



Women in Aerospace Europe

Special Newsletter IAC 2016





WIA-Europe Events briefing

WIA-Europe Breakfast on September 28th



More than 100 participants enjoyed our traditional breakfast and the following very fruitful networking session, where attendees were able to meet new contacts, and exchange with colleagues and friends.



The first part of the WIA-E Breakfast started with a welcome from our Honorary President **Simonetta di Pippo** (Director of United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs) who addressed some changes in the WIA-E organization and the UNOOSA initiative to sustain gender balance, through the Space for Women project, especially in developing countries. Below is an excerpt from her speech:

“It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you all here today at the usual gathering of Women in Aerospace Europe at the IAC. This breakfast is now a well-established event in the framework of this Congress, and for the ones of you who are attending for the first time, you will understand why very soon!



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As you know, WIA Europe was co-founded by Claudia Kessler and myself back in 2009. A lot has happened since 2009. I had the privilege and the honor to be the President of this association since its inception, and this year the time has come to change its leadership.

The Board of Directors of WIA-E back in June this year accepted my desire not to be renewed for an additional three years as President, and Claudia Kessler was appointed as the new President. Luisella Giulicchi, from the European Space Agency, has taken over the role of Chair of the Board of Directors.

In order to be sure that the association maintains the original core values and principles on which we have based the creation and development of WIA, I was asked to serve as Honorary President. Needless to say, I accepted enthusiastically, and be sure I'll strongly support the association in the next coming years, so that it can grow more and more, still on its core value.

At the same time, let me take the opportunity to mention that at the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, which I have the honor and privilege to lead, we are working very hard to prepare the process towards UNISPACE+50



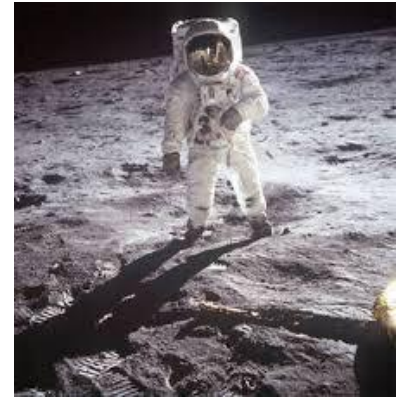
in June 2018, where we, the global space community, have the opportunity to shape the future of space in terms of global space governance, and to consider space activities as the tools to ensure sustainable development for all, so that no one is left behind. I'll present later this morning the new project of the United Nations in the field of women and STEM, especially in developing countries: our Space for Women project.



I would also like to take this opportunity to mention that I really welcome the flourishing of women-oriented projects. This is a very positive sign as the issues of gender, inclusiveness and diversity are attracting more attention and more initiatives aimed at increasing awareness and improving the situation. We, WIA – Europe, strive for a sustainable approach, inclusive and open. We also aim for a global approach. This is the

reason why I've been dreaming about federating all the WIA sister associations in a global network. If we succeed, this will be a breakthrough, a game changer. Imagine, WIA Global. Sounds good, right?

In 2019, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first human being on the Moon. We have since moved from the pioneering approach at that time to the future of space, where commercial missions to outer space will open up to a new phase of space activities. Surely this is the time to finally have a balanced representation of women in the aerospace field, and allow me to say, in our societies Let's work together for this objective, on a global scale!



Let me take the opportunity to thank the WIA Europe corporate members who, through their support, allow the association to fulfill its mandate. I'd also like to express appreciation for the strong support of individual members who devote their time and energies for our common goal, and, last but not least, the IAF for its cooperation, and DLR for having sponsored this event.

And about my dream to federate all the sister associations in a global network, as I mentioned already, believe me, the time to act is now!"



Following on, **Kiyoshi Higuchi**, President of the International Astronautical Federation, **Francisco Javier Mendieta Jimenez**, Director of the General Mexican Space Agency and **Pascale Ehrenfreund**, Chair of the Executive Board German Aerospace Center warmly welcomed the participants and addressed the importance of the work that we are doing at WIA-E.



The following section included important and representative speakers such as **Jan Wörner**, Director General of the European Space Agency and **Simonetta di Pippo**, Director of UNOOSA and Honorary President of WIA-E, that addressed specific initiatives within the institutional environment and also **Kay Sears**, Vice President of Strategy and Business Development of Lockheed Martin that presented her personal experience and illustrated some initiatives coming from the industrial environment, where Gender Diversity plays an important role.



The participants highly appreciated the informal atmosphere and opportunities to have time and space to talk to each other, to get to know new contacts and to have the chance to chat with the attending Board Members from WIA-Europe in order to ask questions, propose initiatives and bridge network gaps.





WIA-Europe Panel on September 28th on “Space: new paths towards a balanced and inclusive development”

The WIA-E Panel was attended by more than 120 participants. The panelists highlighted original issues in relation to a balanced and inclusive development of the aerospace field.



The Director General of AEM, **Francisco Javier Mendieta Jimenez**, discussed with four panelists urgent topics such as the management of migration challenges, health promotion in remote areas and developing countries through tele-health approaches, benefits of medical research in microgravity and the overarching topic of young women’s careers in the space arena. We are proud that **Simonetta di Pippo**, Director of UNOOSA, **Barbara Ryan**, Secretariat Director of GEO as well as **Sandy Magnus**, Executive Director of AIAA and **Minoo Rathnasabapathy**, Executive Director of SGAC accepted our invitation to the panel and their contributions were very effective, also through the illustration of their personal experience.





Women in Aerospace Europe

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Questions

If you want to learn more about Women In Aerospace Europe, please do not

hesitate to contact us via info@wia-europe.org
or take a look at our website www.wia-europe.org

Want to join?

Please fill in our registration form or visit: www.wia-europe.org/join

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