

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT Season's Greetings!

For the past ten years, EWLA has actively promoted fundamental rights and gender equality within law and politics in Europe. It has organised events and published statements and resolutions and has thus brought these issues to the forefront of politicians and lawmakers. Mr Herman van Rompuy, President of the European Council of the EU, emphasized at EWLA's 10th anniversary congress in Brussels last May the need for experts in Europe to come together at the European level in organisations like EWLA.

Independent non-governmental organizations are a vital component of European society, guaranteeing freedom of expression and association both of which are fundamental to all other human rights.

Recognizing the influence of EWLA, the Secretary General of the Council, announced in October that he would recommend that participatory status

be granted to EWLA so that it will be on the list of international non-governmental organizations that deal with matters that are within the competence of the Council of Europe.

EWLA is grateful for the trust bestowed and for the support of individual women lawyers and women lawyers associations across Europe in carrying out its mission.

EWLA supported the Commissioner of justice and fundamental rights, Viviane Reding, in her recent initiative to improve equality in decision making in European enterprises. The International Federation of Women in Legal Careers subsequently joined EWLA in stating their support for our initiative. Women through organizations and networking can move mountains. We become a force when we join hands together, when we stand together like sisters realizing that power can be taken, but not given.

The process of empowerment is through networking.

The growing despair in Europe wakening up to the seriousness of the economic crisis that may threaten the foundation of our societies calls for an initiative from women lawyers who must gather their strength and expertise together to actively promote not only gender equality but all other human rights.

It is in the above spirit that we have dedicated EWLA's 11th year of existence to networking and uniting women lawyers across Europe – and beyond – in the pursuit of justice. (Updates on key speakers and programme of our Annual Congress to be held in Malta in May 2011 will be on www.ewla.org)

Many remarkable women have throughout the years been active within EWLA – women with different legal backgrounds yet sharing basic values. One of the values that we cherish and has become a form of salute in



Prof. Dr. Jur. Herdís Thorgeirsdóttir
President European Women Lawyers' Association

our everyday correspondence is the word *courage*.

It takes courage to pursue justice and to speak up in the face of injustice. Reminding us all to have the faith that right makes might I take the opportunity to encourage women lawyers across Europe to help make EWLA instrumental in its pursuit of justice (*registration on the last page*).

Wishing you all the joys of the season and a happy and peaceful New Year.

president@ewla.org

SAVE THE DATE!

EWLA 2011 CONGRESS - Malta 26-27 May

Congress theme: Networking – empowering women lawyers across Europe in the pursuit of justice.

Come and join us to listen to world leaders, speakers, and participate in influencing the way forward in the legal world and to have an opportunity to network amongst European lawyers!



Viviane Reding Vice-President of the EU Commission keynote speaker at 11th EWLA Congress in Malta

About Malta: With fantastic sunny weather, open beaches, a great nightlife and 7,000 years of captivating history. For more information please visit www.visitmalta.com and feel free to contact our Maltese Board Member, Roselyn Knight: rknight@borgknight.com





WHY EWLA?



Dace L. Luters-Thümmel

Attorney at Law - zv. advokate (ES), MELS (Luxembourg/Nancy)

At this year's 10th Anniversary Congress of EWLA in Brussels/Belgium the EWLA Working Group for "Corporate and Business Matters" was re-established to take up issues in the area of corporate and business matters. The new working group is comprised of members who are either partners of law firms or high-ranking representatives of national business associations. Attorneys-at-law Dace L. Luters-Thümmel (Latvia/Germany) and Antonia Verna (Italy) were elected as chairpersons. Equally represented are lawyers from the old and new EU Member States.



Christa Tobler

Professor of European Law at the Europa Institute of Basel University, Switzerland

EWLA is a particularly useful network for women in the legal profession. It brings together women and of many different European countries and discusses issues that are relevant for all of us. I have been a member from the beginning and I have benefited time and time again from the associations' activities.



María del Rosario García Mariscal

Senior Lawyer, Partner Garcia Mariscal Abogados, Madrid

I joined EWLA at the annual meeting in Budapest. EWLA represented an opportunity for me to have access to International Law Practice support and exposure to excellent professionals. It was important for me to contribute to achieve full integration of women in the most prestigious international institutions and corporations, EWLA is the most active organisation in this field and was my team of choice. The EWLA annual meetings and workshops provide priceless networking opportunities and updated discussion topics and knowledge sharing.



