



Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση Γυναικών
European Union of Women
Union Europeenne Feminine
Europäische Frauen - Union



ACTIVITIES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION OF WOMEN 1999-2001

The **European Union of Women (EUW)** was established in 1953. It is the largest women's organization of Europe, with members women and women's organizations from 21 countries across Europe. The EUW is officially represented in all international organizations (United Nations, European Parliament, Council of Europe) and is in close contact with the European People's Party, the European Democratic Union, the European Union of Christian Democrats and the International Democrat Union. Women presidents of national parliaments, ministers, members of parliament, members of the European parliament, local authorities and members from the Christian Democrat, Conservative and other like-minded political parties from the whole of Europe work together for the promotion of liberal ideas, the establishment and implementation of women's equality and the participation of women on an equal basis in the decision making process.

In **1999**, during the 23rd General Assembly in Stockholm, the member of the Greek parliament (Nea Demokratia political party), Mrs. **Fanny Palli-Petralia** was elected **International Chairman** of the EUW. The **Executive Board** elected for the period 1999-2001 is: **First Vice-Chairman** Dr. **Barbel Steinkemper** (Germany), **Second Vice-Chairman** Mrs. **Sonja Moser-Starrach** (Austria), **Treasurer** Mrs. **Lizzie Lichtenberg** (Denmark) and **Board members** Mrs. **Lidia Bialek** (Poland), Mrs. **Tricia Birchley** (United Kingdom), Mrs. **Eva Navarrete** (Spain), Mrs. **Sonja Sjoli** (Norway) and Mrs. **Christian Tricot** (France). **Secretary General** is Mrs. **Vasso Kollia** (Greece).





The Executive Board of the EUW convenes every 6 months, in different cities of Europe, so **strengthening the European ties of its members and building communication networks** across countries of Western and Eastern Europe. The proposals and outcomes of these meetings are used in various ways, as the EUW has consultative status with the Council of Europe and is represented among the Non-Governmental Organisations at the Council of Europe and the United Nations.



During the period 1999-2001 the meetings of the EUW were held in Athens and in Malta. During the period **11-15 October 2000**, the EUW council meeting was held in **Malta**, where 200 women from the whole of Europe participated. They were warmly greeted by the Prime Minister, government members and opposition members. The main conference topics were Culture, Unemployment, Environment and Immigration.



In **June 2000** the International Chairman, Mrs. Fanny Palli-Petralia, M.P. represented the EUW to the **4th International Conference of Women's Organisations** under the auspices of the **United Nations**, in New York, USA. In her speech, the International Chairman stressed the **importance of the EUW's European identity** and added that "We, at the European Union of Women, have distinct plans and promote decisions, both in a national and in a European context, which will consider the multiple identity of women



as employers and employees, wives and mothers and of course that will promote our basic goal, the participation of women on an equal basis in the decision making process". During the conference, the main topics discussed were Equality, Development, Peace in the 21st century and Democracy with the participation of men and women.

At **26-27 January 2001** the European Union of Women organized, in collaboration with the Institute for Democracy Constantinos Karamanlis, the Western Balkan Democracy Initiative and the Nea Demokratia Group in the European Parliament, a European conference **"The role of women in the Democratization of Southeastern Europe on the road towards the European Union"**. Distinguished women politicians from all countries of the European Union participated - Mrs. Doris Pack (Germany) member of the European Parliament and Chairperson of the European Parliament Committee for Southeastern Europe, Mrs. Anna Diamantopoulou (Greece) member of the European Commission, Mrs. Ingrid Tichy-Schreder (Austria) ex-member of Parliament - among others. A large number of women politicians from the Balkan Countries participated - Dr. Bisera Turkovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) Minister for European Integration, Mrs. Bojana Kolak (Serbia) Minister responsible for Education Affairs, Mrs. Mona Musca (Romania) member of Parliament - among





others. Also, the Chairmen of the National Sections of the European Union of Women participated.

Having such a broad range of participating personalities, the topics discussed were of great interest and the conference was a big success. **Many different views and ideas were heard, and various proposals were made.**

The speeches of Dr. Bisera Turkovic and Mrs. Bojana Kolak were moving, as they discussed the difficulties they encounter as women politicians but also as citizens of countries that have been hurt by war, to survive and also to build a peaceful society for their children. Their every day lives evolve around fears for radiation and quality of life and struggles for the realisation of their dream to see their country as a member of the large European Family.

The International Chairman Mrs. Fanny Palli-Petralia M.P. and the Executive Board of the EUW declared to continue similar initiatives so women can build communication networks and work together for the creation of peace, stability and development in these troubled regions. The members of the EUW pledged to always support the Women's Movement and fight for the implementation of Equality in all European countries.

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