

Founded 1964

NCW-Mara

Newsletter of the National Council of Women - Malta



Bird Park visit



Dr. Anna Spiteri with NCW Officials



Minister Dalli's visit to NCW Centre



NCW members with Madame Jianqun Wang, wife of the Chinese Ambassador to Malta



Hon. Minister Helena Dalli, DG Sanco Frans Verstraite, Irish Ambassador H.E. Jim Hennessy and Grace Attard ACR General Secretary



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of Women**

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Motto: "Do unto others as ye would
that they should do unto you."


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Women**

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Founded 1964

Il-Mara

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN - MALTA

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EDITORIAL

Dear Members and friends

As usual our newsletter is bursting with very interesting information. The highlight of this newsletter is the election of three Maltese female MEPs who will represent us and our country in the European Parliament. We are sure you that the middle pages will help you to get to know the first female MEPs and appreciate their enthusiasm to work towards the benefit of our country. We also had two very important visits at our centre by the Hon. Minister Helena Dalli and Madame Jianqun Wang, wife of the Chinese Ambassador to Malta.

The reports from ECICW and EESC will help us understand the valuable work done with our foreign counterparts.

We augur an enjoyable summer season and we hope you will find our newsletter very interesting.

Editorial Board

Courtesy visit to Finance Minister Prof. Edward Scicluna

The National Council of Women President Mary Gaerty and General Secretary Doris Bingley paid a courtesy visit to Finance Minister Prof. Edward Scicluna on Thursday 27th June, 2013. They discussed gender-related issues and the hurdles faced by women when it comes to participate in the labour market.

Among those issues discussed was the need for more extra-curricular activities after school hours so as to facilitate parents' working availability, as well as the cost of extra-curricular activities, which represent a prohibitive burden for those families already at risk of poverty.

In this regard, Finance Minister Prof. Edward Scicluna affirmed the new Government's commitment to encouraging greater female participation in the workforce, which is also one of Malta's Country Specific Recommendations, and one of the ways through which the new Government intends to generate additional economic growth.



**Congratulations to NCW Vice President & ACR
Executive Member Pauline Azzopardi on her new
role as representative of Civil Society on the MEUSAC
Core Group**

President's Message



Dear Colleagues and friends,

It seems that summer is well on the doorstep and already it feels like summer. The greenery in our countryside has quickly disappeared and a yellowish colour has taken over, adding to the brightness of the sun.

As always the Council has been active in several sectors, as you can see from the contents of the newsletter and one of these was a

Round table conference which I attended. I only managed the afternoon and I am sure I missed out, judging by the quality of the latter sessions. One topic raised was the contribution to the economy through more women entering the labour market. As always the question of childcare centres crops up, their cost and their availability. I thought of when I was young and school finished at four o'clock, which tallied with a full day's work, not so today, as parents or guardians must collect or wait for the children to arrive home, at noon, at half past one and around half two, unless they attend extracurricular activities at the same school. If not then there is more commuting to music, ballet lessons, sport and a hundred other activities. In reality it is not a woman's issue of being able to enter the labour market, but it is a family issue. What if the family cannot afford the music, ballet, sport and other curricular activities? Must these children miss out on developing talents that they might have?

I had missed out on another point which was however

raised by another delegate - the environmental impact and damage being caused by all this traffic and continual traffic jams, from noon till after seven when the shops close. No one has quantified the hours spent travelling, the fuel used, the emissions and the damage to our air quality, the stress and the time lost. Maybe we should look at the whole picture and take stock.

A solution would be to engage qualified persons who are no longer in the labour market, like retired personnel, thus touching another important issue, that of active ageing. There are so many things that can be done, just let's sit down, plan and act. So many benefits can be reaped. I am not excluding however that I might be missing both positive and negative aspects in all this. Please send your feedback; we would appreciate it, just an email or a letter if you prefer this.

I had meant to talk about other issues as well, especially about precarious and undeclared work. The country's coffers must be replenished if we are to partake of social benefits and the government's income through taxes and contributions must continue to grow, although not necessarily from the present contributors only. I might continue discussing this subject next time.

In the meantime dear friends, I wish you all a relaxed summer full of joy and happy hours (not the drinking ones!) with your loved ones. One bit of advice, please put on sunscreens, the sun can have its toll on us too!

Till the next time

Mary Gaerty
President

Donation of Gender Equality document by Dr Anna Spiteri for NCW Archives

Dr Anna Spiteri has kindly donated a set of Gender Equality documents, she has worked on in the past years. The documents will be of great benefit for students who are pursuing a career on Gender Equality.



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Conference on Food Safety - educating the consumer

A Conference on Food safety – educating the consumer was organised by the Association for Consumer Rights, Malta (ACR) in collaboration with the Embassy for Ireland to Malta on Saturday 18 May at Europa House, Valletta. The Conference was addressed by Hon Helena Dalli, Minister responsible for Consumer Affairs, European and local experts in food safety together with the contribution of the audience

Chair Grace Attard, ACR, General Secretary spoke about the importance of education and empowerment of consumers in matters concerning food safety. In Europe, and not least in Malta, the importance of building consumer confidence and protection is on the increase.

The need for Government and the Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority (MCCAA) to increase joint efforts in consumer education and protection was raised in the opening remarks of Stefan Xuereb, ACR President. NGOs working in the field of consumer protection need support to build a strong capacity to offer better services to citizens.

In a specifically prepared video message, EU Commissioner Borg responsible for Health and Consumer Affairs gave an overview of the important initiatives aimed at improving the health, safety and confidence of EU citizens. As policymakers giving a greater sense of empowerment to consumers would be the best system for food safety control.

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Hon Helena Dalli, addressed the conference and spoke about the European Year of Citizens 2013, which includes also consumer rights on goods and services. The National Strategy for Consumer Education is to be launched very soon. It will highlight policies to provide access to information and education for vulnerable groups like young children, the elderly and persons with disability. IT literacy is necessary for better access to information on food products as well as financially literacy to be able to budget, save, compare prices and report infringement to competent authorities. The Minister also made reference to the recommendations



Photo - DGI - Omar Camilleri

of the ACR to the MCCAA Public Consultation on the National Strategy for Consumer Education

From the EU perspective, Frans Verstraete, Head of Sector "Contaminants and residues of veterinary drugs" DG Sanco EU Commission stated that the EU has developed a system of the most sophisticated and comprehensive standards of food safety in the world. He emphasised that one cannot take the different segments of the agro food chain in isolation; 'The "farm to fork" approach, in food safety legislation covers all sectors of the food chain, from seeds and plants, to animal reproductive material, to feed production, primary production, food processing, storage, transport and retail sale'.

Mr Verstraete explained the Commission's public health priorities to promote healthier diets amongst EU citizens and the importance of nutrition programmes in schools including nutrition standards for school meals and the restriction of adverts for children on foods containing salts and sugars. A new legislation on food labelling aiming to ensure mandatory efficient and effective labelling is due in November 2014.

The Irish Ambassador to Malta H.E. Jim Hennessy gave an overview of the Irish Presidency priorities, one of which is strong measures to address issues concerning food safety

and the prevention of hazards. He also stated that in the next few years Malta will be entering a new golden age: the Valletta anniversary in 2016, the EU Presidency in 2017, for which the Maltese government is working within the trio presidency, and Valletta awarded the European City of Culture 2018.

