Minutes of BPW Presidents’ meeting

5 April 2014 at Amazone, Brussels

Three observers were allowed to participate in the meeting before it started:

- Karin Raguin, nominated Regional Coordinator BPW Europe
- Ketlin Tackman, Young BPW Finland Representative and candidate for Young BPW International Representative Position
- Isabell Rüdt, Coordinator for next European Conference from Switzerland

1. Quorum

Quorum was 23 votes. The quorum of 18 was reached.

2. Adoption of Agenda

In the agenda, the EU project topic was requested to be added either at point 9 or under ‘miscellaneous’.

Sabine Schmelzer, BPW Europe Coordinator, asked to have breakout sessions on the following issues: EU project, BPW Europe Strategy, WEPs, Lobbying, Young BPW under ‘miscellaneous’.

The minutes of last year will be dealt with in the aisbl meeting in the afternoon.

The agenda was adopted.

3. Welcome of new Presidents

The following newly elected Presidents were welcomed:
- BPW Netherlands, Antia Wiersema
- BPW Cyprus, Kikoula Cotsapas
- BPW Reykjavik, Iceland, Gudrun Jakobsdottir.

The new President of BPW Arad, Romania, Ecaterina Cornelia Mitariu did not participate.

4. Reports of ECC members

Sabine Schmelzer, BPW Europe Coordinator, Miette Dechelle, Young BPW Europe Representative and ECC Member, and Pinella Bombaci, ECC Secretary, presented their reports.

Each presentation will be sent to the Presidents afterwards.

The three reports were adopted.

5. Reports from taskforces and representatives

Sabine Schmelzer informed Presidents and Delegates on the reports of Representatives at the Council of Europe and the taskforce chairs for Mentoring, Life Long learning and Lobbying Taskforce.
In its report the chair of the Mentoring taskforce underlined her offer to members every week to inform them via Skype on Mentoring.

Sabine Schmelzer informed Presidents and Delegates on the PEP Train-the-Trainer course which took place in Munich this year and will be offered again in February 2015.

Aine Feeney reported on her participation at the Council of Europe consultative NGO’ sessions and informed on a common interest project with an European co-funding. Aine will send a written report and proposal to Presidents for information.

The Lobbying Task Force prepared an action plan to be validated by the Presidents.

All Reports were adopted.

6. Countries reports

Each President or Delegate reported their main national activities as follows:

Switzerland: Equal Pay Day was organized in 19 cities. A main topic in Switzerland was Women Board's quota. BPW organized courses on finance issues to empower women to become board members.

Belgium: organized a meeting with the Minister of Justice (on Women on Board and Equal Pay Day), who became a new member. The Equal Pay Day event was realized to hand over the red purse and the EC leaflet on Equal Pay to politicians. A new Young BPW club was founded.

Germany: agreed at the Delegates Assembly for each club to provide data and to integrate them within the national website. Seminars were organized with corporate members on mentoring programme. BPW Germany worked with 10 organizations on Women on Board, and it met the Minister before the election and asked for the quota. BPW Germany focused on Equal Pay Campaign.

Poland: organized a special regional programme to increase the number of members of BPW being taken into account by Politicians as well as working with other women organizations. Equal Pay Day was also successful with presence in the media.

Ireland: set its 1st Equal Pay Day, for the event speak up on radio. BPW Ireland got new clubs. The new focus of BPW Ireland is to help immigrants to join BPW Ireland.

Estonia: worked on Equal Pay Day and Campaign on Young BPW. BPW Estonia focused on Women of the year and Young Women of the year, an annual event and took part in Munich workshop for trainers. Next trainer meeting will be in Tallinn.

France: had its National Congress hosting the 1st Young BPW Europe Symposium at the same time. This year BPW France focused its activities on Equal Pay Day on handcrafting professions with two major events. A partnership with France Television in BPW Paris and a meeting with the Minister of Gender Equality on WEPs and Young Women with BPW Grand Paris.

Finland: had a decrease of membership. Equal Pay Day is not the biggest concern at the moment, it is unemployment and uneducated women. BPW Finland created a best practices questionnaire and sent it to members to work on a media strategy to be more visible in term of media and civil society.
Iceland: Sabine Schmelzer visited Iceland for the launch of the Equal Pay Day. They organized a common weekend for the members to get to know each other. The President invited all the past presidents for dinner to involve them and share their experiences.

Sweden: Equal Pay Day was organized over a Nordic Forum Conference focused on Business, Unemployment and Young; there was radio visibility. A follow up was set up after election to ask politicians to know what they are going to do on women issues. Two new clubs were created and one more is coming up. The next action is to try to get more Young people.

Cyprus: due to economic crisis, the new work was on employment to help women to find a job via support and classes. There was a focus on the ITC conference; the European commissioner of education, (who is Cypriot) was invited. Equal Pay Day was a success inviting the EC Representative and MEPs. Young BPW activities are numerous, bringing back members due to economic down turn. The current work is to share best practices to contact and visit all clubs.

Spain: organized the 4th International Conference, Equal Pay Day, Women International Day, and also a project to inform about Spanish activities, with several events to be visible in media and develop packages for membership.

