



*European Union of Women
Union Européenne Feminine
Europäische Frauen-Union*



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Human civilisation has already crossed the threshold of the third millenium. The future lies before us, full of dreams, hopes and fears.

We are at the beginning of a new world, of a new reality. The wide range of politics and decisions made, nowadays, will determine, in various ways, the future of humanity.

We are aware of the serious crisis, the complexity and the diverse "enemies" and dangers threatening our society and culture in each aspect of our daily lives. This complicated crisis could be confronted with a new proposal for Human Life and Culture based on the principles and universal values of a newly-built Political Culture.

Women could play a valuable role in promoting and applying this proposal as their participation in the decision-making process becomes more and more appreciable. Women are, by nature, energetic, creative, idealists and realists. These characteristics enable us to act in a more efficient way in the variable political and social system of values and ideas. Women have the power to "humanize" politics and construct a society where democratic values, equality among people, solidarity, respect in human rights, freedom, security and justice will prevail.

Women should be more active in the decision-making process so as to build with men the arriving world. A world, which will be more peaceful, more democratic, more human and more responsive to the demands of modern times.

The European Union of Women enters the 21st century in a dynamic way, creating "communication bridges" among women of the whole of Europe, and thus further enabling the strengthening and deepening of the influence of women in the political field and civil life.

The E.U.W. strongly believes in the catalytic role of women's participation in politics and advocates that society itself ought to create the necessary conditions for real equality between women and men. Laws have proved inadequate in establishing real equality. Radical changes in prejudices and mentalities should be promoted by society so that women will become an integral part of that society.

Let us welcome the arriving world, the third millenium, without sex and racial discrimination, or any other form of discrimination.

Fanny Palli-Petridis
M.P., Greece
International Chairman of the
European Union of Women

Countries:

Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland.

Who are we?

The European Union of Women is composed of women members of Parliament, Local Authorities and women in public life drawn from the Christian Democrat, Conservative and other like-minded political parties or organisations. There are members in the twenty one countries mentioned above. This number is constantly growing as the newly emerging democracies join.

Aims:

Article II of the Constitution

The Union stands for the conservation of human dignity and freedom and the maintenance of the cultural heritage of Europe, as well as for the social and economic progress safeguarding the rights of the individual. The Union supports the strengthening of peace on the basis of justice and the free co-operation of the people of Europe and the World.

Article III of the Constitution

These Fundamental Principles shall be realised through the strengthening and deepening in the influence of women on political and civic life in European nations and in European and International organisations. It is special responsibility of the Union to establish and increase contacts between women of the European nations.

Structure:

The Structure of the Union comprises of :

- General Assembly
- Council
- Executive Committee.

In addition, there are eleven Commissions which relate to the following subjects: Culture, Education and Science, Economics and Employment, Family and Social Welfare, Food and Agriculture, International Policy, Health, Information and Mass Media, Judicial, Migrant Refugees and Demography, Environment Local Government and Regional Planning. At the General Assembly the Commissions come together in relevant subject groups to run three Workshops.

The Political Commission consists of the Chairmen of all National Sections. There is also a Constitution Commission and an Election Commission.

Organisation:

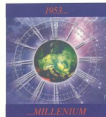
The *General Assembly* decides broad lines of policy, advised by the council. The *Executive Committee* is responsible for ensuring the implementation of the policies. It has Supranational status and its members do not represent their country but the interests of the Union.

The *Executive Committee* works together with the National Sections and the Commissions.

EUW is in close contact with the council of Europe, the European Parliament (EP), the United Nations (UN), as with the European Union of Christian Democrats (EUCD), the European Democrat Union (EDU), the International Democrat Union (IDU), and the Pacific Democratic Union (PDU).

International Work:

The EUW has consultative status with the Council of Europe and is represented among the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO's) at the Council and the United Nations (ECOSOC).



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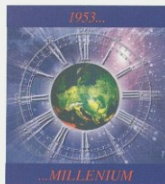
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EUROPEAN UNION OF WOMEN EXECUTIVE BOARD DECLARATION 2000



The Executive Board of the E.U.W. met in Athens on the 16th October 1999 under the chairmanship of Fanny Palli-Petralia, M.P., Greece. The Board focused on the actions and goals achieved during the century that was at its end, in relation to the E.U.W. but also to the Women's Movement in general, in Europe and all over the world. Furthermore, the future perspectives, and aims were discussed.

In conclusion, the E.U.W. came to the following declaration:

1. The 20th century was very important for the political and social position of women. In western societies, women won equality by a hard-fought struggle. On the other hand, in other countries, **especially in Asia and Africa, women are in an inferior position in relation to men**, because of political, economical, cultural, religious and social reasons, prejudices and mentalities.

Furthermore, in many peripheries of the Western world, **Equality has been achieved only in theory.** The statistics show us the true situation: Women's employment worthies less, the percentages of unemployed women are higher than those of men and their participation in the decision-making process is inappreciable. In a few words, contrary to the progress made "on paper", it is obvious that the **20th century leaves behind an important deficit in the real equality between women and men.**

2. The 20th century is characterized by upheavals, deep ideological conflicts, warfare (local and international), but also by the domination of the liberal ideas, which the European Union of Women has always defended. The free market, the private initiative, human rights, the freedom of speech, solidarity, community, the welfare state, equality between women and men and all the other liberal ideas have been extensively advocated. However, their implementation in several cases - mainly by former socialists - is so inordinate, that finally it changed the purpose of the principles of liberalism which are the service of human needs by the number, statistics and technology.



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As a result, we face the birth and the strengthening of many dangerous political formations and the domination of a monolithic **Economistic Culture** where the human being has become *homo economicus* without any historical, religious, family, moral, spiritual and social values and traditions.

3. The E.U.W. strongly believes, that, in the next century the primal aim is the implementation and the widening of the principle of equality between women and men all over the world.

The resolutions of the 4th International Women's Congress in Peking, of the European Union and of the political positions of the Council of Europe, are important tools towards these political and social aims.

Furthermore, the European Union of Women intends to plan and enforce specific policies for each member-state which aspire to the following aspects:

- a) the change of men's mentality that prevents the implementation of Equality;
- b) the participation of women on an equal basis in the local, national and international decision-making process;
- c) the characteristics of women's nature such as care, cooperation and sensitivity should be embodied in the political decisions. Women's participation in the decision-making process turns down the aggressiveness, promotes the competition and creates human conditions for the conservation of the environment, the world peace and a harmonious economical, mental and moral development of the human being.

4. The E.U.W. supports the belief that politics will be re-determined ideologically, during the 21st Century.

The main issue of political formations will be whether politics will be transformed into a management process of public affairs or will be the **re-creation** where politics and visions will be designed for people's future. Under these conditions, we believe that the liberal ideology should have clear positions.





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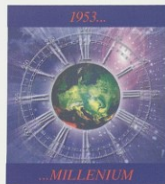
Apart from the principles of democracy, liberty and social justice, which we always support, we think that it is high time we examined and added to our ideology several new ideas which will further enable human progress and will lead to the integration of anthropocentric aims.

We believe in a new ideology that will not consider the human being as an e-mail number and will not identify human success by financial criteria exclusively.

We believe that we have to create **anthropocentric societies** that will respect the environment and the autonomy of the human being.

Moreover, **globalization will not suppress the different ideas and cultures, but will act as a communication bridge between nations and people.**

5. In this context, the Executive Board of the European Union of Women invites the center-right wing and popular political parties of Europe to an ideological and political discussion about **a new Political Declaration for the 21st Century.**





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