

# „Friendship unites – the European Inner Wheel Countries on the Move into the Future „

Minutes from the 13th European Meeting in Münster/Germany  
9th to 12th September 2019

Place of venue: H4-Hotel, Münster

Participants: 44 Inner Wheel members from 17 countries in Europe  
( Members of IIW Gov.Body, BD,PBD, NP,NR, PNR, DNR,PNP, CP)

Chair woman: Prof.Dr.Jutta Stender-Vorwachs, NR, Germany

Tuesday, 10th September, 9.00 – 17.30 Business Session

## 1.Welcome:

Jutta welcomed all participating guests very warmly.

A special welcome went to IIW President Phyllis Charter, IIW Constitution Chairman Corinne Dalleur and IIW Editor Kerstin Jonson.

After a brief outline of the beautiful conference venue Münster, Jutta turned to the organizers BD Margareta Margareta Momkvist, PBD Dr. Hildegund Scheipermeier and PNR Antje Steinrötter and thanked them for their support.

Margareta Momkvist also welcomed all the guests and gave short organizational hints.

At the same time she called for donations for „ Herzenswünsche“, an organization, that fulfils the wishes of seriously ill children.

Then our IIW President Phyllis thanked for invitation and organization. According to the motto „ Together we can „ she emphasized to use the connection between NP/NR, District, and Club.

Particular attention should be paid to carrying out the election procedures on the different levels properly (Club– District – NP/NR – IIW ).

She wished a good course of the meeting and promised to be available for questions together with Corinne and Kerstin.

## 2. Approval to the minutes of Stavanger

PBD Sissel Hoihjelle Michelsen made some statements on the minutes of Stavanger.

Then Jutta asked for approval.

The minutes were approved.

### 3. Introduction of European IW

The participating European Presidents/Representatives introduced their countries; they presented important facts of their work.

Since many topics overlapped, a summary of the descriptions is given below.

Membership development:

The number of IW members is declining in many European countries.

As a result, many clubs have been closed.

Very few clubs ( also 1 Europea Club ) have been founded last year, two are in the pipeline to be founded.

But there are also European countries ,in which the number of members remains constant or even grows.

It was agreed that young women will not join a club for a cup of coffee or a dinner:

Club-life must be renewed.

To attract new women who want to make a difference, the following factors should be considered:

- share ideas
- integration and mixture of old/young women
- joint actions ( fund-raising, hands-on-projects, work-shops etc. )
- one national IW meeting a year ( perhaps with an award )
- e-meetings
- transnational joint projects, interdistrict joint projects

Most important: Take care of democracy and transparency

### 4. NR Catherine Ineichen-Flueler introduced ideas/ problems / solutions in Switzerland

In her lecture Catherine addressed to following questions:

How to find new members ?

How to motivate women to take a duty ?

How can old and young women succeed in working together ?

She emphasized the following: The PRESIDENT is not the CLUB,

The CLUB ist the PRESIDENT !!!

The PPP is attached.

### 5. NR Prof.Dr.Jutta Stender-Vorwachs describes the role of IW in Europe within the global community of IW countries

Jutta addressed the different development of IW India and IW Europe and suggested working together to take up and develop the same ideas jointly.

The PPP is attached.

## 6. BD Margareta Wesslau ( Sweden ) introduced strategies to avoid disbandment

The topic, which affects many countries, was illustrated by examples from Sweden, Denmark and Norway.

The following factors could prevent a downward trend in the clubs:

- a. Attractive offers, because young women want to choose between the offers of different clubs
- b. E-clubs, meeting online
- c. Networking
- d. Encouragement in friendship to assume office
- e. Education ( training ) für members
- f. Handbook of tasks

The PPP is attached.

## 7. DNR Yianna Gravia-Kalyva ( Greece ) about „Women for Europe“

Yianna reported on this year`s „Women for Europe“ conference on Syros, an international meeting, that has been taking place annually since the founding of „Women for Europe“ in 2008.

Everyone can join it.

Topic example this year:

Living conditions for women in Europe with a special focus on migrant women.

The PPP is attached.

Directly afterwards PBD Dr.Hildegund Scheipermeier gave a short review of the history of the European Meeting.

Wednesday, 11th September, 8.30 – 17.00 Business Session

## 8. Editor IIW Kerstin Jonson: Introduction of her responsibilities

Kerstin reported about her tasks as the editor of IIW.

