



## 15<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN MEETING: TOGETHER, TOWARDS THE CENTURY OF INNER WHEEL MINUTES

Agenda Day 1 - 10/9/2021

1. 9.50 Approval of the 14th EM Minutes
2. 10.00 Ebe Martines Panitteri IIW President Report
3. 10.20 RN's brief Presentations
4. 11.30 Sissel H Michelsen IIW Constitution Chairman Speech
5. 11.45 Donatella Nicolich Polizzi National Representative IW Italy - Case Study: 20 years of Membership in Italy
6. 12.00 Luisa Vinciguerra Curto: A modern format for a renewed European Meeting
7. 12.10 Law Group and discussion
8. 15.00 Catherine Refabert IIW Past President: The Role of the "high" IIW Officer
9. 15.30 Training Group
10. 16.30 Closing work session

After the tribute to the flags Cinzia Tomatis warmly welcomes the authorities and all participants on behalf of the Organizing Committee of the 15<sup>th</sup> EM and herself:

- Ebe Martines Panitteri IIW President
- Sissel H Michelsen IIW Constitution Chairman
- the NRs

Austria and Czech Republic	Ingeborg Ibler
Belgium and Luxemburg	Paulette Dewinter De Soete
Bulgaria	Mariana Stoeva
Croatia	Snjezana Petrovic
Denmark	Anne Marie Olsen
Finland	Tuija Knuutila
Great Britain and Ireland	Enid Law
Germany	Dorothée Remmler-Bellen
Greece	Yanna Gravia-Kalyva
Italy	Donatella Nicolich Polizzi
Sweden	Ewa Jagevall
Switzerland	Vreni Steinegger
The Netherlands	Marlies Arnoldus-Luiten
Turkey	Siren Toksoy

- the DNRs

Austria and Czech Republic	Gabriele Schrümpf
Belgium and Luxemburg	Nicole Cambier Molineaux
Croatia	Sanja Pejic Rosko
F.A.M.A.T.	Marianne Von Knorring

Finland	Raija Partanen
Great Britain and Ireland	Karen Davies
Germany	Manuela Hiller v. Gaertringen-Krapf
Italy	Donatella Amendola Maestri
Sweden	Gertie Stenkula
The Netherlands	Susanne Meterelkamp Cappenberg Beetz

- Ettorina Ottaviani Italian NC President
- Simona Granelli Italian D209 Chairman
- Catherine Refabert IIW Past President
- Charlotte de Vos IIW Past President
- Sissy Avgerinou PBD
- Luisa Vinciguerra PBD
- Kirsten Moller Danish Past NR
- Liv Elin Broberg Lewin Norwegian Past NR
- Lilly Pasini Local Officer + D209 Extension Chairman
- Cinzia Marchetti Italian Media Manager

The meeting is organized in the hybrid form both online and in presence. For the first time in a European Meeting was their preparatory work to be done before the plenary session. "Together, towards the century of IIW" is the theme of this event. Together we are ferrying our association born from the idea of our founder Margaret Golding; but carried out of the members throughout the years. We are the ones who made it happen. Coming together from 17 countries, we are ready to lead the change we have long hoped for.

The floor is then left to the authorities for general greetings

**IIW President Ebe Martines** greets all participants and thanks the organizing committee. She expresses her conviction that the meeting will be fruitful and positive.

**NC President Ettorina Ottaviani**, by video message, regrets she can't participate in person, and she is sure the meeting will suggest solutions to make the life and future of IIW more suitable modern times.

**NR Donatella Nicolich** greets all the authorities and participants and wishes a smooth running of the meeting.

**Simona Calai Granelli D209 Chairman** offers the participants the warmest welcome on her behalf and that of the members of D209, and briefly explained the composition of the District.

**Cinzia Tomatis** communicates that the NRs of Germany and France are not present today due to personal reasons, while the NR of Cyprus is not attending as a form of protest.

## 1. Approval of the 14th EM Minutes

Cinzia Tomatis gives the floor to the 14<sup>th</sup> EM Organizer.

**PBD Sissy Avgerinou** regrets that the 14<sup>th</sup> European Meeting organized in Greece in the island of Rhodes, one of the most beautiful islands, became virtual because of covid19, and two weeks before the meeting all plans that were made with such sacrifice had to be cancelled. Despite the disappointment at the beginning, this situation proved to be a blessing in disguise: 50 participants from all Inner Wheel European countries

with National Representatives of 23 countries attended the European meeting including three Past International Presidents and the International Constitution Committee Chairman. She thinks that physical meetings ensure promoting friendship, better communication, and cooperation but it has its limitation; a virtually European Meeting may have advantages like higher participation, an easier organization and the possibility of participation of more members as observers. To conclude, Sissy thanks the 15<sup>th</sup> EM Organizing Committee.

After having previously consulted the minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> EM, Cinzia Tomatis asks if there is any opposition to their adoption. As nobody showed any opposition, the **minutes were approved**.

Cinzia then thanks Sissy and the Organizing Committee from Greece and leaves the floor to Donatella Nicolich. The National Representative Donatella Nicolich introduces the International Inner Wheel President Ebe Martines.

## 2. IIW President Report

**IIW President Ebe Martines** makes a synthesis of Presidential Theme 21/22 PINK FIRST, a schematic representation of the four main priorities she suggests taking into consideration when choosing the themes to develop during the year: Health, Education, Opportunity, and Empowerment.

What we, women helping women, will be able to do in favor of our sisters in any part of the globe will be a step forward on the way to gender equality and women's empowerment under the auspices of the United Nations agenda 2030. Women and girls live in a world of widespread gender inequality.

The President points out how Health seen as a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being based on the satisfaction of material, physical, affective, and psychological needs and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity and an inclusive and equitable quality education are priorities to improve women's lives in underdeveloped countries. (See attachment no. 1)

The Report of the IIW President is followed by the presentations of the National Representatives

## 3. NR's brief Presentations

**NR Donatella Nicolich** gives a short description of how IIW developed in Italy. Inner Wheel Italy dates 1<sup>st</sup> of January of 1975 when the first club was founded in Naples by Luisa Bruni. It was followed by the club in Cagliari and then in Bari. Clubs were opened all over Italy. Now we count ca 200, with more than 5500 members. The National Council of Italy has been active since 1996. She shortly describes the projects coordinated from the National Council since then. Moreover, she expresses her pleasure that both Italian International Presidents dedicated their presidential team specifically to women; Gabriella Adami 2013-14 "We, for women" and today Ebe Martines "Pink First". (See attachment no. 2)

**Ingeborg Ibler-NR Austria and Czech Republic:** Ours is a very small District but nevertheless we do many things to contribute to the goals of IW. We only have eight clubs: one club in Czech Republic and seven clubs in Austria. We have been for a very long time a non-districted country but later we could find a District in 2013, and some years later Germany founded the club in Czech Republic and since then the District is called "District 192 of Austria and Czech Republic", with 297 members, inspired and motivated. The first club was born in Vienna in 1984 and the second club was formed six weeks later. Nonetheless, the 18<sup>th</sup> virtual Convention inspired so many of us that we will be present in Manchester in 2024 for the celebrations of IIW's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Paulette Dewinter De Soete** - NR Belgium and Luxembourg: In Belgium-Luxembourg the two functions of National Representative and Presidential Council are performed by the same person. I am now in my second year. We have a National Governing Body, the Council, and we are divided in three Districts: District 62, District 217, and District 163; 75 clubs, 74 in Belgium and one club in Luxembourg. In total we have around 1900 members. To facilitate administrative support we have created a study team in which each District is represented. As a national project, we are organizing a walking tour to collect funds, with the visibility of IW, for the National Special Olympics.

