



Un mot de notre Présidente A Word from our President

Bulletin d'information N° 8
OCTOBER 2022 OCTOBRE
Newsletter no. 8

Niovi Kyriazakou

Chères amies,

Le temps passe vite et nous sommes déjà en octobre.

La guerre en Ukraine qui continue, la crise énergétique et son impact sur l'économie mondiale, toute cette **actualité donne beaucoup plus de sens à notre action en faveur des plus vulnérables.**

'Femmes d'Europe s'engage, Femmes d'Europe agit' comme stipulé dans nos nouvelles brochures (voir page 23).

Quant à la vie interne de notre Association, **nos activités ont repris de plus belle !**

Nous avons eu notre première réunion de l'Organe d'Administration en présentiel après un intervalle de plus de 2 ans. Le bonheur des retrouvailles !

Cette année nous avons financé jusqu'à présent une quarantaine des **projets** individuels dans les domaines de la santé, de l'éducation, du bien-être et du renforcement de l'autonomie des personnes fragilisées. Tout cela **grâce à vous toutes** : aux membres qui ont soumis des projets valables dans le monde entier et aux groupes qui organisent les divers événements.

La participation aux événements s'avère en effet indispensable pour récolter des fonds afin de financer ces projets, mais nous permet aussi de partager de beaux moments ensemble, de maintenir ainsi nos liens d'amitié et d'en créer de nouveaux.

L'Agenda est plein pour les mois à venir :

Le Bazar de Noël - l'événement phare de notre Association - aura lieu en présentiel le dernier week-end du mois de novembre, les préparatifs sont en cours.

Je vous incite à consulter régulièrement notre **site web** et à vous inscrire à l'éventail des événements prévus ce mois-ci (entre autres aux *Ateliers du Lundi & Get Together le 3/10*, à la *Vintage Sale & Catwalk les 27-28/10*) et surtout aux grands événements culturels qui approchent, -en particulier au Concert de piano & accordéon organisé par les *groupes portugais & espagnol* qui aura lieu au Cercle Royal Gaulois le 21 octobre ainsi qu'au Concert de Guitare à l'*Institut Culturel Italien* le 28 octobre. Le premier grand événement de notre Association après la pandémie - la soirée J. Brel (4 octobre) - est déjà 'sold out'. Bravo au groupe belge !

Notre Association est aussi active sur les **réseaux sociaux** : suivez-nous sur Facebook et Instagram et diffusez nos messages à vos connaissances s'il vous plaît ! Venez nombreuses aux événements et invitez vos familles, amies, collègues et entraînez les nouvelles membres.

Merci d'avance pour toute votre aide (financière ou en nature), votre disponibilité et votre pensée **pour notre belle Association.**

Dear Friends,

Time flies and we are already in October.

The war in Ukraine continues and the energy crisis with its impact on the world economy; **all this news gives much more meaning to our actions in favour of the most vulnerable.**

'Femmes d'Europe is committed, Femmes d'Europe takes action' as stated in our new brochures (see page 23).

As for the internal life of our Association, **our activities have resumed in full swing!**

We had our first physical meeting of the Administrative Body after a period of more than two years. The joy of reunion!

This year we have already financed about forty individual **projects** in the fields of health, education, well-being and empowerment of vulnerable people. All this is **thanks to all of you**: to the members who have submitted worthwhile projects from all over the world and to the groups who organise various events.

Participation in events is essential to raise funds in order to finance these projects, but it also allows us to share beautiful moments together, to maintain our bonds of friendship and to create new ones.

The diary is full for the coming months:

The **Christmas Bazaar** - the flagship event of our Association - will take place in person on the last weekend of November. Preparations are under way.

I encourage you to check our **website** regularly and to register for the range of events planned for this month (among others the *Monday Workshops & Get Together on 3/10*, the *Vintage Sale & Catwalk on 27-28/10*) and especially for the major cultural events that are approaching, such as the piano & accordion concert organised by the Portuguese & Spanish groups that will take place at the Cercle Royal Gaulois on 21 October and the Guitar Concert at the *Italian Institute of Culture* on 28 October. The first big event of our Association after the pandemic - the J. Brel evening (4 October) - is already sold out. Congratulations to the Belgian group!

Our Association is also active on **social media**: please follow us on Facebook and Instagram and spread our messages to your friends. Please join us at the events and invite your families, friends, colleagues and new members.

Thank you in advance for all your support (financial or in kind), your availability and your kind thoughts for **our beautiful Association!**

Niovi.

