



First report as European Regional Coordinator 2005 -2006, Gabiella Canonica

After *International Congress 2005 Luzern → to European Congress Stockholm, written may 2006*

Some personal thoughts:

I do not have the intention to send you my travel-diary, but some important pillars during this first year of Coordinator are knotted to my travelling in Europe and Worldwide.

Dear Presidents of BPW Europe

This should not be a retrospective or Diary of my travels through Europe and Worldwide, but just a glimpse at the effective actions I took during this first year of Coordinator for BPW Europe.

Having taken over this part, I felt and do feel that my competences and capacity to lead and to promote the topics of BPW, are in being personally present at your meetings, at your events. Having the possibility to speak with YOU, your members, besides to take active part in an annual meeting with a conference or talk, answering questions and inform directly, brings me near to you and your members; and you and your board nearer to BPW.

Of course, there were hundreds of mails going from one side to the other, hundred of phone calls (Yes, we use SKYPE and MSN) and after such telephone conversations, the world turns a little smoother. It is important for me, to have this very near contact to you.

And I did almost manage, to speak to all of you individually during this first year of my task. Thank you, for having given me this opportunity.

“BPW Roster”

To the topics of BPW belongs certainly, that BPW Europe has a role model in the now official International Roster. As we made the “kick off” last year, you all did participate in a fantastic way and fulfilled your homework to implement all your data in this Roster. Congratulations and thank you! Now it is official, since the Exco Meeting in Bangkok, all BPW Federations and Associated Clubs Worldwide use this tool. <http://www.bpw-roster.info>. Should you have forgotten your login and password, just call on me.

“Business and Member Pages”

The other topic will always be my favourite: The “Business and Member Pages” of BPW International.

This is absolutely the only possibility to make ourselves visible to the world. How else can we tell, where we are? In what professions we are taking active part in our lives? Again I am very proud of BPW Europe; the majority of the entries come from Europe. But still, there is a great need of information to be spread among your members, and I do urge you, to promote this tool at all your meetings. We need really to be VISIBLE, and beside of this, we should be proud to be VISIBLE and to belong to this wonderful Network. <http://www.bpw-businessandmembers.org> / <http://www.bpw-business.org>

European Women’s Lobby.

This year in October there will be new elections for the administrative Board in the EWL. Our Representative, Eufemia Ippolito will be again a nominee for this position. I was able to observe during the last EWL Meeting in London, that Eufemia did really represent the BPW Europe in a very professional way and thank her for her commitment to this task. The reports are visible on the European Homepage.

Council of Europe:

Since several years Livia Ricci is representing BPW at the Council of Europe. We are thankful, that Livia is taking this sophisticated mission with a very great professionalism and Know how. Her reports are always visible on the European Homepage.

ECC

It is my turn to thank my ECC team, for the wonderful collaboration during this first year. We had a lot of challenges; we had a lot of “troubles” we had a lot of “problems” to solve. And with the great engagement and commitment of all, we managed to come along with really good results. Thanks to Ewa Papla who took over the Eastern Countries (she speaks Russian!) we have now a well established contact to most Clubs in this region. Thanks to the always very competent reflection of Finance Officer Dagmar Bischof, we have a very good result in our Money-Keeping system. And for the Young BPW Member, Viktoria Balensiefen, this was a first glimpse of the work within BPW Europe to make the jump to BPW International being the future official Young BPW Representative for BPW Europe.

Thank you all for your help, for your never ending support to the work and to me. Without you all, I could not have managed this task, that’s for sure.



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International Executive

Since the Coordinators are member in the International Executive, the daily BPW work has obviously augmented. Keeping up with all the information, all the homework for International, keeps me very busy. But let me just mention, that this is an enrichment for me, for BPW Europe. Being at the front, means having the capacity and possibility to bring and inform directly the International Board what is going on in Europe and vice-versa. I have learned a lot this year about global BPW history and connections.

I still have to learn a lot, I still do mistakes, I still have a lack of knowledge and still I am looking for more free time to fulfil all the needs. And therefore I ask you kindly to be patient and to forgive me.

For me it was rather a physical stress travelling to Bangkok... Oh no, not for the wonderful country, but... Few of you know that in December I had a typical "house-wife" accident. I fell down the whole staircase in our house. The result was damaged legs, especially knee. I had no choice as to travel to Bangkok with a wheel-chair. The International Board was superb to me, taking care and pushing me around in the chair... walking slowly when I came along with my sticks. You can imagine that for me who am used to run around, it was not easy to be handicapped.

But with the help of every one, I managed. I managed to travel afterwards in wheel-chair to Turkey / Paris / New York! Should you see any photos with me on a wheel chair... this is the solution!

