

Newsletter





Un mot de notre Présidente A Word from our President

Niovi Kyriazakou

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Chères amies,

Nous sommes déjà au mois de juin !

A la veille des élections européennes - qui sont d'une importance critique pour l'Union Européenne dans un monde inquiétant - **notre association continue à faire revivre l'espoir** auprès des plus nécessiteux.

La Cérémonie des Projets, **événement phare** de notre association, qui met en évidence **les fruits de tous nos efforts**, arrive à grands pas. Elle aura lieu dans la prestigieuse Salle de Presse du Berlaymont - **mise gracieusement à notre disposition par la Commission**, que nous remercions chaleureusement - **le jeudi 6 juin à 16h**. Les inscriptions sont déjà clôturées. Cette année il y a une nouveauté : une table ronde sur le thème - hélas très actuel - de la violence domestique.

Depuis le début de l'année nous avons financé **44 projets** dont 20 projets nationaux. Bravo à nos membres qui ont proposé tous ces beaux projets et au comité pour son travail continu.

Je vous incite à vous inscrire aux divers **événements** prévus ce mois-ci, avant les vacances d'été, et notamment : *à la rencontre amicale à la FNAH organisée par le Groupe Espagnol, la conférence Frans Hals le 5 juin à l'Ambassade Néerlandaise, le traditionnel Bloomsday Brunch le 13 juin à l'Ambassade d'Irlande et pour terminer la saison en beauté, la célébration et présentation de la Blouse Roumaine à l'Ambassade.*

L'Agenda est aussi déjà plein pour l'automne en commençant par le *City Trip to Budapest* du 16 au 20 septembre et une autre nouveauté : **La Fête de la Rentrée** prévue le dimanche 29 septembre pour les membres et leurs familles !

N'oubliez pas de contacter aussi d'éventuels sponsors pour notre Bazar de Noël qui aura lieu le 13 et 14 décembre 2024, ainsi que pour notre tombola, lors de votre séjour dans vos pays respectifs.

Je vous souhaite de bonnes et reposantes vacances d'été.

Donnons-nous rdv en septembre pour de nouvelles aventures !

Salutations cordiales !

Dear friends,

It's already June!

On the eve of the European elections - critically important for the European Union in a worrying world - **our Association continues to bring hope to those most in need.**



The Projects Ceremony, our Association's flagship event which showcases **the fruits of all our efforts**, is fast approaching. It will take place on **Thursday 6 June at 16.00** in the prestigious Berlaymont Press Room - **graciously made available to us by the Commission**, who we warmly thank. Registrations are already closed. New this

year: a round-table discussion on the highly topical theme of domestic violence.

Since the beginning of the year, we have **funded 44 projects**, including 20 national projects. Well done to our members who have proposed all these beautiful projects, and to the committee for their ongoing work.

I urge you to sign up for the various **events** scheduled for this month before the summer holidays, in particular: *the Get Together at the FNAH organised by the Spanish group, the Frans Hals conference on 5 June at the Dutch Embassy, the traditional Bloomsday Brunch on 13 June at the Irish Embassy and, to end the season on a high, the celebration and presentation of the Romanian blouse at the Embassy.*

The diary is also already full for autumn, starting with the *City Trip to Budapest* from 16 - 20 September, and another novelty, **The Welcome Back Party**, for our members and their families, scheduled for Sunday 29 September.

Don't forget to contact potential sponsors for our Christmas Bazaar on 13 - 14 December 2024 as well as for our Tombola, during your stay in your respective countries.

I wish you a good and relaxing summer vacation.

See you in September for new adventures!

Warmest wishes!

Niovi.

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Contributions to the **September** Newsletter must be sent by e-mail, with images and photos attached, by **16 August** at the latest.

Les **contributions** au Bulletin de **septembre** doivent être envoyées avec images et photos en annexe au plus tard le **16 août**.

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June - Juin

Lundi 3	12.30 - 16.30	Rencontre amicale, Espagne, Fondation NA Heusghem
Lundi 3	12.30 - 16.30	Atelier du Lundi
Mercredi 5	12.00	Conférence : Rétrospective Frans Hals, Ambassade des Pays Bas
Jeudi 6	16.00	Cérémonie des Projets, Salle de Presse du Berlaymont, Bruxelles
Thursday 13	12.30 - 14.30	Bloomsday Brunch, Irish Embassy, Brussels
Lundi 24	11.00 - 14.00	La Blouse Roumaine, Résidence de l'Ambassade de Roumanie, Brussels

September - Septembre

Monday 16 - Friday 20		Trip to Budapest
Saturday 21	10.00 - 17.00	Une journée au Château à la Belle Époque
Thursday 26	10.00 - 14.00	Visit to NATO, Brussels
Sunday 29	12.30 - 16.00	Fête de la Rentrée

SAVE the DATE

*Get - Together with the
Italian Group
Monday 7 October 12.30 - 16.30*



Fondation Nadine Alexandre Heusghem



*Rencontre amicale avec le
Groupe Italien
lundi 7 octobre 12h30 - 16h30*

The President, Niovi Kyriazakou, opened the meeting

Niovi welcomed everyone to the new venue in the Albert Borschette Conference Centre. On behalf of the Association she thanked the European Commission for its hospitality and constant support and in particular the SCIC team, the EC Meeting and Conference Support Team and the interpreters.

All members of the Association were invited to the meeting by InfoLetter on 21 February, 3, 8 and 23 March and it was published in the February and March Newsletters. 117 members registered and 73 proxy votes were received.

As every year, a minute's silence was observed for the members who have left us, in particular Béatrice Paradis, Annetta Von Chrismar, Suzette Schiff, Colette Stuart, Janine Deom, Consty Moulin, Pilar Tricet de la Torre and Anne-Marie Von Puttkamer.

Agenda

1. Appointment of secretaries and scrutineers for the election of the members of the Executive Bureau.

Niovi thanked Constance Cazals for preparing the Minutes in French and Carol Wright who will provide the English translation. Thanks were given to the scrutineers: Anna Franchino, Chief Scrutineer, Vicky Kloppenburg and Christiane Nastri.

2. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the previous General Assembly

The Minutes were approved.

4. Report by the President and the Executive Bureau

Niovi took the floor

Dear friends

Another year has passed and despite all the new challenges, we have eagerly moved ahead with our various activities within our great Association. Last year, 2023, concluded positively with the Christmas Bazaar, our Association's signature event, held in the heart of the European Quarter in a pleasant, light and friendly setting.

Thank you to all the Members who took part for their commitment and enthusiasm, in particular to Anna Franchino who provided the internal coordination and Nora Hautain for organising the cafeteria. The Bazaar raised a magnificent €102.000, plus €20.000 for the tombola, altogether €122.000. We are always grateful to the Commission for its vital and indispensable assistance. The next Bazaar will be held on 13 and 14 December 2024.

If we are to respond effectively to the needs of a changing world, we must rely on our principal values: solidarity with the most needy and friendship between our Members as well as on the competitive advantages which come from being European in character and structured in a uniquely multicultural way.

Nowadays, communication is of primordial importance for any organisation. A coherent communications strategy using modern tools adapted to our Association is essential. Consequently, the Communications Committee has been working since last year on a strategy which publicises our projects as well as promoting internal, and above all external, contacts. The aim is to make our Association more visible to our donors, our sponsors and potential new Members.

Last year we took part in a student project called Hackathon, organised by the prestigious IHECS College in Brussels. The students looked at our means of communication and made some recommendations. We will present the main lines of the strategy below. We are also in the process of improving our information systems, including the website, and investing in data processing systems which improve our efficiency and make us more professional. The first phase covering communication within the Executive Bureau was finished at the end of February. We thank Maddi Van Amstel for her efficient coordination and Stella Dadamogia for her assistance. At the same time, we also need to look forward and invest in possible future partnerships.

Items relating to the Statutes

Given the lack of a candidate for the post of Secretary-General, we worked all year with a provisional solution involving collective replacement. Since a further appeal for candidates has been unsuccessful, this system, along with the Communications Committee, will have to be reapproved

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by the new AB once it has been ratified by today's General Assembly, in accordance with Article 19 of our Internal Rules on special committees.

The Members of the General Secretariat Committee are Petra Bacheberle and Marie-Alix Motte, and those of the Communications Committee are Marilyn Carruthers, Maddi Van Amstel, Fiona Joyce, Marie-Solange Pollard, Christine Lenneberg, Katerina Tsihlaki, Alexandra Paucescu, Christianna Yacoumi and myself. We offer sincere thanks to these Members for having offered their assistance and experience to assist our Association.