**Mariana Stoeva** - National Representative Bulgaria: District 248 started operating with 9 clubs now there are 26 clubs in the District.

The average age of women in Bulgarian clubs is lower than in other clubs in Europe. We have one club in Sofia and their average age is under 40. The role of NR has been active since 2013 and now the District has three national projects: two against drugs and one on environmental concerns.

**Snjezana Petrovic** – NR Croatia: I am the National Representative of an individual District 191 Croatia. The first club was founded in 1992 in Zagreb and then after in some other towns about 30 years ago, but the District 191 was founded in 2000 with the 12 clubs and it is within the national borders of Croatia. Now we have 13 clubs with 232 members. The first established club was dismissed a few years ago so we started to think about the new members and the new things that they need to change in their District. For example, they need to pay attention to trainings and rules. Humanitarian projects were organized when we had the earthquake in Croatia and with the help of clubs of other countries, we were able to buy seven houses for seven families and a lot of equipment for the people that really lived terrible years.

**Anne Marie Olsen**– NR Denmark

In Denmark we have five Districts, and we are now 98 clubs with 1374 members. We have been looking for ways to get more members and we are working towards modern projects where we can pool more participants.

**Marianne Von Knorring**– F.A.M.A.T.: I am the vice President and Representative of four countries in addition to France namely Algeria Morocco Andorra and Tunisia. F.A.M.A.T. includes five countries, 2 700 members and 139 clubs; there are 10 Districts, but the situation is alarming in France, they have lost 11 clubs during the pandemic. The reasons are easy to find, no one wants to take on the presidency.

Because of new ways of working many members find it difficult to use computers, therefore I suggest making it mandatory for each club's program one hour a month of computer training for the entire club. If that's not possible then at least for the executive committee, cost of the specialist should be included in the budget when making calculations for the following year. One idea could be to create a special award for students who agree to teach club members the latest means of communication.

**Tuulia Knuutila** -Representative and National President from Finland and Estonia: in February we had 900 members so in six months they have lost 50 members. We have a problem with the age – we can't get young people. We have four Districts and 30 clubs and two are in Estonia. Many projects have been made, both in Finland and in Estonia. We had one national project where we donated 8000€ to train dogs in smelling corona virus.

**Raija Partanen** VP-Deputy Finland adds that the first Inner Wheel club was established already 1958 not in capital but very small town Järvenpää, her home club and nowadays it is known as composer Sibelius's hometown.

**Enid Law** - NR Great Britain & Ireland: we have a very long history being the oldest association in Great Britain and in the world, and that unfortunately brings with it its problems because we too have an aging population as far as our Inner Wheel membership is concerned. We count 11000 members spread in 495 clubs. We also have our own offices in London. Covid19 has also hit very hard, and we have lost some clubs. We are trying to increase membership and to get younger members involved. We are trying to establish online clubs for younger members.

**Manuela Hiller v. Gaertringen-Krapf** – Deputy NR Germany: there are 232 clubs in Germany in seven Districts with about 8800 members. The first German club was founded in 1960 in Lubeck in Northern Germany. I am a member of Inner Wheel in Wurzburg in District 88. The National Representative for Germany Dorothée Remmler-Bellen can't be present because her mother died.

We all from the audience express our condolence to Dorothée Remmler-Bellen.

**Yanna Gravia-Kalyva** - NR Greece: Greece has one District, 16 clubs, five of which are in Athens. The first club was established in the island of Rhodes in 1967. The third District we found it in 1990 with the first six clubs. The goals of the Greek Inner Wheel are improvement of friendship between the members, the enlargement of international understanding, and the children rights within the family, the women's position in the society, the human rights, and the detoxification of young people from drugs.

**Liv Elin Broberg Lewin**- PNR Norway: We are the country with the first club outside Great Britain founded in 1935 in Bergen. Now we have approximately 1,000 members and 47 clubs. Unfortunately, our National Representative Lizbeth couldn't be present. We are trying to find a solution to our problem of decreasing members.

**Ewa Jagevall** - NR Sweden: in Sweden we have a National President with the Executive Committee. We consist of 87 clubs, 9 Districts, and we have about 3,400 members. The first club started in 1949. We have had 4 innovative IIW Presidents. The main problem we encounter is the fact that there are great distances between our cities, especially in the north, making expansion very hard. We would like to have projects to strengthen the European position and our geographical area, especially in the area of management, and overall improve the identity and image of Inner Wheel.

**Gertie Stenkula**- National President of Sweden: In Sweden we have lost only some members during the pandemic year, but members have organized meetings outside and so in August we had a successful conference for Districts function officers.

**Marlies Arnoldus-Luiten** – NR The Netherlands: in the Netherlands we have a National Governing Body, so we have a National Board. We have three Districts 56, 58 and 16 and from this year the National President is the Deputy National Representative, and the Past President is the National Representative. The Netherlands has about 17,5 million inhabitants and the first club was established in 1949, now we have over 2,065 members in 63 clubs. Unfortunately, since last year due to covid19, the average age is getting close to 70 and we lost nearly over 70 members because there were three or four clubs that decided to stop due to all sorts of reasons. In the Netherlands we made the decision to use zoom as the medium for connecting people.

**Susanne Meterelkamp Cappenberg Beetz** National President of the Netherlands explains the national service project 'heart for women'. The heart of the women has to be saved because it is different from the heart of men. The signals and the diseases women have been so completely different from other signals by men- the signals are denied sometimes. We planned to collect 100,000 € in three years and till now we have already collected an amount of 50,000 Euros within four months.

**Siren Toksoy**- National Representative from Turkey District 242-244: In Turkey now, we have two Districts, 16 clubs and 421 members. We have hosted the 15<sup>th</sup> International IIW Convention in Istanbul. Our first aim is education- clubs carry out various activities to raise funds for scholarships. This is the most important and sustainable project for Turkey so far more than 1,000 of our scholars have graduated –they contribute to young girls' education programs to enable them to gain opportunities and become stronger in business life.

As **Vreni Steinegger** had to excuse herself, Cinzia Tomatis reads out the presentation from the NR Switzerland.

In Switzerland there is only 1 District with ca 1,800 members, 43 clubs since 1989. Interestingly, in the last 30 years there has always been a Swiss Board Director.

#### **4. Sissel H Michelsen IIW Constitution Chairman Speech**

In her speech, Sissel touched upon her role within Inner Wheel and how she came to be a member. She further elaborated upon the issue of canvassing and raised the question of whether we should provide further guidelines on it. She brought this example to evidence the fact that we should always speak our minds and not hide things, albeit in friendship, with a particular regard to IIW rules. (See attachment no. 3)

#### **5. Donatella Nicolich Polizzi National Representative IW Italy - Case Study: 20 years of Membership in Italy**

Donatella presents a case study of the change in IW memberships in Italy in the last 20 years. (See attachment no. 4)

#### **6. Luisa Vinciguerra Curto: A modern format for a renewed European Meeting**

Luisa gives a presentation on how we came about organizing this 15<sup>th</sup> EM. She explained how, through the means of online technology, we were able to host preparatory workshops in different areas, but with the same goal of introducing a system of three-year planning in sight of the upcoming Conventions. (See attachment no. 5)

#### **7. Law Group**

The spokeswoman for the group is **Gabriele Schrümpf**. The workshops took place on the 3rd and 24th of August 2021 and it was divided between the changes for the Constitution 2021 and the future visions of the Constitution 2024. The first workshop entailed the proposals which were carried at the Convention, and we discussed them. We came to the conclusion that training is a very important part of being a member of Inner Wheel.

