

Representation to the European Women Lobby (EWL) 2014-2015

Context:

Amélie Leclercq & Sylvaine Boussuard le Cren elected as BPW Europe's representative and alternate representatives to the EWL at the BPW Europe's presidents meeting in May 2013. Their official term start in October 2014 after the EWL General Assembly.

In May 2014, a new Secretary General was recruited: Joanna Maycock with 20 years' professional experience in senior leadership and governance positions in NGOs. She brings new points of views and attention to governance and involvement of the members.

EWL was created in 1995 and has a program of monthly thematic events in 2015 to mark its 20th anniversary.

EWL is currently in the process to determine its objectives, priorities and means of actions for 2016-2020.



Activities of your representatives



9 July 2014, Sylvaine represented BPW Europe at a EWL event organized at the European Parliament “no more excuses, gender equality after the EU elections”. A report was sent to the ECC.

ON 20-21 September 2014 Amélie and Sylvaine participated in the “Second European Citizen Summit” organized in Brussels by a Social Platform of NGOs of which EWL is one. Important to have more members participating as the only organisations with a feminist approach present then where the EWL and BPW Europe. The other members of the social platform objectives were: environment, education and culture, social insertion, health. It was striking to see how they had all forgotten to include gender mainstreaming in their topics.

On 10-12 October 2014 Amélie participated in the EWL General Assembly in Lisbon with Solveig Staffas who was finishing her term. After being elected to the EWL Board of administration, participation in the “strategic thinking” workshops. Asked by the Secretariat General to be member of the steering committee of a new project on female social

entrepreneurship. The General Assembly was the starting point of a year-long exercise to determine the objectives and actions for the EWL 2016-2021. Viviane Teteilbaum, (BE) was reelected as president of the EWL.

In November 2014 and January 2015, Amélie participated in meetings of the steering committee of WEstart, Female Social Entrepreneurship. Calls for candidatures for positions of national consultants had been sent out to all BPW Europe members in November 2014 and BPW members from France and Ireland contacted Amélie for more information and sent out their candidatures. The choice of the national consultants was done in January 2015 by the Secretariat General of the EWL.

Information regarding another short term position of consultant to support the start of a EWL Central Eastern and South Eastern Task Force was also disseminated in January to the presidents of federations and clubs in the relevant countries.

In January 2015 Amélie participated in a EWL meeting in Brussels to assess and comment on a document published by the secretariat general in December 2014 as basis for discussion for the 2015-2021 strategy. One of the issues under discussion is how the secretary general interact with the EWL members, to allow members to feel more ownership of EWL.

On 24th February 2015, EWL event to present the “crack in the ceiling” report on women on boards. Karin Raguin, European Coordinator was one of the speaker. Guiseppa Bombaci, Amélie Leclercq, Miette Dechelle were present at that event which was also a good networking opportunity.

On 20 February 2015 – organisation of a workshop on “visual communication” by BPW Brussels. EWL agreed to let one of the member of the secretariat general, Elvira Buijink to share her experience with BPW Brussels and Soroptimist members. This workshop allowed to provide a small financial support to EWL work and to organise an activity in common with Soroptimist.

Information on activities and EWL themes through publications of flash report on BPW Europe website and through the use of the twitter account: @AmelieBPW



Next steps

Questions to all BPW Europe members:

- What kind of support would you appreciate to receive from EWL?
- What kind of support could you provide to EWL?
- How can your federation/club work with the EWL national coordination and what can be improved?
- What do you expect (realistically) from your (volunteer) representatives?

Next General Assembly 29 May to 31 May in Brussels

Federations and clubs which are interested by the Female Social Entrepreneurship project, WEstart, can integrate this topic in one of their event. If planned in advance, it could be possible to have Emily Usher, the project manager or Amelie Leclercq to speak on the project and present the results.

Any questions: amelie.leclercq@bpw-europe.org

Tools for lobbying

EWL has recently published reports of great interest for BPW lobbying activities:

- [From words to action](#) – 20 years of the Beijing Platform for action

This report includes access of evolution in 13 fields of action, in the form of a two pages factsheet, a format very convenient for use in BPW activities regarding our core themes:

- Women and the economy
- Women in power and decision-making
- Education and training of women
- Women and the media

This report was unveiled at the occasion of the September 2014 General Assembly with the support of the Portuguese coordination and participation of a representative of the Portuguese government.

- [Cracks in the glass ceiling or just a trick of the light?](#) Women on Boards in Europe: Second Progress report

This report provides figures and short assessments of the situation in the following countries: Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, United Kingdom.

- [Women's economic independence in times of austerity](#) - European Women's Voice

Country profiles include: Italy, Sweden, Scotland, Greece and Slovenia

Part 2 gather information working toward a feminist economic model and include an article on WEstart "mapping women's social entrepreneurship in Europe", this is the one year project where BPW Europe is member of the steering committee.

For light relief, you can also play the [Feminist Austerity Game](#) !