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Donnez vie à petit prix aux bijoux que vous aimez au bénéfice de
l'Association Femmes d'Europe aisbl

Contactez Mapie Doux

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

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

newsletter@assocfemmesdeurope.eu

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AGENDA

October - Octobre

Lundi 03	12:30 - 17:00	Ateliers du Lundi, Fondation Nadine Alexandre Heusghem
Lundi 03	12:30 - 17:30	Rencontre amicale, groupe grec, Fondation Nadine Alexandre Heusghem
Mardi 04	19:00	Soirée Jacques Brel, Waterloo
Ve-Di 07-09	10:00 - 17:00	Journées des plantes, Château de Beervelde
Vendredi 21	19:30	Concert Contemplations, Cercle Royal Gaulois
Thursday 27	12:00 - 18:00	6th Vintage Sale
Friday 28	10:00 - 16:00	6th Vintage Sale and Catwalk (13:00)
Vendredi 28	19:30	Concert de guitare, Institut Italien de Culture, Bruxelles

November - Novembre

Lundi 07	12:30 - 17:00	Ateliers du Lundi, Fondation Nadine Alexandre Heusghem
Lundi 07	12:30 - 17:30	Rencontre amicale, gr. polonais, Fondation Nadine Alexandre Heusghem
Thursday 17	13:00	Manhattan Collection, Embassy of The Netherlands



HELP WANTED - ADVERTISING

The Newsletter Team is looking for a dynamic member who can assist them in dealing with ADVERTISING for the Newsletter. No previous experience required but the person should be ready to search out new clients who wish to advertise in our magazine such as:

-) small businesses,
-) shops and service businesses,
-) professional workmen, etc.

For further information, please contact:

Karen Englander karen_grez@yahoo.com



AIDE PUBLICITAIRE

La Newsletter Team cherche une personne dynamique pouvant nous aider à chercher des PUBS pour notre Bulletin. Aucune expérience n'est requise mais la personne devrait être prête à trouver des nouveaux clients qui souhaitent mettre une pub dans notre revue, par ex. :

-) Petites entreprises
-) Magasins ou commerce
-) Corps de métier

Pour plus d'infos, veuillez contacter :

Karen Englander karen_grez@yahoo.com

Sanitary Project in Zomba, Southern Malawi

This sanitary project, co-financed by Femmes d'Europe, in Zomba, southern Malawi, is one of the most successful projects in the area and is taking place at the HIV testing and counselling, education and community development Centre at Songani, where it started four years ago.

In the current round, some 700 washable sanitary kits (which include three pieces of protective material in each small bag) have been distributed to young women attending local schools. This current production cycle was kindly funded by Femmes d'Europe in 2021-2022 (with complementary funding from Mbedza, a charity partner, to provide staff salaries, travel expenses, soap and shared lunches for the young women).

On my visit to the project in August, I was taken through the process of how you make a kit from the measuring up, to the cutting, the assembling, the sewing (with a machine bought by Femmes d'Europe) and to the finishing off. How long is it since I did some sewing with a machine..... And indeed, the experience of making the kit imparts sewing skills to the young women, which could be a modest money-earner for them later on.



Once the “manufacturing” phase was over then came “the distribution”, with around 30 girls/young women from schools in the area. We began all together with an introductory Malawi-style celebration of dancing and

singing. The young women were going to be given reusable sanitary kits which would make them feel comfortable, more confident and able to sustain their education after all.....!

Then came a series of talks by counsellors/staff from the community development Centre at Songani (near Zomba), who addressed the importance of respectful, safe relationships (especially sexual). They also went through how young women can be exploited and how



not to become a victim of that. Finally, there was a demonstration of how to use the kit.

After that was the last part of the session, ie the handing out of the kits to the young women

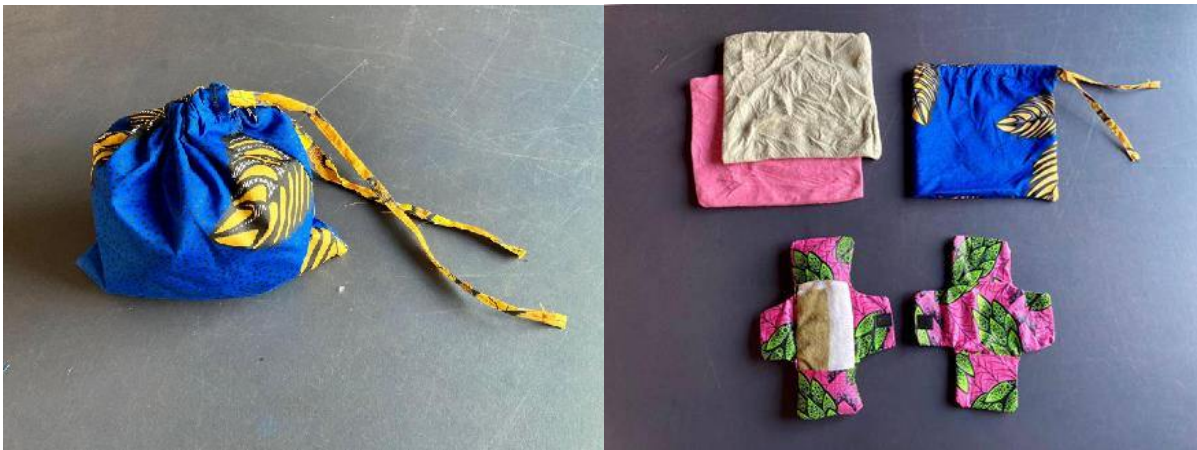
present, who came forward gratefully, one by one. All distributions are recorded by staff at the Centre, so that the results of the project are known in quantitative terms and some assessment of impact can be undertaken.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that the impact has been significant, with many stories of girls/young women benefitting from having this service available to them free of charge, which would not have been possible without the generosity of Femmes d'Europe.