Dr. Roselyn Knight

Employment Solicitor, Kent, UK.

Networking is a powerful way on how you can meet new people and this could in turn mean growing your business. Some people complain that networking takes time. In today's world networking is not only meeting face to face but it can also be done online. We are constantly networking without even knowing we are doing it. We are on facebook, twitter and linkedin and we are constantly "chatting" to people and most importantly we are building relationships. People buy people and this is why building relationships with others is very important. One of EWLA's benefits is about being able to network with other lawyers. It is about being able to share your experiences. It is also about being able to refer work to another lawyer or another lawyer referring work to you. With EWLA you can network online and face to face when we meet up for our Congress or other event. It is through this networking that we can develop the law and influence the legislators in Europe, it is through networking that we can pursue justice together!



Nina Grunow

Senior lawyer in Denmark's second largest Law Firm Bech-Bruun, dealing with German-Danish relations regarding real estate and other bilingual cases.

As Board member of the national Danish Women Lawyer Organisation, FFKJ, I represent Denmark in EWLA. Because of the lack of other active members from the Nordic countries, such as Sweden and Norway, I try to attract more members from these countries as well.

For me EWLA is a great social and professional network that supports women lawyers in the whole of Europe. The congress in Brussels last May was a great success and has shown how important the work of EWLA is.

The Added Value of EWLA as a European NGO

Sophia Spiliotopoulos

Attorney and counsellor at law, Athens

EWLA has always stood for the effective guarantee of human rights across Europe and continues to do so.

EWLA fought for: the Charter of Fundamental Rights to be safeguarded and be given binding force – the Lisbon Treaty to maintain and enhance the Union's social dimension – gender equality to be a fundamental value of the Union.

EWLA is there to recall that: there is no way out of the financial crisis without strengthening human rights, in particular social rights – women are neither a group nor a minority, but one of the two forms of the human being and more than half of the world's population – the growing deregulation of the labour market and the neglect of EU social objectives affects primarily women and young people; it threatens the very roots of democracy.

EWLA and the Fundamental Rights Agency

EWLA actively supports the work of FRA and is invited to present its views both as legal experts and as Rapporteurs at FRA meetings on Access to Justice, EU accession to the ECHR, their annual conference on fundamental rights and to make written submissions and write reports. The EU Commission is represented at these meetings at a high level and this provides an excellent platform for EWLA to make its voice heard before policy proposals are presented in the Commission. EWLA actively promotes equality and women's rights as well as non-discrimination in these fora and will continue to do so.

HIGHLIGHTS EWLA 2010

JANUARY

- ✓ January 2010 - EWLA insists on naming women in top EU Positions.



FEBRUARY

- ✓ EWLA statement on the EU 2020 Strategy
- ✓ EWLA invited by Spanish Presidency of EU & EU Fundamental Rights Agency as legal advisor on Accession by the EU to the ECHR, Madrid, Spain



APRIL

- ✓ An article in the German newspaper 'Welt am Sonntag' by EWLA board member Dace Lutere-Thümmel, on behalf of EWLA was featured, following their coverage of quota for women in one of their March weekend issues, because of the announcement of Deutsche Telekom introducing a quota for women in their company.

MAY

- ✓ EWLA 10th Annual Congress held in Brussels. Theme of Congress: Law as Politics. Key speaker Mr Herman van Rompuy, President of the European Council.
- ✓ EWLA invited to EU Fundamental Rights Agency Platform, Vienna, Austria
- ✓ EWLA invited to EU Fundamental Rights Agency Fundamental Rights Annual Conference



JUNE

- ✓ EWLA Resolution on the Rights of Women in the Family
- ✓ EWLA called upon Member States and the European Commission in a resolution adopted by its General Assembly at its 10th annual congress in Brussels on 4 June to develop adequate solutions to the economic and financial crisis.
- ✓ EWLA supported the Association of Women of Southern Europe (AFEM) and the Marangopoulos Foundation of Human Rights (MFHR) in their declaration: Reinforcing social rights in order to exit the economic crisis



AUGUST

- ✓ EWLA nominated Diana Wallis, Vice President of the EU Parliament and EWLA President Herdís Thorgeirsdóttir for the WOMEN INSPIRING EUROPE initiative by the European Institute for Gender Equality - This initiative provides visibility as well as paying homage to some of Europe's most remarkable women in highlighting their achievements and success stories.