In the second workshop we discussed what to do for the Convention in 2024; our Constitution is still timely, but the goal is to prepare changes and transfer information in the Constitution due to the changes in our society. We still need to make changes to make IIW life friendlier and to foster international understanding, even though our objectives are big enough. There is a big gap between the old and newer generations, and this leads to difficulties in meeting times. The solution could be forming e-clubs but there will be many more Conventions before we reach that goal. Nonetheless, we strive to become an attractive association for younger women. We need to get to a point where there is no discrimination between members so that we can liberalize access to international offices and not leave them aside for members who have already had national or international position. What also needs to be re-thought are Constitutions committees,

since they were established over 50 years ago and do not reflect the needs of modern day IIW society. There would need to be 5 or 6 members, ideally one for each continent.

The general need for other committees was expressed, such as the extension committee and the training committee. The former would be aimed at opening new clubs in countries where IIW is not present, led by Past IIW Presidents, while the latter would entail training in order to avoid closing down clubs in several countries and educating the members.

The last topic dealt with was the procedure to submit proposals and amendments to the Constitution, and the withdrawal of proposals. The main contentious point was the fact that, especially in the last Convention, amendment proposals were denied without any further explanation, amendments that are usually rejected due to improper wording. (See attachment no. 6)

## **Discussion**

As it has been asked how many countries were involved in the discussion in the law group, Cinzia Tomatis reports the formation of the groups:

COUNTRY	IIW OFFICE	NAME	AREA
Austria & Czech Rep.	NR	Ingeborg Ibler	Law or Management
	DNR	Gabriele Schrümpf	Law
Belgium & Luxemburg	NR/NP	Paulette Dewinter De Soete	Law or Management
	DNR	Nicole Cambier Molineaux	Law or Management
Bulgaria	NR	Mariana Stoeva	Training or Management
Croatia	NR	Snjezana Petrovic	Training or Law
	DNR	Sanja Pejic Rosko	
Cyprus	NR	Tasoulla Voskou	Law
Denmark	NR/NP	Anne Marie Olsen	Training
	PNR/PN P	Kirsten Moller	Law or Management
FAMAT - France	DNR	Marianne Von Knorring	Management
	IIWPP	Catherine Refabert	Law
Finland	NP/NR	Tuija Knuutila	Law or Training
	VP	Raija Partanen	Law or Training
Great Britain & Ireland	NR	Enid Law	Training or Law
	DNR/VP	Karen Davies	Management or Law
Germany	NR	Dorothée Remmler-Bellen	Management or Training

	DNR	Manuela Hiller v. Gaetringen-Krapf	
Greece	NR	Yanna Gravia-Kalyva	Management or Training
	PBD	Sissy Avgerinou	Law or Management
	NR	Donatella Nicolich Polizzi	Training
	DNR	Donatella Amendola Maestri	Management
	PNR	Cinzia Tomatis Fermani	Management
	PBD/PN P	Luisa Vinciguerra Curto	Law
Norway	PNR	Liv Elin Broberg Lewin	
Sweden	NR	Ewa Jagevall	Management
	NP	Gertie Stenkula	Management or Training
Switzerland	NR	Vreni Steinegger	Training or Management
The Nederland	NR	Marlies Arnoldus-Luiten	Management
	DNR	Susanne Meterelkamp Cappenberg Beetz	
Turkey	NR	Siren Toksoy	Training or Management

From the discussion emerged the need to make proposals for the amendment of the Constitution to be ready for the next European Meeting.

**Cinzia Tomatis:** I suggest forming working groups made up not only of National Representative or Past Presidents, but also other members who have expertise in this sector to report to the plenary session of the next European Meeting.

Someone else suggested to have had the reports of the workshops before the European Meeting so as to have a more complete overview of the topics and lead a more fruitful discussion.

**Gabriele Schrümpf:** Charlotte has the list of all proposals which were sent in, which were not accepted, and she has filtered out the ones which are really good and which we could bring in again. It is maybe also an idea to think about each proposal if you have further ideas or something but it is a base and I really want her to present that because she made the whole work about that.

**Susanne Meterelkamp Cappenberg Beetz:** I am a bit confused, I thought a law group concerned laws, and I thought it is all about the laws in general. My Bible is the Constitutional book, and I thought that there are many things in it that may not be profitable for us anymore. Now I hear mainly something about proposals; so, is a Law Group for discussing how to deal with proposals and how to prepare them? Are we going to look after the whole schedule of laws? I think that's a hard job. I don't think you can only pick one aspect about this theme, so I would like to know what is the purpose of the Law Group? You said we need someone who wants to work for us, is that European group that then goes International to present our ideas, or is it for international as a whole at the end of each European meeting? Are then only the minutes of what we discussed that are sent to the international body?

**Cinzia Tomatis:** the Law group goal is to propose new proposals for the Constitution. The goal of the workshops was to come here to the plenary session with propositions but then also you could decide to

meet each other within the working group area. The main aim is to prepare proposals in a proper way, that is the first issue they want to work on, but not the only one.

As usual, the EM minutes will be forwarded to the IIW Administrator, hoping for due consideration.

Please consider that there must also be a connection between all the 3 working groups; and what we have to decide here in the plenary session is the path that we want to take.

**Tuija Knuutila:** would it be possible to get that list so that we could follow, I think it might be a lot easier.

**Anne Marie Olsen:** I can ask Charlotte. A couple of years ago she also discussed modernizing the whole Constitution; in many years we have just changed bits and pieces, it is like mending a dress, it doesn't look very good if after several meetings we keep patching it up. I think it is time that we tried to see the whole picture of the Constitution that we know today and try to make something that we can sell to the rest of the world.

**Gabriele Schrümpf:** I would like to add that the European meetings are for European problems for the future of Europe, because Europe is a large continent with 30 countries with completely different needs, some has national governing bodies, some don't, some are non Districted. We have to think of all of them, we need not to forget that we are not only Europe, a big part in Asia also has the right to vote, so we have to find something that could also fit the others, it will be a huge work but is indeed needed.

**Donatella Nicolich:** Suzanne, you mentioned your idea, we have to manage law rules of every country and we have to match the Constitution and bylaws with the law of our country, so I think it's important to also deal with this.

**Suzanne Meterelkamp Cappenberg Beetz:** It is quite simple, I just rewrote the minutes for The Netherlands, so that all the clubs and members can work with it and they don't feel restricted in acting in a way they prefer or like to do. I think the Constitution needs to be considered again and we have to look if it still fits in this time and period. We have to unite everyone not only Europe. If only a simple member has to deal with the Constitution when performing a proposal, I can see that is a main issue. It starts with the basic rules, we have to write it down together, and that's the story of it all. But the main issue of all the rules is that clubs and members can operate and do their jobs and not feel restricted in anything. Even when you do everything right and then the proposal is denied because there is a point or a letter too much; a minor detail should not prevent that. I think we have to look at the Constitution as a whole and then try to rewrite it, and we cannot do that only within Europe; to do that international in the real has to come together, but we in Europe can give a start. Let's do it!

**Cinzia Tomatis:** is there someone from "home" that would like to intervene?

**Sissel H Michelsen:** any Constitutional work has to start with the idea of what you have to change, and if you don't have this idea of what you really have to change, you are in trouble because you can't start picking here and there. I think you should start with one thing and look at it properly and then when you have the text more or less ready, it is possible to send it to the Constitution committee, and have it looked over to see if there's something missing. I'm sure you have a lot of ideas of what you want to change; I'm not going to give you these ideas now because that's why you're all here.

