



MINUTES OF MEETING 28-29 APRIL 2023

INTERNATIONAL INNER WHEEL 17TH EUROPEAN MEETING
CYPRUS 2023

PARTICIPANTS 28 OF APRIL

09:15- 17:00

1. AVGERINOUS Sissy – IIW P. BOARD DIRECTOR - GREECE
2. STENKULA GERTIE – NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE - SWEDEN
3. LARSSON AGNETA – NATIONAL PRESIDENT -SWEDEN
4. PYLKKANEN EVE- VICE PRESIDENT IN NATIONAL COUNCIL - FINLAND
5. NIKOLICH DONATELLA – NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE -ITALY
6. YORDANOVA MARIANA – NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE - BULGARIA
7. MAJDALANI DORIS – NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE - ISRAEL
8. FAHOUM SUHA – PAST DISTRICT CHAIRMAN 2021/2022 - ISRAEL
9. ALTONA CHRISTINE – NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE - GERMANY
10. DEWINTER-DE SOETE PAULETTE – IIW. PAST NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE & PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL - BELGIUM
11. MOLLER KIRSTEN – IIW. BD - DENMARK
12. SWEISS MUNA – PAST IIW BD - JORDAN
13. DE VOS CHARLOTTE – PAST INTERNATIONAL INNER WHEEL PRESIDENT - BELGIUM
14. AZZAM SYLVIA – SECRETARY - ISRAEL
15. SARIEL BRACHA – PAST DISTRICT 99 CHAIRMAN - ISRAEL
16. PERLSON TIKVA – MEMBER - ISRAEL
17. GILLAT TOVA – DISTRICT CHAIRMAN - ISRAEL
18. GAN ZVI ORNA – DISTRICT TREASURER - ISRAEL
19. NIKOLAKOPOULOU ROSE-MARIE – NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE - GREECE
20. WUTSCHER ROSWITHA – NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE - AUSTRIA
21. THOST-STETZLER RENATE – DEPUTY NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE - GERMANY
22. PETRESCU CRISTINA – PAST DISTRICT CHAIRMAN & PRESIDENT - ROMANIA
23. OVERINK WILLEKE – NATIONAL PRESIDENT – THE NETHERLANDS
24. VAVILINA NATALIA – CHAIRMAN DISTRICT 224 ROMANIA&MOLDOVA - MOLDOVA
25. METELERKAMP CAPPENBERG-BEETZ SISANNE – IPP & NR/ NGB – THE NETHERLANDS
26. MIHALSCAIA TAMARA – SECRETARY - MOLDOVA
27. PARTANEN RAIJA –PRESIDENT OF THE NGB & NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE – FINLAND
28. SCHROEDER MARIE- VICE PRESIDENT & SECRETARY OF COUNCIL, DEP. NR- BELGIUM
29. MARIA MATHEOU SOUROULLA- CHAIRMAN 96 DISTRICT INNER WHEEL- CYPRUS
30. ZENA KYRIAKIDE- VICE- CHAIRMAN 96 DISTRICT- CYPRUS
31. CHRYSTALLA IOANNIDOU- SECRETARY 96 DISTRICT- CYPRUS
32. ELLI DEMETRIOU- TREASURER 96 DISTRICT- CYPRUS
33. XENIA PAPADOURI- EXTENSION CHAIRMAN 96 DISTRICT- CYPRUS
34. TASOULA VOSKOU- INTERN. SERVICE ORGANISER/ PAST NR 96 DISTRICT- CYPRUS
35. RIA KALLI- EDITOR 96 DISTRICT- CYPRUS
36. RINOULLA XYSTOURI- MEDIA MANAGER 96 DISTRICT- CYPRUS
37. LENA NICOLAOU- NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE 96 DISTRICT- CYPRUS
38. EVROULLA HAROUTOUNIAN- DEPUTY NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE 96 DISTRICT- CYPRUS