We remain grateful to the Fondation Nadine Alexandre Heusghem for its hospitality and in particular to Inès Wouters, a Member of the Multinational Group, for putting her premises at our disposal.

I should also like to thank Mr Philippe de Clerck for his generous assistance with the online ticketing system Tickitizi and for his advice on our informatics project. Special thanks are also due to the members of our Newsletter team, in particular Christianna Yacoumi and Karen Englander, and to Rosemary Collins, Jill Hawkes, Marie-Alix Motte and Christiane Vincent for their efficient proofreading of texts, enabling us all to stay in contact again this year.

Special thanks go to Petra Bacheberle for the great energy she puts into administrative work and to Marie-Alix Motte who assists her, as well as to Sophie Stiehl who has been assisting us with various administrative tasks over many years.

Finally, my warm thanks go to my colleagues on the Executive Bureau: Fiona Joyce for her efficient coordination of events and initiatives, our Treasurers Liesbeth Knulst and Mapie Doux for their unrelenting work and to our tandem working on projects, Renate Smith and Maggie Lukomska who, with all the other members of the Projects Committee, have put so much energy into enabling the financing of a large number of fantastic projects.

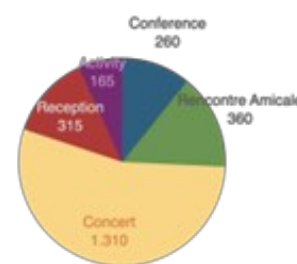
Niovi now gave the floor to Fiona Joyce, Vice President Events

Firstly, Fiona gave a few words on our 2023 results. It had been a good year as regards results, the best for several years, and she thanked all Members for their work which had enabled us to put on some excellent events.

In 2023, 28 Events were organised by 18 national groups, involving 2400 participants, and which generated a net profit of €79.000 (not including the Bazaars and the tombola).



Number of Events in 2023

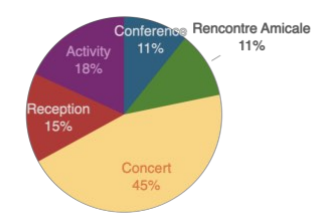


Number of participants in 2023

Fiona presented the graphs in which the income for 2023 events was divided into six categories: concerts, Get-Togethers, conferences, sales, receptions and miscellaneous activities.

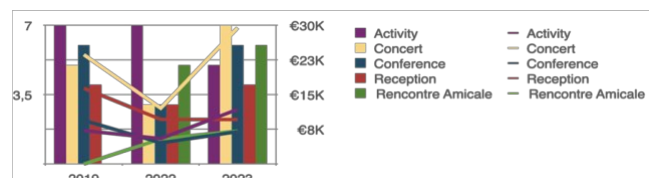


2023 income with regular sales



2023 income including sales

Fiona compared the 2023 takings with those for 2019 and 2022. 2019 was the last year before the pandemic and 2022 the first year when nearly all events could be held again.



Number of Events and revenues from 2019 to 2023 by type of Event

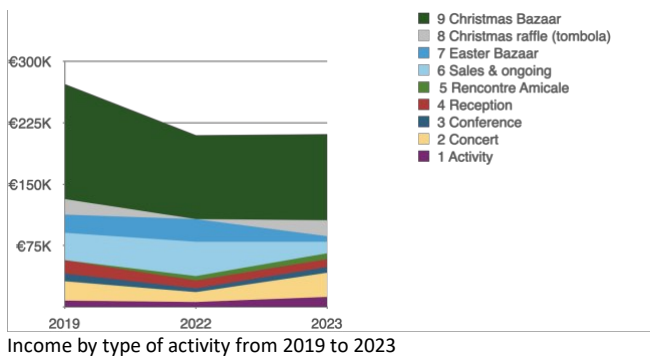
If one adds the takings from the Easter and Christmas Bazaars and tombola to the €79.000 mentioned above, the 2023 events brought in €211.000, compared with €272.000 in 2019 and €210.000 in 2022.

Year	Events	Sales	Bazaars + Tombola	Income
2019	€57K	€33K	€182K	€272K
2022	€37K	€42K	€131K	€210K
2023	€65K	€14K	€132K	€211K

By including the Bazaars and the tombola, 2019 was thus our best year. This was due essentially to that year's excellent results from the Christmas Bazaar, the tombola and the Easter Bazaar (€182.000). In 2023 we had good results from the Bazaars and tombola (€132.000) comparable to the

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figures for 2022 (€131.000) which break down as below:



However, the concerts and conferences generated fewer earnings in 2022 than in 2019 or 2023. Fiona concluded that we should continue to organise all kinds of relevant activities which bring us together but also more large-scale events which draw a wider audience and enable us to finance a good number of humanitarian projects.

She then returned to the main events in 2023 which had attracted a wide audience. In chronological order:

- The Classical Women Charity Concert in March 2023, organised by Nadia Weintraub, a concert pianist and member of the Multinational Group. She arranged this project herself and succeeded in bringing together an international string orchestra of 16 musicians who gave us a wonderful classical concert with pieces by Mozart, Schubert, Chopin et Gershwin among others and was a great success. Many thanks to Nadia who helped us to get the year off to a good start.
- The trip to Crete took place in May and was planned and very well organised by Vicky Argyraki. All the participants were delighted with the trip and it provided a handsome contribution to Femmes d'Europe.
- On 15 June, as in every year, the Irish Group organised the Bloomsday Brunch at the Irish Embassy. This event celebrates *Ulysses* by James Joyce, combining the reading of some passages of his work, with music and tasting Irish dishes.
- The Polish concert provided a celebration of the music of Cécile Cheminade during a lovely evening at the Polish Embassy. Many thanks to Maggie and the Polish Group who organised it.
- As in most years, the Dutch Group organised an art history lecture, always much appreciated. This year it was entitled *Ode to Antwerp* and explored the Flemish Masters. We would like to thank Maddi and the Dutch Group and hope that they will continue to arrange such great events in the future
- On 12 and 13 October the Multinational Group held its Vintage Sale and Catwalk, an event which has been successful for several years. It is to be relaunched with

a new formula involving three sales in three different venues. The first will be on 11 April 2024 at rue Joseph II.

- In November, we had the pleasure of being invited by the Belgian Group to a wine tasting in the Coninck cellars. We tasted a delicious selection of red and white wines. Many thanks to the Belgian Group.
- Finally, the highlight of this year from many points of view was the gala concert brilliantly organised in November by Nuria and Marta from the Spanish Group in honour of the Spanish Presidency of the European Council.

The virtuoso pianist Rosa Torres Pardo, who won the Spanish Musical Award in 2017 and is currently performing in New York, delighted us with a masterly performance which took us across Spain and included an introduction to each of the pieces. The concert was followed by a magnificent reception organised by the Spanish Group. Many thanks and bravo for this successful event and for the financial reward for our Association.

Fiona concluded with a brief view of the events planned for 2024:

- A reminder about the Easter Bazaar which was taking place on the following day, Friday 22 March.
- The Projects Ceremony on 6 June in the Berlaymont.
- On 21 September the Belgian Group is organising a very prestigious event in the context of the Belgian Presidency of the European Council.
- On 29 September, we will be inaugurating a new 'Fête de la Rentrée', a family event open to all ages with a buffet and activities for the children. Our next Christmas Bazaar will be on 13 and 14 December 2024 and on 19 December there will be a Christmas Concert in the Notre-Dame-des-Victoires Church in the Sablon. There will be choirs and an orchestra and we are counting on all our Groups to make it a great success.

Details of these events as well as the presentation made by the Executive Bureau and the Communications Committee can be found on our website:

https://www.assocfemmesdeurope.eu/IMG/pdf/be_comm_u_ag_2024.pdf (members only)

<https://www.assocfemmesdeurope.eu/-Nos-evenements-?lang=en>

Niovi now gave the floor to Renate and Maggie, Vice-Presidents Projects in tandem, to give the annual report on Projects

2023 was a very fruitful year for our projects. We were able to finance 83 projects amounting to a total of €361.000, of which 71% were in Europe, 23% in Africa and 6% in Asia. The 24 National Projects account for most of our financing.

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The Individual Projects are the most numerous and can be proposed by anyone at any time.

Our projects help the poorest in society, mainly women and children, the victims of violence, minorities and migrants.

Renate and Maggie commented on these projects using photographs

Numerous projects in 2023 involved providing medical and sanitary equipment, for example resuscitation equipment for new born babies in Armenia. Latrines were also installed in various parts of the world. We also helped people with reduced mobility, for example by co-financing a mini-van to transport children in Cyprus or by providing a special room for mentally handicapped people in Brussels. Other projects included providing school equipment (47 school desks in Kinshasa), supporting long-term investment (solar panels for a social welfare centre in Lithuania), or providing income support for destitute people (sewing machines in Ghana and Uganda, vegetable gardens in Burkina Faso). Thanks to Femmes d'Europe, we have been able to carry out projects which give a new prospect on life for the beneficiaries.