UK: celebrated 75 years. The new objective of BPW UK is to reinvent BPW UK. It was planned over six months to develop in close cooperation with other women organizations, the STEM (Women in science and technology). The yearly Young public competition was a success. BPW UK uses more and more social media. Equal Pay Day was organized this year in front of the BBC.

Austria: launched a cooperate design together with the Equal Pay Day event at the European Parliament. The challenges pointed out for BPW to have more marketing on businesses than cultural ones. BPW Austria is looking for sponsorship to have a paid secretary.

The Netherlands: had the visit of Freda Miriklis, BPW International President to BPW International archive. BPW Netherlands had discussions with the city council on WEPs.

Norway: membership has grown to 65 members. At each meeting it is asked to bring a potential new member. BPW Norway organized a big conference with visitors from Estonia. It also co-organized the biggest event on women issues working very closely with 3 to 4 other women networks. For the Equal Pay Day the Mayor participated. There were 3 meetings a month.

Presidents were asked to send their report to ECC for Sabine to put them together and present them to the upcoming International Congress in Jeju.

7. Young BPW – our future

Sabine Schmelzer, RC Europe, emphasized the importance for Young BPW to be a priority in each federation / club, to get talents and to give them learning opportunities for women on Board.

8. Presentation and election of candidates

- Karin Raguin, nominated candidate for RC Europe, presented herself.
• Election of new ECC member Young BPW

On 35 votes as a total, Presidents voted:

- 4 votes for Katharina Brenden (Germany)
- 31 votes for Maria Socratous (Cyprus)
- 0 votes for Giulia Manno (Italy)

Maria Socratous was elected with majority as ECC Member and Young BPW Europe Representative 2014-2017.

9. Priorities for Europe

Sabine Schmelzer made proposals for future changes in Europe:

- Organize a Leadership summit instead of the networking forum
- WEPs as a priority in Europe
- Become specialists in Gender Equality

Comments and discussion:

- Cooperation with UN Women for WEPs by country
- Focus on Equal Pay Day (one theme)
- Focus on more business women organizations

10. Regional meeting in Jeju

The regional meeting is open for all members from the region and deals with matters of the congress. In case someone wants to add a topic to the agenda, please inform the Regional Coordinator.

13:00 Ending of Presidents meeting
Minutes of Annual General Assembly BPW EC aisbl

5 April 2014 at Amazone, Brussels

Caroline Couvreur: Member of the BPW EC aisbl was introduced. All ECC aisbl Members could vote with one Delegate of each country present.

1. Quorum

Quorum present was 20 votes; the quorum of 16 was reached, including ECC votes.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting that were sent beforehand were agreed.

3. Reports

The report of Caroline Couvreur was agreed.

4. Financial issues

- The Financial Reports presented by the ECC Finance Officer, Alexandra Preuss-Ribaric, was agreed.

- Budget 2015
  Aine Feney as representative of CoE asked to raise the budget for the CoE as the actual one does not cover the travelling costs to Strasbourg. At the moment no change can be made. This can only be considered for future planning.
  The 2015 budget was agreed like presented by the Finance Officer.

5. Auditors Report

The auditors were re-elected.

It was also agreed to make a list to know when ECC members and Representatives at European level were and have to be elected, as a schedule for the next years.

6. Resolutions

6.1 The first resolution to put 3000 Euros to support Federations and clubs for Equal Pay Day events was adopted.

6.2 The second resolution on the Friendship fund of 1000 Euros to support the Presidents’ meeting’s dinner was adopted.

6.3 The third resolution on having a paid project manager or project coordinator to work on European projects was rejected by 16 votes against, 1 vote in favor and 8 votes of abstention.

Amended Resolution – to develop in the next months with all input from this presidents meeting, a more detailed description of such role for a project responsible, in addition to the ECC members. This position can also be an additional member to the board of BPW EC aisbl.
New adoption agreed

6.4 The fourth resolution to create a workgroup to develop a common strategy and action plan for BPW Europe was rejected. The next coordinator shall decide on creating a strategy for Europe.

7. **Miscellaneous**

Miette Dechelle, Young BPW Europe Representative informed about [EWL Manifesto](http://www.pollwatch2014.eu/) (as attached) and websites to follow EU Elections pools, parties, manifestos’ parties and candidates at


The Netherlands: explanation of CSW, ongoing work and request to Presidents and Members to lobby government delegation and be as an NGO in the government delegation at CSW. For the 2015 Framework agreed document it was important to keep the wording ‘Gender Equality’ instead of the term Equity. There will be a CSW event in November in Geneva.

Breakout sessions were held on the following topics:

- How to implement the Equal Pay Day EU-Project
- How to attract more Young BPWs?
- How to combine Equal Pay Day with WEPs
- Lobbying at European and National Level
- Thoughts and Input for EU strategy

During the presentation of the results Henrike van Platen reported on the status of the Equal Pay Day EU project.

Results will be distributed.

**8. Closing of the General Assembly at 17:45**

The meeting closed with members dancing to the BPW song, Woman of the World.