**Luisa Vinciguerra:** the two law workshops were very interesting and there was a lot of emphasis and a lot of ideas for the next Convention to improve the Constitution, to simplify or add, or cancel. This is the first year of the experimentation to have a look at the new Constitution and the future that is waiting for us, but now, in the second year of experimentation, we must work on these ideas to conclude, to write some proposals, and importantly to change the Constitution and improve it, together with democracy. We must work together to prepare the new course of Inner Wheel, not only in Europe because the Constitution is for

all, but our proposal will be good for all the world, we must learn to work together as a team. Teamwork is very important because every person of the team is competent, and we must consider all the suggestions to make the best text possible for a proposal.

**Susanne Meterelkamp Cappenberg Beetz:** There are two kinds of alteration rules, maybe more within our organization. There are two ways of alteration the first one is the opportunity that all members and clubs have is to send a proposal with the things you want to have changed, but an organization itself can decide to alter their own rules. This is what I meant, not to wait till all kinds of proposals and all kinds of different levels and articles, and then you have to wait if you succeed, we need to have a basic document, a

Constitution that provides all kinds of things, not only proposals but all written documents. It will take some time for the next Convention.

**Sissel H Michelsen:** We all have to remember that we have to have your proposals in 18 months before the next Convention, so you have to come back and see when we have to finish the work and then we can put aside time to prepare. This is an absolute rule.

**Cinzia Tomatis:** We have to decide who is going on with this work, so we can start preparing the work and workshops, and then we have to decide who is going to lead and organize this. We know that we're going to meet in France, but as we have changed the format, we need to establish how to carry on these workshops.

**Sissel H Michelsen:** we can have a look at the rejected proposals from the previous Convention and see why they were rejected if we think that they are important.

After the discussion, the floor is given to IIW Past President Catherine Refabert

## **8. Catherine Refabert IIW Past President: The Role of the “high” IIW Officer**

Catherine Refabert presented the new roles of the International President and the Constitution Chairman, which are not only the main actors of the association, but their collaboration is key to a smooth, fair and efficient management. (See attachment no. 7)

### **DISCUSSION**

**Catherine Refabert:** If I can, the next country who is organizing the European meeting and I know it is France. France must make very quickly a new meeting with all the European countries to decide who is working on what, on what problems is it, on under the managing, on how many board directors, how do we elect them, from where they come, what must be changed essentially in our Constitution and define this, see what can be done. Everybody must work separately then meet by zoom and see what they have prepared, you have six- seven months in front of you, it's not much so don't, as I told you, don't dream only, prepare what is essential to change, make guidelines and try to accept them in Manchester .

**Sissel H Michelsen:** thank you Catherine because you have said so many, many important things in your speech and I wish you could give me the way I should work the rest of the year but anyway it was good, thank you.

**Ebe Martines:** I would like to say something, first of all I would like to thank Catherine Refabert because she gave us an outline of what the ideal international should be from beginning from the International Inner Wheel president of course all her suggestions are worth considering and certainly we will do it but it is not so easy to realize all the suggestions she is so kindly put forth before we have to change our minds we have to change many things but I don't think that we are ready to realize this a huge change for our next Convention because there is a lot of work to do, we cannot arrive at the Convention suggesting a new Constitution and Handbook, this Constitution will be the base on which we are going to work, which all the

countries, all National Representatives, Clubs and Districts are going to work, but we can't change the whole of it for 2024. So we have to work step by step and it would be a good idea also for national governing bodies. Inner Wheel can put forward our ideas but we need a specialist, a lawyer, a person who generally works on Constitutions and so on to guide us from the legal point of view because sometimes we make mistakes because we are not very well informed about some aspects of our articles in our Constitution. So yes we are Inner Wheel members, we are the first ones who have to work in this field but I think that we should be helped and advised by a specialist.

**Catherine Refabert:** we can start working, of course, but not on the whole Constitution

**Ebe Martines:** I mean step by step and then at the end, perhaps not in 2024, but three years later we can have a very good Constitution text. You were an International President, so you know what it means, how much work you have to do. So I think that it takes time to reach this goal which is a very good one of course but we need time. It can't be done in two years.

**Catherine Refabert:** We have institutions which need absolutely to be changed, if we have time to change and to prepare new proposals we'll do it but I personally don't see a totally new Constitution before 10 years

**Ebe Martines:** of course, so I agree with you, thank you for your suggestions and thank you for having worked so hard to try to solve this problem, thank you

## 9. TRAINING GROUP

The spokeswoman for the group is **Snjezana**, she highlighted the importance of training, not only at the Club level, but also at the District level. As an association, we need to keep our tools and skills up to date in order to not only raise awareness of who we are and what we do, but also to reach our goals. E-training, as we have seen from these online workshops is definitely a tool that can be helpful in sharing knowledge. Another important thing that emerged from the workshop is that we don't need seasoned members to do the trainings; we just need someone who is keen on imparting knowledge and explain what the rules are and how to apply them. Italy and Great Britain for example have a very long history in conducting trainings, whereas some other countries like Austria do not. What could be helpful is creating a handbook whereby all training materials are collected so that it can be a bit more standardized. Creating a network of interconnected trainers will help in exchanging our experiences and information. To spread international understanding, we need an international coordinating body for training

Following the presentation of the training group, suggestions to work on were proposed.

**Donatella Nicolich:** we have to keep going with training because training is important, since there are always a lot of issues with regards to interpretation of rules, if there is a good training and a unique interpretation of rules it's better and easier for the members to follow them and also for the proposal. I think the law area and the training area are strictly connected because a good training gives also the tools and the inputs to have a good proposal and to amend something in our Constitution that is not written properly or can be misunderstood and can give rise to problems in managing our association.

**Cinzia Tomatis:** do you think we could manage to have a European training, how are we going to work on it?

**Donatella Nicolich:** it's difficult because we have different bylaws, but at least at the level of the Constitution we can have a training session for all European countries, and we can also exchange our bylaws which is very important because in some country I was surprised to hear are managed completely differently than for example Italy and maybe it's easier to exchange this knowledge and have better values,

not only a better Constitution but also better bylaws, not only written for a specific country but that can also be applied in many other countries especially in Europe. I'm not aware of the bylaws of some other countries outside of Europe maybe they have different customs; I think it's very useful to exchange information about bylaws.

**Cinzia Tomatis:** a different suggestion could be session training for District Chairman in those countries where a National Representative does not exist as a role

**Donatella Nicolich:** I wanted to involve them but there are really too many and it's difficult to organize a training session for non-Districted clubs, I don't know if International Inner Wheel is willing to have them involved in a European level. Because they are normally Board Directors who are in charge of these Clubs, and I don't want to have some sort of overlapping.

**Gabriele Schrümpf:** I would like to share my experience, because 11 years of my Inner Wheel life I was a member of a non-Districted country. We had in Austria 8 Clubs at that time non Districted, every Club worked for it. We met very seldom, the only thing we had together was an Austrian directory. I think the District was very important for us, still have many members who think that a District is not necessary for our country, but when you are a member of a non-Districted country you're far away of international innovation. The first time I heard something like a Constitution was in 2009 where I attended a European meeting. When I was president, I received a letter from a person I didn't know from Switzerland and only after I realized that she was the Swiss Board Director who was at that time responsible for our non-Districted clubs. Non Districted clubs are really special, and I think that they will need a proper guidance. They need a different training, and we should have an idea of how to include them especially in Europe, because they are 1/3 of our innovation countries.