We should also mention the Vuvulane OVC Outreach Foundation in Eswatini (former Swaziland) where 160 families - 1280 people – received 160 individual photovoltaic lamps. These provided not only lighting for their houses but also enabled them to charge their mobile phones and have access to the Internet and banking services, giving the families independence without monthly costs.

There were also the Christmas donations which helped the beneficiaries to celebrate the festive season. A donation to Lebanon enabled the purchase of a swing and a seesaw to the delight of the children from a poor town close to the border.

Many thanks to the Projects Committee who gave their usual serious attention to the projects and especially to Angela Carisi, Sabine Cartuyvels, Silvia Gusmao Schmidt and Gaby Lautenberg who have worked with us continuously for many years.

The Projects Committee is continuing its work with Vicky Argyraki, Danielle Llewellyn, Malgorzata Lukomska, Renate Smith and the new-comers, Monique Hoessler, Pascale Kervyn and Chantal Moyersoan.

If you would like to join us, please let us know!

Niovi thanked Maggie and Renate, who are leaving the Executive Bureau, for their work which has enabled the financing of numerous projects throughout the year. She presented them each with a lovely bouquet of flowers.

Points 5 and 6: Results for 2023, approval of the 2023 annual accounts and of the provisional budget for 2024 presented to the AB on 22 February 2024

Our Treasurer, Liesbeth Knulst and our Vice-Treasurer, Mapie Doux took the floor

Liesbeth Knulst

Once again, Femmes d'Europe can be proud of its results. Before commenting on the figures, a quick reminder - we were aiming at a negative result. We planned to spend more on projects than what we expected to earn from events, membership fees and donations. The reason is that our savings were too high for an ASBL. We are not a bank and we prefer that our money supports the most needy.

In time, we should like to reduce our reserves to a level which covers the National Projects for the following year even if there is a large unexpected drop in our income. We need to be prudent and take into account any unknown factors which could significantly impact the organisation of our events and thus our income.

Mapie Doux

We had planned to take €126.500 from our reserves, but in effect we only took €47.355,70. This year we managed to take a considerable amount from our reserves, almost €50.000.

The total income from our events was €211.000. Membership fees remained more or less the same as the previous year at €38.200, corresponding to 764 Members. In 2023 donations amounted to €55.000 (€7.000 less than last year) and we only used €17.000 of the Fondation Roi Baudouin funds.

Total income was therefore €322.247,48. This amount is used to finance our projects and to cover the Association's expenditure.

In 2023 we had a budget of €364.000 to use for our National and Individual Projects. With this budget we financed 43 Individual Projects, 24 National Projects and 16 Christmas gifts. A total of €361.973,45 was paid out for our projects, €55.000 more than the previous year. The other expenditure - almost €8.000 - covered the Bureau's running costs and the last reserve for depreciation.

We decided to charge 100% of the cost of the ODOO software to the 2023 accounts without taking account of depreciation.

We had a positive result for our €1.870 information and publicity costs as one of our advertisers in the Newsletter paid off his arrears. The final expenditure on bank costs amounted to €1.532,24. This year we received almost €400 interest on our savings account. The total costs which I have detailed come to about €7.600, which is below the planned budget and only makes up 2.6% of our income.

Liesbeth Knulst

We decided to dip into our reserves this year and take on extra projects, which explains the net result of €55.000.

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Well done, Femmes d'Europe. In addition to appreciating the work and involvement of our Members, we would like to mention those who contributed to this excellent result by taking over our costs or by making premises available to us - our Members, our various sponsors, the European Commission and the Nadine Alexandre Heusghem Foundation.

Thank you to everyone.

The provisional budget for 2024

For 2024, we have estimated €316.000 for projects, that is €45.000 less than in 2023. The amount for National Projects is lowered to €7000 for 2024, while the amount for Individual Projects is kept at €4.000.

We reduced the budget for 2024 projects out of prudence as when the decision was taken, in September 2023, our income was less than we had hoped.

Other expenses, apart from the financing of projects, will be the expenditure for the Bureau, publicity and bank expenses, estimated at €12.500.

Income is always difficult to estimate:

In the Budget, we distinguish between individual events and repeat events and the Bazaars. We hope to make €50.000 from various individual events and €10.000 from regular events (which include the Monday workshops, the Vintage sales, organised walks and book sales).

We count on a total of €130.000 from the Easter and Christmas Bazaars.

Other income comes from membership fees and donations (paid directly to Femmes d'Europe or through the Fondation Roi Beaudoin). It is especially difficult to estimate the amount of donations. We estimated €15.000 in direct donations and €5.000 through Roi Beaudoin, which is the amount we have currently received from them.

We anticipate total revenue of €250.000.

Mapie Doux

We only spent €3.000 from the Informatics Service Investment Budget in 2023 for the ODOO accounting system. We are very happy to have chosen ODOO on the excellent advice of Philippe de Clerck. ODOO enables us each to work with our own computers, wherever we are, and to input bank movements with a minimum of effort.

There is still €17.000 in the Informatic Services Investment Budget to be spent on the computer and communication systems which need development and, in time, on a new database for our projects. All this results in a budget of €-95.500 for 2024. This amount will come from our bank reserve of about €350.000 at the end of 2023.

Liesbeth Knulst

After this presentation, we would like to raise some internal questions relating to accounts.

The Treasury has become responsible for managing membership fees since the introduction of the website and also the Membership Directory. This represents a considerable workload and we need your help to send us the relevant information and keep the Directory up to date: change of address, renewal of Identity card, members who have left...And please, when you make payments, give the name that we know you under as this does not always agree with the name of the account holder who is debited!

Another major change has been the introduction of the option of paying for our events electronically. For events other than the Bazaars, Femmes d'Europe has purchased two IAP terminals. At present the Treasury is responsible for operating these terminals which means that we must have two Treasurers present at our events. We hope that in future this responsibility can be shared with the events' organisers. Finally, thanks to the Tickitizi system, installed free of charge by Philippe de Clerck, registering for large-scale events is much easier. However, some people seem to resist the system. We should like to invite you to register using Tickitizi whenever possible.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Mapie Doux

The 2023 accounts for the Association Femmes d'Europe were drawn up transparently and in good faith. We ask you to approve the 2023 Budget and the Provisional Budget for 2024.

Do you approve the annual accounts and the provisional budget?

The 2023 Budget and the Provisional Budget for 2024 were approved.

Niovi thanked Liesbeth and Mapie and then invited Alexandra Paucescu, a Member of the Communications Committee, to present her report.

Ladies,

I am Alexandra Paucescu and it is with great pleasure that I am addressing you today on the work of the Femmes d'Europe Communications Committee of which I am proud to be a Member. Effective communication is one area to improve. It serves our joint endeavours in today's world where information is plentiful but attention spans are shorter. We can make the importance of our work better known through clear, forceful and appealing messages, encouraging action and promoting meaningful links. The

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Communications Committee is working as a team to build a new, more attractive and younger image of Femmes d'Europe and attract new members. Our target public includes our members, our potential donors, our partners and those of the general public interested in providing support for vulnerable people.

We would like to illustrate the positive impact our Association has had on the lives of children and women, to encourage more women to get involved and to support Femmes d'Europe, including through donations.

Last year we took part in a student project called Hackathon, launched by the well-known Brussels IHECS School. The students analysed Femmes d'Europe's communication strategy and put forward a full list of recommendations. Many of these are already being put into effect so as to achieve a strict and professional communication plan in practical stages. It aims to increase our visibility and rejuvenate our image against a background in Brussels of numerous charity organisations all competing for the same publicity and the same donations. We must make better use of our competitive advantages and our multicultural nature.

The Internet site

We must ensure that our website is up to date with relevant information on our activities, events and projects. The procedure for joining the Association needs to be easier and more attractive which was mentioned in connection with the Hackathon. A more modern website which is easier to use is also a necessity. We are planning to start rewriting some texts, to make them more concise and up-to-date and also to add photographs of current and past events.

Social media

We are currently on Facebook, Instagram and X (previously Twitter), where we regularly share updates on events and our projects. We are also going to set up a LinkedIn account to reach other professionals.

The content of the social networks will be restructured and better coordinated. We are planning to make our work better known by presenting a project each month on the social networks. We should like to ask all the Members of our Association, in particular ladies who are actively involved with the social networks that have an account on one of our platforms, to follow our page, to post « likes » and share our publications regularly so that they reach more people and help to increase our visibility.

