 in Paris

"Gender Equality and Professional Life- Current Developments in Europe"

The congress was organized in cooperation with AFFJ (Association Française des Femmes Juristes). The papers of this conference are published by Dalloz under the title: "L'égalité entre femmes et hommes et la vie professionnelle. Le point sur les développements actuels in Europe. Sous la direction de AFFJ et EWLA, Paris, 2003, 307 p.

Other Activities of EWLA

1. 11 December 2002: The Commission adopted, on 11 December 2002, a communication 'General principles and minimum standards for consultation of interested parties by the Commission' COM (2002) 704. The public consultation on the preparatory consultation document ended on 31 July 2002. EWLA has sent its contribution to the Convention concerning gender mainstreaming also to the commission in this context of consultation standards.
2. 21-22 November 2002: Against the background of the "European Convention" and the upcoming next Intergovernmental Conference, ECSA (European Community Studies Association) Austria in co-operation with the Research Institute for European Affairs - IEF, and the Federal Economic Chamber of Austria has organized a high level conference titled "The Future Constitution of Europe: European Convention, IGC 2004, and the Prospects for European Integration" in Vienna, Austria, on November 21 and 22, 2002. At the conference the most renowned specialists from all over Europe discussed topical issues such as the finality of the integration process, the future of fundamental rights and European democracy, institutional and competence aspects and the eventual necessity of reorganizing the European treaties. EWLA was represented by its Austrian Board member, Dr. Anna Sporrer, who presented EWLA's statements to the European Convention.
3. 08 October 2002 Brussels: The Vice- President of EWLA, Sophia Spiliotopoulos represented EWLA in the Human Rights NGO Contact Group for the Convention.

4. 08 October 2002: EWLA has been invited to the 2nd meeting of the Contact Group of NGOs on Human Rights, (the 1st meeting took place in May, and Sophia Spiliotopoulos was elected by the NGOs which participated in it as one of the 3 spokespersons of this contact group for the Convention hearing of 25 June). This meeting was chaired again by Commissioner Vitorino who is chairing the Convention's Working Group on the Charter. EWLA was represented by its Vice- President and presented there the 5th Contribution of EWLA for the European Convention.
5. 02 October 2002: BUILDING A DEMOCRATIC EUROPE: WOMEN'S CONVENTION- MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES, Brussels: EWLA was represented by Panayota Petroglou, member of EWLA and speaker at our Paris congress. She presented and distributed EWLA's 5th contribution to the European Convention.
6. 23-24 September 2002: INTERNATIONAL MEETING ABOUT TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, Malaga, organized by the Women's Institute of Andalusia and the Regional Government of Andalusia: see attached program EWLA was invited and represented by its President, Elisabeth Müller. She presented the resolution on trafficking of EWLA of last year and the new Council Framework Decision on Trafficking.
7. 09-10 September 2002: Immigration: the role of civil society in promoting integration organized by the European Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee, at the European Economic and Social Committee: EWLA was represented by its President, Elisabeth Müller. No other Women's NGO were present. Despite EWLA was mentioning the gender dimension in the 1st and 3rd panel, the reporters did not include it in their summary report.
8. 24-25 June 2002: participation in the Plenary session of the European Convention: the Vice- president of EWLA, Sophia Spiliotopoulos, was one of the elected representatives of the Human Rights Sector Group of NGOs in the Plenary session of the European Convention dedicated to Civil Society.
9. 25 June 2002: EU Workshop for Women working for European Community Initiatives, Friedrich- Ebert- Foundation, Brussels: EWLA's president Elisabeth Mueller spoke on "The Situation and Challenges for social work by women- what support is possible and needed by the EU?"
10. 13 June 2002: Hearing for the Civil Society at the ESC, Brussels- Preparation of the Plenary Session of the Convention devoted to Civil Society, Brussels; EWLA was represented by its President Elisabeth Mueller.
11. 27 May 2002: Second Meeting on Information and Dialogue, ESC, Brussels; EWLA was represented by its President Elisabeth Mueller.
12. 22 May 2002: participation at the Women's Convention (Hearing of The European Parliament Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities) in Brussels; EWLA was represented by its President Elisabeth Mueller.
13. 11 April 2002 EWLA board members (President, members from Finland, France, Luxemburg) with representatives of the French WLA AFFJ, Paris- preparation of the Congress in Paris in September and preparation of the congress in Helsinki, 2003.
14. 27 February- 03 March 2002: FIDA (International Federation of Women Lawyers): 1st Asian regional Congress "The Rights of the Child". EWLA was represented by its President Elisabeth Mueller, who spoke on "The Rights of the Child - The Current Debate in the European Union".
15. 30 January 2002: University of Goettingen, Germany: Semester 2001-2002: lectures on Law and gender; the President of EWLA, Elisabeth Mueller, spoke on: "NGOs and the Implementation of Equal Opportunities".