**Raija Partanen:** what do we do with a club who is not interested in the international work? They're happy clubs in Finland, they collect money in Helsinki, they socialize, they go to theaters but in Finland the governing body is a centigrade representative to District level. We pick up the goals of international level, but they are not interested in the international sphere. Most of the women have been President at the District level but they're not anymore interested at the international level, they're just very happy in their clubs. We don't need to train them anymore because they don't want to be trained anymore.

**Anne Marie Olsen:** you say that you have never seen training; I think for the last at least ten years there have been e-training on the international website.

**Raija Partanen:** our first National Representative translated all over to the District and to the club, but only my club attended.

**Anne Marie Olsen:** we have exactly the same problem as you have in Helsinki with many of our clubs, when you talk about this training, and we have had a club training every year for us long as I remember but it's only the board members coming in every year. It is at the District level that training needs to be done; someone from the District could come to the club and make a training evening so the whole club sits together discussing it.

**Snjezana Petrovic:** training is usually boring for most members in the clubs

**Anne Marie Olsen:** I don't know how we could make training more interesting to our members

**Snjezana Petrovic:** however, if I invite you to my District, I'm sure they would like to come, and they will listen.

**Sissy Avgerinou:** I have worked very hard with non-Districted clubs and especially the Spanish speaking ones and I had very good results although one of my clubs was excluded by the directory of international Inner Wheel as nonexistent. The club I was working with regularly was very active and paid their fees, I

don't know how it was excluded. The issue is that most of them don't speak English, and this is a big problem. We have three categories of clubs: clubs belonging to a national governing body, which have training, clubs belonging to a District country, where they have less training. And non-Districted clubs, if they are from a country where they don't speak English, they cannot use a website and are usually not interested in international. The average age in the clubs plays an important role in being able to speak English and being interested in international things such as an International Convention. Most members don't want to pay fees for translation at an International Convention just because they cannot understand English; it is also hard to vote for a candidate in an executive committee in the international executive committee offices through the country, a photo is the only way to vote. Language is a problem to every member of this organization.

**Cinzia Tomatis:** we know that this is a really big problem, but we are international, and this is our official language. Solutions need to be found. F.e. we were 518 members attending the Convention because we had the translation paid by the National Council, so that's why we participated. I think we would have participated even if the National Council would not have paid; it was a big motivation to see that the National Council is near the clubs and works for the clubs. At least in Italy, this has changed the vision that we have of it, so maybe we have to start with these little things to try to let the members have a translation when there is an international meeting, not just a media or a contact, maybe we can try and have someone who is going to translate for them.

**Anne Marie Olsen:** would it be possible to put the documents on the European platform or could we add them to the international website?

**Cinzia Tomatis:** this is a topic that we're going to have tomorrow regarding the European Platform.

After the discussion of the training group the first day of the 15<sup>th</sup> EM was concluded.

## Day 2 – 11/09/2021

### Agenda

1. 09.30 IIW PDB Luisa Vinciguerra Curto: NR: different positions within a National Governing Body
2. 09.45 Management Group
3. 10.45 Deputy NR Donatella Amendola Maestri: Leadership in a changing world
4. 11.30 PNR Cinzia Tomatis Fermani: Proposal for EM Guideline
5. 11.50 IIW PBD Gabriele Schrümpf: More continuity for Ems – how to do?
6. 12.10 IIWPP Charlotte De Vos: What about the fourth area: Document Area/European Website
7. 15.00 Presentation of the European Rally 2022
8. 15.10 Organization of next Rally in 2025
9. 16.20 Announcement of 16th EM
10. 16.30 Conclusion

Before starting the business session Cinzia Tomatis gives the floor to Liv as she has to leave earlier because of flight cancellation for greeting and her confirmation to participate at future working group.

**Cinzia Tomatis** presents then the choice for “no little gifts but social project” – instead of gifts exchange between us collect money to help a young woman who for health problems needs a wig and this through a local reality. The NC of Belgium-Luxembourg has already given its donation.

The floor is given to

## **1. IIW PDB Luisa Vinciguerra Curto: NR: different positions within a National Governing Body**

Starting with what is written in the Constitution about the role of NR, the tasks reported in the Duties and Responsibilities Luisa Vinciguerra made a deepening to clear doubts and misunderstandings. The NR plays a crucial role as connection between her country and the IGB. Then national bylaws decide on the position of the NRs in their country. Only 15 countries have a NGB and sometimes the role of NR coincides with NP or Past NP, sometimes the NR is part of the National Executive Committee sometimes doesn't. (See attachment no. 8)

**Cinzia Tomatis:** I think it is time to have the same position for the NR in all the countries, the same equal weight and maybe this topic could be a future evaluation by the management group.

The floor is given to

## **2. Management group**

The spokeswoman for the group is **Marlies Arnoldus-Luiten**. The management group dealt with the application and implementation of projects, the way we can manage them and do the work. In the first session, Cinzia – the management group leader - presented a theory about project management; the presentation has been sent to everybody, so I won't repeat it.

The discussion we had dealt with the current structure of management, and we came to the conclusion that currently there is an annual changing board of committees; every year different groups steering our association. The problem is that it's based on seniority rather than on capabilities. We choose people in the functions because they have other things done within our organization. Also, the fact that there is an annual changing presidential theme that gives different emphasis every year, may affect the outcome of the years to follow. This structure from our point of view lacks continuity because with short terms we do not have enough time to do all the things we want to do, and it lacks time. It is necessary an effort to really go into strategic and long term needs of what Inner Wheel should be. It has already been mentioned the issue of declining memberships, with all the normal annual tasks we don't really get to those issues, therefore we just end up without much innovation, we stick to the way we've done it for years. It has become increasingly difficult to fill the positions on all levels, Club levels, District levels, and National and International level. We tend to fall back to the people that we knew already and might do it again.

But implementing a culture of project management means that you really work together with a team with a good group of people, even though it's a temporary collaboration. And the team becomes task oriented. The committees that we know well tend to be really short term, within this management workshop the emphasis was on project management in a long term sense and with periodical reports.

Within our Group a couple of long term projects were mentioned that countries are implementing already such as Germany and the Netherlands.

There is a real difference between a committee and a project; a project is really task focused with people that are relevant to a task and are committed to it. We need to learn by doing and just get started with it. After the closing discussions in our workshop, we really felt that project management can influence the future of Inner Wheel outside Europe and the way we are working together if we dare to start working in a different way than we are used to. I am really convinced that if we cooperate together, if we learn from each other, we can inspire each other so much and we can achieve so much more. I hope this European meeting can be a springboard to our future. (See attachment no. 9)

After a brief discussion, the members of the third area will work according to what was agreed today and in previous workshops.

The floor is given to

### **3. Deputy NR Donatella Amendola Maestri: Leadership in a changing world**

**DNR Donatella Amendola** examines the different positions of leadership from the early beginning till now, the inevitable changes caused by world war, cold war and a devastating pandemic which have contributed to develop a different mentality and values. In a dynamic Inner Wheel our finality are unchanged but we adapted to the new demands that life imposed us. (See attachment no. 10)

### **4. PNR Cinzia Tomatis Fermani: Proposal for EM Guideline**

**Cinzia Tomatis:** It all comes from a personal need. I was preparing to participate in my first EM – September 2017 - and... Where to draw information? I asked around if there was anything.... And I was told that there would be, that they would give it to me, that I would have to ask to.... moral of the history: this is one of the famous secrets of the IW. Luckily the new format.... Half of the road would have been in plain!

Guidelines guide through a process or a task. They **give general recommendations of how to perform a task**, or advice on how to proceed in a situation. They usually provide a good overview of how to act in a situation where there's no specific policy or standard. ... Hence, the guidelines are necessary

Guidelines are informal and leave room for flexibility in different circumstances. They'll outline best practices, and highly recommend.