Mr Raymond Ellard, Director Consumer Protection Division, Food Safety Authority, Ireland, stated that consumers' interests and consumer confidence were important for business and citizens alike. Today's strong global market advertising and global food brands can make it confusing for individuals to realistically make informed choices. He referred to the horse meat fraud which was found by a random sampling on meat as part of an EU programme of checking label information. Price pressure makes rogues change the type of meat, especially as beef is three times more expensive than horse meat. Luckily no toxic drugs, like phenylbutazone given as injections to horses, was found in the horse meat.

During the second session Flavia Zammit, Senior Scientist, MCCAA emphasised the need to ensure the authentic origin of food production. In her presentation, she dealt with what food labelling should really mean, the safety standards dealing with food contact materials and the true marketing of food supplements.

Doriette Agius and Charlene

Vassallo, Senior Officers - Nutrition-Health Promotion Department, gave a very effective presentation on a national strategy on helping children and adolescents develop healthy eating habits for life. Following a study on eating habits among boys and girls between 9 and 15, both officers presented the findings making recommendations on healthy eating habits during different parts of the day, highlighting the importance of fruit and vegetables consumption and breast feeding up to the six month stage with breast feeding supplementing food thereafter. Malta needs to reduce the percentages of overweight and obesity, as recommended by 2020 BMI decreases and eating habits improve. This reduces the silent killers of high blood pressure, cholesterol and diabetes.

Mr Hadrian Bonello from the Environment Directorate spoke about the Food Safety Week Campaign 'The

four Cs to food safety at home'. He highlighted healthy ways on: cleaning during food preparation; separating raw and cooked food to avoid cross contamination and keeping food covered in the fridge; cooking food

floor raised concerns on products bought on the internet and the effectiveness of current protection measures at national level. Other issues concerned handling of food in food outlets and the authenticity of take away food, control of GMOs, food labelling and the need for more education, information and empowerment at all ages

Concluding, ACR President, Stefan Xuereb stated that the Association for Consumer Rights, Malta (ACR) is committed to increase its initiatives for the protection, education and empowerment of the Maltese citizens.

For more information and application for membership, the ACR can be contacted on email: info@konsumatur.com or tel no: 21246982

Grace Attard,
ACR General Secretary



The Irish Ambassador to Malta with Minister Helena Dalli, Mr Raymond Ellard and ACR President and General Secretary

to a safe temperature to kill micro organisms and when reheating; and fast proper chilling (refrigerating) down to the correct temperature ie under 5°C in the fridge or minus 18°C in the freezer and effective thawing .

An exchange of views from the

The Hon. Minister Helena Dalli visits the National Council of Women

Social Dialogue Minister Helena Dalli met the Executive Committee of the National Council of Women and representatives of affiliated organisations at the NCW Centre. The Minister also met adult students that attend Mathematics, Maltese and computer course held at the centre and had an insight of the work carried out by the NCW toward social inclusion. She encouraged course participants to continue increasing their knowledge and further their academic qualifications for a better quality of life. During the

meeting the affiliated organisations gave a brief account of their work and future plans whilst the National council of Women executive committee discussed the 2013 resolutions. Subjects that were discussed included the need for more women to join the labour market, employers' incentives to promote the family, domestic violence, trafficking in human beings and pornography. The Minister was presented with 2013 Resolutions and a memento for the occasion by NCW President Mary Gaerty.



Minister Dalli with NCW President and Hon. General Secretary

Visit by Madame Jianqun Wang, Wife of the Chinese Ambassador to Malta

The Chinese Ambassador's wife visited the National Council of Women on Thursday 23rd May. She was welcomed by NCW President Mary Gaerty and had the opportunity to meet NCW Executive Committee and representatives of affiliated organisations. Madame Jianqun Wang was pleased to hear about the various work carried

out by NCW and the affiliated organisation. It was also very enlightening to listen to Madame Wang in her role of career diplomat and the achievements of her country with regards to gender equality.

Marie Demicoli
Chairperson Environment
Committee



Madame Jianqun Wang at NCW Centre

ECICW-CECIF General Assembly 11th-14th April 2013 The Hague, The Netherlands

The General Assembly started with a seminar on April 12th entitled 'Women as Powerful Agents of Change for Peace and Security' organised by the Dutch National Council of Women (Nederlandse Vrouwen Raad), the Defence Women's Network and the Platform for Women and Sustainable Peace at Frederik Kazerne, van der Burchlaan.

The introduction to the seminar was done by a representative of Wo=men, a Dutch gender platform. It is a network organisation which works to connect NGOs between themselves and with governmental institutions. The Dutch National Action Plan focuses on women in regions of conflict; it does not just focus on local men and women but works on an international level. Peace and reconciliation processes, protection of women's and girls' rights in conflict areas, and gender dimension of peace processes all arise from the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR1325).

The delegates present were welcomed by Anne M. Lay, president of the Defence Women Network. UN Resolution 1325 reaffirms the importance of women in humanitarian response.

Dieny Scheffer, president of the Netherlands Council of Women said that in the Netherlands, on paper women and men have equal rights but this is not so. Problems such as the gender pay gap, underrepresentation of women in management and politics, a high number of cases of domestic violence and high economic dependence still persist. Together with 15 other member organisation, NVR strives to enforce the legislation to eliminate these problems.

Sandra Lutchman, director of the foundation 'Talent naar de Top' (Talent to the Top) spoke of the position of women in The Netherlands and the importance of female leadership. Dutch organisations perceive men and women in managerial

positions in different ways. This is not the case, however, in voluntary organisations.

Talent to the Top was established about 5 years ago on the request of the Prime Minister of the Netherlands. The educational level of women is relatively high but this is not reflected at the top management of organisations. 4.6% of Dutch women have top managerial positions in stock exchange listed companies and an average of 10 – 13% in Dutch companies. 61 out of the 150 members of parliament are women while only 13% of university professors are females.

The image of the Netherlands is one of a very emancipated country; this is largely true but nevertheless, there is still a 17% gender pay gap. In times of crisis, we must ask organisations what is the norm – is it normal to have more men than women in the managerial positions of the company for example, and who decides what the norm is. Female leadership is a pitfall because women are notoriously known for wanting to tick all the right boxes when they apply for a job. Women are very good at teamwork but what we define as teamwork is different from what men define it as. Men think of their personal position in the team but women think of the team as a whole. It is the mindset of organisations and of men and women that will help us place more women in management.

There is a glass ceiling in women themselves apart from between themselves because we keep asking ourselves if we are good enough, if we are ready enough and if we are good mothers because we go out to work; we focus on skilled excellence and so we are holding ourselves and each other back.

The economic crisis has caused countries to become more inward looking. If gender diversity is not part of the focus, there will not be any sustainable success.

Most students in the Netherlands are leaving the country for better job opportunities and so it is becoming increasingly difficult to find skilled local workers.

Ted Strop-von Meijenfeldt, President of the Platform Women and Sustainable Peace said that the Dutch National action plan is different from others around the world because it deals with different strata of society. 300 years ago, the Peace Treaty of Utrecht was signed although it has never been celebrated up till now. The Treaty has been important for peace in Europe.

Most of the victims of wars are women and children. A few days ago, UNICEF published data showing that 80% of children in areas of conflict were documented as having been raped. UN resolution 1325 is as important nowadays therefore as it was in the 1980s when a lot of women were victims of rape in times of conflict.

