

Europe

BPW INTERNATIONAL
Business & Professional Women

Dear Madam President of BPW Pula, Alida Perkov
Honoured Mr. President of the Republic of Croatia,
Stjepan Mesic
President of the Croatian Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Nadan
Vidosevic

Dear Madam President of BPW International
Dear Presidents of BPW Europe
Dear Members of BPW Worldwide
Distinguished Guests

It is indeed of great excitement for me, to speak in the
presence of the President of Croatia.

Thank you, Mr President for this great honour, and giving us
your precious time, to listen to the decision making women
of BPW Europe.

BPW Europe is the largest and strongest Region within BPW
International, which is divided into 5 Regions, Africa, Asia
Pacifique, Latin America, North America and Europe

Our Region has more than 20'000 members in 28 European
Countries. The strongest country is your neighbour, Italy,
with over 10'000 Members.

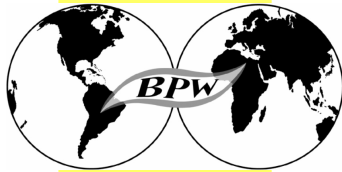
BPW Europe also has the privilege to have a representative
on the Board at the EWL, European Women's Lobby in Brussels.

BPW Europe has participatory status at the Council of
Europe; currently we have 2 representatives regularly
attending the meetings for the NGS in Strasbourg.

In addition we have representations at the UN in Geneva, in
the different commissions and sectors.

We have very strong connections with the International
Chamber of Commerce (in January this year we started a
communication partnership with ICC), and many members of BPW
are involved in the CC, some are even on the boards of their
Local Chambers of Commerce.

We are extremely active in all fields. Our Members engage in
Politics, Researches, and in Business. They are
Entrepreneurs, and employees, and are on the top levels in
decision making positions, or are very active under the
aspect of "Stand up and speak out".



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BPW develops the professional and leadership potential of women on all levels through our mentoring, networking, skill building, and economic empowerment programs and projects around the world.

Empowering women to reach the top is one of our goals. Many examples show us, that through mentoring and advocacy in BPW, Women are able to reach this goal.

Friendship, yes friendship is also a very important reality among us women.

We are proud that in Europe we have a very strong and well functioning, multilingual Mentoring program, of course across borders, and in all professional sectors. (And multilingual.)

This is BPW!

It works! It works, because we speak the BPW Language among us.

Let me explain:

No.

It is not a new language, but meeting with other BPW Members worldwide does not necessary start by explaining what BPW is, what we do and why we do this, they all know about it, so the discussions, and (the) talks start right at the important points. Networking par Excellence

Each woman is an expert in her own profession, and that makes us strong, exchanging ideas, experiences, talking about new projects, starting projects and bringing them to a positive result.

The diversity of culture, languages, religion and political persuasions create no barriers for us.

The European Presidents Meeting which was held just a month ago in Valencia Spain showed us how multitalented our Presidents are, as the official language was English and there was no translation. Just imagine 18 languages of mother tongues!

Dear Mister President Stjepan Mesic.

I would like to express a wish.

The wish goes to all the Presidents of the other European Countries



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That they may follow your marvellous example to assist at our BPW Events and to support us fully, as you just show us in this day.

You are a unique example, of how a government can give us courage in the work we are doing, doing also for your country. Thank you again for your presence here with us.

Dear Madam President of BPW Pula, dear Alida. I have the great pleasure to present you the best wishes and greetings from our BPW International Vice President Liz Benham, whom you met last year when she came to Pula. She keeps in her memories the best souvenirs from the wonderful meeting with all the impressive members of BPW Pula.

She is opening a new club at this time in Abu Dhabi and so regrettably cannot be here but conveys her congratulations on a successful conference.

And this is also the wish of my ECC Members, European Coordinating Committee:

Amélie Leclercq, Annegret Hastedt and Enrichetta Bellini. I am looking forward to spend these active days together with you! Thank you.

Pula, 17th November 2007

Gabriella Canonica

Regional Coordinator BPW Europe 2005 – 2008

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