And they also assume the best of the person making the decision. But for all their informality, they're still an important part of the business process. Guidelines, standards, and procedures help do the jobs well. But it only helps when we can find the information we need whenever, wherever we need it.

I have seen and appreciated the organization of the three countries that have preceded us, but I am convinced of the need for a reference for the event organization.

### **DISCUSSION**

**Gabriele Schrumpf:** I totally agree with you, we should have some help, especially if you have to organize an event like the EM; I think for the organizers it can be a big help, from an organizational point of view. When I organized the European meeting, we were a non-Districted country, it was OK with the venue, but for us it was very difficult to know what speakers are expected from us, what is the content of the European meeting etc. Now that we have had 15 European meetings, it may be time to give some support and help for future meetings, because we hope that we will have some continuity with them.

**Kirsten Moller:** I think it's a great idea, but at the same time we have talked about making the European platform, I think maybe if we work more for this platform, we can put the guidelines in there. This is needed for the continuity of our work.

**Marlies Arnoldus-Luiten:** to be honest, the first time I went to a European Meeting I had the idea that this is a gathering of National Representatives, and that I was going to learn a lot and find out what other countries are doing and what's happening in other countries. I think we have to make sure that we can learn from each other and that's there still enough space to share ideas and thoughts, not only about presentations on projects. From my point of view a National Representative is not to serve receiver of

information or a translator, I think a National Representative should be a connector; you pull ideas from other countries and inspire your own.

**Snjezana Petrovic:** I just started my role as a National Representative, but the ones before me were treated the same way. In our District, they don't accept any information from National Representatives, they just accept the report. They act like they do not need National Representatives. I even suggested not having it anymore if it's just used as a translator. We have to change something. The problem is that in the Constitution there is no rule on National Representatives. We need transparency and uniformity.

**Gertie Stenkula:** You talked about the guidelines for the European meeting, but I think we need guidelines as well for some topics, for example online clubs, and to have communications between the Inner Wheel members in different countries. I believe that to make this development we need to have a platform, a pool, or a group who help each other to make some guidelines, because it's not that easy to try and have online clubs in each country.

**Gabriele Schrümpf:** I think there are now only two countries without a national governing body; there is a huge difference between countries with a national governing and without. The role of National Representative is completely different in the countries as we learned from Luisa's PowerPoint. Every country with a national governing body has their own bylaws, so they create the role of their National Representative. Countries without national governing body only have the text in the Constitution, so this is completely different than in the other countries.

**Sissy Avgerinou:** I wanted to ask, is there any possibility to submit a proposal to the executive without going to the Convention, if a country asks a charter for an E-club by an international committee? Is there any possibility to give a charter within these three years before 2024 or is this against our Constitution and we have to change our Constitution with a proposal?

**Ebe Martines:** I think that to begin with, we should speak about this problem within our executive committee. This is a very good suggestion because I've read somewhere about e-clubs, but no explanation about it. I think we have no experience about e-clubs so we should begin to discuss about this possibility within Inner Wheel, to give then a reply.

**Sissel Michelsen:** if you remember from my speech yesterday I pointed out that on page 61 you can read about ad hoc in other committees, if we look at page 28 under changes to the Constitution 5.a, which reads "in case of urgency, and provided that not less than 30 days' notice in writing has been given, this Constitution may be changed at a meeting of the international governing body attended by a quorum of 75 of the members of the governing body come up by a resolution passed by a majority of 75% of those present, such changes shall become immediate and temporarily effective for a period not exceeding 2 years, and that shall be ratified or rejected by an International Convention, or failing this shall lapse". Something can be presented to International Inner Wheel. Perhaps after Christmas we can discuss it fully and then come up with a solution to try out with e-clubs. This is urgent, we cannot wait for 2024 to have this discussed and voted.

**Marlies Arnoldus-Luiten:** this is exactly a subject for projecting.

Returned from the coffee break and before moving on to another topic, **Cinzia Tomatis** reads the letter received from the NR Cyprus who announced her absence in protest. (See attachment no. 11)

The floor is given to **Charlotte De Vos**: as we discussed in the previous zoom meetings, in fact there were approximately 70 proposals for the Convention; I have tried to collect by all my friends all over the world, but most reached me in a very bad condition, mostly it was a picture not good to read so I could make a puzzle of it and I could collect 59 of those proposals. Nine have been accepted as in the proposal booklet, three were accepted but submitted by the international governing body, seven proposals were similar to the accepted proposals especially regarding the membership, active membership deleting of the three categories; nine proposals were minor changes and could be changed by Constitution Chairman or executive committee, some changes were changed on the handbook and so you don't need a proposal for that and all the others approximately 50 were refused without any explanation. I have just collect for this meeting the proposals from European countries; each country should be responsible to introduce these proposals of last Convention for the next one.

What about the proposal 9 in the agenda of Convention Jaipur that has been withdrawn and those it was regarding the nominations of the Constitution Chairman?

Think about and try to have support between countries because it is always stronger if you have two countries who are introducing a proposal and if you need help we have a lot of people here in this meeting who are very aware and used to introduce proposals, if you have some queries please ask for it.

Do not wait till the last month because I know for the Constitution Chairman it is not easy to receive all the proposals the last day; so work on it from now on, send it to all the other countries to say what do you think about it because if we work together we are stronger.

Be ready for the next European meeting then we will have really discussions and to see who will support and what we will support; start to work on the proposals and to make them clearer, more visible, more better motivated. Now go to your homework and do it again and we will be successful. (See attachment no. 12)

## 5. IIW PBD Gabriele Schrümpf: More continuity for Ems – how to do?

After a brief history of how European Meetings came to be, their main goal was reiterated: exchange the experiences of the different European countries and listen about each other's ideas and wishes.

After 15 years of Ems we have now developed some traditions, like logos and presentation movies. What we have also achieved is the increased participation of non-Districted countries. The support that we show as a community can also lead to them becoming districted. Therefore the continuity of EMs is important. Another question that was raised during the years is should members of the executive committee be invited? The answer is still debatable. Another important topic is the costs of a European meeting. It should be in a place that can be easily reached by plane, train, and car; and the costs should be reasonable as well because some of the participants have to pay everything on their own.

A suggestion could be that in the year that the European rally happens, the European meeting could be virtual since there is no concurrence between the two and it is then price sensitive for members. The upside of virtual meetings is that we can meet more than once a year and continue with all our discussions. The topics of the agenda also depend on what year the meeting falls on. In general, the topics dealt with should be a mixture of European matters, ideas, challenges.

We could not also have more involvement of the husbands who accompanied their wives to these events, so that housewives can talk about inner real matters without them being bored.

I think we could have a small group of experts, of mentors, for the organizers to get support for organizational matters, so that we can get a red line into the European meetings. (See attachment no. 13)

## **Discussion**

**Catherine Refabert:** we have to think all together about it, because we have to take a collegial decision. It's not one person who decides how the European meeting is working, but all together. If we agree it will be wonderful, I'm sure it will work much better. The real question is how to ensure the continuity.

**Cinzia Tomatis:** This is maybe the homework for the management area to brainstorm on this. With reference to what has been submitted, I would like to point out that it is not possible to generalize.

- for example in Italy there are regional laws in force that prevent individuals from organizing events that can be configured as touristic or congressional, so an agency is necessary; this does not mean that we have borne the cost.
- To touch upon the husband's point, it won't be so terrible to have them with us. We are not going to discuss for 24 hours straight.
- We are not mostly here for holidays and if there is someone who continues to say that EM is only an opportunity for a vacation then we are wrong in the communication or it is sterile criticism and then we should not care about them.