The next speaker was Esther Van der Meulen-Van Dijk, senior policy officer at the Minister of Defence. Based on the second Dutch national action plan, the Dutch ministry of defence created its own action plan. The focus areas of this latter action plan include the incorporation of gender perspective and the inclusion of local women. These focus areas have already led to concrete results. It is still a struggle to implement but the situation has improved greatly. The fact that there are both a national action plan and a ministerial action plan gave a very good opportunity for the implementation of UN 1325.

Corina van der Laan, Head of Stability and Rule of Law Division of the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the ministry integrates UN 1325 in military exercises. They have trained a lot of people who take part in peace-keeping missions and this has helped

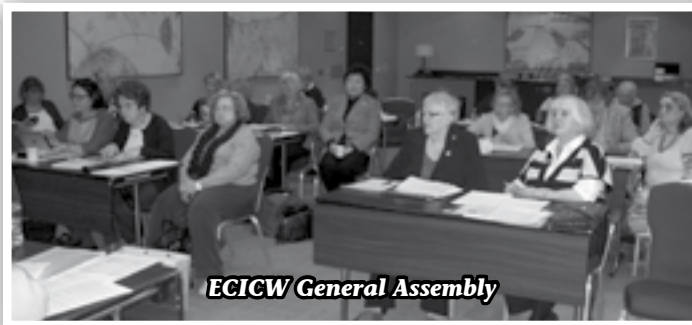


the building capacity in working on gender issues. The ministry has had a budget cut of 1 million Euros but the budget allotted to gender has remained untouched. The ministry is involved in a project for women on the frontline for women in the Arab Spring countries. This project helps women in these countries to set up organisations, learn how to manage funds, gain experience in running organisations, etc.

A discussion on good practices from focus countries then followed. The panel consisted of Sabra Bano, director of Gender Concerns International, Nicky de Zwaan, gender advisor IKV/Pax Christi and Annemarie Zaat, founder of Foundation Sundjata.

Gender Concerns International has worked on GEM Missions (Gender election monitoring) promote female leadership and inclusive governance within the framework on UNSCR 1325. GEM Missions document denounce any inequalities and discrimination against women that might prevent their political involvement and contribution to a new government.

Pax Christi started a project in South Sudan together with 5 other organisations and funded by the Dutch government. The project focused on capacity building of women's organisations, future and potential political leaders and to improve gender-sensitive enabling environments. To do this, it became clear that they did



not have to work only with women's organisations.

The second panel discussed good practices of diaspora. The members of this panel were Farida van Bommel, Women for Peace in the Moluccans, Stephanie Mbanzendor, Burundian Women for Peace and Development and Mekka Abdelgabar, VOND Darfur Women Organisations in the Netherlands.

Civil wars in the countries of origin of these women have affected their communities in the Netherlands. These women strive for peace building in their home countries. In Burundi, women were encouraged to vote and elect other women into power. These women would like to see war eliminated and means to find a solution to problems. Only dialogue is the way to solve the problem peacefully.

The ECICW General Assembly followed the next day with a whole day meeting where reports from Ukraine, the Netherlands, Malta, Great Britain, Spain, Monaco, France, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Israel, Germany, Austria and Russia were presented. Doris Bingley announced that as a European civil society organisation

the European Centre of the International Council of Women (ECICW) is a member of the European Year of Citizens 2013 Alliance. Doris Bingley was present in Brussels in January 2013 when ECICW was unanimously accepted as member and Angelika Hechts participated in the March meetings of EYCA.

Jung Sook Kim President of NCW Korea and ICW 1st Vice President presented the ICW Report on behalf of Cosima Schenk, ICW President, who could not attend this meeting. Jung Sook Kim who hosted the ICW Triennial in Seoul in September 2012 showed the assembled delegates a video of the events in Seoul which was much appreciated by those who could not go to Korea. Elisabeth Newman, ICW Vice-President, reported on the 57th CSW in New York with the theme: Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls". She highlighted on the success of ICW session which took place on 5th March at the Church Centre for the United Nations (CCUN) "Respect for Women & Girls: Equality for all. Christine Knock, ICW Vice-President, reported on ICW Committees and urged ECICW members to send the reports to her and Elisabeth as they need to disseminate the ideas and good practices to all ICW member countries. This is a way of networking and learning from one another. The meeting ended with an ECICW Statement.

At this meeting elections were held for a new ECICW Board. Doris Bingley (Malta), was re-elected for a second term of office as President of ECICW together with 3 Vice-Presidents: Anna Maria Castelfranchi Galleani (Italy); Marie - Jeanne Vidaillet-Peretti (France); Aviva Kohlman (Israel); Treasurer: Rosa Artigas (Spain); and General Secretary: Eleni Adam-Valassi (Greece).

The next ECICW GA will be held in Monaco between 16th and 21st October 2013.

**Doreen Micallef,
ECICW Malta Delegate**



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Congratulations to the newly elected Fem



Marlene Mizzi - MEP

Iwould first like to say what an honour and a privilege it is to represent my country in the European Parliament, as well as thank all those who have

entrusted me with this onerous, but prestigious role. It is also a satisfaction that I have been the first Maltese woman to be elected to the EP, as it is satisfying to see Malta finally have women MEPs.

MEP's main work and contributions are their participation on Committees and Parliamentary delegations.

The Committee I belong to is ECON - a committee which deals with economic and monetary affairs - of which I have also been appointed as Vice Chair. ECON is one of the most influential committees in the EP as it plays a key role in the work of the Parliament and is responsible for such matters as economic and monetary policies, taxation and competition policies free movement of capital, regulation of financial

services etc. This puts ECON at the centre of the Parliament's work on the current economic and financial crisis and gives ECON significant influence on the policy agenda in the EU and internationally.

Furthermore, ECON plays an important role in the introduction of EU law, because the Parliament is, together with the Council, the EU's co-legislator in most EU policy areas. EU law often determines the national laws and regulations in Member States, especially in financial services and, after the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, in the area of EU economic governance. This allows an ECON Members to shape EU law in these important areas of EU policy.

The other committee I sit on is ENVI - a committee which covers environmental policy and protection, including animal welfare, public health and food safety. As an animal lover, I am also a member of the Intragroup on Animal Welfare made up of MEPs from different countries.

As and MEP I also participate in delegations which oversee set geographical areas for their scrutiny and attention. The ACP- EU Joint Parliamentary assembly of which I am part, brings together elected

members from Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific and EU elected representatives whose work is directed towards promoting human rights and democracy such as : development policies, upgrading women's role in ACP countries, and promotion of trade as a developmental tool.

I also belong to the Committee of Women's Rights - one of the committees of the Euro -Med Parliamentary assembly which oversees counties in the Mediterranean.

It is my firm intention to utilise my year as a Euro-parliamentarian for the good of my country. Malta is a small island state on the periphery of Europe and as such it has its own problems and political / geographical situations. I am aware that laws, rules and regulations enacted in the EP cannot always be a one size fit all and it is my intention to oversee that what happens in the EU does not affect our citizens negatively. As full members of the EU, we are to ensure that all our rights as citizens are respected to the full; to face the challenges which arise and make the best use of the opportunities which a market of 5 million people offers to us all.