EWLA in 2001

Statements and Resolutions of EWLA

1. 03 June 2001: Resolution on the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 76/207/EEC on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women as regards access to employment, vocational training and promotion, and working conditions.
2. 03 June 2001: Resolution regarding the Draft Council Framework Decision on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, based on the Commission proposal of 21 December 2000 (COM (2000) 854 final).
3. 03 June 2001: Resolution on the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

EWLA Dissemination Conference

Brussels 21 June 2001

Woman Lawyers for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men- Strategies for Gaining More Influence

The European Woman Lawyers Association, the newly founded network of European woman lawyers, presented itself in Brussels. The foundation congress for the European Woman Lawyers' Association has been held in Berlin from 17th to 19th March 2000. More than 220 woman lawyers from the 15 member states of the EU and the EEA countries and representatives from the European institutions took part. They discussed European employment law, violence against women, lobbying strategies and the possibility of linking public procurement with promotional measurement for women. A CD-ROM was produced as documentation of the founding congress with contributions in English, French and German. This dissemination conference presenting the European Women Lawyers Association in Brussels was a result of renewed financial support from the European Commission within the medium-term Community action programme on equal opportunities for men and women.

2nd Congress of EWLA

1-3 June 2001, Sevilla

The congress of the European Women Lawyers Association (EWLA) organized in cooperation with Themis took place in June, 1 – 3, 2001 in Sevilla (Spain). EWLA invited its members and all other interested women lawyers for its first general meeting after the founding congress in Berlin: http://www.ewla.org/wf_content/45.html

Other Activities of EWLA

1. 13-15 December 2001: Citizen's Assembly, Brussels (during the European Council in Laeken) "Europe is our Future"; EWLA was represented by its President, and had a stand with other NGOs.
2. 22 November 2001: EWLA Board Meeting in Brussels.
3. 01-04 September 2001; FIFCJ (Fédération Internationale des Femmes des Carrières Juridiques) : Enlarged Council : « Trafficking in Women an Girls », Istanbul, Turkey ; EWLA was represented by its President Elisabeth Mueller who presented EWLA's resolution on Trafficking of 03 June 2001.
4. 30 June 2001: Founding Congress of the Swiss Women Lawyers Association, Zurich, Switzerland; EWLA President Elisabeth Mueller represented EWLA with a Welcome Speech.

5. 27 June 2001: Hearing on Parental Responsibility, European Commission, JHA, Brussels: EWLA was represented by its Treasurer Ingrid Jodocy.
6. 20 June 2001: European Ombudsman Visit in Berlin; EWLA was represented by its member, Judge Ingrid Weber.
7. 08 June 2001: Conference "The Right to gender Equality: Theoretical Approaches and Institutional Guarantees", Athens, Kethi, Research Center for Gender Equality; EWLA was represented by its President Elisabeth Mueller with a speech on "EWLA- Projects in the Past and in the Future".
8. 01-02 March 2001: First World Women Lawyers Conference of the IBA in London; EWLA was represented by its President Elisabeth Mueller.

EWLA in 2000

Founding congress of the European Woman Lawyers Association

17th - 19th March 2000, Berlin

The founding of EWLA was co-sponsored by the European Union.