We would also like to receive more reactions to the events happening each month. Every event needs some promotion both before and after it takes place. Please take photographs and videos of these events and send them to Katerina Tsihlaki by e-mail or WhatsApp. That way you will be the eyes and ears of our Association. We are intending to

send you soon some instructions on the steps to follow when organising an event in connection with social networks.

The Newsletter

Our Newsletter - or Bulletin - is one of the main means of communication for Femmes d'Europe and keeps you informed of our monthly activities and forthcoming events. It is both our showcase to the external world and a means of internal communication.

On the initiative of our Newsletter team, a single logo has been devised to be used for all the Association's activities and announcements, accompanied by a 'brand book' to help us use it in a correct and standardised fashion.

We are trying to modernise and personalise our Newsletter and make it more interesting and attractive by adding monthly interviews with our Members. We have also created models to help you to prepare announcements of events and these can be found on our website.

Since our humanitarian projects are our *raison d'être*, we want to devote more pages to following the projects financed by our Association over the years. So, WE NEED YOU! Any of us can visit a project financed by the Femmes d'Europe, in Belgium or in our respective countries, take a few photographs, write a short report and send it to us. In the meantime, please use our Information letter box: newsletter@assocfemmesdeurope.eu and respect the deadlines.

Our proofreaders have a heavy task so please remember that they need time to do their work effectively! Many thanks to Marie-Alix Motte and Christiane Vincent for French and Rosemary Collins and Jill Hawkes for English! Please also remember to check your emails regularly, including the spams! Many thanks to everyone for your contributions to the Newsletter, for your announcements and your reviews of events. We would also like to thank you for your positive comments and your constructive remarks which help us to improve!

Press Communiqués and cooperation

Currently we work with *Que Faire, le Bulletin, Visit Brussels, l'Association de la Communauté Britannique de Bruxelles and Ancient Brits*. We also have access to the Commission's intranet to be able to promote our events to their staff. *L'Association Internationale des Anciens de l'Union Européenne* (AIACE) has also agreed to send news of our major events to retired officials of EU institutions, a potential source of new members. We also work with the networks and groups of the National Groups.

We are taking steps to find additional channels for our press communiqués to announce important events. We intend to collaborate from time to time with influencers and journalists. We shall take into account indicators and an

evaluation of our collaboration with the social networks, attendance at events and donations once these changes have been made.

Dear friends, let us look to the future with optimism and determination. Together we will continue to use the power of communication to bring positive change and make our voices heard.

Finally, I should like to thank all the hardworking members of the Communications Committee. Thank you, Marilyn, Christianna, Niovi, Katerina, Fiona, Christine, Maddi and Marie-Solange, for your participation, your efforts and your involvement! And thank you to EVERYONE for your help in making Femmes d'Europe's message heard!

7. Discharge of the Administrative Body for the 2023 financial year

The discharge was given

8. Election of the Executive Bureau

This year we have a new post, that of Vice-President Projects.

Niovi gave the floor to our new candidate, Vassilia Argyraki (Vicky)

Vicky presents herself as a candidate for the post of Vice-President Projects. She has been working in Brussels for 18 years for the European Commission as manager in the area of transport energy. In this capacity she visited every corner of Europe. With her family she has also visited Africa and the Indian Ocean. Some people will already know Vicky as a member of the Greek Group where she presented projects, but unfortunately once she had more time to devote to the Association, she had to leave for Budapest when her husband was moved there. Recently she organised a trip to Crete which was a great success.

For three years, since her stay abroad she has been working in the Projects Committee and would like to continue with this, answering to the Executive Bureau. Vicky is a direct and open person, very result-oriented and interested in public relations and communication.

She would like to apply for the post and is requesting our approval so that we can continue to work together.

A vote took place

9. Annual membership fee

We propose an annual membership fee of 55€ (unchanged). Amount accepted.

10. Ratification of the election of the members of the Administration Body

In 2023, we acquired 30 new members. Niovi underlined the importance of the National Group representatives who are the link between the Administrative Body and the Members of the Group. They are responsible for ensuring the proper functioning of the Group, directing them, integrating new members and organising events. An invitation for an information meeting on 11 April will be sent to all these representatives. (Please see Annex.)

Many thanks to all those taking on an essential role in our Association.

11. Other matters

Niovi thanked Guillaume Cazals, Constance's husband, for having prepared the graphs showing the figures assembled by Fiona for her presentation and for having agreed to take some photos at the end of the meeting for our website.

12. Result of the elections for the post of Vice-President Projects

126 in favour, 1 against, 7 blanks and 0 invalid.

Vicky thanked the Assembly for its confidence.

13. Conclusion by the President

Dear Friends,

We are continuing to move forward while remaining faithful to our mission which is to pursue our aim of solidarity with the most needy in a spirit of friendship. In 2026, we shall be celebrating our fiftieth anniversary. Let us have your ideas on how to celebrate it.

In conclusion, I should like to invite all of you to join us on this voyage and above all to support us by employing your talents and your possibilities. And specifically, I invite you to take part in our events and our activities, to recruit new members interested in our Association and to talk to us about your ideas because it is you who are the Association!

We thank you most sincerely for your work, your commitment and your generosity.

Closing of the General Assembly 2024

15/04/2024 Constance Cazals

English Translation by Mary Preston and Carol Wright

Annex

ASSOCIATION FEMMES D'EUROPE aisbl - GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024
RATIFICATION OF AB MEMBERS

Bureau Exécutif : Niovi Kyriazakou, Fiona Joyce, Vicky Argyraki, Liesbeth Knulst, Mapie Doux

Allemagne :
Vicky Kloppenburg
Friederike Henalla

Autriche :
Brigitte Haus
Marie-Luise Altmutter

Belgique :
Brigitte Borsei
Ann De Mulder-Swaels
Christine Forget

Bulgarie :
Irina Nijborg

Chypre :
Constantina Avraam
Paraskevi Tsourounaki-Asimakis

Danemark :
Bente Manders,
Tove Blaabjerg Soerensen

Espagne :
Marta Heere
Nuria Adán
Eva Peña

Finlande :
Riitta Hautala
Taru Tammela
Kirsi Miettinen

France :
Constance Cazals
Anne Froment-Peltre

Grèce :
Christianna Yacoumi
Despina Livanou
Marilena Nikolaidou-Skordas

Hongrie :
Szilvia Bajthay-Tóth
Katalin Jenei
Andrea Némethné-Priskin

Irlande :
Sharon Mahony
Beatrijs Lefèvre Beaumont
Elan Ward

Italie :
Anna Franchino
Ornella Burlizzi

Lituanie :
Kornelija Vasauskaitė
Dalia Zdanevičiūtė

Luxembourg :
Rolande Margot
Micheline Nagel
Valentine Micha-Smekens

Pays-Bas :
Monique Girard
Maddi van Amstel
Renée Barsukoff

Pologne :
Iwona Darquenne
Anna Siwek
Małgorzata Lukomska

Portugal :
Carina Gaspar
Maria Teresa Almeida da Silva
Rita Neves e Castro

Roumanie :
Ecaterina Evanghelescu
Roxana Alexandra Mocanu

Royaume-Uni : (ancien état membre)
Jill Hawkes
Marieke Peters-Weem
Mechtildis Widdershoven-Galezowski

Suède :
Yvonne Palmblad

AELE/ EFTA :
Marina Marti Monaco
Francisca Brouwers
Christine Lenneberg

Multinational :
Nora Hautain
Emma Mollet



Bêcher, Biner, Sarcler, Amender, Semer, Planter, Arroser, Ratisser, ...

Histoire d'un potager à Burkina

Qui dira l'importance du potager qu'il soit petit ou grand, commun, partagé ou personnel...

Le potager dit la lutte contre la faim, le potager apaise la faim.

Le potager parle toutes les langues du monde, les langues mortes comme les langues vivantes.

Il ne peut donc pas nous être totalement étranger(ère) celui ou celle qui crée, qui entretient un potager.

Le potager serait-il une internationale pacifique ? OUI, il favorise la communication entre les hommes et les femmes, de même que le potager se révèle nonchalant, laborieux, patient, impatient, fatigant, fatigué... Le potager raconte les jours, les heures, les attentes du soleil, la nature endormie, la nature dormante... Il raconte même la pluie et le vent, et la terre qui s'ouvre... des pays petits ou grands.



Premier ouvrage



La clôture grillagée a été posée afin que les animaux en divagation ne puissent pénétrer dans le potager et plus particulièrement pendant la saison sèche.