PARTICIPANTS 29 APRIL

09:00-12:00

1. AVGERINOUSISSY – IIW P. BOARD DIRECTOR - GREECE
2. STENKULA GERTIE – NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE - SWEDEN
3. LARSSON AGNETA – NATIONAL PRESIDENT -SWEDEN
4. PYLKKANEN EVE- VICE PRESIDENT IN NATIONAAL COUNCIL - FINLAND
5. NIKOLICH DONATELLA – NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE -ITALY
6. YORDANOVA MARIANA – NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE - BULGARIA
7. MAJDALANI DORIS – NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE - ISRAEL
8. FAHOUM SUHA – PAST DISTRICT CHAIRMAN 2021/2022 - ISRAEL
9. ALTONA CHRISTINE – NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE - GERMANY
10. DEWINTER-DE SOETE PAULETTE – IIW. PAST NAT. REP. & PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL
BELGIUM
11. MOLLER KIRSTEN – IIW. BD - DENMARK
12. SWEISS MUNA – PAST IIW BD - JORDAN
13. DE VOS CHARLOTTE – PAST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT - BELGIUM
14. AZZAM SYLVIA – SECRETARY - ISRAEL
15. SARIEL BRACHA – PAST DISTRICT 99 CHAIRMAN - ISRAEL
16. PERLSON TIKVA – MEMBER - ISRAEL
17. GILLAT TOVA – DISTRICT CHAIRMAN - ISRAEL
18. GAN ZVI ORNA – DISTRICT TREASURER – ISRAEL
19. NIKOLAKOPOULOU ROSE-MARIE – NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE - GREECE
20. WUTSCHER ROSWITHA – NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE - AUSTRIA
21. THOST-STETZLER RENATE – DEPUTY NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE - GERMANY
22. PETRESCU CRISTINA – PAST DISTRICT CHAIRMAN & PRESIDENT - ROMANIA
23. OVERINK WILLEKE – NATIONAL PRESIDENT – THE NETHERLANDS
24. VAVILINA NATALIA – CHAIRMAN DISTRICT 224 ROMANIA&MOLDOVA - MOLDOVA
25. METELERKAMP CAPPENBERG-BEETZ SISANNE – IPP & NR/ NGB – THE NETHERLANDS
26. MIHALSCAIA TAMARA – SECRETARY - MOLDOVA
27. PARTANEN RAIJA –PRESIDENT OF THE NGB & NAT. REPRESENTATIVE – FINLAND
28. SCHROEDER MARIE- VICE PRESIDENT & SECRETARY OF COUNCIL, DEP. NR- BELGIUM
29. MARIA MATHEOU SOUROULLA- CHAIRMAN 96 DISTRICT INNER WHEEL- CYPRUS
30. ZENA KYRIAKIDE- VICE- CHAIRMAN 96 DISTRICT- CYPRUS
31. CHRYSTALLA IOANNIDOU- SECRETARY 96 DISTRICT- CYPRUS
32. ELLI DEMETRIOU- TREASURER 96 DISTRICT- CYPRUS
33. XENIA PAPADOURI- EXTENSION CHAIRMAN 96 DISTRICT- CYPRUS
34. TASOULA VOSKOU- INTERN. SERVICE ORGANISER/ PAST NR 96 DISTRICT- CYPRUS
35. RIA KALLI- EDITOR 96 DISTRICT- CYPRUS
36. RINOULLA XYSTOURI- MEDIA MANAGER 96 DISTRICT- CYPRUS
37. LENA NICOLAOU- NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE 96 DISTRICT- CYPRUS
38. EVROULLA HAROUTOUNIAN- DEPUTY NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE 96 DISTRICT-
CYPRUS