On behalf of the young women benefitting from the sanitary project at the Songani HIV testing and counselling Centre, Malawi a big “thank you” to Femmes d'Europe!

*Sue Bird
UK group*

. *Projet du mois – Project of the Month .*





Vente des Ateliers du Lundi Lundi 3 octobre 2022 de 12h30 à 17h00

à la Fondation Nadine Alexandre Heusghem
Rue de Livourne 129, 1000 Bruxelles

Fait Main par les Femmes d'Europe:

- Cadeaux de naissance
- Hochets et doudous
- Bijoux, broderies
- Vêtements d'enfants
- Accessoires pour la maison
- Réparation de bijoux
- Commandes personnalisées

Contact: Mapie Doux
Tel: 0473/89 95 41
mapiedoux@gmail.com

La totalité des recettes est dévolue aux projets humanitaires de
l'Association Femmes d'Europe aisbl

www.assocfemmesdeurope.eu
www.facebook.com/deassoc



. Événement futur – Upcoming Event .



RENCONTRES AMICALES À LA FONDATION NADINE ALEXANDRE HEUSGHEM

Rue Livourne 129, 1000 Bruxelles

Lundi 3 octobre de 12h30 à 17h30

Venez nous rejoindre pour un déjeuner ou un café autour des spécialités culinaires préparées par le **Groupe Grec**.

Au menu : moussaka, salade grecque, feuilletés (fromage, épinards), ratatouille à la grecque, gâteaux variés, ... **À déguster sur place ou à emporter**

Vous pourrez également voir les objets mis en vente par les *Ateliers du Lundi*



GET-TOGETHER AT THE NADINE ALEXANDRE HEUSGHEM FOUNDATION

Rue Livourne 129, 1000 Bruxelles

Monday October 3rd 2022 from 12.30 to 5.30 pm

Come and join us for lunch or afternoon coffee with specialties prepared by the **Greek Group**

On the menu: moussaka, Greek salad, cheese and spinach pies, Greek ratatouille, a variety of desserts, ... **You can enjoy these delicacies on the spot or to take away**

You will also be able to view the articles on sale by the *Ateliers du Lundi*

Réservation : www.assocfemmesdeurope.eu **Infos** : thomas.skordas@scarlet.be

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

. Événement futur – Upcoming Event .

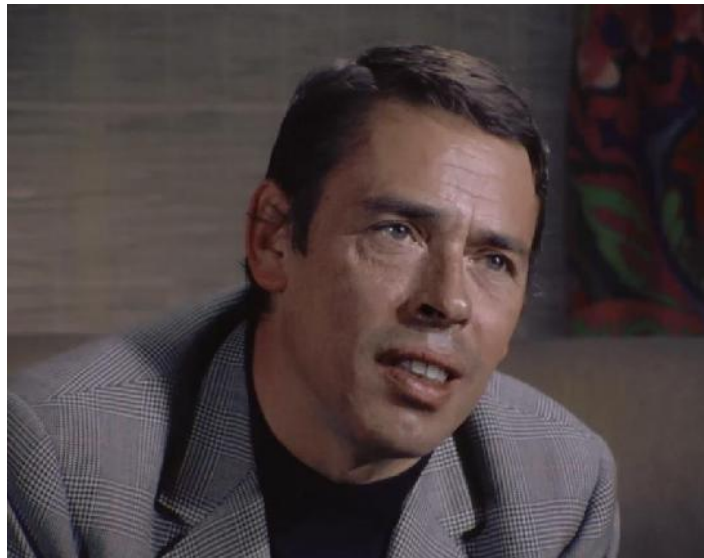


SOLD OUT

Mardi 4 octobre 2022 à 19h00

SOIRÉE JACQUES BREL

Avec la participation de sa fille Madame France Brel



Cinéma Wellington

Chaussée de Bruxelles 165, 1410 Waterloo

Programme

19h00 : Verre de l'Amitié

20h00 : Projection du film/concert « Les Adieux de Brel à l'Olympia »

21h00 : Allocution de Madame France Brel, Présidente de la Fondation Jacques Brel

La soirée se clôturera avec une séance de vente et dédicace du livre de Madame France Brel, "Chronique d'une Vie : Jacky."

Prix : 30€ (au profit des projets humanitaires de l'Association)

Inscriptions : www.assocfemmesdeurope.eu

Info : BEL@assocfemmesdeurope.eu

Sponsorisé par



. Événement futur - Upcoming Event .



Le **groupe Autrichien** vous invite à visiter le **Château de Beervelde** et



à participer aux **« Journées des Plantes »**



du 7 au 9 octobre 2022 - de 10h à 17h



Adresse : Park van Beervelde
Beervelde-Dorp 75, 9080 Beervelde
+32 (0) 9 356 81 82 info@parkvanbeervelde.be
www.parkvanbeervelde.be
(Le Château de Beervelde est à 45 minutes en voiture de Bruxelles)

Chaque année un thème particulier est choisi. **« L'AUTRICHE »** sera le thème **cette** année. Aussi notre groupe sera présent avec un stand de produits autrichiens, de vins et de tourisme.

La totalité des bénéfices est dévolue aux projets humanitaires de l'Association Femmes d'Europe aisbl.