Claudette Abela Baldacchino - MEP

Nemmen f'Europa b'mudell soċjali li jagħraf l-interessi ta' kullhadd, mhux lanqas ta' dawk l-aktar vulnerabbli fis-soċjeta, mhux lanqas l-interessi tan-nisa daqskemm tal-irġiel. Dan esprimejt u fl-ewwel diskors tiegħi fil-Parlament Ewropew fi Strasburg, fejn sostnejt li wahda mill-prijoritajiet tiegħi fil-Parlament Ewropew ser tkun dik li l-proġett Ewropa Soċjali jipprova fuq nett tal-agenda ewropeja.

Qed ngħixu f'rejalta għida. Għalkemm personalment qatt ma hassejt il-fatt li jien mara bħala xi ostaklu fil-hidma politika tiegħi, ma nistax ninsa l-fatt li storikament jidher li f'pajjizna n-nisa sabuha xi ftit jew wisq bi tqila sabiex jippartecipaw fil-hidma politika.

F'dan il-kuntest ma nistax ma nsemmix nisa li tassew kienu fuq quddiem tal-hidma sabiex juru li n-nisa daqskemm l-irġiel kellhom rwol importanti x'jofru għal gid komuni.

Nisa bħal Agatha Barbara - l-ewwel Ministru, u sa llum l-uniku President tar-Repubblika mara; Mabel Strickland - l-ewwel kap ta' Partit Politiku mara; u Miriam Spiteri Debono - sa llum l-unika mara li serviet bħala Speaker tal-Kamra tar-Rappreżentanti.

Ma dawn matul is-snin ingħaqdu numru mdaqas ta' nisa li min b'mod u min b'iehor ikkontribwixxew sabiex igibu l-quddiem

l'għarfien fis-soċjeta tagħna li n-nisa setghu ukoll jinvolvu rwiehom b'success fil-hidma politika.

Il-hidma ta' dawn il-pijunieri wasslet sabiex mal-milja taz-zmien, ikun hemm bidla fil-mod li bih is-soċjeta tagħna thares lejn ir-rwol tan-nisa fis-soċjeta b'mod generali u fil-politika b'mod partikulari.

Għaliex tajjeb li nirriflettu li fost il-generazzjoni zagħżuġha illum huwa normali li mara jkollha karriera daqs ragel. Numru dejjem jikber ta' zagħżuġ, kemm nisa kif ukoll irġiel, jarawha bħala normali li n-nisa jkomplu jahdmu anki wara li jkollhom it-tfal.

Nemmen li l-ammont ta' tfajliet li ta' kull sena qedghin jigradwaw mill-Universita u l-Kulleġġi tagħna huwa nnifsu manifestazzjoni tal-bidla fil-mentalita. Bidla li għandha għal xhiex tqawwilna qalbna li fil-futur mhux daqstant il-bogħod anki fejn tidhol rappreżentanza politika il-partecipazzjoni femminili ser tikber u tissedda.

Aktar mhu ser naraw nisa jidhru fid-dinja tax-xogħol, partikularment f'rwoli ta' tmexxija, aktar ser ikun faċli għal generazzjonijiet futuri sabiex jikkunsidrawha bħala xi haga normali għan-nisa li jippartecipaw b'mod attiv fil-politika.

U f'dan ir-rigward, x'aktarx is-sena 2013

immarkat pass zghir izda, fil-fehma tiegħi, sinifikanti hafna. Qed ngħid dan għaliex illum, nofs id-delegazzjoni Maltija fil-Parlament Ewropew hija komposta minn politici nisa. Meta wiehed iqis li sa xahar ilu Malta kienet għadha qatt ma eleggiet Mara sabiex tirrappreżenta lil Poplu Malti u Għawdx i fil-Parlament Ewropew, dan huwa tassew rizzultat straordinarju li għandu jimlina b'kuragg li z-zminijiet tassew qedghin jinbidlu.

Fuq livell personali, huwa unur għaliġa li jien qed inkun wahda minn dan l-ewwel tim ta' politici femminili Maltin li sejin inkunu qedghin inwasslu l-vuci Maltija fil-Parlament Ewropew.

Inhares lejn din l-isfida b'kuragg. Ser inkunu, ahna wkoll b'xi mod, pijunieri li sejin inkunu, bil-hidma tagħna, nwasslu messagg importanti anki lil shabna Ewropej, messagg li l-politici Maltin, kemm nisa daqskemm irġiel, huma politici ddedikati, li minkejja c-cokon u l-limitazzjonijiet ta' pajjizna, jahdmu bi shieh sabiex ingibu l-quddiem l-interess tac-cittadini Maltin u Għawdxin fl-isfond tal-kuntest Ewropew.



Male Members of the European Parliament

Propju f'dan ir-rigward, matul ix-xhur li gejjin sejra nkun impenjata nahdem b'mod aktar profound fil-kumitat tal-Parlament Ewropew dwar is-suq intern. Inhoss li din ser tkun sfida tasewwew interessanti ghalieq nemmen jekk tasewwew irridu nwasslu l-quddiem politika socjali anki fil-kamp Ewropew, politika li twassal lejn il-kreazzjoni ta' ekonomija socjali, is-suq intern Ewropew jista' jservi tac-cavetta li tant ninhtieg.

F'dan ir-rigward ma nistax ma niftakarx fil-kliem tal-Ministru tal-Affarijiet Barranin Franciz, Robert Schuman, li permezz tad-dikjarazzjoni tiegħu tad-9 ta' Mejju 1950 li tat l-impetu mehtieg għat-twaqqif ta' dik li llum hija l-Unjoni Ewropeja, hares lejn l-għaqda ekonomika bħala essenzjali sabiex ikun hemm il-paci u l-prosperita bejn il-popli Ewropej.

Huwa propju minn din il-lenti li ser inkun qed niffoka l-hidma tiegħi matul ix-

xhur li gejjin. Nemmen li s-suq intern huwa opportunita kbira li għandna sabiex naraw li c-cittadini tagħna jimxu l-quddiem u jgħollu rashom mill-problemi enormi ta' natura ekonomika u socjali li jinsabu mifnija bihom.

Ma nistgħux ninsew li fl-Unjoni Ewropeja prezentement miljuni ta' persuni, speċjalment zghazagh, jinsabu bla xogħol. Miljuni oħra jinsabu f'impjegi, hafna drabi fuq bazi prekarja, bi dhul baxx li ma jippermettilhomx għixien dicenti għalihom u għal familjari tagħhom. Il-pjaga tal-faqar qedgħha kull ma tmur tgholli rasha.

Għalhekk inhoss li huwa fid-dmir tagħna li mill-Parlament Ewropew intennu l-hsieb li l-ekonomija u s-swieq qedgħin hemm għas-servizz tal-bniedem u mhux bil-kontra l-bniedem għas-servizz tas-swieq. Irridu naraw li l-mekkanizmi li għandna huma tali li jwasslu sabiex is-suq Ewropew ikun

wiehed illi fih investitur tasewwew jista' jhossu komdu li jinvesti għalieg aktar investiment igib miegħu aktar opportunitajiet ta' xogħol; aktar ma jkun hemm xogħol stabbli, aktar ser ikollna opportunitajiet ta' rigenerazzjoni fil-komunitajiet tagħna, b'rizultati positivi għal kulhadd.

