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Do visit our newly rebuilt website at www.epws.org and our news-page at www.epws.net

MESSAGE FROM THE EPWS PRESIDENT

Dear Readers, dear Friends of EPWS,

It's a pleasure for me to present the new EPWS Newsletter just before Christmas and the turn of the year. In my opinion, it has been a good year for EPWS and for the women in science issue. Our General Assembly in June 2011 during the Conference on "Training, Career and Mobility of Researchers in the Innovation Union" in Budapest with a special session on "Career paths and Mobility of Women Researchers" was a successful and inspiring event. Our special thanks go to Dora Groó, Hungarian Women in Science Association, who provided this opportunity for the Platform. At the European level there were some very interesting activities, although not every event has lived up to our expectations. Over all, however, things have developed in a positive manner.

EPWS is working on the important issue "Gender and Innovation" and is organizing a Lunch-Debate in the European Parliament hosted by Leonidas Donskis MEP on 31 January 2012 on "Towards a Gender Balanced Science Culture to Foster Innovation". You are all cordially invited.

In a few days, the Platform's new internet presence will go online; our webmaster, Yuri Sousa, is working on it and, on behalf of all readers, I would like to use this opportunity to thank him for his extensive work, which he does on an honorary basis.

In the light of the upcoming holidays, I would like to thank the many colleagues and friends of EPWS for their continuous support and send you my best wishes for a successful New Year 2012 to all of you.

Brigitte Mühlenbruch

EPWS President

Can you contribute to this EPWS benchmarking report?

Claudine Hermann, our Vice-President, obtained a contract for EPWS from the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research to write a benchmarking report on the ways that different EU member states are organised to answer European calls on gender in research or research on gender, or to integrate gender in their research groups' answers to European calls. This might be linked to National Contact Points.

Please can you provide any information about how your country is organised for this? Either send links to websites (in English, German or Italian), or a small explanation in English to [claudine.hermann\[at\]cegetel.net](mailto:claudine.hermann[at]cegetel.net)

Thank you!

Claudine Hermann, Vice-President of the EPWS, promoted to 3rd level of the Legion of Honour

On 8 June 2011 Professor Claudine Hermann, “*présidente d’honneur*” of The French association Femmes & Sciences, Vice-President of EPWS, received from the Minister of Education and Research, Valérie Pécresse, the ribbon of Commander of the Legion of Honour. The Legion of Honour is the highest French national decoration. It rewards the outstanding merit of citizens in all walks of life, regardless of social, economic or hereditary backgrounds. Commander is the highest class (2 dignités are above this).

The ceremony took place in Ministry of Higher Education and Research, in the presence of her family and many friends and acquaintances. Valérie Pécresse related Claudine’s path in warm and laudatory terms “World-famous scientist and outstanding professor” who cared enough to bring her scientific qualities to the service of society.



Claudine, after studying at the Ecole Normale Supérieure for girls (boys and girls were apart at that time), obtained her PhD in 1976. Then she followed her husband in the US, and her work was all the more appreciated there since she was unpaid! On return, in 1980 she obtained a position of Ecole Polytechnique with a salary of her own. In 1992 she was the first woman ever appointed professor in this *Grande Ecole*, which had been founded in 1794 and had accepted girls since 1972. In parallel to her teaching duties, Claudine pursued fundamental research with passion in the optics of solid domain. She was in practice up to 2006. During all these years, this professional commitment did not prevent her from being devoted to her family. Three sons... is there a link to Claudine’s engagement to the women cause?

For sure, Claudine champions the women cause in the scientific area with a boundless energy: In the association “Femmes & Sciences” which she founded in 2000; on many juries of prizes awarded for women or girls, and in European commitments. For all that Claudine Hermann has done in the past and is still doing today, the Minister concluded as the expression goes “*en vertu des pouvoirs qui nous sont conférés par le Président de la République, nous vous faisons Commandeur de l’Ordre de la Légion d’Honneur*”.

Then, with the gold cross suspended from a wide red ribbon around her neck, Claudine answered, addressing warm thanks to the Minister and audience. She expressed a few basic rules, which have always guided her:

- In professional environment as elsewhere, the personal and human aspects are essential,
- Demand for quality in all what we do is crucial,
- Fascinating job and personal life should go together,
- International contacts are invaluable sources of enrichment.

Late feminist, Claudine is now the inspiration of Women & Sciences in France. Progress is much too slow in this domain but she keeps on working – her actions encouraged by this distinction.