Tickets: vente des tickets **uniquement en ligne** : www.parkvanbeervelde.be
Ceci reste possible durant l'évènement également

-) 12€ - Ticket journalier
-) 10€ - Par personne pour les groupes de 25 personnes min.
(gratuit pour l'accompagnateur et le chauffeur)
-) 19€ - Ticket weekend (accès illimité pendant les 3 jours)

Nous nous réjouissons déjà de votre visite !

. Événement future – Upcoming Event .



**Les groupes Portugais et Espagnol vous invitent au concert
de sortie du CD "Contemplations"**

le 21 octobre à 19h30

au Cercle Royal Gaulois Artistique et Littéraire
Rue de la Loi , 5, 1000 - Bruxelles



Daniel Schvetz (piano) et Pedro Santos (accordéon)

***"Contemplations" concert suivi d'un
cocktail avec les artistes***

Contemplations departs from Buenos Aires carrying an energy that is sometimes discreet, sometimes evident, of the perfume of the tango and the airs of the milonga. Then, in a European odyssey, they are joined by new Franco-Lusitanian breezes, and the piano finds its way to dialogue with the accordion.

Participation : 42€

19h30 : « Bar à Cava » (payant)

20h00 : Concert

21h00 : Cocktail

Inscriptions: www.assocfemmesdeurope.eu

Info: PRT@assocfemmesdeurope.eu

Ce concert est sponsorisé par :



. Événement futur – Upcoming Event .



The Multinational and Austrian Groups are organising the

6th Vintage Sale

Thursday 27 October, 12.00 - 18.00

Friday 28 October 10.00 - 16.00

Catwalk

Friday 28 October, 13.00

Drinks and finger food available



**Centre de l'Eglise Saint Marc Uccle
Avenue de Fré 76, 1180 Uccle
(parking available)**

For more information, contact:

Irena Majcen multifde@gmail.com 0488 87 69 82

Monique Seber moniqueseber@gmail.com 0475 24 92 38

All profits will go to our humanitarian projects

. Événement futur – Upcoming Event .



Le **Groupe Italien** de l'Association Femmes d'Europe et l'**Institut Culturel Italien** vous invitent au concert de guitare de Vito Nicola Paradiso

“CHITARRA AMORE E FANTASIA”

le 28 octobre 2022 à 19.30

au Théâtre de l'Institut Culturel Italien

rue de Livourne 38, 1000 Bruxelles

Le concert sera précédé par un verre de l'amitié à partir de 18h30



Paraphrasant le titre d'un célèbre film néo-réaliste du milieu des années 1900, le concert s'ouvre sur des transcriptions de chansons célèbres des années 1950 et 1960 de Renato Carosone et Domenico Modugno, deux grands auteurs et musiciens qui ont rendu célèbre l'histoire de la “musica leggera” italienne dans le monde entier, et se poursuit avec quelques compositions originales. Ces transcriptions savantes n'enlèvent rien à l'originalité des chansons qui, avec le charme du son de la guitare, acquièrent un nouvel éclat, dans le répertoire moderne de cet instrument de musique intime et fascinant.

Vito Nicola Paradiso est né dans les Pouilles en 1964 et a obtenu son diplôme de Guitare avec mention en 1987. Il a gagné des nombreux prix dans des concours nationaux et internationaux et a donné d'innombrables concerts dans le monde entier. Il a donné plusieurs concerts pour guitare et orchestre comme soliste et il s'est produit dans divers Ensembles. Il est l'auteur de la méthode de didactique musicale “la Chitarra volante” et a enseigné dans différents conservatoires et écoles de formation musicale.

Réservation : enregistrer sur le site www.assocfemmesdeurope.eu

Participation : 32€

Paiement : sur le compte de l'Association Femmes d'Europe BE47 3100 7081 9180 avec la mention “Concert de guitare”

Renseignements : Anna Franchino 0473 593148
Gabriella Fratoni 0476 241136
Paola Micocci 0476 685095



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

. Événement futur – Upcoming Event .



RENCONTRES AMICALES A LA FONDATION NADINE ALEXANDRE HEUSGHEM

Rue de Livourne 129, 1000 Bruxelles

Lundi 7 novembre 2022 de 12h30 à 17h30

Venez nous rejoindre pour déguster, les spécialités polonaises préparées par le **Groupe Polonais**,
sur place ou à emporter

Au menu : PIEROGI (pierogis, ravioles bouillies) ; BARSZCZ ukrainiski (bortsch à l'ukrainienne) ;
GOLABKI (choux farcis) ; SALATKA JARZYNOWA (salade de légumes cuits) et gâteaux polonais

Vous pourrez également voir les objets mis en vente par les Ateliers du Lundi



GET TOGETHER AT THE NADINE ALEXANDRE HEUSGHEM FOUNDATION

Rue de Livourne 129, 1000 Bruxelles

Monday 7 November 2022 from 12.30 to 5.30 pm

Come and join us to enjoy, on the spot or to take away, Polish specialties prepared by the **Polish Group**

On the menu: PIEROGI (dumplings); BARSZCZ ukrainiski (Ukrainian borsch); GOLABKI (stuffed cabbage rolls);
SALATKA JARZYNOWA (vegetable salad) and Polish cakes

Articles by the Ateliers du Lundi will be on sale

Réservation : www.assocfemmesdeurope.eu

Info : lukomska.malgorzata@gmail.com

All profits go to our humanitarian projects

La totalité des profits est dévolue à nos projets humanitaires

. Evénement future – Upcoming Event .