Irridu nifmhu li l-burokrazija zejda tnaffar l-investiment. Hemm bzonn li anki ahna mill-Parlament Ewropew naraw li nikkonsolidaw u fejn nistgħu nissimplifikaw il-ligijiet u r-regolamenti Ewropej sabiex tasewwew l-Ewropa ssir atrajenti għall-investiment. Fl-istess waqt pero, irridu nizguraw li s-suq intern Ewropew ikun imsejjes fuq il-valur tas-solidarjeta fejn il-haddiema u l-konsumaturi jigu mogħtija d-dinjita li tisthoqilhom u fejn l-isfruttament isir xi haga tal-passat. Mingħajr dawn il-valuri, nemmen li s-socjeta tagħna ma tistax timxi l-quddiem.

Roberta Metsola Tedesco Triccas - MEP

I am a 34-year-old mother of three boys, Luca, Alec and Marc, and married to Ukko Metsola.

Professionally I am a lawyer and have specialised in European Law and Politics. I served as Malta's Legal and Judicial Cooperation Attaché within the Permanent Representation of Malta to the European Union from 2004 to 2012 before moving to become legal advisor to the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and then being elected as a member of the European Parliament in April 2013.

As a student, I was constantly involved in different student activities and organisations. During my time at the University of Malta, I formed part of SDM (Studenti Demokristjani Maltin), KNZ (The National Youth Council) and MZPN (Moviment Zghazagh Partit Nazzjonalista), before being elected as Secretary General of the European Democrat Students (EDS -the student branch of the European Peoples Party), as well as to posts within the European Youth Forum (YJF). In 2002, I was also elected vice-president of the Youth Convention on the Future of Europe, paving the way for me being closely involved in the negotiation of the Constitutional Treaty and, later, the Lisbon Treaty. These experiences helped shape my view on European politics and showed me first hand just how important the role of the European Parliament is.

I have also been constantly active within the Nationalist Party and ran as a candidate with the Party for the MEP elections in 2004 and again in 2009. Despite not being elected immediately, seeing thousands of people put their faith in me, was an overwhelming experience, and weighed heavily on my

decision to accept to replace Simon Busuttil when he took up his seat in Malta's national parliament.

Following the record number of ten women being elected to the Maltese parliament at the last general election, we now also have myself, Claudette and Marlene as MEPs, finally erasing the unenviable label of being the only EU Member State not to have female representatives in the European Parliament. The discussions on the lack or shortage of female representation now needs to shift and focus on what is needed in order for Malta to have the best representation possible, irrespective of gender.

I will focus on issues such as working conditions, flexitime, domestic violence, consumer affairs, victims rights, pensions, immigration, safety on the work place, security and others just as well as anyone else and you will find me at the forefront of these debates.

I am often asked whether politics is the place for a mother. It is. It is perhaps harder to balance different commitments and requires some forward planning and organisation. But, despite the obvious practical difficulties, and an excellent calendar application, my answer is always invariably yes. Of course it is not easy to be away from my family performing my parliamentary duties in Brussels, Strasbourg and Malta but I am determined to be a role model for my children and show them that if they believe in something and work hard enough for it they can achieve anything. Luckily my husband and I manage to balance our work and family responsibilities. But I recognise that not every job allows for this balance to exist can manage this and there are a number of concrete initiatives that we can take within

the European Parliament to address this and make it easier for families.

Within the European Parliament, I have been nominated to sit on four committees. The first Committee, the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee (LIBE), is responsible for the protection of citizens' rights, immigration, human rights and fundamental rights, as well as the establishment and development of an area of freedom, security and justice. The second Committee, the Committee on Organised Crime, Corruption and Money Laundering (CRIM), a special committee set up in March 2012, is responsible for the evaluation of the impact of organized crime, and to propose appropriate measures to enable the Union to counter these threats. The third Committee, the Petitions Committee (PETI), is delegated in dealing with the petitions put forward by Europe's citizens to the EP and is in charge of relations with Europe's Ombudsman. I am also a substitute member of the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee (IMCO), which is designed to coordinate legislation in the sphere of the internal market and to ensure free movement of goods, the right of establishment and the freedom to provide services.

As a Member of the European Parliament, I will work tirelessly to ensure that I am Malta's voice within the EP and that Malta gets the very best out of the EU and remains relevant by giving the very best back to the EU.



Engaging and Mobilizing men to end Violence against Women

The National Council of Women hosted a series of workshops focusing on “Engaging and Mobilizing Men to end Violence against Women”. The workshops were delivered by Mr Rus Funk, a long time activist for gender and sexual justice, who was brought over by the US Embassy in Malta. The series of eight workshops entitled:

- The Role of Lobbyists in Engaging Men
- Work on the Ground to end Domestic Violence
- Legal Responses to Sexual and Domestic Violence
- Policy’s Role in Combating Violence against Women



Mr Rus Funk during one of his sessions at NCW Centre

The National Council of Women hosted these sessions from Monday 22nd April and Thursday 26th April at its centre in Blata l-Bajda. All Agencies and NGOs working in the field of Domestic Violence participated. Mr Funk is the co-founder and executive Director of Menswork, an American non-profit organisation, which works to eliminate violence against women. These sessions created such an interest that a group of specialist is meeting regularly at NCW Centre to establish a similar network based on Menswork and the white ribbon movement, where the power of men and boys help to eliminate Domestic Violence.

Stop Trivialising Violence against Women

The National Council of Women, once again raises serious concerns on the case of violent sexual assault carried out on Ms Shanti Shresta Achami, (Sunday Times 9th June). The Council has for many years been publicly questioning Court sentences that unfortunately are not perceived as reflecting the seriousness of the crime of sexual assault or other cases of violence against women. NCW has also raised its concerns with Government on the need to speed up Court cases, as

very often the delays are resulting in further harassment on the victim and it is not the first time that the victim is killed. Moreover, what protection is the State offering to assaulted women, with the perpetrator free during the duration of the case or conditionally released? What guarantee of safety does this woman, doubly vulnerable, being a foreigner, has? How can she go on in her daily life, in the fear of being assaulted again as a result of her reporting to the police and taking the perpetrator to Court? We all know

from recent past cases that this has happened over and over again.

The Council strongly urges the Minister of Justice, the National Commission for Violence Against Women and not least the Police Force to take the necessary measures to concretely address these issues. It is time that we stop trivialising cases of violence against women!

Grace Attard
1st Vice President

Congratulations from the National Council of Women to the three newly appointed Commissioners



**NATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR THE FAMILY**
Commissioner:
Maria Dolores Camilleri



**COMMISSION ON
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**
Commissioner:
Dr Yana Micallef Stafrace



**NATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR THE PROMOTION
OF EQUALITY**
Commissioner: Renee Laiviera

Voting at 16

The government announced that voting for Local Council Elections will be open for 16 year olds. This issue is also being discussed at the European Youth Forum. Discussions were made as whether 16 year olds would be mature enough to hold such a responsibility.

We need to keep in mind that nowadays young people have access to the information of today's world. The introduction of voting at 16 would also mean a higher inclusion in society. This is a proposal which will enable youths to be more active in their locality and in politics. A 16 year old can legally go to work and start paying taxes and one could question whether he can then vote for the local council elections. Some localities already have youth local councils where youths meet, discuss and carry out different projects. This is a project carried out by Agenzija Zghazagh and Kunsill Nazzjonali Zghazagh (KNZ). Another interesting fact is that many youths were elected on the local councils and some of them are even mayors and deputy mayors.