On the founding of a European Women Lawyer's Association

Women lawyers from all European Union member states and beyond are joining forces in a European Women Lawyers' Association. The formation of an organisation by women legal experts is perhaps nothing new, but viewed in historical perspective it is certainly not something that can be automatically taken for granted.

Until well into the 20th century women were excluded from political involvement, participation in the legislative process, the study of law, and the exercise of legal professions, or at the very least were hindered in their participation in these processes. The system of law and the application of law in the courts were fully developed in terms of content and structure before it became possible for women to address theoretical and practical questions of law. As such, it may come as no surprise that with regard to the law and the effects of the law unmistakable deficits existed (and continue to exist) for women. This is seen in particular with regard to the inequality constituted by unpaid and paid work, the lack in many cases of social security for women, the nearly unbroken phenomenon of violence against women and children, their sexual exploitation and transnational trade in women and children.

The question arises in this context as to whether the current understanding of obligations on the part of governments to protect basic rights is sufficient to actually guarantee living conditions in keeping with human dignity or approximately equal opportunities for all persons. Women in legal professions have a special responsibility towards society. They are excellently qualified to analyse legal and political systems from a critical perspective with regard to gender issues. What is involved here is analysing contents, structures, and effects of the law in terms of their influence on women, on the one hand, and men, on the other, and revealing the differences.

A further aim is to reveal that the standards of current law are often based on masculine paradigms and interests in life and, further, to reveal the only apparent objectivity of the law and the fact that the application of the law is abstracted from real life. As such, taking women as the point of departure for legal work and referencing it to specific experiences of women in life is the first step towards creating a more just society with regard to gender equality. With the founding of a European Women Lawyers' Association an organisational framework is now to be created for permanent networking and cooperation of committed women lawyers and those who want to assume this role. Target groups are women lawyers and women lawyers' organisations in all member countries of the European economic area. Interested persons from other European countries can take part in EWLA activities as associated members. Women's organisations whose purposes are not specifically related to law and other organisations whose purposes are not specifically related women's issues can attain observer status in EWLA. This network is to serve the following objectives: An exchange of information and ideas in all political and legal areas, but in particular in those areas which affect women significantly such as work, income, protection against violence, basic rights, etc. First and foremost this should serve the purpose of mutual support in national and international political projects.

Above and beyond this, EWLA wants to exert influence on the development of European law. A single European legal area must take into account views and problems specific to women, something of major

importance with regard to enlargement of the European Union to the east. Questions as to equal job opportunities for all EU citizens or the fight against trade in women need to be treated as priorities. EWLA will submit proposals in this regard and issue position statements. All women are to be supported in promoting their rights on the basis of information, projects, and campaigns. To the extent possible EWLA will support test cases on up to the level of the European Court of Justice. A further area is the analysis of the distribution of financial resources. The objective here will be, in particular, to advocate fair participation by women and men in national and European budgets, funds, and programmes. The use of the economic strength of the EU member states in connection with the award of public contracts and subsidies is to be expanded for the promotion of gender equality and other social purposes. In connection with these projects, strategies (in some cases new strategies) are to be developed for exerting influence on European institutions and decision-making processes.

As such, the objective is also to use EWLA as a pressure group aimed at promoting factual equality of women and men. Formal approaches in this regard can be found in Articles 2 and 3 of the Treaty establishing the European Community which defines the equality of men and women as a Community task and through which the Community is obliged to work towards the elimination of inequalities and to promote the equality of women and men in all its activities.

Last but not least EWLA is to serve as a lobby and representation for women in legal professions with a view to being able to better protect common interests and provide a pool of women experts when there is a need for expert opinions or persons to fill positions at the national and international levels. The programme for the conference held in Berlin in March 2000 was formulated with this in mind. Key issues were discussed and initial contacts and networking of women from all the EU member states and beyond took place there."

More information on the founding of EWLA is available in a press release of the European Commission (www.ewla.org, about ewla, congress 2000).