Deuxième ouvrage

Une pompe Volonta inventée par des religieux sur place, au Burkina, a été installée ainsi que des panneaux photovoltaïques de 25 Watt chacun.

Troisième ouvrage

Forage et margelle ont été créés. Sans oublier la poulie indispensable...



ET

La date d'importance, **le 18 janvier 2024** !
La répartition des parcelles a été effectuée pour les quelque 40 femmes de Koulwoko participantes à ce projet. Sans tarder elles préparèrent leurs planches et installèrent leurs pépinières : oignons, salades et divers

légumes apparurent...comme par enchantement.

Ce projet a pu être réalisé grâce aux Femmes d'Europe et au Lyons Club de Verny et à la volonté sans faille de ces femmes Burkinabé.

Sabine Cartuyvels
Comité Projets

Dans mon jardin il y a des radis le samedi
Dans mon jardin il y a des citrouilles en vadrouille
Dans mon jardin il y a une salade au cœur tendre
Dans mon jardin il y a une frisée en matinée



Elles cultivent tout en hauteur
Elles cultivent tout en couleurs
Elles cultivent tout en bonheur
Elles cultivent tout en douceur
Les Femmes de Zaogo
Les Femmes de Koulwoko
Elles ont enfin un potager à elles ces femmes du Burkina



Ecole 'Les AsTrôn'Autes', Bruxelles

Aménagement de l'ancien garage

L'équipe de Femmes d'Europe a été chaleureusement accueillie par la direction de l'école Les AsTrôn'Autes, située en pleine ville de Bruxelles. Les AsTrôn'Autes est le seul enseignement spécialisé de type 2 pour les enfants présentant un trouble du spectre de l'autisme (TSA) associé à un handicap intellectuel modéré à sévère.



Garage servant de cour de récréation

L'école, actuellement en surcapacité, accueille un groupe de 76 enfants dans un contexte où la demande pour ce type d'enseignement est en croissance. L'école est confrontée à des problèmes spécifiques, dont l'insuffisance et la rotation rapide des enseignants, et le niveau inadapté des ressources financières. En outre, le bâtiment étant enclavé, l'école fait face à un manque de place. En particulier, la cour extérieure est trop petite pour accueillir plus de 20 enfants, et il n'y a pas de structure protégée pour les récréations en cas de

pluie ou de froid. Le seul espace disponible est un ancien garage bétonné au sous-sol (sans lumière naturelle) qui ne répond pas aux besoins sensoriels et proprioceptifs des élèves.



Proposition : pack de 3 donuts 'orange'

L'aide de FdE va permettre l'aménagement de ce garage, une priorité et une urgence. L'école envisage son aménagement en le décorant et en le divisant en différentes zones : zone "calme" (fauteuils, doudous, livres...); zone "ballons et motricité" (panier de basket, mur d'équilibre...); zone "parcours de vélos" (traçage au sol...). L'équipe de Femmes d'Europe a été particulièrement impressionnée par le professionnalisme et le dévouement de la direction de l'école, et très touchée de voir ces enfants avec de si grands besoins de soutien.

Pascale Kervyn,
Comité Projets



Proposition : Panneau d'escalade



Proposition : Peinture routière



Vue du garage

Revisiting the Amarrage aisbl – a kitchen fully renovated!

Nivelles, Wednesday 13 May 2024



A very moving « Before and After » moment at Amarrage asbl

The Amarrage Association invited Viviane Janssens and myself to visit the kitchen they renovated last year thanks to FdE. Only, the word « see » does not properly illustrate what we experienced...

Sure, we were welcomed in the renovated room, but the quality of the ambiance they managed to create both by totally changing the aspect and the lighting of it coupled with the beaming smiles on the faces of the 6 team members who welcomed us, transformed this visit into a very emotional experience.

Moments like this make us want to thank all the FdE members with whom we work all year round to provide the financial means to bring such happy smiles on these people's faces. And once again congratulations to Amarrage for their work.

*Ann de Mulder
Belgian Group*



Individual Projects (PI) – Approved by the AB - May 2024

Projets individuels (PI) - approuvés par l'OA - mai 2024

PI 20 2024 - ROUMANIE, Miercurea Ciuc

Équipement pédagogique pour une école d'enfants défavorisés / Educational equipment for a school for disadvantaged children

PI 21 2024 - BELGIQUE, Bruxelles

Division et aménagement d'un garage en deux zones (calme et motricité) d'une école pour enfants autistes et handicapés / Reorganisation of a garage into two areas (calm and motor skills) in a school for autistic and handicapped children

PI 22 2024 - RWANDA, Kigali

Équipement et matériaux destinés à une crèche pour mères vulnérables / Equipment and materials for a nursery used by vulnerable mothers

PI 23 2024 - INDE, Poonjeri village

Achat d'une camionnette destinée au transport d'enfants, de femmes, de personnes âgées et handicapées pour une association d'aide à l'éducation et à la santé dans une région pauvre / Purchase of a new van for an association allowing access to education and healthcare for children, women, elderly and disabled people in a poor region

PI 24 2024 - GRECE, Filiates

Remplacement des fenêtres pour améliorer l'isolation d'une école professionnelle / Replacement of windows to improve the insulation in a professional school





INTERVIEW

Katerina Tsichlaki

Ta Panta Rhei = Everything flows (Heraclitus)

'Home is the place where our memories are being created and dreams and love reside.'

Life is continuously changing, taking you on different paths and bringing new opportunities you only need to recognise and take advantage of. 'Go with the flow', but make the most out of it. It is something that I think governs the life of most expats, at least those who have managed to adapt and integrate where they live, far from their birthplaces. Katerina Tsichlaki is one of them, who has also become a dear friend.

She's been living in Belgium for 20 years already, and she says that Brussels is her home now. *"I feel happy here, to me home is the place where our memories are being created and dreams and love reside."* For a Greek born in sunny Crete, it is no small thing to say with such conviction that she loves Brussels, it is almost contagious. She laughs when I ask about her favourite thing about this country: *"the weather, of course ... I am joking. Belgium is teeming with architectural treasures. I am particularly fond of the Art Nouveau movement, not only in buildings but also in furniture design, jewelry, and glassware. I love the proximity to other European cities, the flea markets and the very neat, beautiful and well taken care of gardens in the Flemish*

villages. I love opera and theatre and enjoy my daily strolls in the Cinquantenaire Park."

Katerina admits though that she spends most of her holidays in Crete, Peloponnese and Epirus and she loves to travel to London, Boston or the French Alps for skiing. She loves to cook Mediterranean meals, and I can definitely certify her food is delicious! She says she also likes Japanese food, *"for an authentic unpretentious experience, I recommend Yamayu Santatsu in Ixelles."*

Katerina's life story started in Greece. *"I was born and raised in Heraklion, Crete, the place where hospitality (philoxenia=love of strangers) was born. According to mythology, Crete was the birthplace of Zeus, the most powerful god of all, who was also the protector of strangers. It was considered a sin to treat a stranger badly and hospitality was always offered regardless of one's status, class or wealth. I learned from an early age what philoxenia meant. My parents, for instance, had their house open to friends and friends of friends every Sunday and it was a happy gathering of all ages that lasted all day long, with great food, music, games and laughter."*

I later left Crete, studied Political Science and Public Administration and later got my MBA degree in Athens. I worked as a Press Office Assistant for a political party, in charge of preparing and delivering press releases. After my Master's, I started working as Product Manager for a large pasta company. Then, I met my husband and decided to move to Brussels to be with him, as he had a permanent job at the European Institutions.

In 2012 I became involved as a founding member of the nonprofit association, The Discovering Network, aiming to promote Greek and Cypriot products, gastronomy and culture in Belgium. We were organising gastronomic and cultural events and finding sponsors while I was also responsible for the social media of the association."

Together with her husband she often organises cultural events at their home, promoting young musicians.

"I love being creative, I am into arts and crafts. Jewels are my passion and my hobby. I am inspired by nature which is mostly my fuel for creativity. More particularly, I love creating brooches and earrings with bronze, semi-precious stones, liquid glass and soldering metal. I showcase my creations at the Greek stall, during our Christmas Charity Bazaar every year.

I have been active member of the Greek Group of Femmes d'Europe since 2010 and have been FdE Social Media Manager for the last two years. Frankly, I started going to the group meetings as an escape from the heavy daily routine of growing two kids. These days, I try to go to most of the events. It is here that I meet a lot of new friends and enjoy the idea of being part of a beautiful team, working for a great cause."