It is also important that young people should be prepared for voting in the general elections. It would be also good that the importance of voting should be addressed in the secondary schools curriculum.

It is a satisfaction that there is consensus on this proposal. Both political parties wanted to introduce it before the general elections. Another satisfaction is that it will be soon introduced. Other questions which will come out is whether a 16 year old can also be a candidate for the local council elections and another question would be if 16 year olds should vote for the general elections too. In my opinion we should first look at what will happen when 16 year olds will vote for the local council elections.

A suggestion to youths is that even though politics may not in seem your field of interests, it affects your everyday life as well as your future. By taking interest and participating, youths can be at the forefront when it comes to setting policies that affect them.



An advice to all youths is to use their right to vote in a responsible manner. This is done by listening to every aspect regarding any political issue, analyzing what makes more sense and which of these reflects your reality. No change or can come about unless youths start taking on a more active role, and this starts by voting. Voting is a right and is a tool which we need to use it in the best way possible. Youth organizations should also take a responsibility in order to create awareness about the importance of voting in a mature way. I believe that youths have a lot to offer to society. Young people are the present and the future.

Isabelle Camilleri
Executive Committee Member

New presidency for the European Economic and Social Committee. Henri Malosse wants to put citizens at the heart of the public debate

Henri Malosse is kicking off a 2½-year tenure as head of the EU institution representing civil society. With the public increasingly at a loss to understand decisions taken by the European Union, the new president is determined to make the EESC once again a force to be reckoned with in the European debate. This is a priority, he believes, given the crisis Europe is now facing.

As he takes up office as the EESC's thirtieth president, Henri Malosse is keenly aware of the disconnect between Europe and its citizens, a fact again brought home by the Greek and Cyprus crises. Convinced that one of the answers lies in a rebalancing of forces in Brussels, he wants the European Union's second assembly to do more to embody people's real expectations in areas such as job creation, combating youth alienation, protection of savings

and access to health care.

"It is the role of the Committee, on behalf of the various interests that make up our society, to engage with the other institutions on their strategies and hold them to account. The public will only be able to put their trust in us again if we do this." Henri Malosse, EESC president

To this end, the EESC will step up its capacity to anticipate developments, open up its work and scrutinise EU policies.

A French member of the Committee since 1995 and elected president of its Employers' Group in 2006, Henri Malosse has authored more than fifty reports, including a highly critical analysis of the Bolkestein Directive. Pragmatic and committed, he has played an active role in EU policies to promote SMEs. He will be assisted by vice-presidents Jane Morrice, former



Vania Ivanova, EU Commission, EESC President Henri Malosse and Grace Attard, EESC member recalling their first meeting together in Malta in 2003 during the accession period

deputy-speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly and an EESC member since 2006, and Hans-Joachim Wilms, European Affairs Officer, Trade Union for Construction, Agriculture and the Environment (IG BAU) and a German EESC member since 1994.

Second Anna Lindh Forum - Marseille 4-7 April 2013



With more than 1500 civil society representatives from all the Euro-Med countries, the Anna Lindh Mediterranean Forum 2013 opened a space

for interaction, exchange and debate on the key issues related to intercultural dialogue and participatory citizenship.

The Forum was a unique gathering bringing together youth leaders and civil society organizations, in addition to influential policy-makers and intercultural experts from across the Euro-Mediterranean region. All national networks' members, as well as all other interested in this event, were able to follow and participate in the Forum through the ALF official social media channels, with the possibility to follow the Forum online, to engage in online exchange with others around Euro-Med area, as well as to participate in real-time debates with participants in Marseille.

The EESC President Stefan Nilsson gave a detailed overview of the role of the EESC with particular reference to the work carried out in the region and members present participated in the discussions on youth and women in particular. An EESC exhibition was also set up, highlighting Euomed initiatives

Anna Lindh Forum concludes announcing actions for renewed Euro-Med Partnership:

- The Anna Lindh Forum announced in the official closing session that partners will launch an Annual Week of the Mediterranean, where voices and joint actions of citizens, parliaments, local authorities and civil society will be shared.
- A sustainable action for Syria is on the way: The forum underlines that we cannot be citizens for the Mediterranean without being citizens for Syria and action is required to prepare civil society for after the conflict.
- Mobility as a key point in the relaunch of the Mediterranean partnership: Anna Lindh networks across the region agreed on the urgent need for ad-hoc visas for cultural leaders working across

the region.

- The application of the debates and exchange that took place during the forum will be immediate with the Anna Lindh Foundation, its Networks and programmes.

- We have underlined the importance of our work with citizenship education, with the very first Euro-Med handbook on teaching intercultural citizenship in schools.

- Citizens for Dialogue (www.dawrak.org), funded by the European Commission, was officially announced as an integral part of the Anna Lindh Foundation's activities over the next two years.

- In the cultural field, the Forum announced the launch of the Euro-Med translation programme, with the focus on reducing the gap of mutual perceptions: the New Anna Lindh Report on Intercultural Trends and Social Change; and the support for media reporting across cultures.

Grace Attard,
NCW EESC member

The Credit Crunch and shrinking savings: how to break the vicious circle to kick-start recovery

Low credit offerings lead to low consumption levels, which in turn cause the economy to stagnate. That is the key problem of the current economic crisis. The EU needs to respond and reverse the trend, but one question remains: how?

On 6 June 2013, the Various Interests Group of the European Economic and Social Committee held a conference to suggest possible ways out of the current vicious circle that is preventing businesses from starting up, operating and growing, and consumers from saving money securely and productively.

Listening to the wide range of stakeholders, SMEs, consumers, households, alternative financial institutions, liberal professions, cooperatives and organisations for the protection of the common interest, the EESC emphasizes that they call for the same things: more transparency, more assistance from sectorial organisations

with making the right investment choices, more education, new ways of interacting with financial institutions when asking for loans, new ways of obtaining credit and guarantees, new ways of investing money, while at the same time helping society to grow and preserving the environment.

Luca Jahier, President of the Various Interests Group, points out that "all these actors should be allies on a common platform, as ultimately they have a shared interest in a fairer and more secure credit system, geared to the main priorities of citizens, families and different forms of enterprise, such as liberal professions, SMEs and cooperatives, and in touch with everyday life and the real economy".

Stakeholders presented a number of best practices ranging from access to credit to restoring trust in financial markets and institutions: mutual guarantee funds, fiscal incentives,

crowd financing, project bonds, personalisation of creditworthiness assessment, financial education and sustainable investment funds. These and the many other existing best practices developed at European, national and local level should be put together, capitalised and maximised.

Trust, stability, security, profitability and competitiveness, accompanied by regulations already being put in place at European level and the alternative measures examined today, are the essential elements needed to kick-start recovery. A strong alliance of families, businesses, consumers and different types of entrepreneurs can help us break the vicious circle.

For more information, please contact:
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MIM Working Parents Forum

"Don't confuse having a career with having a life"

These are Hilary Clinton's words. They are very inspiring since parents end up stressed out to achieve work-life balance. Many end up teetering between giving up their career, giving their utmost to their family or postponing the decision until tomorrow. This has been the focus of the Working Parents Forum organised by the Institute of Management. Working parents, employers, trade unions and NGOs have come together to discuss the glitches faced by working parents who have other needs beside their working life.