Friday 28/4/2023

1. **Mrs Maria Matheou Souroulla**, Chairman District 96 Inner Wheel clubs of Cyprus, welcomed participants and stressed that the Conference is a forum where all Inner Wheel members work together towards a common goal -the successful outcome of this Conference towards improving Inner Wheel in general. Another goal of this Conference is the opportunity it offers for Inner Wheel members from all over Europe to get to know each other, bond, and lead to better cooperation in the future. The city of Larnaca was chosen for its proximity to the airport, its beauty, and the fact that it is the 17th oldest continuously inhabited city in the world! Finally, thanks were offered to the Deputy Ministry of Tourism, the municipality of Larnaca and the municipality of Limassol for their support in the realization of the 17th Inner Wheel European Meeting.
2. **Prof. Mary Koutselini** (Chair holder of the UNESCO Chair in Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment) addressed the meeting next and presented Women's History in Cyprus. Through various examples and references, she outlined the development of women and their position through the ages. She concluded by pointing out that there is still inequality which is based on a patriarchal mentality and on the perception that women are the weaker sex and the oppressed gender.
3. **Aravella Zachariou** (Head of the Unit of EESD, MoESY Chair of the UNECE ESD SC Chair of the Mediterranean ESD Committee) presented the next topic, that of Climate Change, Sustainable Goals, Education and Gender Equity: Seeking the Convergences. Mrs Zachariou mentioned that "There is no PLAN B beyond the sustainability goals because there is no PLANET B" as was said by Ban Ki-moon in 2016. She proceeded by asking why gender equality is a goal of the Global Agenda? Women who make up half of the world's population still work in different sectors, are paid less and are uninsured. Although women have the right to vote, only 18% are represented at Ministerial Level, while only 19% are at the top of the hierarchy in the state apparatus. As the numbers of girls and women at all levels of education increase, the opportunities and freedoms gained in education remain unevenly distributed. Gender equality (the empowerment and strengthening of women) can contribute to addressing the humanitarian and environmental crisis, improving the quality of life, and ensuring social and environmental solidarity and justice. She concluded by looking at the actions that must be taken. These include strengthening the role of women in food production, processing, and distribution. Empowering women through education and equal inclusion in climate consultations will lead to improved climate action and policy agendas. Strengthening the value system of women through education and their equal access to means and practices of dialogue, consultation, management of controversial issues can make them the key solution to peace, cooperation, solidarity of people, and fairer distribution of resources.
4. **Sissy Avgerinou** (IIW PBD GREECE) presented the subject of 100 Years. 100 opportunities for modernization and development of Inner Wheel. Mrs Avgerinou talked about the increase in the size of I.W. membership of women volunteers in service, doing their part in promoting friendship and fostering international understanding. Friendship, Trust, and Transparency are all important qualities for I.W. members. She believes that

a modern women organization should have gained justice and not have to still struggle for equality. Apart from a change of its Constitution, IIW of the new century needs something more. It is time to change our philosophy. We still struggle for equality between clubs and members when the modern world asks for equity and justice. According to Oliver Goldsmith “International Understanding is a feeling that the individual is not only a member of his State, but a member of the World”. Respect for each other’s’ culture and Love of Humanity are the two essential ingredients for this. She concluded by saying that perhaps it is time for Europe to take one more initiative and organize annual training for I.W. members all over the world so that I.W. becomes a modern organization.

5. **Charlotte De Vos** (IIW Past President) Naming of New Districts. Mrs De Vos said that the proposal submitted by D96 Cyprus to have the country name in the name of the District has not been approved by the IIW Constitution Committee. However, since the name of the country is part of our identity maybe it should have been admitted as this appears on many documents, banners etc. The name of the country is mentioned besides the number of the District. The identity of the Club is completed by mentioning “the name – the number of the District – the Country.” (As for example Inner Wheel Club of Larnaca – D96 – Cyprus)

6. **Lena Nicolaou**(National Representative of District 96)presented the topic of the Creation of a new District, within District 96.Mrs Nicolaou questioned the creation of a District within District 96 without prior approval and consultation by the IIW from the existing District. Since District 96 was created in 1973 for the whole of the island it came as a surprise and a shock to discover that a new District was formed within District 96 without prior consultation by the IIW, according to their rules. Considering that half of the island is under occupation by Turkish troops since 1974 then it came as a shock that the IIW approved and created this new District. Despite numerous invitations to the Clubs in the North of Cyprus to come and join the existing District 96 and correspondence between this District and the IIW nothing was achieved. In closing she suggested that this new District be dissolved by IIW according to IIW rules and that the Clubs of D 222 become part of D96.