As Katerina is very involved and concerned about the success of our Association, she adds in the end: *"one of the goals of the Communications team is to keep in touch better and more efficiently with our national groups. Unfortunately, we often lack internal interaction. We need feedback from the groups, we ask our members to be more active, spread the word of what we do, use the social media platforms and promote our work. Social media is a powerful tool to raise awareness and support our mission. It helps us reach a wider audience and increases our visibility."*

So, dear ladies, stay active and support our cause! **LIKE** Femmes d'Europe!

*Katerina was interviewed
by Alexandra Paucescu,
Communications Committee*



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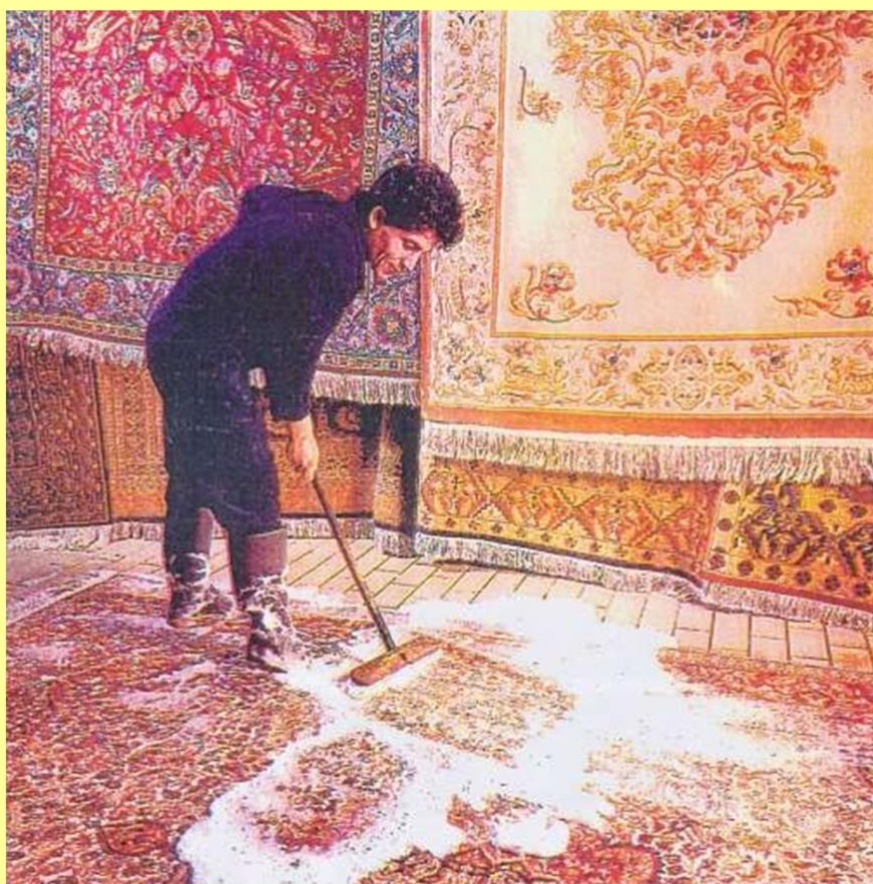
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on the spot or to take away



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On the menu: Gazpacho, chicken and vegetable paella, tortilla, San Sebastian Cheesecake (traditional Basque cake), brownie, coffee, tea.

Au menu : Gaspacho, paëlla de légumes et poulet, tortilla, gâteau au fromage basque de Saint-Sébastien, brownie, café, thé.



Réservation : www.assocfemmesdeurope.eu

Veuillez enregistrer votre présence sur notre site web pour faciliter l'organisation et prévoir la quantité de plats nécessaire. Please register your attendance for this event – it helps the group to prepare and organise the required amount of food.

*La totalité des bénéfices est dévolue à nos projets humanitaires
All profits go to our humanitarian projects*



. Ateliers de Lundi .

Vente des Ateliers du Lundi

Lundi 3 juin 2024

de 12h30 à 16h30

à la Fondation Nadine Alexandre Heusghem

Rue de Livourne 129, 1000 Bruxelles



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Le **Groupe Néerlandais** de Femmes d'Europe
avec le soutien très apprécié de l'Ambassade du Royaume des Pays-Bas en Belgique
vous présente :



**Frans HALS – une nouvelle rétrospective
le 5 juin 2024**



Conférence de
Marie-Claire VALCK LUCASSEN
Historienne de l'art



Jusqu'au 9 juin 2024, le [RIJKSMUSEUM](https://www.rijksmuseum.nl) présente la première grande rétrospective de **Frans HALS** depuis 30 ans. Marie-Claire VALCK LUCASSEN vous propose une découverte approfondie de Frans HALS, considéré comme l'un des trois grands avec REMBRANDT et VERMEER. Et pour cause, la vivacité de sa touche et son originalité en font l'un des peintres les plus novateurs de son temps. Au 19ème siècle il deviendra même l'exemple phare des Impressionnistes inspirant bon nombre d'entre eux. Avec son coup de pinceau fluide et délié il influença des peintres tels que Gustave COURBET, Edouard MANET, James WHISTLER, Claude MONET.

Marie-Claire VALCK LUCASSEN est historienne de l'art et conférencière et elle possède de vastes connaissances ainsi qu'une large expertise des maîtres hollandais du XVIIe siècle à l'art moderne et contemporain. Elle est guide dans divers musées de La Haye tels que le Mauritshuis, le Kunstmuseum, le Museum Voorlinden et le jardin de sculptures Clingenbosch à Wassenaar.

Lieu : Ambassade du Royaume des Pays-Bas en Belgique

Avenue de Cortenbergh 4-10, 1040 Bruxelles (Metro : Schuman)

Heure : conférence (en français) à 13h, accueil & lunch à partir de 12h

Entrée : € 35

Inscription : <https://www.assocfemmesdeurope.eu/-Nos-evenements->

Paiement sur le compte de l'association : **BE47 3100 7081 9180**. Merci de mentionner votre nom, "Frans Hals" et le nombre de tickets. Le paiement confirme votre inscription.

Info : Maddi van Amstel +32 478 555 614 maddivanamstel@gmail.com

*La totalité des bénéfices est dévolue aux projets humanitaires de l'Association.
Si vous ne pouvez pas y assister, un don serait très apprécié.*



L'Association Femmes d'Europe a le plaisir de vous inviter à
sa **Cérémonie des Projets annuelle**
le **jeudi 6 juin 2024, à 16h**

Uniquement avec inscription avant le 30 mai

Salle de Presse du Berlaymont, Rue de la Loi 200, 1040 Bruxelles, Métro Schumann

La Cérémonie sera suivie d'un verre de l'amitié.



PROGRAMME

- **Accueil par Mme N. Kyriazakou, Présidente de l'Association Femmes d'Europe**
- **Intervention de Mme Iliana Ivanova - Commissaire européenne à l'innovation, recherche, culture, éducation et jeunesse**
- **Activités du Comité Projets par Mme V. Argyraki, VP Projets**
- **Présentation des bénéficiaires des projets soutenus par l'Association en 2023. Orateurs :**
 1. République Démocratique du Congo Soeur Adèle Yenyihadja, Association: Congrégation des SSFS
 2. Ireland, Mme Keira Gill « Lending Hand »
 3. Belgique, Monsieur Geert Deraeve, Association Kloen vzw
 4. Belgique, Monsieur Luc Vrielinck, Audioscenic
 5. Burkina Faso, M.Pascal Kalesnore, Comité Villageois de Développement de Zaogo
- **Panel de discussion sur la violence domestique**

Modératrice : Ms Mary Collins, Secrétaire Générale, European Women's Lobby

Intervenants :

 1. Mme Madeline Mc Aleer, Ireland, Haven Horizons, Training, Research and Development Director, Lecturer in Domestic Abuse and Coercive Control
 2. Mme Maëlle Prémont WOMAN DO, Belgium, Psychologue – co-coordinatrice
 3. Mme Mary Pahiadaki, Greece, President of Union of Women's Associations

Q/A & Conclusions

 - Film de photos et vidéos reçus
 - Verre de l'amitié

Association Femmes d'Europe is pleased to invite you to
its Annual **Projects Ceremony**
on **Thursday 6 June 2024, at 16.00**

Only with registration before the 30 May

Berlaymont Press Room, Rue de la Loi 200, 1040 Brussels, Metro Schumann

The ceremony will be followed by a reception



The **Irish Group** is happy to announce its fifth **Bloomsday Brunch**
hosted by Ambassador Kevin Conmy on **Thursday 13 June 2024 from 12.30-14.30**
at the **Embassy of Ireland**, Rue Froissart 50, 1040 Bruxelles.