The ceremony closed with a fine buffet and the opportunity for more congratulations.



Marcelle Rey-Campagnolle

You are invited to a
**EPWS Lunch-Debate in the European
Parliament**
Brussels

31st January 2012 11.00 to 14.00 Room A5G1

**“Towards a
Gender Balanced Science Culture
to Foster Innovation”**

At the invitation of MEP Leonidas Donskis, of Lithuania, EPWS will hold a lunch-debate at the European Parliament in Brussels, on 31st January 2012, entitled “Towards a Gender Balanced Science Culture to Foster Innovation”.

Context

"Against a backdrop of rising societal concerns and lagging economic performance, in 2010 the European Union launched the Europe 2020 strategy to guide Europe's economic recovery and present an agenda towards becoming a more competitive, sustainable and inclusive economy. At the core of this strategy, the Innovation Union Flagship Initiative sets out how Europe will tackle the innovation emergency it is facing, through a strategic approach integrating research and innovation instruments and actors." (*Innovation Union Competitiveness report 2011*)

In these circumstances, the **European Platform of Women Scientists EPWS** stresses the significance of women's potential for contribution in science as an important way to reach these ambitious targets.

Aim

The aim of the debate is to inform **Members of the European Parliament**, officials from the European Commission, and representatives of other European and international organisations about the science culture in Europe and to put emphasis on the situation of women scientists. The debate should provide participants with up-to-date information on the current situation and give them tools and measures for a gender-balanced architecture of science culture to foster innovation. We hope that the conference will help to establish a dialogue that will allow women scientists to better contribute to European policy-making in the future. You will find the programme on page 5 of this newsletter.

We trust that you will find this debate interesting and hope that you will be able to attend this meeting between MEPs, policy-makers and European women scientists. Lively discussions with audience participation are expected.

Participation and registration

Participation is without costs but requires registration by means of the reply form on page 6 of this newsletter. If you would like to attend, your completed form should be returned to Claudine Hermann ([claudine.hermann\[at\]cegetel.net](mailto:claudine.hermann@cegetel.net)) not later than **January 20, 2012**.

Brigitte Mühlenbruch

EPWS Lunch-Debate in the European Parliament

Towards a Gender Balanced Science Culture to Foster Innovation

European Parliament, Brussels, January 31, 2012 from 11.00 till 14.00, Room A5G-1

Please send application forms (see p.6) to Claudine Hermann: [claudine.hermann\[at\]cegetel.net](mailto:claudine.hermann[at]cegetel.net).

Programme:

11.00 Opening

Welcome Address by Prof Dr Leonidas Donskis MEP

Current Policy Regarding Women in Science

Gilles Laroche, Head of the Unit Gender and Ethics,
European Commission DG Research and Innovation

11.25 Science Culture, Gender and Innovation

Dr Brigitte Mühlenbruch, EPWS President

11.40 Presentation of European Research Projects

GENDERA - Dr Dóra Groó, Hungary

GENISLAB - Dr Flavia Zucco, Italy

HELENA - Dr Yvonne Pourrat, France

INTEGER - Dr Anne Pépin, France

SHEMERA - Dr Maria Caprile, Spain

LYMOS - Prof Dr Dalia Satkovskiene, Lithuania

12.40 Lunch Break

13.10 Round Table Discussion

Ms Laima Andrikiene MEP, Lithuania

Ms Silvia Costa MEP, Italy

Ms Vicky Ford MEP, United Kingdom

Ms Edit Herczog MEP, Hungary

Ms Britta Thomsen MEP, Denmark

13.50 Conclusions

14.00 End

Chair: Dr Maren Jochimsen, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany

EPWS Lunch-Debate

Towards a Gender-Balanced Science Culture to Foster Innovation

European Parliament, Brussels, 31/1/2012 11.00-14.00

Registration Form

Please fill in electronically and send by e-mail to
[claudine.hermann\[at\]cegetel.net](mailto:claudine.hermann@cegetel.net)

before 20 January 2012

Name

Organisation

Telephone

E-mail

Would like to attend the lunch-debate.

Information required for your badge to enter the European Parliament:

Last name:

First Name:

Date of birth:

Nationality:

Type of Identity Card (e.g. passport):

Number of the Identity Card:

We look forward seeing you at the lunch-debate!

