

EUROPEAN UNION of WOMEN

International Policy Commission

Walburga v. Lerchenfeld,
Chairwoman

The International Commission had its last international meeting in Athens. There had been contact with the Greek branch, namely Christina Deligianni with whom I had corresponded and exchanged statements during the high time off the Greek financial crisis.

There has also been some contact with English members of the International Policy Commission.

In Germany there is an active group in Bavaria. We work in close coordination with the CSU Parties foreign policy institutions, attending meetings, conferences and lectures. Some of the international Conferences I have attended as Chairwoman of the International Commission and prepared with our working group:

EPPW Summer Academy 2011 Spain: Equality on the European labour market
EPPW Summer Academy 2012 Istanbul: Arab Spring and the role of Women
AK Party Women's Congress May 2012 in Istanbul
EPP General Assembly in Marseille 2011
EPP General Assembly in Bucharest 2012

October 2011 : Seminary Conference on „Cyber war“
April 2012: Value and Value added: Raw Material Security for Europe and Germany
January 2013 : Conference on „Political development prospects“ for Saudi Arabia
with Prince Turki Al-Faisal bin Abdul-Aziz Al-Saud
February 2013: Transatlantic Forum during the Munich Security Conference

The Commission working group in Bavaria has 43 members and has met 8 times since Athens. We meet to discuss the actual international political situation from a German and European point of view. We either invite speakers (members of the European Parliament, the Parties foreign policy secretary, representatives of Defence, NATO or Security Institutions and prepare amendments which are discussed at EUW and CSU Party general Assemblies. (2 exemplary papers are added in the appendix)

Our members live all over Bavaria and are each integrated in party organisations at a communal level in their own regions, where they also “represent” EUW / International Commission. In the working group we inform each other on the different subjects discussed in the Districts and form opinions on the major subjects. This way the board of the Women's Branch of CSU (the Bavarian branch of EUW) and other Party Working groups receive information on the specific position we take on a matter.

The International Commission's working group in Bavaria works as follows:

1. Be informed and up-to-date on international issues and pass knowledge to local political structures.
2. Evaluate situations by using resources offered by political organisations on national and international level.
3. Form opinions to influence the decision taking organisations.
4. Participate in decision making by taking responsibility on local, regional, etc. levels.
5. Use social media for communication; as a member of the International Commission. your opinion does not stand for you alone but should be a reflection of a European women's organisation.

Key issues during the last two years were:

EUROPEAN UNION of WOMEN, International Policy Commission, February 2013

1. The economic Crisis in Europe
2. The change in the German army: Voluntary army service and its impact on society
3. The new NATO strategy
4. The new EPP policy
5. Arab Spring and the Situation around the Mediterranean.
6. Participation of German soldiers in Afghanistan, Libya, Turkey, Mali and possible further engagements.
7. Enlargement of the EU: Special situations in Bulgaria and Rumania
8. Quotas in Europe and Mrs Viviane Redding's efforts
9. The middle East: Syria – Israel and Iran
10. The US and it's turn to the Pacific: Europe must come "to age".

The working group prepares papers every two year for the general Party assembly and the general EUW Assembly. As both assemblies will take place after our state elections in autumn, no papers are available at this time of the year.

At the moment we begin work for the amendments to be handed to the next general assembly in autumn. We are heavily involved in the campaigns for the upcoming Bavarian State elections and the national elections and use Facebook for exchanging opinions and posting comments on international political issues.

To explain how we work I have put down some facts on our political / party system.

Our Party, how we work and how the International Commission is "integrated".

CSU (Christian Social Union) is Germany's third largest Party with about 150.000 members and forms a Coalition with the CDU (Christian democratic Party) and participates as such in the Government. The Party is financed through Membership fees, donations and taxes.

1. CSU has 8 working groups. The working groups chairmen are natural members of the CSU Presidency. The women's branch (FU) is the second largest working group with about 28.000 members. FU is fully financed through the Party. CSU is divided into 10 district chapters, 108 communal chapters and 2853 local chapters (towns, villages etc.) All working groups are divided the same way. The presidencies of party and working groups exist all on the same levels. They interact and communicate.
2. Apart from working groups and party chapters, there are Commissions and further working groups, who follow the same 4 organisational structures: State chapter, District chapter, regional chapter, local chapter.
3. The womens branch (FU) has project groups (International and Europe is one of them). The Chairwoman of such a project group must come from the FU Presidency and is nominated by the Presidency. FU is by status a member of EUW Germany and as such member of EUW. FU is a working group of CSU and as such should follow and generally support the Party statutes.

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Appendix 1 30. Juli 2011

Substantial proposal submitted to the Party's general assembly 2011

(Formulated by members of the International Com.mission/ FU Working group Europa and International affairs and the CSU foreign policy working group)

The delegate's are asked to decide:

To demand of the CSU Presidency to use all influence on all European levels that the Ratification of the European Councils Convention / SEV – Nr. 210) on “Prevention of Violence against Women and homely violence” is being pushed. It's coming into full application should be speeded and in consequence the violation of it's rules be punishable.

Statement of Reason:

A new European convention means to enforce a better protection for women from violence in and outside their homes. At a conference of foreign secretaries from the Council of Europe 13 Nations signed the agreement. Austria, Germany and Turkey were some of the first ones to do so. The agreement obliges the signing nations for the first time to consequently go against any form of violence at home. The necessity to install hotlines, women shelters, medical help and places for information and support is clearly stated. Problems as forced marriages must be tackled and must be abolished. An international team of experts will follow the implementation, as till now many laws have not shown the success needed.

Already now we must recognise, that the ratification process is very slow and some important members of the Council of Europe have already indicated either refusal or hesitancy to sign the agreement. **Vote:** Accepted

Appendix 2 30. Juli 2011

Substantial proposal Nr. 8

European regulation in Energy Politics

Submitted tot he Party's general assembly 2011

(Formulated by members of the International Com. / FU Working group Europa and International affairs and the CSU foreign policy working group)

The delegate's are asked to decide:

The CSU national group in the German parliament and the CSU European parliamentary group are asked to speak up on all European levels and in all European institutions for a Europe wide regulation to ensure equal standards for the safety of energy producing industries (nuclear and others) and equally reliable access to energy under the prospect of a future with renewable energies as a main source of energy. It should be discussed if access to electricity should not become a fundamental right.

Statement of Reason:

The efforts of our national government to bring about a change in Energy Politics is to be gratefully recognised. Though it must be stated, that the safety of the general public does also depend on our European neighbours. Quitting the process of generating electricity by nuclear production in Germany alone will not solve our “security” problem. Only a general European approach guaranteeing safety by applying high standards in the Production of Energy in all European and neighbouring states will help. Safe, reliable and affordable access to electricity is absolutely essential to keep Europe peaceful and safe.

The aspects of climate relevant politics and the accomplishment of set goals cannot be achieved by Germanys change in policies alone. The undoubted reduced global resources and the climatic impacts resulting from an uncontrolled overproduction of CO2 by using coal, gas and oil as primary sources for energy must be taken into account. Though a change to renewable energies has been internationally acknowledged a European strategy to coordinate the singular national efforts is needed. **Vote:** accepted