News Line 18
February 2004

Here we are again, late! But with a lot of news since last May.

Unfortunately we have to announce that Eve de Roo van Alderwerelt-Hoog has died in peace on 21 December 2003, a great loss for INLW where since the beginning in 1997 she served as treasurer until October 2003. She was a passionate person interested in politics and liberal principles and to whom we are grateful for her dedication to our organisation.

First of all news from our proper organisation INLW

INLW CASABLANCA MEETING MARCH 2003
was to meet Moroccan women at a scheduled time, but the Secretary General's flight was late and unfortunately although everything was arranged by L.I. this meeting did not take place.

L.I. awarded the Freedom Prize to Maître Abdoulaye Wade, president of the Republic of Senegal, on which occasion he pronounced a memorable speech on Islam and Occident.

INLW Secretary General J.Alemany reported to the Executive Meeting the set-up of INLW website and electronic mail and the recommendation to be granted Special consultative status from ECOSOC U.N. She also took part in the deliberation of the Iraqi Urgency Resolution.

INLW DAKAR GENERAL MEETING 23 OCTOBER 2003
The meeting was scheduled within the 52 Congress of L.I. and took place in the amphitheatre of the Méridien President Hotel where we felt comfortable for our deliberation and where we chose our new Management Board.

Chair Joaquima Alemany Roca Catalonia/Spain
Vice Chair Jeannine de Boccard / Switzerland
Secretary General Margaret barones de Vos van Steenwijk / The Netherlands
Treasurer Joana Flores / Andorra
Members Anália de Vitória Pereira/ Angola, Marina Lessard/ Canada, Yi-Jin Yeh/ Taiwán.

In Dakar was arranged already a **MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING** to fix the measures for a good coordination between Board members. Special gratitude went to the address of former Chair Mobina Jaffer who could not attend the General Meeting and also to former Treasurer Eve de Roo van Alderwerelt-Hoog and to former Vice Chair Dahlia Sommer.

INLW MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING 23-24 JANUARY 2004 BARCELONA fixed already in Dakar. Administrative matters and internal communication network essential for a effective Management Board who wants really to assist the members of our organisation in the future with good information and other sort of help were on the agenda, as well as a good introduction to INLW history.

U.N. NEWS
You might know that since the beginning of INLW effort have been done to obtain consultative status with Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, by Elizabeth Sidney, Marie Thérèse Bianchi, Jeannine de Boccard and Joaquima Alemany. Finally last April 2003 the International Network of Liberal Women was granted officially Special consultative status from ECOSOC which enables us to participate in all kind of commissions.
e-mail contact at: www.un.org/esa/

47th Commission on Status of Women 3-14 March 2004 New York, was attended by Joaquima Alemany Roca Secretary General INLW, Jeannine de Boccard member INLW and M.Carmen Solsona member INLW and which focussed on:

- Participation and access of women to the media and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women.
- Women's human rights and elimination of violence against women and girls as defined in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special

sessions of the General Assembly.

For more information: www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cws/47sess.htm

U.N. DPI/NGO's 56th Conference on" Human Security and Dignity, fulfilling the promise of the United Nations" held in New York September 2003, was attended by Joaquima Alemany, Secretary General INLW and M. Carmen Solsona member INLW. The message to the 56th annual DPI/NGO Conference by Secretary General of U.N. Mr. KOFI ANNAN , stressed that universal human securities is at the heart of the Millennium Development Goals, embraced by all Member States as a blueprint for building a better world in the twenty-first century.

The traditional concept of security, viewed in national and military terms, are tied more to relations between States than among people. However, true human security, as defined by a report of the Commission on Human Security, is the aspiration of people seeking well-being and dignity in their daily lives, which means simply meeting basic human needs and ensuring vital freedom.

The plenary sessions focussed on five points:

- Psychological synergies ensuring security and human dignity
- Education as a pillar for the future
- Empowerment of groups to overcome oppression
- Sustainable solutions for the environment
- Best practices, effective partnerships, challenges and possible roles of international community and civil society in this vital process.