Presented by the Dutch Group with the highly appreciated support of the
Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Thursday, November 17th 2022

Manhattan Masters Frick Collection

Lecture by

Marie-Claire Valck Lucassen

Art Historian



The Frick Collection, housed in New York facing Central Park, is famous for the superior quality of its acquisitions. Ten spectacular Dutch masterpieces of the Frick Collection left The Netherlands more than a hundred years ago and are now for the first time exceptionally exhibited in the Mauritshuis, The Hague. © www.mauritshuis.nl

Marie-Claire Valck Lucassen is an Art Historian and Art Lecturer with broad knowledge and expertise, from 17th Century Dutch Masters to Modern and Contemporary Art. She is a guide in various museums in The Hague such as The Mauritshuis, The Kunstmuseum, Museum Voorlinden and the Clingenbosch sculpture garden in Wassenaar.

Location: Embassy of the Netherlands
Avenue de Cortenbergh 4-10, 1040 Brussels (Metro: Schuman)

Time: lecture 13:00 hrs. Drinks and sandwich lunch from 12:15 hrs

Entrance fee (lecture and sandwich lunch): € 29

Reservation: www.assocfemmesdeurope.eu/-our-events

Payment: to the Association's account: BE47 3100 7081 9180. Please mention your name, "Manhattan Masters" and number of tickets. Payment will confirm your participation.

Further info: Carien Italianer: 0496 477 803 carienitalianer@hotmail.com
Marjan Blok: 0497 255 842 mblok@scarlet.be

All profits will go to our humanitarian aid projects



SAVE THE DATE – RESERVEZ LA DATE

Sous le Haut Patronage de notre
Présidente d'Honneur Mariya Gabriel, Commissaire Européenne,
le Groupe Hongrois de l'Association Femmes d'Europe aisbl

vous convie à

UN GRAND CONCERT MOZART

Dimanche 11 DECEMBRE 2022 à 16h

avec l'Orchestre Symphonique de Nivelles
et les Chœurs de l'Union Européenne

à

l'Église Saint Jacques-sur-Coudenberg
Place Royale, Bruxelles

Au programme :

- Requiem
- Ouverture de La Flûte Enchantée
- Concerto pour Clarinette KV 622

Prix des places : Premium € 35 Standard € 25

La totalité des bénéfices est dévolue aux projets humanitaires de l'Association

Zwin in the summer: International airport for birds

During the past -usually quiet- summer months, Chantal, with Martine Valcke of the Multinational Group, decided to stir up the Femmes d' Europe. They managed to organise two walks in Belgium's pride: Knokke Le Zoute. Those interested were carpooled and it felt like going on a school trip!



The group of July 26th

The first walk took place on July 26th. We were hosted by Martine who lives in a lovely classic style villa in the Zoute. After a good welcome coffee, we started for a walk through the woods, in the dunes and on the beach. Surprisingly, we had some rain for a few minutes, a rare event this summer. It gave me the occasion to show off my rain wear, recently bought in Scotland but never needed because of the exceptionally dry weather this year!



The group of August 18th

At noon, back at the villa, we had a very pleasant lunch in the garden, kindly prepared by Nora, Chantal, Martine and her husband.

After lunch some of us decided to explore the Dijk as Knokke is a shopper's paradise! And we splashed

out on some delicious chocolate and *bokkepoetjes*, the local speciality.

The second walk, on August 18th, was a guided tour through the Zwin. Most Belgians have been to the Zwin on school trips many years ago. Since then, the Zwin has been extended by 120 hectares. Above that, a new dyke has been built that offers a spectacular view over the site.

The Zwin is a natural reserve that provides a secure haven to thousands of birds stopping here to pause during their long migration. We were accompanied by a very charming official guide. Not only did she explain birdlife but also talked extensively about the flora. Amazing how plants develop to be able to live in such a salty environment.



After the guided visit we lunched on the premises and did a repeat exploration of the Dijk. This time no chocolate nor *bokkepoetjes* but an enormous and delicious ice cream at the well-known Post. No more dinner needed that evening!!!

I managed to attend both events and had a great day both times. I would like to thank Martine and Chantal of the Multinational group for organising a Femmes d' Europe event even during the summer holidays! "

*Liesbeth Knulst
Dutch Group*

Irish Ambassador's Garden Party for Femmes d'Europe



The Irish Group enjoyed an interesting and very successful event on September 8th 2022. In order to help recruit new members to Femmes d'Europe, the Irish Ambassador Kevin Conmy and his distinguished wife, the poet and academic Dr Siobhán Campbell hosted a Garden Party at their residence.

The Ambassador invited the European Ombudsman, Ms Emily O'Reilly, to speak at the event. Ms O'Reilly eloquently recounted the projects funded by Femmes d'Europe. She mentioned how inspiring she found it that, at this difficult moment in the history of Europe and the world, women were working to help other women and children the world over. She felt that the world needs kindness, compassion and understanding right now and this is wonderfully demonstrated by the voluntary work of Femmes d'Europe.

