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EWL NEWSFLASH

January 2003

EDITORIAL

**EUROPEAN WOMEN SPEAK OUT AGAINST WAR
SIGN UP TO AND DISSEMINATE THE EWL ANTI-WAR CALL**

The Board of the EWL, meeting in Brussels on 18 and 19 January, adopted a **Declaration against war**, affirming that women reject war as a solution to the current situation in Iraq. War not only prevents other solutions from emerging, but also undermines the existing UN mechanism for **upholding human rights and strengthening women's rights**. Stating that women all over Europe are committed to the achievement and the full realisation of women's human rights and that women are deeply concerned that violence against women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations is extreme, systematic, and widespread. Therefore, **the EWL calls for**: - Governments to use their powers to press to pursue negotiations in favour of a peaceful resolution. - The rejection of unilateral support of USA policy by any country in the European region. - EU Member States, countries in accession to the EU, and other European countries to bring their influence to bear and to press Iraq to accept political solutions and to accept fully the mandate of the UN inspectors. - For all European Union Member states, countries in accession to the EU, and other European countries to ensure the implementation of all commitments in UN **security Council resolution 1325 on women's role in conflict resolution and sustainable peace**.

The EWL is currently sending the anti-war call to all EU policy-makers: Members of the European Parliament, European Commission, Permanent Representation of the Member States to the EU, as well as disseminating it widely to NGOs.

YOU CAN:

- Support the anti-war call by sending an email to ewl@womenlobby.org . All signatories will be listed on the EWL web site (www.womenlobby.org).
- Translate it into national languages (or just use the English and French versions) to disseminate the anti-war call as widely as possible to your governments, among your networks, families and friends.
- Make contact with your governments.
- Inform the EWL of your actions.

Full text can be obtained from: <http://www.womenlobby.org>

EWL NEWS

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW) NEW YORK, 3-14 March 2003: This year the themes will be: *"Participation and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women"* and *"Women's human rights and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls"*.

The **EWL delegation** will be formed by its President, Lydia la Rivière-Zydel , Vice Presidents: Kirsti Kolthoff, and Denise Fuchs; Grainne Healy , Chairwoman of the EWL Observatory on Violence against Women, and from the Secretariat Mary Mc Phail, Colette De Troy and Malin Bjork.

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EWL activities at the CSW 2003 include convening of a **daily European Caucus** and participation of women's NGOs from the future Member States will be actively encouraged. Two EWL **workshops** will also be organised, one on "Women and Human Rights- trafficking and prostitution" and the other on "the Fifth World conference on Women/ Global Governance for gender equality". The EWL Secretariat will distribute information on the activities of its member organisations activities in mid February. Two **position papers** have been drafted on the two themes of the CSW (available soon on the web site). A **Statement** on the issue of violence against women has also been submitted.

EUROPEAN & INTERNATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

THE CONVENTION ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

The Presidium of the Convention is currently working on their second Draft Constitutional Treaty. The Social Working Group debated its Preliminary Draft Report where equality between women and men has been proposed in both the values and the objectives of the EU. At its next meeting on the 6th and 7th of February the Convention will discuss the final report of the Social Working Group. EWL has sent its contribution to each of the members of the Social Working Group stating its proposals. Further news on the Convention's proceedings and additional information can be found on www.euractiv.com and the Convention website www.european-convention.eu.int

A NEW STRATEGY FOR FULL EMPLOYMENT AND BETTER JOBS FOR ALL

The Commission has launched a new proposal setting up the framework for the **new Employment Strategy** that will be discussed on the next Spring Council in March and will lead to a formal proposal for Employment Guidelines and Recommendations in April 2003. The Commission's proposal focuses on three main points: **Strengthen gender mainstreaming** in other employment policy areas; **focus on the structural inequalities of the labour market** including gender gaps in employment and unemployment, gender segregation in sectors and occupations, the gender pay gap and the advancement of women into decision-making positions; and to **promote more favourable conditions for women and men to enter, re-enter and remain in the labour market** including adequate provision for childcare and care for dependant persons, equal share of care and household responsibilities, encourage take-up of parental and other leave schemes by men and promote more possibilities for flexible work arrangements for both women and men.

COMMISSION PRIORITIES FOR PROMOTION OF GENDER EQUALITY

The European Commission approved a communication on "*implementing the integration of gender dimension in the planning documents of the Structural Funds 2000-2006*". In order to ensure successful implementation of gender equality, the Commission calls on Member States to:

(1) set up incentives to **increase the perception and the level** of women in all Structural Fund programmes; (2) clearly identify the **funding allocated for specific actions for gender equality** and projects and programmes that contribute to this equality, Member States will have to show figures and indicators used in the mid-term reviews of the Structural Funds from 2003 onwards; (3) encourage **expertise in gender equality** and foresee awareness and training measures in this area.