Claudine Hermann
Vice-President of EPWS

Report - EPWS General Assembly 2011

Budapest

28th June 2011

Executive Committee: President - Brigitte Mühlenbruch
Vice-President - Claudine Hermann
Treasurer - Patricia Lampens

Board of Administration: Silvana Badaloni, Sandra Berzina, Dora Groo, Liisa Husu, Ana Lobo, Ann Marks, Yasmin Robson, Dalia Satkovskiene



EPWS President, Vice-President and Maren Jochimsen at the GA.



The Board of Administration and colleagues

The General Assembly took place during the Conference on ‘Training, Career and Mobility of Researchers in the Innovation Union’, 28/29 June 2011 at the Hotel Ramada Plaza, Budapest.

The conference included a special afternoon session: Career Paths and Mobility of Women Researchers, Speakers were:

Dr Valéria Csépe, Deputy Secretary General, Hungarian Academy of Sciences,
Prof Fulvio Esposito, President of the ERA Steering Group on Human Resources and Mobility,
Dr Brigitte Mühlenbruch, President, European Platform of Women Scientists,
Gianna Avellis, Marie Curie Fellowship Assoc. and Prof. Francesca Bettio, University of Siena.

The session was chaired by Dr. Maren Jochimsen, Managing Director, Essen College of Gender Studies, University of Duisburg-Essen, and covered many issues associated with mobility for women researchers.

The Hungarian Parliament Building, Budapest, from across the Danube



EU Presidency Conference on “Training, Career and Mobility of Researchers in the Innovation Union”, Budapest, 28-29 June 2011

Press Conference, Budapest, 28 June 2011

Mobility in a Gender-Sensitive Scientific Culture

Dr Brigitte Mühlenbruch

Women scientists in Europe are significantly underrepresented in decision-making positions in universities, research institutions, and private and industrial research.

The so-called “scissors” diagram shows the “Proportion of women and men in a typical academic career, students and academic staff in the EU27, in 2002 and 2006” (*Source: European Commission, Women & Science: Latest Statistics and Indicators – She Figures 2009, Figure 3.1, p. 73*). According to this diagram, the number of professors, the highest grade/post at which research is normally conducted (grade A), in 2007 women account for only 19% of professors in average EU27; in Hungary the percentage of female professors is also 19%, in Germany and Denmark it is only 12%.

The reasons for this underrepresentation of women scientists and the obstacles women researchers face different from their male colleagues are manifold. They are also detrimental to achieving the European Research Area (ERA) and pushing forward the Innovation Union.

Gender equality policy in the field of women in science at European and at national level has come a long way since its inception end of the 1990s and considerable ground has been covered. Changes and achievements are to be found in many areas. They are impressive, but a lot has still to be done.

The European Platform of Women Scientists EPWS gives women scientists a voice in European research policy. The Platform represents the concerns, needs, ideas, aspirations and interests of European women scientists in all disciplines and at all stages of their career paths. Among the 190 members of the association, there are more than 120 networks and associations working towards gender equality in science and representing more than 12.000 women scientists all over Europe. EPWS coordinates support activities for women scientists to facilitate their active role in the European Research Area as researchers as well as participants in the European research policy debate in Europe.

Considering the achievement of a gender-sensitive scientific culture which provides equal opportunities for women and men researchers in Europe, the members of EPWS formulated a number of requirements for gender-balanced working conditions in the European Research Area as well as suggestions for measures to enhance the mobility of women researchers.

Press Conference, Budapest, 28 June 2011

Mobility in a Gender-Sensitive Scientific Culture continued - - -

Concerning the **requirements for gender-balanced working conditions in the European Research Area**, the following are the most prominent:

- *Security and predictability of scientific careers*
- *Open and transparent recruitment processes*
- *Equal pay*
- *Proactive acknowledgement of the social dimension of scientific recognition and achievement*
- *Fostering equal opportunities with respect to training, enhancement of skills and experiences*
- *Work life balance-sensitive mobility*

As regards measures **enhancing the mobility of women scientists**, the requests include:

- *Clear and comprehensive information on pension rights in security systems*
- *Attractive working conditions*
- *Enhanced opportunities for dual research couples*
- *Flexible duration of stays for scientists with caring responsibilities (e.g. increased possibilities for shorter term stays)*
- *Adequate child care-possibilities at scientific institutions*
- *Enhanced opportunities for family-take-along*

To successfully achieve the goals of the European Union, the Innovation Union needs to consciously and better integrate the potential of women scientists in the Union's research endeavour. When promoting mobility as one important aspect of the European Research Era, attention needs to be paid to actual and potential differences and inequalities in the situation of women and men in science. A gender-sensitive scientific culture and equal opportunities in research are a precondition to excellence in research and innovation and hence a key pillar of the Innovation Union.