7. **Donatella Nicolich** (National Representative Italy) on the topic of IIW Website and Database. A new international website has been active since August 23, replacing the previous one. The site currently consists of 2 parts: the first is accessible to all (both members and the public) and contains various general information with dissemination and promotional intentions. A second part is dedicated explicitly to members (Member Portal) and links to Google Drive for downloading documents. The website was developed within Google Workspace. However, this has led to complications and various difficulties in accessing the files that one wants. Without an online database or a printed directory, it is becoming more difficult to contact other members worldwide. The directory is no longer printed, and any request for information about the member’s contact details must be made through the request for contact information and this procedure lengthens management time and penalizes site functionality. She continues to say that today's data transmission speed does not allow us to be so complicated. Since

the strength of an international association lies in the ability to contact members around the world easily then the IIW Database is not fulfilling its role. She suggests that with all the resources of IIW, a more friendly user website can be designed, and a database be available to all members!

8. **Next EU Meeting in September 2023**: Donatella Nicollich continued her presentation by proposing a ZOOM meeting that would join the 16th and 17th EU meeting. Based on her assumption that there is a lack of continuity between one EM and the next and the difficulty in transferring the experiences gained and the work done during the meetings to the members in their own countries. The other major challenge identified was the spillover the discussions could have on the European countries involved. Over the past four years, the need has emerged to set milestones for the future development of European Meetings and to be able to cease discontinuity between years. Therefore, the organizing Committees of the last three European Meetings have agreed on some basic rules regarding the conduct and preparation of EM such as Continuity, Experience in IW matters, Knowledge of Inner Wheel and its evolution, Interactivity involving all participants. The following dates were proposed: First plenary session deciding groups and leaders between 3-7 July first Meetings of groups between 24-28 July second Meetings of groups between 21-25 August second plenary session 4 September. The participants all agreed to having this ZOOM meeting organized by Italy as suggested.

9. **Charlotte De Vos** (International Inner Wheel Past President) **Proposals and amendments convention 2024**. Mrs De Vos mentioned that the European meeting 2022 has prepared 38 Proposals and 7 general motions, who have been sent by different European countries to the Constitution Chairman. 12 proposals have been accepted (some with changes asked by the CC), 2 General Motions have been accepted, 7 from European Countries that were not on the list of the EM have been accepted, 7 from outside Europe (India 5 – Egypt & Jordan 1 – Philippines 1). As Donatella has explained to you, we will discuss all proposals in our zoom meetings. Amendments to these proposals / General Motions can be sent in till 6 November 2024. Procedure is the same as for the proposals. (See page 28 of the C & H 2021). At the Convention the amendments are discussed and voted before the proposal. If the amendment is not presented for the first time it is not so easy for it to be proposed. I hope to see you all with brilliant ideas at the next zoom meetings.

10. **Christine Altona** (National representative Germany 2022/23) **European Rally in Berlin 2022** Mrs. Altona reminded all about Rotterdam 2019 and the move to connect. The idea of ‘Stay connected – Today and in the future ‘. Three days in Berlin with the opportunity to meet new people and refresh old friendships. A joyful gathering, European in orientation, but a global event at heart. Having a world president in our ranks made us very proud. The European Rally 2022 Berlin was the world's first European Inner Wheel Meeting since the outbreak of the pandemic. 600 Inner Wheelers from 18 European countries as well as Egypt, Reunion and Philippines sent a strong signal for more social commitment in times of crisis. The next European Rally will be in 2025 in Helsinki.