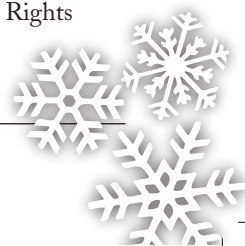
SEPTEMBER

- ✓ EWLA Working Group Corporate and Business Matters handed in a EWLA statement - due 1st September 2010 - on the European Commission's Greenpaper on Corporate Governance in Financial Institutions. EWLA is urging for a more balanced participation of women and men on the boards of listed companies and demanding proactive policies of the EU Member States to increase the number of women on the boards of listed companies.
- ✓ EWLA issued a statement declaring its support of Commissioner Viviane Reding's initiative to improve equality in decision making in European private enterprises. In the light of only 11% on the boards of directors of major European companies being occupied by women, the Commission is considering the introduction of gender quotas if companies do not voluntarily improve their gender balance in top-decision making positions.



OCTOBER

- ✓ EWLA received confirmation that the Secretary General of the Council of Europe has recommended EWLA be given INGO participatory status at the Council of Europe. This wonderful news means that EWLA can send representatives to the Council's INGO meetings that cover most of the activities of the Council and meet several times per year.
- ✓ EWLA invited as Rapporteur to EU Fundamental Rights Agency meeting on Access to Justice.



Dear member of EWLA,

Please find here our request for 2011 membership fees. Fees are due at the end of December 2010 for the following year.

The 2011 fee has been set at €50 for individuals, €25 for Students and €200 for associations (free for new associations for the first two years). We would therefore kindly ask you to settle this please with costs on your account.

Payment can be made by the following methods:

Bank transfer to EWLA

Account number: 630-0236416-86

Bank: ING, Place Poelaert 1, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Swift Code: BBRUBEBB

IBAN: BE78630023641686

Reference: EWLA 2011 – Last name – First name – Association

(if payment is made from the account of an association and not the individual) and email address

by credit card:

Please complete and send to:

EWLA c/o 1 rue de la Dame à la Rose, 1420 Braine-l'Alleud, Belgique

or return the authorization form as a .pdf to info@ewla.org

I authorize to charge the above mentioned fees

50€ 25€ 200€

on the following credit card (plus 1.94% for charges incurred):

Visa Card Eurocard/Mastercard (NOT American Express)

Credit card number: _____

Card valid until: _____

Card validation code: _____ (refers to the last 3 digits of number on BACK of your card)

Name of cardholder: _____

Address of cardholder: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS for receipt purposes: _____

Date: _____

Cardholder's signature: _____

If you have already settled your fees for 2010 we thank you. If you have any questions on payments or fees, please send an email to info@ewla.org. Thank you.

Myriam Van Varenbergh (Treasurer)

EWLA and the Council of Europe



Prof. Dr. iur. Beate Rudolf is the Director of the German Institute for Human Rights and EWLA Vice President

EWLA is proud to report that the Secretary General of the Council of Europe (CoE) recommended granting EWLA participatory status. It shall be conferred on EWLA at the end of this year, unless there is an objection from one of the Council's bodies. Contributing to the promotion and protection of women's human rights through the CoE has been on EWLA's agenda since its founding. In 2005, EWLA held its annual congress in the premises of the CoE in Strasbourg; Deputy Secretary General Maud de Boer-Buquicchio and other high-ranking CoE officials as well as judges of the European Court of Human Rights have regularly been speakers at EWLA events. EWLA has been particularly active with respect to the work of the CoE concerning violence against women. Presently, a convention on violence against women is being negotiated among CoE member states. EWLA members wishing to become involved in EWLA's activities in this respect, are requested to contact the chairperson of EWLA's Working Group on Human Rights,

Beate Rudolf (germany@ewla.org).