She asked to send her texts and pictures. She is planning to create a magazine / newspaper for the web to be published four times a year.

In this context she pointed out the use of the IIW Logo ( see topic “ Various Topics“ ).

She also asked for exact data on the number of members, clubs, and districts in each European country.

## 9. PNR Liv Elin Broberg ( Norway ) about friendship

The focus of her lecture was on the term of friendship. The keyword is PET ( Participating, Engagements, Trust )

The PPP is attached.

## 10. BD Gabriele Schrümpff (Austria): Relationship between Inner Wheel and Rotary

In contrast to India, where IW and Rotary have nice projects together, the cooperation in Europe is not good everywhere.

In part the relationship depends on the contact between DP and Governor.

According to her observation ,the relationship is less complicated when the Rotary President/Governor is a woman.

Gabriele gave some proposals to intensify the relationship:

- Events together with all service-clubs of a town
- Joint actions of Rotary and Inner Wheel to take advantage of synergies.

Finally Gabriele gave an overview of the national IW –structure in the European countries.

## 11. BD Dr.Yanislava Ilieva ( Bulgaria) introduced an extraordinary language project in favour of children

The language project`s title is:„ A different national project“

The project aims to encourage children to read more and to have fun while reading. Children can reach different levels through eager reading. Reaching the next higher level is awarded.

Several clubs are involved in this action; they work together but retain their autonomy in implementation.

The PPP is attached.

## 12. NP Ann Acaster ( GB & I ) reported on the Annual Association Conference

It took place in Cardiff / Wales this year. About 2000 guests ( IW-members from GB&I and international guests ) take part every year and spend three days for fellowship and fun.

The next conference will take place in  
Belfast, from 27th to 29th April 2020  
International IW members are invited !

The PPP is attached.

## 13. Various topics:

a. The accumulation of IIW offices in some countries was deplored.

b. Proposals / amendments for the next World Convention in Djaipur 2021. Three participating countries of the European Meeting presented their proposals. It was decided, to hold two e-meetings on the subject of proposals / amendments:

1st e-meeting: February 2020 ( organized by our Turkish friends )

2nd e-meeting: June 2020 ( its organization will be topic in February )

c. The term International Inner Wheel ( IIW ) may only be used by IIW !  
Attention with letterheads, flyers, banners etc. !

d. One country inquired about different roles / areas of responsibility of the NP and NR. Answer: First the national bye-laws should be used, otherwise the IIW Gov.Body is available for questions.

e. Contact between Clubs and IIW Headquarter: Questions etc. of the clubs to IIW should be asked through the district and NR/NP. Only if this does not work, a club can contact IIW Headquarters directly.

g. Some countries have problems in understanding the „ Headquarter-English“. IIW President Phyllis will ask the secretary to communicate as easy as possible to read.

## 14. PNR Sissy Avgerinou ( Greece ) : Invitation to the 14th European Meeting

The next European Meeting will be held on

Rhodes, from 10th to 13th September 2020

Sissy introduced „the most popular destination worldwide“ „ and a perfect place to combine European Meeting with the wonderful Island of Rhodes.

A short video about Rhodes with the title:“Journey of the light“ rounded off the invitation.

## 15. Closing words

At the end of the meeting Jutta once again thanked all participants and wished to keep in touch.

Special thanks went to Margareta, Hildegund and Antje, who had organized the meeting so excellently.

In her closing words IIWP Phyllis pointed out, that she has the vision , that IW will grow and continue.

Adopt, adapt and improve !

She thanked everyone for participation and wished to see many of us again.

Find her words in attachment .

Last, not least.....

The 13th European Meeting took place in Münster, a very nice town to have such a meeting and to spend a few days there.

The business sessions were followed by many discussions and lively conversations. Special high-lights were the visit to the Townhall of Münster and the Friedenssaal ((Hall of Peace ) and the visit to Haus Marck, owned by IW-Friend Baroness Ricarda von Diepenbroick Grüter and her family.

It remains to be mentioned, that on the final evening our European friends had a lot of fun listening to the German Inner Wheel Song first and then tuned into it strongly!

Münster, September 12th 2019

Prof.Dr.Jutta Stender-Vorwachs,NR  
Chair woman

Elisabeth Flötotto,PDP  
Secretary