**Snjezana Petrovic:** we're speaking about these non-Districted clubs and countries, and we are surrounded by them in Serbia, Bosnia and Slovenia. Maybe we can, as a District, organize something for example on a zoom platform, to invite them to discuss some topics. I think it would be a nice idea to include them and to involve them in these matters.

**Sissy Avgerinou:** I totally agree, Italy once again showed us the road and perhaps the hybrid way is the future for European meetings. What I mean is we can include observers in next European meeting with non-Districted clubs, so in the end we open a forum for them to participate and tell us their opinions. This is also cost effective.

**Donatella Nicolich:** I agree with you, it was also my first idea to involve the non-Districted clubs. I was stopped by the difficulties of gathering them in person because there are a lot, but now that we have tried with hybrid meeting, we can go on with these methods to exchange ideas and suggestions. Maybe some of our National Representatives can be responsible for a number of non-Districted clubs so it could be easier to get in touch with them.

**Marlies Arnoldus-Luiten:** Gabriele, one of the things you mentioned is that we should be thinking about the future of European meetings, how we should organize it to make sure it really fits into the future, the next generation. You mentioned the founders and their baggage of experience and knowledge, I think it's important that we make good use of the experience we have. Maybe it might be also an idea to create a group with ladies with a lot of experience and knowledge so that we can use it for advice. But the Wheel turns.

**Gabriele Schrümpf:** we definitely need new ideas because we want to have young members. The opinions of younger members should be taken into account, especially with regards to the way they like to work.

**Kristen Moller:** I have a question; what do we mean we are going on with the plan for the next three years going on with the same subject?

**Cinzia Tomatis:** We are supposed to go on and continue our work on the topics, not strictly on the same topics but we need to come up with decisions and solutions.

## **6. IIWPP Charlotte De Vos: What about the fourth area: Document Area/European Website**

Charlotte De Vos: as you know in Rotterdam the first European Rally, at the symposium, I talked about the European platform and explained what the platform is, in the meantime we are two years later and in fact we can divide it in social media and in website. I started with Facebook because Facebook is the most popular social media among our members and then I create the first European platform group. It is a closed group for members of Inner Wheel Europe, the participants to previous European Rally are our big supporters and sympathies. For the moment we have less than 500 members. I clearly explained that new members has to mention in which club they are member. Now the topic of the European platform group is for discussions but I know we are all very kind and we like to send birthday wishes and flowers and so on but please this is not the place to do it.

The Facebook page is open to everybody and there you can put all the promotion material on European meetings projects and so on. Of course there's more than Facebook, you have for the moment especially Instagram, Twitter and so on. Last year, on the virtual European meeting I received a website for free, at is really a personal gift and I insist it is really personal. Anita from North Macedonia will give it to me but of course I will not do it alone; a website needs regularly updates because if you don't update you have no visitors anymore, so it is very dynamic. What about the contents, start with the home page with different sections, of course a map of all European countries with links to all their websites and to all the social media. It can be very important to include all the non-Districted clubs because they are very active.

Then we can have a section about our activities like European rally with the program, history reports, and all the presentations. The same for European meeting of National Representatives, of all European projects like women for Europe, the role of Inner Wheel.

We can make publicity and promotion for all cross-border media meetings, we can have the e-library and that is the main topic; we have a lot of documents that if we don't take care about them will be lost, documents regarding branding and logos, all reports, all trainings on basic models, all trainings on interview topics, eventually directories in pdf.

The other alternative is Google drive, a tool to store all documents; how sharing the link to Google drives: by all the national websites. BUT are members interested? And are all European countries interested to work on it? Before the end of the day I will send to everybody a questioner to say if you want a website.

It should be teamwork as well even for storage on Google drive, teamwork is not related to NR or to Officer but I will ask for the question who do you have in your country? Who is very dynamic in these matters? And as we told I become from the oldest generation, young people has new ideas and new fresh blood to bring into the organization

We don't need to be a committee of 20, a few is already okay to see how we can structure all that and once we have all these elements and then what will you see on the website because it has not to be just a copy of your national website, of the international one. In our website it should really remain on what is Europe and what happens across border. Discuss this in your countries, send the form back. We have now all experienced over the last two years, we are now very used to zoom, we can then continue and work on it and that it is not just by from meeting to meeting but in the meantime we can see how we can go forward to this material.

Again more material to think about, it is a think tank again but I hope that I will receive very nice suggestions from you back to organize all that. (See attachment no. 14)

## **7. Presentation of the European Rally 2022**

**Dorothée Remmler-Bellen:** I am very glad to be with you today and it is my first time, so I am a little bit nervous but I try to do my very best. It's a great honor and pleasure to be here and I had liked to be with you at Rimini but due to the death of my mother I'm only virtually with you and I want to thank you all for your understanding and your expressions of condolences. I want to thank Manuela because yesterday she had to represent Germany very quickly.

I have the honor and the pleasure to invite you all to the European Rally in Berlin exactly today in one year; I feel confident that it will be a festive and lovely meeting in the spirit of Inner Wheel and Europe. We have seen today that we need a very strong Europe and that we want to do it. I want to show you some slides and tell you a little bit about the European Rally furthermore a little video made by the chief coordinator of the European Rally 2022.

I have already sent a packet with flyers and buttons for each of you who are in Rimini.

Now, Berlin is calling!

I am a little bit familiar with the Rally Charlemagne because my husband wrote a book about the imperial palaces of Charlemagne and so we visited a lot of it in France and in Germany. The initial participants were Belgium and Luxembourg, Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Austria and the Czech Republic. Then the expansion by merging with the Nordic Rally with Sweden, Denmark and Norway. During the European meeting 2017 in Denmark and with the consent of all countries, the meeting was launched under the name European Rally. In the year 2019 it took place for the first time in Rotterdam with the great motto "Move to connect". Our motto for 2022 and the logo for Berlin is "stay connected in Europe".

The program in Berlin will focus on the togetherness of all European Inner Wheel friends: we will have a welcome get together at a very special place, a festive gala evening, sightseeing and a special farewell.

Very important, a large symposium with popular speakers from science culture. Stay connected for us means social trust, ambition, youth and we invite you to plan your participation. There is an early bird up to the 20<sup>th</sup> October with saving of 55 Euros; you can find all further information in the website.

So we have the hope that we will see a lot of you in Berlin. (See attachment no 15)

The IIW President **Ebe Martines Panitteri** says goodbye because she will not attend in the afternoon for family reasons but before she answered the complaining about the date at which the presidential theme was communicated: to not interfere with the current president. Anyway it has been announced during the Convention. Because of preparing activities it is possible to ask it at the international administrator, but it must be confidential.

Regarding the letter from Inner Wheel Cyprus NR, as it has been sent yesterday she will replay after having communicated with the Executive Committee.

She congratulates for the organization of this very important meeting during which a lot of subjects have been discussed, most of them have to be taken into consideration by the Executive Committee.

After the break for lunch the floor is given for

## **8. Organization of next Rally in 2025**

**Charlotte De Vos:** I asked Cinzia to put this on the agenda because we have to think on our future, in fact Rotterdam was originally Charlemagne changed to European Rally but at that time it was a little bit surprisingly we announced the next one, but who will be the next one? So that's why Germany has been contacted. But now we have the time to think about it; in fact every country can organize, you can have Greece, Bulgaria, and Austria. Other countries can organize right now Scandinavian country, GB&I, everybody can organize; so in fact it should be presented in one year in Berlin as we always do. It is now the time to ask for it, who is interested to organize the next European Rally and if there's nobody we can always come back to the original Charlemagne three years scheduled to say the next one has to organize that. We really have to think about it now because in one year we should know who will be, who will organize the next European Rally in 2025. I know it is not today that you will have an answer but don't wait too long.

