



EPP WOMEN AIM TO ADVANCE WOMEN'S ROLE IN EUROPEAN POLITICS

*Speech of EPPW Secretary General Hillie van de Streek to the EPP Political Assembly
5 February 2010, Brussels*

Dear President Martens, dear Secretary General Lopez-Isturiz,

Thank you for inviting the EPP Women to present a report of our activities 2009 and present to you our aims for 2010. I will do this with pleasure.

For those delegates of the EPP Member Parties to the EPP Political Assembly that are new or do not know about the EPP Women yet, I will give a short introduction. The EPP Women is an association of the EPP. It brings together women from the women's organizations from all EPP Member Parties. From Spain to Poland, with congratulations to Civic Platform that in 2009 newly established a women's organization, that immediately joined our EPP Women! And from Norway to Turkey, with its AK Party Women, having observer status within the EPP Women.

At our annual Congresses, we normally welcome about 100 to 300 women from all our EPP Parties from all over Europe.

So, if your party does not have a women's organization yet, please do not hesitate to establish it! Thus we can further enforce the strength of our political family by incorporating women in all our political decision making processes in the EPP.

The EPP Women try to incorporate women from outside our EPP Parties as well. We have a joint cooperation with the European Union of Women (EUW), which is a large women's organization with NGO-status at the UN. The EUW attracts many non-political women from the Christian-democratic and conservative political specters, and thus we introduce these women into politics, which sometimes is a new area for them.

This brings me to our **first ambition**, which is *the advancement of women's political emancipation throughout Europe*.

In 2009 we organized a European Summer Academy for leading women of our Women's organization, during for 4 days and held in a seaside resort on Mallorca. This Summer Academy was meant as a kind of vocational training for leading women in our EPP Member

Parties about entering politics, learning about the EU and exchanging views on women related issues of political importance.

The Summer Academy of 2009 focused on the important issue of 'Women and the economic crisis'. What impact has the current crisis on women and girls? What needs to be done to ensure that gender perspectives are incorporated in policy responses to the crisis? We realized that the crisis affects men and women in a different way, and that a gendered understanding of the crisis is important to help finding an effective way out of the crisis. Like appointing more women at the highest levels of management.

At our annual Congress of October 2009, held in Bucharest, we specifically focused on political measures to be taken to deal with this economic crisis. We had excellent speakers as Ana Palacio, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain, and Sulfina Barbu, former Romanian Minister and President of the PD-L Women. Over 350 women, who adopted a joint Resolution, attended the congress.

This leads me to the **second main ambition** of the EPP Women: *effectively influencing EPP Politics*. All EPP Women Resolutions are submitted to the EPP Congresses. In 2009 we submitted two resolutions:

- At the EPP-Congress of Warsaw, on "The role of women in the integration of migrants into our societies". With this resolution we aimed at setting on the agenda the topic of the integration of migrants. This is an issue that has a high relevance in more and more EU countries.
- At the EPP-Congress of Bonn, on "Women and the economic crisis". Thus we aimed at raising awareness for the "gender dimension" in a phenomenon that many of us considered not to have any specific female or male aspects.

The EPP Women call upon all of you to discuss our EPP adopted Resolutions in your parties and in the women's organizations of your party!

Within the EPP, we look forward to actively participating in all EPP Working Groups. First of all, by doing so we aim to continue effectively influencing EPP Politics and to raise awareness for the gender dimension. Secondly, by participating within the EPP Working Groups we aim to improve the visibility of women within the EPP. We are convinced that that participation of the EPPW within the EPP Working Groups contributes to the quality of EPP Politics. Together we strengthen our political family and help making it a real European People's Party, where male and female members feel at home.

Dear President Martens, dear delegates,

I look forward to 2010, to cooperating with the new EPP Presidency, with new ambitions, new issues, and new Working Groups. Our plan of activities of EPP WOMEN is available yet, it is incorporated in the general agenda of the EPP.

We start with a meeting with two female Commissioners, ms. Reding and Ms. Vassiliou, on the 25th of March here in Brussels. Please encourage your women's organizations to join us in meeting the Commissioners!

Too, they are welcome to come to our other activities, which are: our Summer Academy in Mallorca from 23 to 26 July, and the Congress of the EPPW and EUW about “Women in conflict zones and situations”, that will be held in The Hague on 8 October 2010.

Thank you for your attention.

EPP WOMEN ACTIVITIES and MEETINGS 2010

Colloque: Meeting with female EC Commissioners of the EPP:

Ms. Malström on New Strategies for Women’s Equality 2010 – 2014

Ms. V.Reding on Citizenship and Communication 2010 - 2014

Thursday 25 March 2010, Brussels, 14.45 – 18.00 h.

Summer Academy, Mallorca

Thursday 22 July – Monday 26 July 2010

Issue: to be decided upon / Women in conflict zones and situations

Congress (EPPW + EUW)

4th EWA Congress, Friday 8 October 2010, 14.30 – 18.00 h. The Hague

Issue: ‘Women in Conflict Zones and Situations’

Meetings General Board:

Thursday 25 March 2010, 14.30 – 14.45 h. EP, Brussels (approval accounts 2009)

Friday 8 October 2010, 11.00 – 12.30 h., The Hague

Meetings Executive Board:

Monday 25 January 2010, 12.00 – 14.00, European Parliament, Brussels

Thursday 25 March, Brussels, 14.00 – 14.30 h., European Parliament, Brussels

Friday 23 July, Dubrovnik

Friday 8 October, 10.00 – 11.00 h., The Hague

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WOMEN WEBSITE - www.epp-women.org**