On Bloomsday we celebrate the work of Irish writer **James Joyce**. His novel, *Ulysses*, describes a day in the life of Leopold Bloom in Dublin in June 1904. Nowadays Bloomsday is celebrated all over the world.

As well as brunch* the Bloomsday event will have music with tenor Dr Páidí Ó Dubháin and Joyce readings by the Irish Theatre Group.

*a vegetarian option will be available.

NB Please note that we are unable to cater for specific dietary needs and/or allergies.



Places are limited, so register early via www.assocfemmesdeurope.eu to avoid disappointment!

Registration fee: €39 per person to be transferred to: Association Femmes d'Europe,
IBAN **BE 47310070819180** mentioning **Bloomsday** plus **Name/Surname**

Contact: Marian D. Conneely marianconneely99@gmail.com

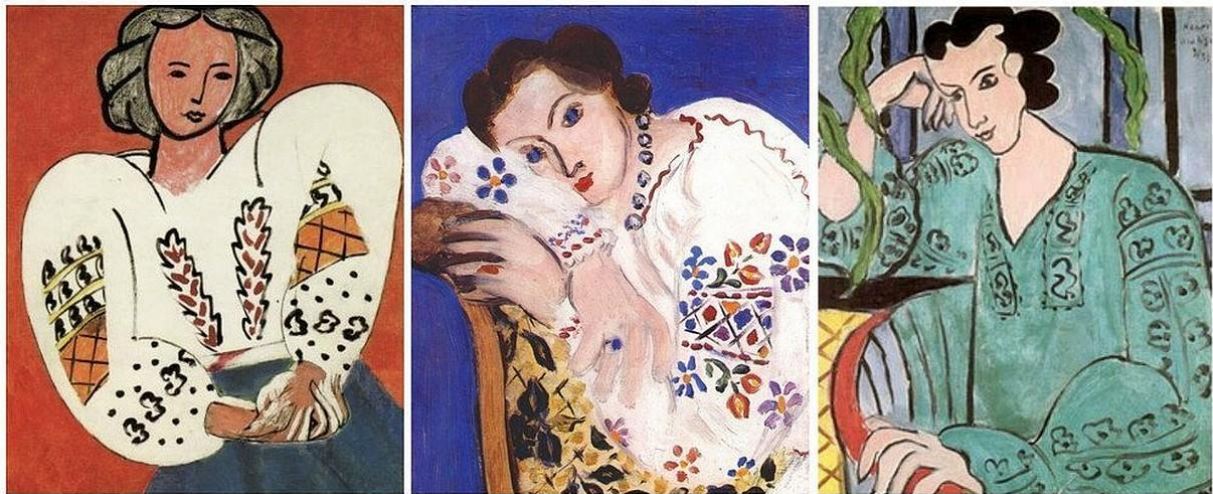
*All profits go to our Association's humanitarian projects.
Should you not be able to attend, a donation would be most welcome.*

Le **Groupe Roumain** de l'Association Femmes d'Europe
a le plaisir de vous inviter à la

Célébration et présentation de la blouse roumaine

Quand : Lundi 24 juin 2024, de 11h00 à 14h00

Où : Résidence de l'Ambassadrice de Roumanie auprès
du Royaume de Belgique
Rue Washington 37, 1050 Ixelles



Oeuvres de Henri Matisse, entre 1936 et 1940

Le 24 juin prochain nous célébrerons la journée internationale de la blouse roumaine, appelée en roumain "ie", récemment ajoutée par l'UNESCO sur la Liste représentative du patrimoine culturel immatériel de l'humanité.

A cette occasion, une présentation de la blouse roumaine se tiendra à la Résidence de l'Ambassadrice de Roumanie auprès du Royaume de Belgique, située à Bruxelles.

Nous vous proposons de venir célébrer cette journée autour d'un déjeuner traditionnel, de 11 à 14 heures. L'espace imparti à cet événement permettra d'accueillir jusqu'à 40 personnes.

Participation : 30 € pp

Réservation : <https://www.assocfemmesdeurope.eu/> (titre de l'évènement)

Paie ment : Association Femmes d'Europe, IBAN : BE47 3100 7081 9180
(Ref. Votre nom et titre de l'évènement)

Info : Ecaterina EVANGHELESCU

E-mail : ee@abero.org

Tel : +32 485 66 77 96

*La totalité des bénéfices est dévolue aux projets humanitaires de l'Association.
Les donations seront très appréciées.*

City-trip to Budapest

organised by the Hungarian Group

Monday 16 September to Friday 20 September 2024



Monday, 16 September

15.10 Departure from Brussels Zaventem Airport with SN Brussels Airlines,
17.10 Arrival at Budapest Liszt Ferenc Airport; transfer to Hotel Erzsébet
and dinner in a restaurant situated in the Vigadó Concert Hall

Tuesday, 17 September

Visit to the Parliament - Art Nouveau walking tour
Lunch in a restaurant downtown with a private ethnographic collection
Visit Heroes' Square and House of Music exhibition
Dinner in a nice traditional restaurant

Wednesday, 18 September

Transfer to the Norbertine Sisters Foundation (50 km from Budapest) to visit
the Hungarian National Project 2023
Return to Budapest - coffee break with famous Hungarian pastries
Show at the National Opera: Carmen, Bizet's famous opera with a light snack at intermission

Thursday, 19 September

Sight-seeing tour in the Buda Castle quarter
Visit to the Covered Market, free lunch
Free afternoon or optional visits: National Museum or relaxing in a typical
thermal bath
Private cruise on the Danube and farewell dinner

Friday, 20 September

Visit to the Royal Castle in Gödöllő (30km from Budapest)
Lunch at Lazar Equestrian Centre
Transfer to the airport, departure at 17.55, arrival in Brussels at 19.55.



Price: 1.550€ p/p in double room/ 1.800 € in single room

<u>This price includes:</u> ➤ return flight with SN Brussels Airlines ➤ accommodation in Hotel Erzsébet *** ➤ all the meals mentioned in the program, drinks included ➤ highly qualified English and French speaking guide ➤ Transfer and transportation within the city by a/c bus or by public transport	<u>Not included</u> ➤ Tips for guide and bus driver ➤ Travel insurance (mandatory) ➤ Extra drinks ➤ Lunch and optional programme on Thursday
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Information: nicole.foldvary@gmail.com

☎ 02/770 16 01 or 0477/17 93 26

Registration: www.assocfemmesdeurope.eu

New Deadline 9 June!



*A l'occasion de la Présidence Belge du Conseil de l'Union Européenne
Le Groupe Belge a le plaisir de vous inviter à une*

« Journée au Château à la Belle Epoque »

Samedi 21 septembre 2024



Nous avons le privilège de découvrir le château de Louvignies, château privé, habité par la même famille depuis trois siècles qui fait partie du patrimoine belge et de la fierté de notre Histoire.

Le programme de la journée se déroulera comme suit :

- *Départ à 10h00 en bus de Waterloo (parking Drève Richelle, gratuit)*
- *Visite personnalisée des appartements privés et des cuisines : « Comment vivait-on au 19^{ème} siècle ? »*
- *Apéritif festif sur la terrasse*
- *Déjeuner dans la salle à manger du château avec des tables dressées façon 19^{ème} siècle*
- *Café au salon*
- *Découverte du parc à l'anglaise, de la glacière, des écuries et du potager*
- *Retour vers 17h00 en bus à Waterloo*

Une journée exceptionnelle tout en élégance et raffinement !

Prix par personne : 150,00 euros Tenue de ville, une fleur à la boutonnière.

Inscription via le site www.assocfemmesdeurope.eu

Personnes de contact : Brigitte Borsei – 0470 10 52 98 Chantal Moyersoén – 0477 28 14 37

La totalité des bénéfices est dévolue à nos projets humanitaires.



Visit NATO Brussels

All proceeds will go to our humanitarian projects

Thursday 26 September at 10.00

Meeting at 09.30 at South Entrance
Boulevard Léopold III

Programme

09.30	Arrival at the main entrance, security check
10.00 - 11.00	Briefing and Q + A on NATO's current Agenda
11.00 - 11.30	Coffee/Tea Break
11.30 - 12.15	NATO's Women, Peace and Security Agenda
12.15 - 12.30	Completion of Survey, Group Photo
12.30 - 13.45	Lunch at NATO Staff Centre
14.00	Departure

Deadline for registrations: 6 September www.assocfemmesdeurope.eu

Participation: 25 €

Light lunch to be paid individually

Public transports:

STIB/MIVB: lines 12, 21 (Airport/Place Schuman/Place Luxembourg) and 65 (Central Station)

De Lijn: lines 272 and 471 to Brussels North Station.