ASYLUM: The directive concerning minimum standards on the **reception of asylum seekers** in the Member States was adopted on 19 December 2002 by the Council of Justice and Home Affairs: http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/news/intro/news_070103_1_en.htm

NEWS FROM THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT:

15 January: HEALTH CARE AND CARE FOR THE EDERLY: The Parliament adopted a position on the Commission's Communication discussing future trends and costs for health care in light of an ageing Official documents: European Parliament: Daily Notebook (15 January 2003) European

Parliament: Report on the Commission communication on the future of health care and care for elderly: guaranteeing accessibility, quality and financial viability.(COM (2001)723 C5-0163/2002-2002/2071(COS)) (17 December 2002) (Rapporteur: Mario Mantovani).

22 January: PARLIAMENT ADOPTS POSITION ON BREAST IMPLANTS: the Parliament's Public Health Committee adopted a report on the Commission Communication aiming to improve the quality and safety of breast implants. Official documents: Parliament: draft report on the Communication from the Commission on Community and National Measures in Relation to breast Implants (COM (2001) 666-C5-0327/2002- 2002/2171(COS)) (22 November 2002) Commission: Communication from the Commission on Community and National Measures in Relation to Breast Implants

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES: met on 22 and 23 January 2003 and held a very successful Public Hearing on Gender Budgeting.

UNITED NATIONS REPORT ON WOMEN, WAR AND PEACE

Former Chairwoman of the Women's Rights Committee, Maj Brit Theorin, hosted a meeting at which the UNIFEM report on Women War and Peace was launched on Monday 20 January in the European Parliament. The launch was attended by Executive director of UNIFEM Noleen Heyzer, MEPs, former Defence Minister of Finland Elisabeth Rehn who is one of the experts commissioned to draft the report and Commissioner Anna Diamantopoulou. The EWL Board meeting in Brussels at that time also attended the launch. For more information: www.unifem.org

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT ELECTIONS

The elections for the ICC will be held **from 3-7 February 2003** at UN Headquarters in New York during the second meeting of the ICC Assembly of States Parties. Of the 44 candidates nominated 10 are women. The election of the first 18 judges is an important milestone in the establishment of the Court and presents an historic opportunity to achieve gender parity on the bench. For more information please contact: Pam Spees, Women's Caucus for Gender Justice, (212)6757648 Thordis Ingattodir, Project on International Courts and Tribunals, (212)9983680 e-mail: caucus@iccwomen.org website:www.iccwomen.org

EWL REPRESENTATION

The EWL President **Lydia la Rivière-Zijdel** was part of the **Social Platform delegation to the Troika meeting** preceding the Napflion **Social Affairs informal Council** meeting (23-25 January 2003).

Denise Fuchs, EWL vice President attended the conference « **Women and the future of Europe** », organised by Women's National Council, Luxemburg, on 23 January 2003.

Lydia la Rivière-Zijdel, EWL President attended the **OPENING CERIMONY OF THE EUROPEAN YEAR OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES 2003**, in Athens, Greece, 26 January. The European Year of People with Disabilities is organised by the European Commission in collaboration with the European Disability Forum (EDF), a member organisation of the Social Platform.
<http://www.eypd2003.org>

Kirsti Kolthoff, EWL Treasurer and member of the Executive attended the Greek Presidency's Conference: **EQUAL PAY-MIND THE GAP**, in Athens 30-31 January.

FOCUS ON THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE EU

Women's reproductive rights negotiated away: A Protocol on Abortion will be annexed to Malta's Accession Treaty to the EU. The protocol will give legal certainty that EU law, present or future, would

not change Maltese restrictive laws on abortion. Malta is not the first country to negotiate a protocol on abortion. Ireland, which has been a member of the EU since 1973, also has a special protocol on abortion. At the same time **Polish bishops are asking the government to follow Malta** by adding an ad hoc protocol to the accession treaty to ensure that the conservative Polish laws outlawing abortion would be kept even if the other EU States would strengthen women's rights in this field. Source: Neww Polska - <http://www.neww.org.pl>

2003 - The last year before EU-15 will become EU-25: The final agreements reached at the Copenhagen Summit in December of 2002 mean that the year 2003 will be the last year of only 15 Member States. The date for accession of the new Member States, which will change the EU map fundamentally, is set for 1st of May 2004.

Referendums in the Candidate countries: Most candidate countries are starting to fix the dates for referendums on EU Membership. It varies from country to country whether the referendum is legally binding or not. Although the date is not confirmed yet, the Maltese might be the first to vote on March 8.