Just remember dear BPW Presidents: never rush down a stair case with a washing basket wearing high heels... rushing because you should attend a BPW Meeting. Either you forget about the washing, or you forget about BPW...

I have learned. I forget the washing!

- 22nd -26th June 2005
Meeting with Dagmar Bischof, ECC Finance Officer, BPW Europe. Strategic planning for 2005 – 2006
- 02nd -03rd July 2005
Visit to BPW Salzburg, my first official „performance“ as European Coordinator
- 08th -11th September 2005
Visit to Ankara, Turkey. Evaluating the opening of the first BPW Club in Turkey, Club Ankara
- 30th September 2005
Attending the „Twinning event “between BPW Basel and BPW Knokke
- 11th October 2005
Meeting BPW Club Weil, preparing the Event „Drei-Länder-Treff“
- 12th -14th October 2005
Stockholm. Planning the BPW European Congress in Stockholm 9 -11 June 2006.
Meeting with the HPC, Board Stockholm, Visiting Norra Latin / Hotels / Event Places
- 15th -16th October 2005
London: Annual Meeting EWL, European Women’s Lobby. Meeting with Eufemia Ippolito, our BPW representative in the EWL.
- 17th h October 2005
Meeting with Arzu Özyol, Future President of BPW Ankara, Turkey and Ann Swain. Evaluating the Progress in „Founding of BPW Ankara, Turkey“
- 18th October 2005, evening. Attending the BPW LONDON Network. Meeting with President Monique Lee.
- 22nd October 2005
Drei Ländertreffen. BPW Germany, Weil am Rhein / BPW Switzerland, Basel / BPW France, Strasbourg. Conference about: “My heart topics as Regional Coordinator”
- 25th –26th October 2005
BPW Belgium, annual meeting in Brugge. Election of the new Board.
- 27th October 2005
Meeting with Dr. Annarosa Colangelo, 1st Vice President BPW International in Bruxelles
- 30th October 2005
Meeting with Ilse Spritzendorfer, immediate Past 2nd Vice President BPW International, at the Airport in Basel
- 07th –09th November 2005
Spain, Valencia. Meeting with the Presidents of BPW Spain Clubs. Visit the Hotels / Meeting Places for the European Presidents Meeting in 2007. Meetings with Enrichetta Bellini, BPW Italy
- November 2005
Meeting with Christine Heinze, in Basel
- 12th -13th December 2005
2 days meeting with Viktoria Balensiefen Young BPW Europe.
- 2nd – 15th January 2006
EXCO Meeting BPW International in Bangkok / Thailand
- 25th January 2006
Club Meeting BPW Bern, Switzerland, conference



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- 27th - 30th January 2006
Meeting in Paris, General Assembly. Conference about BPW.
Inputs for rebuilding Young BPW / Task Forces and Increasing Members.
- 11th - 12th February 2006
Official opening Ceremony of the First Club in Turkey, BPW Ankara Opening Speech and Candle Lighting Ceremony.
- 21st February – 5th March 2006
New York
 - Leadership Seminar
 - IDP Training
 - International EXCO Meeting
 - Meeting with Chairs of Standing Committees: Environment and Sustainable Development/ Projects/ Public Relations
 - Meeting with Chairs of Task Forces: Peace / Water
 - Meeting with Delegation of BPW Spain
 - 50th Session of the Commission of the Status of Women in UN
 - BPW Manhattan Annual Meeting
 - BPW New York Annual Meeting
- 18th March 2006
Regional Conference BPW Switzerland
- 21st - 22nd March 2006
internal Meeting with ECC Finance Officer Dagmar Bischof in Basel
- 5th March 2006
Conference BPW Huttwil, Switzerland
- 7th - 9th April 2006
Ireland, Galway. Election Award: BPW Business Women of the Year Award in Galway, Ireland.
Annual Meeting of BPW Ireland
- 10th - 11th April 2006
Stockholm, Sweden. Meeting with HPC for upcoming European Congress
- 27th April 2006
Regional Conference BPW Switzerland
- 23rd - 27th Mai 2006
Visiting BPW Moldova

There could be much more to say... the personal impressions I had in the different countries, the telephone calls with presidents, about their needs and wishes...
But it will be for another time... in personal words, face to face.

One last thought: The Event I was able to attend in Ireland gave me an Idea, a Vision:

...and if in BPW Europe we would have a global Event: the **BPW Europe Business Women of the Year Award?**
The best BPW Start-Up Business / BPW Business Women of the Year / Most Innovative BPW Business

...“when you focus on the vision of what you want to accomplish, and you feel joy, enthusiasm, happiness, etc...
that means that the vision is correct for you“

Always with my whole engagement for BPW!

Gabriella Canonica
Regional Coordinator BPW Europe