The ideal scenario sets a smooth equilibrium between work and non-work duties. The perceptions of working time are based on the time dedicated for family and leisure, time-management. Many take instant decisions to leave the job for a more flexible thus the risk of draining talented people from the pool that is supposed to feed the firm's future success. It has been endorsed by all stakeholders that line managers should be the role models; they must be first and foremost trained to adapt to such flexibility, where this flexibility is reasonable in a given department. The new corporate social responsibility adopted by Maltese companies empowers employees to develop skills through community service, team-building activities and multi-tasking.

This will result in retention of the actual staff and therefore colleagues form strong personal ties amongst themselves.

It is evident that big companies are in a better situation to implement family-friendly measures when compared to small companies due to the bigger number of employees. Such measures should be made available to men to give them an opportunity to be part of the upbringing of their children, to have the opportunity to further their studies or to be able to practice their hobbies. It has become a positive trend for companies to obtain the equality mark for their support to working parents. Nowadays, ladies are starting their families at a later stage and the society is exerting a lot of pressure on them which is the result of the motherhood mandate in a family-centred culture. The relationship between the work-life balance and the performance at work contributes to smart and sustainable growth of our economy. Mothers left out from the workforce affect their pension contributions badly and thus have a socio-economic impact on the society at large.

The general mentality until a couple of years ago was that the man was the breadwinner of the household and the woman was in the majority a housewife. Though with the evolution of the childcare facilities on the island, women are more flexible and now they have the



opportunity to opt for reduced hours, telework or flexitime. Employers also benefit from these incentives – employees feel more motivated and take less sick leave. However, the economic crisis certainly comes into play with families feel they need dual income to get going whilst it is more difficult to convince employers to adopt certain family-friendly measures. These are normally agreed upon the collective agreement structure through trade unions.

Such a forum was a good platform for sharing best practices. Change is speeding up in today's hustle and bustle world though we have to be very realistic and accept that so far few companies have gone beyond the minimum provisions laid down by the labour legislation. To achieve not only balance but also peace, fulfillment, and happiness in your life, know yourself, take action, and maintain as much control over both work and home as possible. Talking of work-life blend rather than work-life balance is the best answer.

Stephanie Darmanin
Malta Girl Guides

Launch of the Gender Equality Index by EIGE

After three years of hard work, the first Gender Equality Index for the European Union, a measurement tool to support policy-making and to help setting political priorities, was launched by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) on 13 June 2013 at an event hosted by the Council's President.

This index provides scores for each Member State and presents an EU average in each of the following areas of gender equality: work (69%), money (68.9), knowledge (48.9),

time (38.8), power (38) and health (90.1). The areas of violence and intersecting inequalities were treated separately because of the current unavailability of comparable data. They should be developed in the next update of the index, expected for 2015.

EESC members participating in the discussion were Madi Sharma: Rapporteur of SOC/446 "Female Entrepreneurs", SOC/475 "Women on company boards" and Grace Attard: Co-rapporteur of SOC/471 "The gender dimension of the

Europe 2020 Strategy" and Judite Berkemeier SOC Section Secretariat

During the debate, Madi Sharma pointed out that she missed a reference the role of entrepreneurship since gender equality is definitively an economic issue, and Grace Attard asked what levels of high education regarding gender differences had been taken into account in the knowledge indicator. A Maltese delegation representing NCPE was also present.

ECICW - CECIF April 2013 STATEMENT

The member countries of the European Centre of the International Council of Women (ECICW/CECIF), a pan-European umbrella organisation working within the framework of the International Council of Women and with participative status at the Council of Europe, during the General Assembly 12 - 14th April 2013 in The Hague, participated in a seminar organised by *The Netherlands National Council of Women, Defence Women's Network and the Platform for Women and Sustainable Peace*.

The title of the Seminar was **'Women as Powerful Agents for Peace and Security'** and the central theme was the development of National Action Plans relative to UNSCR1325 which



covers three interrelated themes:

1. participation of women at all levels of decision making in conflict resolutions and peace building.
2. protection of women's and girls' rights
3. gender dimension of peace operations.

Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General/Deputy Executive Director, Acting Head of UN Women acknowledged the statement above and informed us that UN women has a mandate to support national and regional implementation of the Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security. From both UN policy division at headquarters and UN country and regional offices there is an involved in advocacy, awareness-raising and the provision of the technical support to national governments and regional international organizations to develop and implement a women, peace and security agenda, including through the development of national/regional action plan.

ECICW-CECIF examined these UNSCR1325 issues and expressed concern that more action should be taken by Governments

ECICW-CECIF calls upon all European Governments:

- (i) to develop National Action Plans relating to the implementation of UNSCR 1325.
- (ii) to stimulate co-operation between civil society, Government and knowledge institutions in work towards peace and reconciliation in conflict and post-conflict areas.
- (iii) to exchange experiences and good practice between countries and other agents in the field.
- (iv) to bear in mind the importance of involving women at all decision-making levels.

First European Citizens Summit

BOZAR, the Art Centre of Brussels was the scene of the first European Citizens' Summit, held on the 24th & 25th June 2013. Doris Bingley, President of ECICW and General Secretary of NCW participated. It was a unique gathering of European citizens and NGO representatives from all major civil society sectors. All were ready to discuss how to create a fairer, more socially-focused and sustainable future for Europe. The summit was organized by the Civil Society Contact Group (CSCG) and DEEEP.

The first ever Citizen's Summit brought together for the first time professionals, practitioners and activists from across the different sectors – culture, development, education, environment, health, human rights, social affairs and women's rights to discuss the future of Europe. The intention was to foster an open dialogue amongst a diverse group from across Europe in order to start a genuine participatory process on the future of the European Union, and what this means for people living within its borders. It was believed that by creating

a shared understanding and dialogue, all can help move forward common objectives for a common future.

The Summit was organised to coincide with the European Year for Citizens and the CSCG by gathering high level participants from international organisations, EU institutions, civil society, and other stakeholders was able to send a clear message to EU policy makers that there is a need to re-connect with the citizens by listening to them and by acting to take on their priorities and defend their interests.

At a time of economic and political uncertainties across our continent, the intention is to mark the first of a civil society parallel process to European Summits, which will lead to the development of side events to bring the priorities and concerns of citizens to the discussions by European decision-makers.

The Summit addressed directly the issues of the growing anti-EU, anti-integration, anti-immigration sentiment and debated that Europe needs to address the challenges and concerns facing



the women and men living in Europe. There was a participatory, democratic and dynamic debate and interactive participation.