There is a train station located at Bordet (trains from city centre or Schuman), 15 minutes' walk from NATO (or by tram)

STIB/MIVD tram lines: 62 (stops in front of NATO - Stop "Bourget"), 55 stop Da Vinci (1.25km away from NATO).

Further information : <http://www.stib-mivb.be> <http://www.delijn.be> <http://www.belgianrail.be>

Taxis are usually available and waiting outside the main (South) entrance.





LE BUREAU EXÉCUTIF
VOUS INVITE À LA
FÊTE DE LA RENTRÉE

FÊTE DE LA RENTRÉE

DIMANCHE 29 SEPTEMBRE 2024
12H30 - 16H00

LA BERGERIE,
RUE AU BOIS 365B
B - 1150 BRUXELLES

PARTICIPATION :

25 € ADULTES

10 € ENFANTS JUSQU'À 10 ANS

*Inclut le déjeuner buffet et l'animation -
Bar payant*

INSCRIPTION OBLIGATOIRE SUR
www.assocfemmesdeurope.eu

PLACES LIMITÉES



www.assocfemmesdeurope.eu



The Irish Group

Charity Bridge Tournament & Reception

on **Tuesday 1 October 2024** at **10.00**



Cost: €37 per person.
€20 for persons attending the reception only.

Payment guarantees participation

Venue: St Anthony's Parish Centre,
Oudstrijderslaan 23-25,
1950 Kraainem (ample parking)

Registration from 09.15. Play begins **10.00 sharp**.
Coffee will be served between 09.15 and 09.45.
Reception and prize-giving will follow play.

Registration: www.assocfemmesdeurope.eu

Non players coming to the reception:
please arrive at **14.00**.

Payment by 20 September at the latest, to Association Femmes d'Europe: IBAN BE 47 3100 7081 9180, mentioning your **name** and that of **your partner** and "Irish Bridge".

Information:

Maura: maura.carroll123@gmail.com

 **0477 285 762**

*All proceeds will be dedicated to the humanitarian projects of the Association.
Should you not be able to attend, a donation would be more than welcome*



EUROPE DAY

the ASSOCIATION FEMMES D'EUROPE aisbl
participated with a stand next to the Berlaymont entrance



Le Kelleth Piano Trio

Programme exceptionnel et excellents musiciens



Plaisir musical, pages d'Histoire et convivialité, tels étaient les points marquants de la très agréable invitation du groupe U.K. pour une fin d'après-midi le samedi 18 Mai. Nous étions conviés dans la lumineuse salle de l'Église suédoise en face du parc du Cinquantenaire. Un grand piano Yamaha attendait un interprète. Ce fut Stephen Carroll-Turner qui allait être accompagné par la violoniste Rachel Ellis, avec un instrument italien bicentenaire, et par la celliste Sirlol Hughes-Jones. Ils forment le « Kelleth piano Trio » et sont basés à Brighton où ils font aussi partie du « Brighton Chamber Ensemble ».

Programme exceptionnel pour cette soirée avec des partitions composées exclusivement par des femmes ! Grâce aux commentaires qui précédaient chaque morceau, en plus du joli programme imprimé, nous avons pu imaginer la vie de ces musiciennes qui ont posé des jalons dans le développement de leur art et de la condition féminine.

Ce fut une œuvre en quatre mouvements de Dame Ethel Smyth (1858-1944, Commandeur

de l'Ordre de l'Empire britannique, qui fit l'ouverture de ce concert. Elle fut la 1^{ère} femme à suivre les cours de composition à l'école de musique de Leipzig et rencontra Clara Schuman, Brahms, Tchaïkovsky, d'où des influences multiples qui se ressentaient dans son « trio en Ré mineur ». Avec une centaine d'œuvres à son répertoire, dont une messe et des opéras, elle réussit à être jouée au Metropolitan Opera de New York. Franco-britannique elle eut à cœur d'aider à l'hôpital militaire de Vichy pendant la 1^{ère} guerre mondiale. L'Université d'Oxford lui donna le titre de Docteur Honoris Causa.

Les trois interprètes nous offrirent, après une pause gourmande, de délicieux gâteaux et des boissons rafraichissantes, une « passacaille » de Rebecca Clarke (1886-1979), considérée comme une des plus importantes compositrices britanniques de l'entre-deux-guerres. Une belle découverte également.

La « Romanza » de Cécile Chaminade (1857-1944) nous séduisit ensuite. Parcours exceptionnel pour cette parisienne qui créa 400 œuvres dont 200 pour le piano, débuta aux

Etats-Unis, donnait chaque année un concert à Londres, a joué pour le président Théodore Roosevelt et pour la reine Victoria, a dirigé un hôpital militaire à Londres pendant la 1^{ère} guerre, et fut la première musicienne à recevoir la Légion d'Honneur.

Le Trio Kelleth nous proposa ensuite le délicat « nocturne » de Lili Boulanger (1893-1918) qui a été la première femme à obtenir le Prix de Rome de composition musicale en 1913.

Le programme fit ensuite honneur à la compositrice américaine Amy Beach (1867-1944). Elle s'était fait connaître en Europe par une tournée entre 1910 et 1914, après le décès de son mari qui avait freiné ses activités

musicales. Nous pûmes apprécier la « mazurka » puis le « trio en La majeur » avec trois mouvements. Amy Beach a aussi composé une messe, un opéra, des œuvres chorales, des mélodies qu'elle a dû signer au nom de son mari !

Merci au Groupe U.K. pour cette riche découverte de talents et tempéraments exceptionnels grâce aux excellents musiciens du Trio Kelleth chaleureusement applaudis.

Merci à l'Église suédoise de Bruxelles qui nous a fait bénéficier d'un cadre magnifiquement approprié à cette soirée à but caritatif et culturel.

Marie-Anne Dage

Group Français



New Members Announced in the Last AB
Nouvelles membres annoncées au dernier OA
May 2024 mai

Belgique : Winnie DE POORTERE
Irlande : Hedy WATTERS

Deadline for the SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER: 16 August 2024
Date limite pour le BULLETIN de SEPTEMBRE : le 16 août 2024

Organe d'Administration (OA) – Administrative Body (AB)
Prochaines réunions - 2024 - Next meetings

Mardi 11 juin à 14h (zoom), mardi 24 septembre à 14h (FNAH), mercredi 23 octobre à 12h (zoom),
mardi 19 novembre à 14h (zoom), lundi 9 décembre à 12h (zoom)

Tuesday 11 June at 14.00 (zoom), Tuesday 24 September at 14.00 (FNAH), Wednesday 23 October at
12.00 (zoom), Tuesday 19 November at 14.00 (zoom), Monday 9 December at 12.00 (zoom)



IN MEMORIAM

C'est avec une grande tristesse que je vous annonce le décès de notre amie **Tove Blaabjerg Sørensen**. Le 30 avril Tove a perdu la bataille contre le cancer qu'elle a pourtant combattu avec beaucoup de courage et sans se plaindre. Tove était membre de FdE depuis de nombreuses années et à tour de rôle Chef de Groupe et co-responsable du Groupe Danois.



Nous nous souviendrons d'elle comme d'une femme généreuse, intelligente, active, souriante, pleine d'humour, d'une élégance naturelle et pourvue d'un très grand sens de la justice. Elle était un pilier pour notre groupe et nous manquera beaucoup. Qu'elle repose en paix.

Une messe en souvenir de Tove est organisée par la famille à l'Église Sint-Jan-Evangelistkerk, Kerkstraat, Tervuren, le 22 juin à 13h.

Bente Manders

FOR SALE

WHAT ABOUT A BEAUTIFUL NEW CARPET IN YOUR HOME,

Femmes d'Europe aisbl has been fortunate in receiving 4 new carpets to sell, **all proceeds go to our Association**. If you are interested in one of these beautiful carpets and you would like to see them in Brussels, please email: marilyn.carruthers@icloud.com



Moroccan Blue: 650€
1,98m X 3m



Moroccan/Tunisian brown:
500€ - 60m X 2,80m



Moroccan: 800€
1,60m X 3,20m



Moroccan Berber: 1200€
2m X 3,30m



NEW GROUP REPRESENTATIVE

Please note that the **Danish Group** has now a new Group Representative, together with Bente Manders, since the sad loss of Tove Blaabjerg Sørensen. We warmly welcome **Anne-Marie Gensø** to the Administrative Body.



*L'équipe du Bulletin vous souhaite un été fantastique !
The Newsletter Team wishes you a brilliant summer!*

RENDEZ VOUS EN SEPTEMBRE