Niovi Kyriazakou, our President, spoke about our Association as did Fiona Joyce, Vice-President Events. She mentioned the upcoming Irish Bridge Tournament on September 27th in Kraainem and, the sure-to-be fabulous,

Jacques Brel evening on October 4th in Waterloo.

Among the ladies present were members of the Irish Permanent Representation and the Irish semi-state agencies such as Tourism Ireland, The Industrial Development Authority (Irish agency which promotes inward investment) as well as ladies from the European Institutions, the Commission, Parliament and Council.

Other guests included E.U. Ambassadors and also Ambassadors from other countries.

During the event the Irish group got very positive feedback, from the seventy people present, about the wonderful welcome from the Ambassador and Dr Campbell and the work of Femmes d'Europe. Many women indicated a willingness to join Femmes d'Europe or to form a new group from their own country. (There are 23 national groups at present. Estonia and Finland have a joint group.)

Marian D. Conneely
Irish Group



22/09/08

Address at Irish Ambassador Residence
by Emily O'Reilly



Ambassador Conmy, honoured guests, members of the Association Femmes d'Europe,

I'd like to begin by thanking the Ambassador for the invitation to speak with you this evening and to congratulate the Association on the quiet, understated, but vital work it continues to do around the world.

I will shortly speak about the situation of women more generally in the EU, but I want first to remark upon the nature of the projects that the Association funds. And what is most striking to me about them is the acute sensibility they demonstrate in relation to the raw needs of the people that you support through them.

Your Association is obviously comprised of people who understand that even the smallest of thoughtful interventions can give comfort at times of financial or other kinds of personal stress.

Here in Brussels, you have provided kitchen equipment for a men's home shared with the homeless; a meeting room for female ex-prisoners and their children and an outdoor playground for vulnerable children. In Greece you renovated a shelter for Roma families; in Italy you provided IT equipment to support elderly people isolated through COVID; in the Lebanon you provided a mobile library for disadvantaged children; in Cameroon you built four toilets for girls in a rural school; in Senegal you refurbished a sewing workshop in a shelter for street children.

It is even possible to believe that the gifts you have given will have a resonance beyond their immediate usefulness to those who receive them. It is possible that the meeting room for female ex-prisoners and their children will alleviate feelings of hopelessness that some of those women must surely carry with them. It is possible that the necessary privacy given to the young girls in Cameroon through the provision of bathroom facilities will encourage them to stay in school and secure better lives for themselves and for their families. It is possible that the street children in Senegal may secure paid work in the future through the skills learnt at the sewing workshop. Those small seeds that you have planted through these projects may, over time, achieve great things for their recipients.

I should also say that I found some personal solace in

scrolling through the details of your work. It was a rather pleasant shock to be reminded of the abundant and selfless good that still exists in our troubled world. The loud and so-called populist voices that have dominated much of political and societal discourse in recent years rarely, if ever, remark upon kindness, upon love, upon the recognition of ourselves in the other, upon sacrifice for the sake of those others, indeed upon any of the values that are intrinsic to certain of the religions that they claim to be devotees of.

So please be assured that your work has great value; in the concrete support it gives to so many people, but also as a light in our current darkness, and I commend you for that.

The European Union has also been that beacon of hope for its citizens and in instances and in particular for its women citizens.

As an Irish woman, who entered the workplace in the early 1980s, I have always been acutely conscious of the role the Union played in securing my rights in that workplace. The laws that bound married women to the home, the laws that discriminated between men and women in relation to pay, those laws and others were abolished on our entry to the Union, not because my own Government wished to abolish them, but rather because the Union made it a condition of entry. The 1916 Proclamation of Irish independence which promised to give equal rights to all of its citizens realized that commitment only when we voted to subsume some parts of our sovereignty to the European Union almost six decades later.

I imagine that many European woman, both older and mainly younger than I, may have similar stories to tell. The Union, decoupled - to an extent - from the need to make messy local compromises to achieve or retain political power, could impose the concrete expression of the Union values of equal rights without risking defeat at the next local or national election. The additional sweetener of transformational levels of financial and economic support ensured that those values became lived rather than aspirational.

But the last few years, even the last few months, have taught us to take not a single part of that for granted and by that, I mean, stable political systems with

. Speech by Emily O'Reilly – European Ombudsman .

ingrained democratic values, respect for the rule of law, and a political class that unites rather than divides. We look at events in the United States we thought unimaginable, we see the rolling back of rights that many thought could never be touched. Elsewhere we see political leaders act with an impunity that is devastating to the democratic contract between those who govern and those who are governed.

My eldest child was born in April 1990. I thought at the time how lucky she was to be born in that year, at that time. I remember taking photographs of our TV screen when Nelson Mandela was released, the same year that Ireland elected its first female President. The Berlin Wall had fallen and – best of all - Ireland reached the quarter finals of the World Cup.