Contact for further correspondence:

Dr Brigitte Mühlenbruch
President EPWS

[brigitte.muehlenbruch\[at\]epws.org](mailto:brigitte.muehlenbruch[at]epws.org)

NEWS FROM EPWS MEMBERS

EPL celebrates 25 years: European Physical Society President speaks out

Luisa Cifarelli was interviewed by Physics World. She discusses her views on European cooperation, technology transfer, women in physics and the World Year of Light.

Matin Durrani, the Editor of Physics World, celebrated 25 years of EPL (Euro Physics Letters – now called Euro Physics News) by travelling to Munich to interview Luisa Cifarelli, the President of the European Physical Society and the first woman to hold this role.

They discussed the situation for women in physics:

- *must be the men who solve the problem*
- *challenges make a career + family difficult*
- *quotas might help - - -*

Luisa also outlined her vision for a World Year of Light

You can listen to the interview if you go to <http://physicsworld.com/cws/article/multimedia/46327>

Femmes & Sciences Annual Colloquium Paris

8 October 2011

The annual colloquium of the French association Femmes & Sciences (Women and Science) took place on October 8th at the French National Library, Paris, on « Science by and for women in the society, yesterday and today ». It was an opportunity to listen to very successful women scientists (the former president of the nuclear company AREVA, the president of the National Agency for Research

and a founder of an innovative scientific SME) and to know more about some special women personalities from the past, like the self-made naturalist Jeanne Villepreux - Power (1794-1871) who demonstrated that the sea animal Argonaut was not a parasite or Angélique-Marguerite Le Boursier Du Coudray (1712-1792), who travelled through France for 25 years to educate midwives and invented a machine for her birth demonstrations (see photo). A fascinating session was devoted to the medical and juridical questions related to assisted reproduction and in particular oocyte donation.

(Note for non-biologists - an oocyte is an immature ovum.)



*The demonstration 'machine' used by
Angélique-Marguerite Du Coudray*

Claudine Hermann

UN and L'OREAL award winners announced

17 November 2011

"The United Nations and the cosmetics giant L'OREAL have announced the five women scientists who will receive their joint award for their advances in scientific research. The award, which is given out each year by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and L'OREAL,

honours five women from different regions of the world who are selected by an independent jury made up of eminent members of the global scientific community.



<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=40335&Cr=science&Cr1=>

We congratulate Frances Ashcroft from the United Kingdom who will receive the European award. Ms Ashcroft, who is a professor at the Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics at Oxford University, will be honoured for her work advancing the understanding of insulin secretion and of neonatal diabetes.

100th Anniversary of Marie Curie's 2nd Nobel Prize

Science, Innovation and Gender
Vilnius

November 2011

Dalia Satkovskiene was the main organizer of the Conference “Science, Innovation and Gender”, which took place at the Lithuanian Parliament in Vilnius in the framework of the 100th anniversary of Marie Curie’s second Nobel Prize. Several EPWS members presented contributions: Jocelyn Bell Burnell (the Institute of Physics, United Kingdom) gave a particularly pedagogical introduction to Pulsars (Pulsating Radiostars); Flavia Zucco (Donne e Scienza, Italy) evidenced “the Challenges for a Woman Biologist: Science, Ethics and Gender”; Jocelyn also presented the initiatives on “ Women in Science,

Technology, Engineering and Mathematics in Scotland”. In the session on “ Women Scientists’ Contributions on Attracting Young Generation to Science”, Claudine Hermann (Femmes & Sciences, France) indicated the actions of women scientists’ associations in this field and Paulina Mata (Amonet, Portugal) showed how “the Principles of Chemistry, Physics and Microbiology (can be found) in everyday life”, particularly in cooking. The final round table on “Sciences and High Technologies: Women’s Perspectives” was moderated by Flavia. This interesting and fruitful conference had permitted fruitful discussions from both Eastern and Western points of view.



Claudine is in front with Jocelyn and Dalia to the left. Paulina and Flavia are to her right.