Then the discussion started regarding the surplus of the Rally and the question regarding a social project to be chosen. Six months later nothing has been done. Communication is very bad. The goal of a European Rally is not for fundraising. The NR (or their delegate) of Austria, Belgium-Luxembourg, Bulgaria, Denmark, FAMAT, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden, representing about 500 of the +/- 550 participants in Berlin have decided to ask for reimbursement of 100 euro per participant (for all participants - even from the countries not represented at this European meeting), the remaining balance to be given to Germany. Mrs Rosemary Nikolakopoulou requested that her objection to this decision be noted. The individual countries can then decide if the money will be given back to the participants or will be used for a national/district or club project. Reimbursement by country is the easiest way to handle. It was thought that this will be a “fair” distribution of the surplus.

11. **Nikolakopoulou Rose-Marie** (National Representative of Greece)*The Contribution of the Digital World to the Affiliation of European Inner Wheel Countries in Assisting us to the possible collaboration of common programs.* Mrs Nikolakopoulou referred to various meetings that took place online which helped her and other participants to keep in touch and follow the various clubs’ strategies. She considered this type of meeting as very useful and profitable. She also considered the online voting carried out by the IIW as very productive. She believes that this is a positive way of communicating between members and clubs worldwide as it saves money from travelling and that it gives the chance for better preparation and guidance especially for younger members of Inner Wheel. This way of communication can give the opportunity to the younger women among our clubs to present themselves through programs and get the experience of communicating the philosophy of Inner wheel in a better way. Out of the four programs, she thinks that knowledge of the environment is the one that is needed most.

12. **Raija Partanen**(President of the Governing Body in Finland)*Declining Inner Wheel Membership.* Mrs Partanen touched on the development of Inner Wheel in Finland – the rise and fall of membership of the clubs. She mentioned the activities of Inner Wheel in Finland, which include monthly meetings with lectures and discussions, fundraising, lottery, planning of local social programs.Inner Wheel growth was fairly easy by establishing clubs and recruiting members (it was almost automatic) because of the link to Rotary.The reasons for the declining number of clubs and members are due to the cutting of ties to Rotary in 2012, difficulties in identifying possible new members, aging of the members, demands of the modern professional and family life, unwillingness to take positions of responsibility (president, secretary, treasurer), other freetime activities, covid pandemic, unknown name of the organisation. Inner Wheel – the inner circle of the society, more exclusive than inclusive. She posed questions for the future such as ‘How to reach the young generation?’. ‘How to make our organisation and administration lighter?’ ‘How would our activities best serve the modern society and how to make our organisation more attractive to younger women?’. **Should we change our name?** Jaipur 2019!.IW celebrates a 100 years of friendship next May and this gives an opportunity for IW to move into the next century with a name more identifiable by the general public as to what this organisation represents for the present and the future. She recognises that her presentation had many negative things, but she assured us that IW

Finland has not lost hope, they have a good spirit in their clubs and trustfully to the future. She invited everyone to the European Rally in **Helsinki in September 2025 !!**

13. **Kirsten Moller** (IIW PBD) presented the speech of IIWPBD Gabriele Scruempf on the topic What are European Meetings about? Mrs Moller explained that European Meetings were founded by committed IW-members of Europe. European meetings are **THINK TANKS** for the future of Inner Wheel in Europe. They are Business Meetings! They are for discussion, evaluation, and development of Inner Wheel Europe. Nothing to do with the European Rally which is a Friendship Meeting dedicated to certain topics. The European Meeting has nothing to do with the International Inner Wheel, therefore the IIW-Governing Body is not invited. In the first years no husbands appeared at the European meetings, and this was a big advantage for exchange of ideas during meals. Since husbands accompany their wives, organizers are forced to make a program for them too. They participate at the dinners. Sometimes they take over the whole evening. It was questioned whether it is necessary to come with husbands for Business Meetings? She said that in International Inner Wheel it is forbidden! She then proceeded by giving the Guidelines of European Meetings. These were deemed to be very useful, and it was decided to send her presentation to all National Representatives so that they could discuss it with their clubs and vote on whether they agree with the rules written by Mrs Scruempf and presented by Mrs Moller. She continued by saying that there are 3 kinds of European Meetings (after Convention, before Convention, Convention year). The main topic is THE FUTURE OF Inner Wheel Europe. Working together on Proposals, working together on amendments, working together on changes, we need to look at difficulties as well as success stories and the practising of IW in different countries. One of the things that should be discussed is whether all European countries should be invited even if they do not have a National Representative. All present agreed that all European countries should be invited.