One month ago, that 1990 baby girl got married and how the world has changed in those three decades. I do not need to itemize those changes for those gathered here this evening but the screen shots of unfolding events, from Russia's invasion of Ukraine to the climate crisis and beyond are unlikely to feature in my daughter's wedding album.

But she is also a child of the European Union and has been from the moment she was born. Her life and life chances would have been unimaginable to her grandmothers' generation, even to large swathes of my own and Ireland's membership of the Union played an enormous, life defining, role in that. Her siblings have travelled and studied across the EU, roaming through Europe as unimpeded citizens of that Union and hopefully, in time, also contributing to its strengthening and to its resilience.

As European Ombudsman, I am, obviously, given the role, occasionally critical of the EU institutions. But I liken that criticism to that of a parent who sees their brightest, most responsible and talented child do something that undermines all of that. I live and work with a strong sense of the EU's vital role in the world, the upholder of values that are at times threatened, but without which we cannot possibly survive as we would wish to survive, with our rights and those of others respected, with confidence in the integrity of our political system, with the knowledge that only through selfless collaboration will problems which quite literally threaten our existence on this planet, be solved.

And as I speak to you here this evening, a place of privilege and where we as women in particular enjoy rights and freedoms unknown to previous generations, I would like us to reflect on another generation of women who also enjoyed their own moment of liberation not that long ago and for whom that moment

has now brutally ended. A few days ago, I read an account of an Afghan woman, Bushra Seddique, who escaped from Kabul with her young sister. Writing in The Atlantic Magazine she said, "The Taliban prevented my mother from getting an education the first time they were in power, in the '90s. Now they are back and doing the same to Asman (another sister who stayed). The Taliban have banned women from travelling without men, from participating in sports and the arts, from doing most jobs. When outside the home, they must cover themselves from head to toe."

That denial of the full humanity of women remains a battle still to be fought in many parts of the world and no longer just in the developing world. Your Association, in funding so many education projects for women, recognizes that as key to unlocking certain possibilities and freedoms. And in a world currently high on testosterone, that is absolutely vital.

Editor's note: Emily O'Reilly is the present European Ombudsman:

<https://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/emily-oreilly>

Projects Approved by the AB on September 22nd, 2022
Projets approuvés par l'OA du 22 septembre 2022

Projets Individuels (PI) – Sept. 2022 – Individual Projects

PI 35 – AUSTRIA – Wien

Furniture and workstations for counselling and coordination centre and new floor and tables for learning centre for migrant women / Meubles et matériel IT pour un centre de conseil et coordination, revêtement du sol et tables pour centre d'apprentissage pour femmes migrantes.

PI 36 – RDC – Lubumbashi

Achat d'équipement pour l'horticulture et équipement et matériel pour un atelier de couture pour une association de femmes / Purchase of horticultural equipment and furnishing a sewing workshop for a women's association

PI 37 – POLOGNE – Krakow

Renovation of Pregnancy Care Centre for Ukrainian refugees / Rénovation du Centre Prénatal pour des femmes réfugiées ukrainiennes.

PI 38 - CHILE – Valparaiso

Achat de 27 lits et matelas pour l'Orphelinat Padre Pienovi à Valparaiso / Purchase of 27 beds and mattresses for the Orphanage "Padre Pienovi" in Valparaiso

PI 39 – CHILE – Concepcion

Amélioration du patio couvert pour pouvoir l'utiliser par temps pluvieux / Repairs to covered patio to enable use during rainy period

[Some lovely comments from our beneficiaries:](#)

Belgique :

Ecole de Devoir -EDE - Je profite de ce mail pour vous remercier encore une fois pour votre soutien indispensable à la poursuite et au développement de nos activités essentielles avec nos apprenants ! La « fracture numérique » ne fait malheureusement que s'amplifier et elle nous conduit à réajuster nos propositions et accompagnements à notre public extrêmement exposé à celle-ci.

Portugal:

Refrigerator for Social kitchen After we had the refrigerator, we managed to have the food much more organised and we also managed to have greater storage capacity when we receive donations, which we would otherwise have to refuse.

We can say that it helped a lot in our work and helped us to fill a gap that, without this fund, would be impossible to achieve.

New Members – Nouvelles membres September 2022

Belgique :	Béatrice AMNAZO	Multinational :	Fernande DUCHENE
Italie :	Alma REPETTO	Irlande :	Marie QUINN
Danemark :	Lisbeth Zøfting -Larsen	Pays Bas :	Annette SCHULTE, Elisabeth Désirée ELIAS

Deadline for the NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER: 16th October 2022

Date limite pour le BULLETIN de NOVEMBRE : le 16 octobre 2022

Organe d'Administration (OA) – Administrative Body (AB)

Prochaines réunions - 2022 - Next meetings

Mercredi 19 octobre à 10h,
Vendredi 18 novembre à 12h30, Lundi 12 décembre à 10h

New Ticketing and Payment Platform

The Executive Bureau is pleased to announce that it has entered into a service agreement with Tickitizi, an on-line ticketing and payment platform for the organisation of some of the Association's forthcoming larger events, such as the Soirée Jacques Brel. The rationale is that registration and payment can be made directly on the Tickitizi platform and tickets with QR codes are issued directly by email. These tickets can be scanned at the entry to events, which reduces considerably the administrative burden for the groups organising the events as well as the Treasury function, which receives bulk payments from the Tickitizi platform at regular intervals.