It is hoped that this Citizens' Summit managed to convey the participants' voices and concerns into concrete urgent demands directed to EU Leaders. The different sectors talking about incomes, political and economic transparency, health care, discrimination and inequalities, real and lasting gender equality, environment sustainability, global trade and full respect of the citizens' rights are looking for solutions based and promoted by the Lisbon Treaty and the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

DIARY OF EVENTS

April

- 2nd Meeting at US Embassy to prepare for Rus Funk's visit.
- 3rd - 4th HAPI - Comparing Sexual Assault Interventions (COSAI) European Stakeholder Event in Brussels. Doris Bingley Participated
- 4th-7th Anna Lindh Forum Marseille ~Grace Attard attended
- 5th MCCA Seminar Conference entitled, "Għal Aktar Protezzjoni tal-Konsumatur" Marie Demicoli attended
EYCA meeting - Doris Bingley attended
- 7th Labour Migration and Mobility in the EU Grace Attard attended
- 8th-15th European Centre of the International Council of Women - General Assembly in The Hague. Doris Bingley ECICW President led the meeting. Doreen Micallef ECICW Delegate participated.
- 9th EEA & Norwegian Fund Launch for NGOs Marie Demicoli attended
- 10th Environment Committee Meeting
- 17th Executive Committee Meeting
MCVS members met with The Hon Minister Helena Dalli - Doris Bingley attended.
- 18th Say No! to Violence Preparation Meeting
MCESD CSC Meeting with new Chairman Mr John Bencini - Doris Bingley participated.
- 19th EU Funds Monitoring Meeting attended by Doris Bingley
- 20th Say No! to Violence Silent March and Dance Nadyanne Mangion and Tamara Gauci attended
- 22nd-25th Engaging & Mobilizing Men to End Violence against Women, all sessions conducted by Rus Funk brought over by the US Embassy. The workshops were organized by NCW Malta and held at NCW Centre
- 28th Partit Laburista Final Conference Mary Gaerty attended
- 29th High Tea on the Occasion of Workers Day at Verdala Palace, Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley attended
European Day for Solidarity between Generations
In-Nisa fil-Politika: Realtajiet Godda organized by Reggie Miller Foundation Mary Gaerty attended
- 30th BOV working breakfast attended by Doris Bingley
Intercultural Malta Stronger Communities, Better Cities Conference Mary Gaerty & Doris Bingley attended
Reception by The Prime Minister of Malta to celebrate the 9th Anniversary of Malta in Europe at

the Barrakka Gardens. Doris Bingley attended.

May

- 1st The Environment Committee organized a visit to the Bird Park
- 2nd Hon Minister Helena Dalli visits NCW centre
- 3rd Mary Gaerty, Grace Attard and Doris Bingley met Anna Spiteri in Senglea for the donation of gender equality documents presented by Anna Spiteri to NCW Malta.
- 4th Public Dialogue Cittadini Maltin/Cittadini Ewropea at the Auberge de Aragona. Mary Gaerty, Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli attended
- 7th Parents in Management Making diversity at the workplace a reality at villa Arrigo organized by MIM Doris Bingley and Stephanie Darmanin
- 9th Europe Day Celebrations organized by Mr. Bugelli and Dr Peter Agius Mary Gaerty, Doris Bingley and Grace Attard attended.
- 10th Grace Attard participated during a NET television discussion programme on the Rights of the Unborn Child
- 13th Meeting with Dr. Lara Dimitrijevic to discuss the follow up of Rus Funk's sessions on Engaging & Mobilizing Men to end Violence against women Doris Bingley and Grace Attard attended.
- 14th Executive Committee Meeting
- 16th MCESD CSC meeting attended by Doris Bingley
- 17th Mary Gaerty, Grace Attard & Doris Bingley met Dr Peter Agius to discuss the seminar on the participation of women in decision-making
- 19th Pretty Lisa Drama on Domestic Violence at the Manoel Theatre Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli attended
- 21st Meeting with the department for Lifelong Learning
ISO COPOLCO (Consumer Policy Committee)' Workshop held at the Excelsior Doris Bingley participated
- 22nd MEUSAC Consultation Meeting-European Commission Proposal for a regulation on fluorinated greenhouse gases. Therese Cassola attended
- 23rd Chinese Ambassador's wife Mrs Jane Wang visits NCW Centre
US Ambassador farewell reception in honour of Uma Gupta - Mary Gaerty
- 24th Enhancing Equal Rights Conference Mary Gaerty, Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli attended
- 29th MEUSAC consultation meeting Product Safety and Market Surveillance Package, Mary Gaerty, Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli attended.

30th The Tunisian Ambassador meets NCW President Mary Gaerty, Grace Attard and Doris Bingley at her residence.

31st MCCA Seminar entitled, "Buying with Confidence" Grace Attard, Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli attended.

June

- 3rd Business Breakfast The EU Budget: Deal or No Deal
- 4th Consultation with The Hon Minister Vella of Tourism & The Hon Dr Herrera of Culture at Castille. Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli attended
- 5th MEUSAC core group elections
NCPE Gender Balance in Decision Making Launch Conference Mary Gaerty, Doris Bingley and Marie Demicoli attended
MCESD CSC meeting with Stefano Mallia at EMCS Msida
- 9th Gheluq ta' Kunsill Generali PN, Mary Gaerty attended
- 12th Roundtable discussion on the 2013 Country Specific Recommendations for Malta. Doris Bingley & Mary Gaerty attended.
Russian National Day celebrations - Doris Bingley attended
- 13th Talk on Chinese Medicine at the Residence of H.E the Chinese Ambassador and Mrs Jane Wang. Ten NCW representatives attended
- 14th Rajt ma Rajtx Smajt ma Smajtx conference
MCVS SIS awards Doris Bingley attended
ACR meeting at NCW centre
- 17th Executive Committee Meeting
MCESD CSC meeting, Doris Bingley participated.
- 20th Anna Lindh Foundation network elections meeting Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley attended
- 21st Second meeting of the Rus Funk group held at NCW
Reception to celebrate the Queen's Birthday at the residence of H.E. Robert Luke and Mrs Luke. Mary Gaerty and Doris Bingley attended
- 23rd - 25th Doris Bingley in Brussels for the European Citizens Summit
- 25th Microsoft Innovation Centre- NGO connection Day Marie Demicoli attended
- 26th FTZ launch conference entitled, "How Tourism can capitalize on the Film Industry"
- 27th Meeting with Minister Marie Louise Coleiro Preca "Combat poverty and social exclusion with the participation of NGOs"

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sixties Night in aid of NCW Learning Centre

The National Council of Women is organising a sixties night at the Residence of President Mary Gaerty at Ta' Nadur Limits of Rabat on **Friday 23rd August 2013 at 7.30pm**. Tickets for 30 euro can be purchased from NCW Office. The swinging 60's takes you back to the Beatles, Hippies etc. This event is sure to bring memories back! Between **dinner courses** the DJ will continue the fun as guests take part in the Sixties **Trivia Quiz**. Once the music kicks in guests will be transported back to the time when disco and punk filled the airwaves.

BMV Music Competition

The National Council of Women Music Competition would like to announce the 14th edition of the BMV Music Competition, which is open to young performers who reside in Malta and who will be below the age of 22 on December 31, 2013 and who play one of the following instruments: pianoforte, violin, viola, violoncello and double bass. **The first prize is a short summer course abroad** (All expenses paid) **Second prize is Four Hundred euro**. Full details as well as

regulations and application forms may be downloaded from www.ncwmalta.com <<http://www.ncwmalta.com>>

Closing date has been extended to 31st July 2013.

A talk entitled, "Keeping your Brain Healthy"

On the Occasion of the World Alzheimer's Month September 2013, the Health Committee of the National Council of Women is presenting:

Speaker: Dr Carmelo Aquilina

Senior Lecturer University of Sydney and Director of Specialist Mental Health Services for Older People, Western Sydney NSW

Date: Monday 7th October 2013

Venue: NCW Centre Blata l-Bajda

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Language English and Maltese

Please phone to book a place

Price: €3.00 Includes refreshments

Courses at NCW

Those that would like to attend courses at the National Council of Women Centre during the next scholastic year kindly contact NCW office for further information.

For booking and further details please contact the office on
21248881 or 21246982 between 9.30am and 2.30pm
or email ncwmalta@camline.net.mt

HSBC