NEWS FROM THE CIVIL SOCIETY

UK:ASYLUM – WOMAN RAPED BY SOLDIERS FACES DEPORTATION AS HER CLAIM IS JUDGED NOT AS TORTURE BUT AS “SEXUAL GRATIFICATION” AND “SIMPLE LUST” on the part of the soldiers: join the **appeal against deportation** launched by Women Against Rape (UK) in support of a woman asylum seeker whose claim was dismissed on the basis that the soldiers that raped her were merely carrying out a “very serious act of sexual gratification”. Describing the soldiers' behaviour as “*extraneous to the political or military activities of the soldiers*”, the Home Office rejected the legitimacy of the woman's claim for asylum in the UK. To express your concern and undertake action against deportation, contact: Sian Evans or Anne Neale, e-mail: war@womenagainstrape.net

INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AND MANIFESTO TO STOP FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION - Conference held in Brussels (10-11 December, 2002) at which the EWL was invited as a speaker organised by AIDOS and No Peace without Justice (NPWJ) launched an appeal in the form of a Manifesto to the International community to invite them to sign up to “*practices that our ancestors themselves, if they came back to life, would find obsolete and outdated*”. **For more information and to sign up to the Manifesto, contact <http://www.stopfgm.org>**

World Social Forum- Porto Alegre, 23-28 January 2003 while at the same time the World Economic Forum will take place in Davos. More information: World Social Forum's website: www.worldsocialforum.org World economic Forum's website: www.weforum.org Other contacts: www.penelopes.org www.mediasol.org

EVENTS

FILM PRESENTATION: LILJA 4EVER

The Swedish film, directed by Lukas Moodysson, is an account of the life of a 16 year old Russian girl trafficked to Sweden and kept locked up and sold as a prostitute, was shown to a selected audience at the European Parliament on 29 January. The presentation opened with a question and answer session with representatives of the European Commission and Council on the latest on EU policy to help victims of trafficking. The film will be on general release in Belgium in April. For further information, contact: Marie Fredriksson, assistant to Marianne Eriksson, tel: (32)495250016, e-mail: meriksson@europarl.eu.int or Judy O'Loan, GUE-NGL Press Office, 32 477470031

SEMINARIO: MULHERES MIGRANTES, DUAS FACES DE UMA REALIDADE/MIGRANT WOMEN, DEUX FACES OF ONE REALITY, (30- 31 January), organised by Instituto de Defesa Nacional, Lisboa. For more information, please contact: Comissao para igualdade e para os direitos das mulheres Av. da Republica, 32- 1º, 1050-193 Lisboa Tel. 217983000 Fax 217983098 cidm@mail.telepac.pt

HEARING ON PROSTITUTION, European Parliament held on February 3rd organized by the Green Group. For further information, contact: Patsy Sorensen- MEP, tel. 32.2.2845143 Gert Nuyts tel.32.2.2847143 Danielle De Borger tel. 32.2.2846261 Fax 32.2.2849143e-mail : psorensen@europarl.eu.int

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ZERO TOLERANCE TO FGM – organised by the Inter African Committee on Traditional Practices affecting the health of women and children, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 4- 6 February 2003. For further information: website: www.iac-ciaf.ch Liaison office (Geneva) E-mail: cominter@iprolink.ch

CONFERENCE : MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT- the missing link, 20 February Hosted by PES Group Conference, Thursday 20 February, European Parliament, Brussels Contact: Vivienne Byrne, vbyrne@europarl.eu.int

INTERNATIONAL CITY-DONA PROJECT CONFERENCE organised by the Commitment of Cities for equality opportunities between women and men, will take place in Terrassa, Spain, on the 13 and 14 March 2003. Contact: citydona@terrassa.org

SEMINAR: YOUTH WORK WITH BOYS AND YOUNG MEN as a means to prevent violence in everyday life. European Youth Centre, Budapest, 18-22 March 2003 Contact: natalia.miklash@coe.int www.coe.int/youth www.eycb.coe.int www.coe.int/hre

The **International criminal Court Alliance**, in conjunction with the UCLA Center for the Study of Women and the Los Angeles County Bar Association International Law section presented: "Notes from the field: Gender Crimes and international criminal Court", January 29, 2003, Contact: Ms Shantha Rau, Information service Coordinator Tel. +1 212 687 21 76e-mail cicc4@iccnw.org website : <http://www.iccnw.org>

21 MARCH - INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION declared by the General Assembly of the United Nations as a result of the murder of 70 peaceful demonstrators in Sharpeville, South Africa, in 1960. Hundreds of activities will be published on: <http://www.unitedagainstracism.org>

PUBLICATIONS-WEB SITES

World Health Organisation: First edition of the **newsletter for the Global Campaign for violence Prevention** (launched on the 3rd of October 2002 by WHO Director General), is serving as a platform for implementing the recommendations of the first world report on violence and health. Contact: Sabine van Tuyl at vantuyls@who.int

Publication: **MONITORING THE EU ACCESSION PROCESS: EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND MEN**, Overview and complete report of Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Romania. Published by the Open Society Institute Eu Accession Monitoring Program, Joint program of the network women's program and the open society foundation Romania, website: www.eonet.ro Copies of the book can be ordered from: **Gabriella Kiss Program Assistant Network Women's Program Open Society Institute 11 Nador utca 1051 Budapest, Hungary**

Tel.: 36-1-327-3139 Fax: 36-1-327-3864 kissg@osi.hu

The **Greek Presidency** has created a **useful website** where the Presidency programme (presented to the European Parliament on 14 January) and the calendar of meetings can be found.

<http://www.eu2003.gr/en/cat/0/index.asp>

New address of Justice and Home Affairs website: http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home

And in order to reach Daphne, here is the address for direct access:

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