**Gabriele Schrumpf:** as Austria was mentioned now of course Austria would love to organize sometimes an European Rally but what I learned with our German friends now is that when you prepare a rally like that you have to pre-finance a lot. We have 293 members and I can tell you they cannot pre-finance a European Rally and this is the problem, maybe also of other European countries like Croatia, Bulgaria and Greece. I

think we should find a possibility how we could pre-finance because then I am sure all the other countries which have not organized yet such a rally would also come in to do that.

**Cinzia Tomatis:** why not thinking about organize together, two or three countries together. We are waiting for emails.

**Snjezana Petrovic:** in our country it is very popular not to have accommodation in a hotel always, if you stay for two nights at your friend; why not? It is not so big obligation, it is only spending a night there, and all the things are out of the house for any kind of events. So if we can accept that kind of organization then smaller countries will not have that kind of expenses. These are so huge expenses, only a huge Germany can do, Croatia cannot afford it of course Austria also, and we have the same amount of members. But you know we are guessing, everybody can do it on her own, that will also help us in our District to become aware of all of you. Now I have this information and then everybody will be able to get this kind of information to contact somebody else to share experiences and all your information.

It is a very good idea to share this organization between countries that are not able to organize totally on themselves. This is the problem but you have to pay in advance and you have to book in advance and so for me.

**Donatella Nicolich:** I cannot promise of course that my country will contribute but my personal contribution is for Croatia we are very near and if they need to some support personal support I will be there.

## 9. Announcement of 16<sup>th</sup> EM

**Marianne Von Knorring:** I'm very happy and honored to organize the 16<sup>th</sup> European Meeting in France 2022 and we will start as soon as possible to work for this event, we will probably increase the number of law meetings as we need to decide very urgently on what part of our Constitution we hope to work as we have only few months in front of us to write the proposals and how we share this important work between all interested European countries. We want to continue with the dynamic of the workshops proposed during the preparation of this meeting in Rimini because we believe that we must give priority to regular meetings in working teams in order to make real progresses this means we want to go on with the three areas of law, training and management. This is continuity as has been expressed during the digital workshops in august.

This year we can exceptionally focus on our proposals, we also have a choice between three teams but the focus would be proposals; our life have drastically changed during this practice pandemic and we are not rid of it, we must go on taking care of all of us and go on and adapting our meetings in this difficult environment.

We are looking forward to centenary of our beautiful association and its Convention of Manchester, in near future we have the European rally in Berlin; we are aware that our schedules and the finances of our respective countries do not all follow us multiply the face-to-face meetings and organize them as in the past. But now we have made a lot of progress in the digital meetings do all these important events and due to the fact that it's still very difficult today to plan a real meeting.

We propose instead of physical meeting in our beautiful terrain to invite you to a zoo meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of June or 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 2022. These two days should enable us to share the proposal presented by the very various Clubs/District in our respective territories. This important analysis is one of the keys to the development of Inner Wheel in Europe which concerns us. In the first place we all have to motivate our

own members to work on these proposals, once the new Constitution has been displayed and translated in our different languages.

I look forward welcoming you to the 16th European meeting

**Susanne Meterelkamp Cappenberg Beetz:** do I understand it well that it will be a zoom European Meeting because of the European Rally and because of the costs? Well I'm disappointed, I like this setting, and I want to do it again!

**Marianne Von Knorring:** yes, we have to choose the date and we are going to choose that with each other, and how and when do we choose.

Following the discussion on the choice of the date that would match with the closing events of the year, we wonder who should attend the current NR or the elected one?

In view of the fact that it would not be possible to find a date suitable for all countries, the date remains the one set by France and will be attended by those who are not committed at the moment therefore NR, DNR or PNR

**Cinzia Tomatis:** as there are no guidelines, it's up to the country to make the choice because if the NR or the DNR cannot participate for a reason, the country sends other expert member to be present.

**Catherine Refabert:** June was chosen to have three months difference with Berlin. It is a certain amount of money, that is why we are making before and by zoom and the fact that it is zoom, we can increase the number of the people present; if I remember in the first virtual we were more than 70. So maybe it is time as we have to work on a very serious problem, the Constitution, to be more representatives from each country, at least three of those who work on the problem.

## 10. Conclusion

**Cinzia Tomatis:** It is time for the closing arguments. If you have framed me a little, you will already know that I will not make cheerful speeches because more and more convinced of less words and more action. We started from the need to make a change to the organization of the EM expressed already in Münster and reiterated – virtually in Rhodes; we started a path and now we have to work and be proactive. We experimented with the new format, we liked it? Was it productive? What we can add or modify we'll see from now on. We are going on working in the three areas and starting to collaborate on the fourth area. It has been suggested for the law area to have two fields: the one just straight on the proposals and the other just to the international law. In the training area also they are going to have two areas to focus on: the updating forms, online models and the training. The management area: the culture of management should be introduced so as to have a project manager, a person really interested in and with skills. We should start with the exchanging information and experiences and we would like to have even a contact - that was one of my big aim, to have contact between NGBs - not just a classical contact but sharing the way of doing, the way of working because taking suggestions from each other would be very constructive.

Together, as a really team where the participation and the contribution is given with competence and not because of a right of access.

Together towards the Century of our Association.

Lastly, if you would like to use the new logo, please do it, is not related to my copyright!

I am so glad that you have participated at the 15<sup>th</sup> EM. Thank you all for having supported our event by attending and contributing.

And before giving the word to NR Italy Donatella Nicolich for the Farewell Greetings I would like to thanks the other members of the Organizing Committee NR Donatella, DNR Donatella, PBD Luisa, 209 District Chairman Lilly who did a huge job in loco, Rosanna ready to intervene for any need, Cinzia Marchetti for her not only technical support; with her I have worked at unreasonable times, and Dario with its scenic realizations assisted in these two days by Marco , Mr. Pasini who accompanied the Outer Wheel in their activities.

From the bottom of my heart thank you all & see you around!

**Donatella Nicolich:** My dear friends we have reached the end of our meeting and I am pleased that we have succeeded in gathering together despite the difficulties of the Covid19 pandemic. It was a big challenge to organize it in the hybrid form but this way allow us to see all the faces after two years together either in presence or remotely, I am sure we found ourselves closer than ever.

I thank all the participants for their presence and contributions to the discussion and the speakers for the speeches.

Special thanks to Cinzia Chairman of the organizing committee, it is thanks to her determination and commitment that enabled us to complete the 15<sup>th</sup> European Meeting. A great thanks and gratitude to the unique Luisa Vinciguerra without her experience and visionary concept this innovative format for the 15<sup>th</sup> European Meeting would have never happened. Thanks to Lilly Pasini who took care of the local organization. Special thanks to Cinzia Marchetti National Webmaster, she assisted during all the zoom workshops and designed part of the layouts. Thanks to my deputy Donatella of course for being here and last but not least thanks to Dario director of filming and organization of the hybrid form.

We pass the baton to France as for the 16<sup>th</sup> European Meeting, meanwhile please stay on the traced road meeting and discussing online. A huge hug to all of you, till next year in France. Thank you

**Cinzia Tomatis:** we should have a toast - it is the 15<sup>th</sup> European Meeting – I wish a really, really new era for our European Meeting and I wish to all of us to have the Inner Wheel we want, we like and where we feel good to stay in!