To notice the important role of women in this processes; they transmit culture and are benefiting education and are promoters of peace-making.
For more information contact www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/index.asp
Submitted by Joaquima Alemany

On the other hand Jeannine de Boccard as representative of international relations, assisted to the **substantive session of ECOSOC at Geneva in July 2003 on the issue "Promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development"**.

After a twenty years hiatus, farming and rural life are regaining global attention.
For too long a period the basic conditions of rural live and the agriculture has been put aside to the benefit of urban policies and rural areas did continue to decline towards absolute poverty and women were specially hit by those bad conditions of life. Moreover natural disasters, low wages offered by big companies also have aggravated the situation. Given that the majority of the world's poor, among them women being the poorest, live and work in rural areas, government policies should focus on the improvement of the quality of services, economic as well as social, in order to implement the millennium goal of reducing poverty. A certain number of resolutions were adopted during the session towards the **promotion of decent rural jobs, waged agricultural employment, safety, access to training and women's access to land and credit**.

On 10 -12 December 2003 Mme de Boccard also assisted to the **Preparatory Session for the Summit on the Information Society held at Geneva**.
The idea to hold a Summit related to the emerging information society was first raised during the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Communication Union IUT and later was endorsed by the UN General Assembly Resolution 56/83.
The International Union of Telecommunication IUT is in charge to put up this Summit in Tunis in 2005.
The guiding principles are:

- Ensure goals of UN as to considering human ethical and social dimension.
- Communication as human rights includes freedom of expression, information and right of privacy.
- Improvement of economic models implies discussion on key issues such as intellectual property.

- Governance, as one of the thematic areas includes the enhancement of democratic progress at all levels.
- Community controlled information infrastructure should be a priority.
- Variety of new and traditional information and communication technologies and media should be included in all discussions.
- Social appropriation of ICT issues trough broad based education and knowledge exchange.

Women NGO's insisted on the terms of equality between men and women and a specific approach to different social groups, marginalized and discriminated such as women, youth, older and indigenous people.

For more information contact www.wsistunis2005.org or www.itu.int

Mme de Boccard, as representative for many years in commissions comments that participation means many hours of presence, but also the possibility to present oral or written declarations of our positions and resolutions to issues we discuss in our organisation or are voted in our General Assemblies. Taking part is a privilege, but comprises also to be respectful with the terms and rules of international diplomacy.
Submitted by Jeannine de Boccard

OTHER INLW News
Joaquima Alemany visits Angola in July 2003 invited by the Democratic Liberal Party of Angola presided be Ms. Anália de Vitória Pereira and took part as panellist in a workshop for women. The Catalan Group has initiated with the DLP a project for health service and school-training for children.

Silvia Flury and C. Solsona members of INLW assisted as observers at a skills workshop for African women politicians at Johannesburg, South Africa in December organised by Liberal Democrats of England which was a great experience. Women from 13 African countries, French, English and Portuguese speaking had the same goal - to continue in their political career, although under difficult circumstances of all kind. They have a strong sense of humour and civil courage and common sense. We can admire them and give them our support. At the end of the sessions they decided to launch a declaration – the Johannesburg declaration which you can read on-line in our Website.

MEMBERS NEWS

INLW proposed Beatrice Rangoni Machiavelli, patron of our organisation for the Freedom Prize Award 2003 of Liberal International but the candidature did not succeed. Anyhow INLW is very pleased that she was proposed to be a patron of L.I. together with Richard Moore who is also a supporter of INLW. Our best congratulations.

Within our financial possibilities we will arrange our Website to be more active and hope to be able to announce it soon.

FORTHCOMING EVENT OF L.I

The Executive Meeting of L.I. will take place on 4,5 and 6 March 2004 in Taiwan and INLW will also have a Management Board Meeting, together with our Taiwanese friends. You will have news about this and other news in the next NEWSLINE.
We encourage herewith all members who would like to collaborate with us or send some article of interest to us to contact via e-mail inlw@inlw.org