

News Line 13

October 2000

The President of the EU Economic and Social Committee, Beatrice Rangoni Machiavelli, Italy, is awarded the international prize "Woman who makes a difference".

On 28 October, during the International Women's Forum annual conference, "the Woman who makes a difference" prize will be awarded, at a special ceremony, to Beatrice Rangoni Machiavelli, President of the Economic and Social Committee.

The International Women's Forum (IWF) is highly considered in the United States and its famous members include Hilary Clinton, Madeleine Albright, Sandra Day O'Connor, Supreme Court Judge, Coretta King, widow of Martin Luther King and human rights activist, the feminist Betty Friedan and Katharine Graham, editor of the Washington Post.

Every year the IWF awards prizes to women who have achieved outstanding positions in their area of activity. This award is given to women active in all sectors whose qualities are universally appreciated at professional level and officially recognised, so that they can serve as example to women all over the world.

Beatrice Rangoni Machiavelli was selected on account of her dedication to the cause of improving the condition of women, she has consistently held high profile in the campaign for human and civil rights at national, European and international level throughout her political career, and in her current post as President of the European ESC.

A Women's Global Communication Network

The media network, Women Action 2000, was set up by the International Women's Tribune in preparation for Beijing plus Five. During Beijing plus Five, Women Action activities included two daily newspapers, which were downloaded regionally for national distribution. INLW members may want to check NAWO@yahoo.com for update.

Obituary Willy Stigter-Gonggryp- Netherlands

Willy Stigter died on 10 July 2000. She was an enthusiastic and constructive member of ILNW from its inception and we shall miss her guidance and support.

On leaving school in World War II, Willy worked for the Resistance movement finding safe home for Jewish children. For this, she was imprisoned in March 1944.

She married in 1951. Her husband's job took them abroad until 1965. During their time in Nigeria, she worked for the Red Cross and joined the Board of a women's organisation.

Back in the Netherlands, she served from 1979 to 1985 on the National Board of the

Women's Organisation of VVD. She chaired the Council's Committee on Equal opportunities. She worked on preparation for the 1995 Beijing Conference which she attended on behalf of VVD Women's Organisations.

In 1998 Willy received the Royal Order of Orange Nassau and in 1999 the VVD Women's Organisation's Margreet Kamp medal in recognition of her works for women.

Lithuanian elections

Congratulations to Janina Zukeine, who stood for Parliament in the Lithuanian elections. The elections were held on October 8th. Janina says that women are not well represented in any of the Lithuania's 36 parties, but she has managed to get a group of Liberal women to a meeting.

Management Board Nomination for INLW Patron Mrs Annette Lu, Vice President, Taiwan Republic of China

INLW is honoured that Mrs Lu has accepted the Management Board's proposal to nominate her to become our fourth Patron. Mrs Lu came from a poor rural background to achieve a distinguished career and qualify as a lawyer.

She has campaigned all her adult life for democracy and women's rights and was arrested in 1987 by the Kuomintang (KMT) for a speech upholding human rights. She was imprisoned and served 5 1/2 years of a 12- year sentence. In 1991, she established the National Organisation for Women in Taiwan to encourage women's advancement in politics and the professions. President Chen Shui-Bian chose Mrs Lu as his running mate in the elections this spring, in recognition of her qualities and of the Democratic Progressive Party's commitment to gender equality and belief that democracy is inextricably linked to equal rights for women.

On March 18 the DPP won a famous victory, overthrowing fifty years of KMT rule. Mrs Lu' agenda as Vice President includes the alleviation of women's domestic burdens and reducing domestic violence.

Joaquima Alemany, represented Liberal International at the 53rd Annual Conference of Non Governmental Organisations in New York.

Joaquima Alemany, Member of the Catalan Parliament and an active member of INLW, attended the conference. The conference was held on 28, 29 and 30 August 2000 under the title of "Global solidarity: The way to Peace and International Cooperation" The encounter dealt with the new millennium and the challenges for all the peoples of the world, as well that ways in which the United Nations can provide help to confront them.

The UN must be adapted to meet the challenges of the new millennium: the role of state power, sexual inequality and the North-South debate. Globalisation attracts positive energies and presents an opportunity for achieving a healthier society and a more efficient economy permitting sustainable growth. We need more co-operation between the voluntary sector, representatives of civil society and the authorities to tackle the changes required to resolve outstanding issues. We also need to realise that a new, important approach is called for, which understands that people are not merely beneficiaries of public policy, but must be consulted and heeded as part of this design process, This empowerment of society is gaining ever more ground against an era of fixed dogmas whose time has come to an end.

(extract from the report presented by Mrs Alemany, the complete report can be obtained by asking INLW's Secretary General to send a copy)