It should also be noted that the Association's event organisers have a full view of the orders and payments on the Tickitizi platform at all times and that the registration data provided by the participants remains the property of the Association and cannot be used in any way by the Tickitizi platform. This service is being provided at cost (only recuperation of bank transaction charges) and we are benefitting from full pro bono training and technical assistance from the owner of the platform.

Femmes d'Europe en quelques chiffres

- 50 ans d'action auprès des plus fragiles
- 800 membres – toutes bénévoles
- 40 nationalités
- 23 groupes nationaux
- 80 projets financés chaque année
- € 350 000 collectés annuellement
- € 11 millions alloués à nos projets depuis 1976
- 3% de frais de fonctionnement

Femmes d'Europe s'engage

Femmes d'Europe s'engage à aider sur le terrain les plus vulnérables, principalement la femme et l'enfant.

Femmes d'Europe agit

Nos 80 projets annuels sont soigneusement sélectionnés pour leur impact immédiat dans les domaines de la santé, l'éducation, le bien-être et le renforcement de l'autonomie des personnes fragilisées.



Contre l'excision,
Guinée-Bissau



Musique et autisme,
Portugal



Bazar de Pâques en soutien à
l'Ukraine

Participez à nos événements

- Nos célèbres Bazars de Noël et de Pâques
- Nos brocantes et ventes de vêtements vintage
- Nos visites culturelles
- Nos concerts
- Nos conférences
- Nos tournois et nos ateliers

L'intégralité des bénéfices réalisés lors de ces événements est consacrée au financement de nos projets.



Bazar de Noël à Beaulieu



Gala Néerlandais, Introdans



Bloomsday à l'Ambassade d'Irlande



Concert du Groupe Hongrois

Nous vous invitons à consulter la rubrique « [Nos événements](#) »

Découvrez nos projets

Nous sommes fières des actions que nous menons ici en Belgique, en Europe et aux quatre coins du monde. Nous tentons de répondre aux besoins en matière d'installations et d'équipements médicaux et sanitaires, pédagogiques et informatiques, ainsi que de rénovation de centres communautaires et d'apprentissage.

Nous valorisons ainsi l'indépendance et le bien-être des femmes et des enfants en soutenant des projets de formation et en encourageant la création de micro-entreprises, d'ateliers et d'élevages.



École pour enfants de la rue, Guatemala



Distribution de tablettes, Espagne



Centre «Young Mum» Autriche



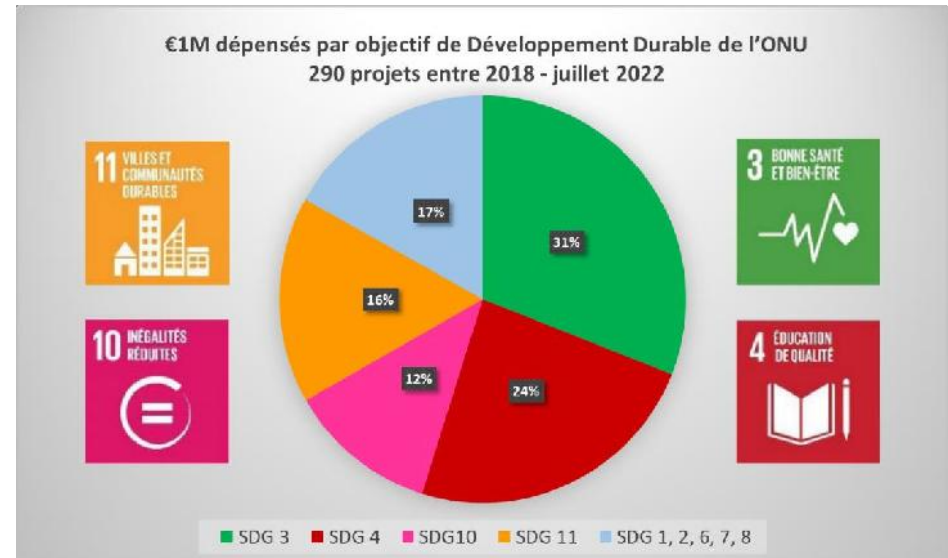
Centre pour migrants et réfugiés, Italie



Salle d'ordinateurs, Bulgarie

Nous vous invitons à consulter la rubrique « [Nos projets](#) »

Nous finançons des projets sur le terrain au sein de communautés rurales et urbaines. Soucieuses de l'environnement et du commerce équitable, nous adhérons aux objectifs de développement durable des Nations Unies.



L'exclusion et la pauvreté ne sont pas acceptables ? Rejoignez-nous !

En Belgique, ainsi que dans l'UE, une personne sur cinq vit encore sous le seuil de pauvreté et il faut plusieurs générations pour s'en sortir. Ailleurs, le bilan est bien pire. Si cela vous semble inadmissible, alors :

- Devenez membre de l'un de nos 23 groupes nationaux
- Participez à nos nombreux événements et faites rayonner nos actions autour de vous
- Utilisez votre créativité et votre enthousiasme à bon escient
- Faites un don

AGISSEZ !

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