Claudine Hermann

Institute of Physics awards

Payne-Gaposchkin Medal and Prize
awarded to Professor Yvonne Elsworth,

We congratulate Professor Yvonne Elsworth, University of Birmingham UK, on being awarded the Payne-Gaposchkin Medal and Prize. This major subject prize was awarded for the development of Helioseismology into a

unique quantitative tool probing the deep interior of the Sun, illuminating stellar structure and evolution and the solar neutrino problem.

We also congratulate Dr Giovanna Tinetti, of University College London, on being awarded the Moseley Medal and Prize, which is an Institute of Physics early career award. Dr Tinetti was received her award for her work, pioneering the use of infrared, primary transit spectroscopy to characterise the molecular composition of extra solar planets.

EYH conference in Geneva

12 November 2011

The 2nd Geneva Extending Your Horizons (EYH) Conference took place in November, this time at the University of Geneva. EYH is an International programme for girls aged 11 to 14, which promotes interest in scientific careers. About 250 young girls attended the event and had the opportunity to meet numerous women scientists who are keen to share their fascination for science and who providing a wide range of inspiring activities. The EPWS was represented by Paulina Mata and Ann Marks who ran workshops.

<http://www.expandingyourhorizons.org/conferences/geneva/>

Ann Marks

Institute of Physics Launches Carers' fund

This is a new fund to assist carers to attend Institute conferences. An initiative to copy? http://www.iop.org/policy/diversity/initiatives/carers/page_48989.html

WINGS

A faculty network at Lund University, Lund, Sweden.

Wings sent this photograph which arrived too late for the last issue of the newsletter.



Subscriptions

Remember - EPWS depends on membership fees to continue to exist.

The annual membership fees still are:

1. Full Members (120 €)
2. Associate Members (100 €)
3. Individual Supporting Members: Professor (30 €), Researcher (30 €), Student (no fee)

All membership fees for 2012 are due in January. Preferably these should be paid by bank transfer using the IBAN bank system. Please see the 'bank transfers' page on the EPWS website at www.epws.org.

Please contact me at membership@epws.org, if you have any problems regarding payment.

**Thank you,
Patricia Lampens, EPWS Treasurer**

Membership Application Form

Please **READ** all necessary documents on www.epws.org

Then send the details required on this form to membership@epws.org

Name of Association:
Name(s) and position(s) of the person(s) authorised to represent:
1.
2.
Address:
Telephone Number/ Fax Number:
E-mail:
Website:
Research Area(s) Covered:
Membership Type Requested (fee for 2008)
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Member (120 €)
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate Member (100 €)
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Supporting Member
Professor (30 €)
Researcher (30 €) (please specify)
Student (no fee) (please specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Organisation
Choice of Standing Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring the Policy Debate
<input type="checkbox"/> Gender Dimension in Science
<input type="checkbox"/> Promotion of Women Scientists
<input type="checkbox"/> Information and Public Relations
<input type="checkbox"/> Structural Reinforcement
Is your organisation/are you a member of any other network(s)?
I accept EPWS' Terms and Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> (online at www.epws.org)
Date, Place, Signature :

Your personal data are for EPWS internal use only and will not be transmitted to third parties.

EPWS Email Contacts:

General enquiries: info@epws.org (e.g. requests for speakers and general information)

Membership applications and membership issues: membership@epws.org

For financial support and/or offers of in-kind: membership@epws.org or use the 'donation' button on the EPWS website.

Notes from the Editor:

Dear Readers,

Please forward this newsletter to all who are interested in women in science issues as well as to those who might be like to join the EPWS as either networks or individuals.

EPWS members are invited to submit newsletter articles for future issues announcing or reporting news of their networks and the women in science events in their countries. Please send notes on any women in science related conference, event, calls, funding possibility, news etc. Mark the contributions 'for the attention of the EPWS newsletter editor' and send them to membership@epws.org. They may be submitted at any time.

Do visit the EPWS website at www.epws.org and the news pages at www.epws.net. Both websites have been rebuilt recently and are up-dated regularly.

Best regards,

Ann Marks
Member of the EPWS Board of Administration

Published by: EPWS
Rue d'Arlon 38, B-1000 Brussels
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References

Articles published in the EPWS Newsletter are based on articles featured in different EU publications and information portals, booklets, advertising, seminars, conferences, etc.

Articles in this issue have been submitted by the Board of Administration and the Executive Committee.

Articles are invited from members of the EPWS for future issues.

The EPWS is not responsible for the accuracy of the content.