14. **Natalia Vavilina**, (Chairman of District 224 Romania-Moldova) What friendship between Women can do. MSVavilina talked about international women's friendship and the help that her District has received through Inner Wheel Clubs and members towards the 800,000 refugees that arrived in her country. They have received help from their friends, to support and rehabilitate Ukrainian women and children. This help continues to this day. 'We are proud to be part of a big women's movement with a big heart', she said. She continued by sharing two studies carried out both in May and December of the previous year which show the difference between the Ukrainian refugees and other refugees all over the world. A major difference is that most Ukrainian women want to return home. And most women, while waiting for their return, are in no hurry to look for a job. Since a conflict resolution has not yet been reached, this has led to moral and psychological exhaustion of women refugees. At present they are conducting psychological rehabilitation courses. In addition, they have launched a training project to train refugee women in social entrepreneurship, as it is believed that it is social entrepreneurship that will help women assimilate in their current country of residence and get opportunities to gain income when they return to Ukraine. It is very important to interact with other countries with similar projects to find joint solutions and methodologies. The example of the Inner Wheel, mutual support and friendship has

become a magnet for women in the countries of District 224. Thanks to this, two new clubs were opened this year and three more are being prepared to open. A charter ceremony is planned for this fall to which all present have been invited. In closing she said that for her, female friendship has many components. These components have changed over the course of her life. The Inner Wheel has taught her a different kind of friendship, a friendship that cannot be measured. It is impossible to define it. It can only be felt. This is the friendship of creation, development, and forward movement. She feels proud to be part of Inner Wheel.

15. **Charlotte De Vos** (IIW Past President, D62 Belgium) Presentation of Proposals and Amendments for Manchester Convention 2024: The 32 proposals and 2 amendments were presented, explained, and shortly discussed. The procedure of introducing amendments was explained. As for the proposals and amendments at the Convention it was explained that these will be presented and supported by various European countries. This was a very valuable presentation because it gave the chance to all present to read or reread the presentations and amendments and discuss them between them, which led to a clearer understanding of the work of IIW.
16. **Conclusions from the European Meeting, April 2023 to IIWGB:** Certain Petitions were drawn from the participants to the European Meeting as follows:

A. Petition Concerning the IIW Database

Dear IIW President and EC Members

As you are aware, one of the most important objects of Inner Wheel is to foster international understanding. But how does one do this when it is impossible to find contact information for Inner Wheel members around the world? We strongly request that this information should be available again online once a member logs in and with access for all IW members. This could be done by developing a website only for members with access. At this website all our internal documents could also be stored.

Another way could be done by a digital directory also saved by log-in and this should be forwarded to the club member mails, known to you since you use these for sending election materials. Since there is an amount saved by not printing the directory, this could be used for setting up this particular web page. As we claim to be the largest voluntary women's organization in the world we must act in a more professional way.

In Friendship

Signed by the participants of the 17th International European Meeting in Cyprus of National Representatives.

B. Petition Concerning the dissolution of D222.

Dear Madame Chairman

We the undersigned, participating in the 17th European Meeting of National Representatives of Inner Wheel taking place between 27 – 30 April 2023, wish to express our extreme disappointment regarding the decision of International Inner Wheel Past President Dr Bina Vyas, to present and bring the Charter to District 222 Alasia. This is an illegal District formed in a non-legally existing country. We demand the withdrawal of the Charter and the inclusion of the Turkish Cypriot clubs of Northern occupied part of Cyprus into District 96 Inner Wheel Club of Cyprus.

The procedure as stated in the constitution and handbook has not been followed. A District has been formed without the rules regarding the division of a district followed.

Signed by the participants of the 17th International European Meeting in Cyprus of National Representatives, apart from Marianne Von Knoring.