Dear WIA-Europe members,

Since the foundation of WIA-Europe by myself and Claudia Kessler in 2009, the association has developed in a remarkably successful manner and has today positioned itself as a benchmark organization for the promotion of equal opportunities for women in the aerospace sector in Europe and beyond.

Today, WIA-Europe counts more than 500 individual members with an increase of more than 20% during the last year. In June 2016, the Italian Space Agency (ASI) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) joining us with a total number of corporate members grew to 21. With ESA, CNES, ASI and DLR we have the 4 most prominent space agencies in Europe on board, and with Airbus, Thales Alenia Space, SES, OHB and Lockheed Martin Corporation also the major space industry players.

Since our last General Assembly meeting in June last year, WIA-Europe has organized numerous global, as well as regional events. We have held WIA-Europe Breakfasts - our flagship events - at the International. Our local groups have organized an incredible number of outstanding events of different kind, from networking gatherings to prominent panel discussions such as during this year’s Berlin Airshow ILA. All these events have significantly contributed to increased awareness of WIA-Europe and helped attract more and more individual and corporate members.

Let me take the opportunity to inform you all about a decision I took very recently, which was presented to the General Assembly on June 24th. My term as President of WIA Europe was due to expire and I had to decide whether to stay for my last term.

I'm also happy to inform you that, while I'll remain co-founder of WIA Europe for ever, I accepted to be appointed as WIA Europe Honorary President. This will allow me to continue my advocacy for a balanced representation in the aerospace sector in Europe and worldwide.
Let me also inform you that Claudia Kessler has been appointed as the new WIA-Europe President and Luisella Giulicchi as new Chair of the WIA-Europe Board of Directors. Barbara Imhof will be taking over the Treasurer position. Moreover, Christiane Lechtenboerger from DLR has been elected as Director of International and Institutional Relations and Annamaria Nassisi from Thales Alenia Space was elected as Director of Communication.

I would like to thank all of you, individual members, representatives of corporate members and local group leaders for your contribution and your trust, and I would like to express my sincere thanks to my friend and colleague Claudia Kessler, Chair of the Board, with whom we jointly founded the organization more 7 years ago and have led WIA-Europe all these years, and all Board members for their support and excellent work.

Thank you!

Simonetta Di Pippo
Message from President, Claudia Kessler

Dear WIA-Europe member,

We would like to inform you that our Executive Director Elena Feichtinger has left her position for continuing other challenging endeavors. She has been an invaluable asset to the association. We enjoyed working with her as an extremely engaged person dedicated to the cause. With this we would like to thank her for all the hard and excellent work she has contributed to Women in Aerospace Europe and look forward meeting her on future occasions as WIA-E member.

WIA-Europe continue to go on, on their strategic objective with its high qualified Board Directors and no vacancy is foreseen for replacement of the position of Executive Director. We are glad to announce that our Administrative Office has a very qualified Board Assistant: Richelle Scheffers. She has already expressed her enthusiasm and proactive approach for our future WIA-E endeavors. Richelle will be the first point of contact to our members and she will assist the Board of Directors in their work.

Kind regards,

Claudia Kessler

September Q1/Q2 2016
WIA-E Events in Q1/Q2 2016

WIA-E Breakfast & Awards Ceremony at IAF 2016 Spring Meeting

On Tuesday, the 22nd of March 2016, 08:00 - 09:30 WIA-Europe successfully held its traditional *WIA-E Breakfast and Awards Ceremony* during the IAF Spring Meetings in Paris. WIA-Europe was proud to announce its new corporate members ASI, GSA and Lockheed Martin Corporation.

More than 150 participants gathered to hear very interesting interventions by prominent keynote speakers, 3 Heads of leading European space agencies and distinguished corporate members: **Prof. Johann-Dietrich Woerner**, Director General, European Space Agency ESA, **Jean-Yves Le Gall**, President, Centre National d’Etudes Spatiales (CNES) and **Prof. Pascale Ehrenfreund**, Chair of the Executive Board, German Aerospace Center DLR. The audience was welcomed by WIA-Europe's President **Simonetta di Pippo** and by IAF's President **Kiyoshi Higuchi**.

**Claudia Kessler**, Chair of the WIA-Europe Board of Directors, introduced the WIA-Europe 2016 Outstanding achievement Award winner, **Candace Johnson** and held the laudatio. Candace Johnson gave an impressive speech.
The Space Innovation Congress is the showcase event for space related technology which took place in London, 7th - 8th April 2016.

Before Day 2 of Space Innovation Congress starts, Women in Aerospace Europe hosted its traditional Networking Breakfast with the theme ‘Diversity in Science’.

The event was opened by WIA-Europe's Executive Director Elena Feichtinger who introduced the moderator, Paola Belingheri, WIA-E Director of Individual Membership. Paola read a welcome message from Simonetta di Pippo, WIA-Europe President, and moderated interventions by the following prominent speakers: Dr. David Kendall, Chair United Nation Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UN COPUOS) and Prof. Chris Welch, Professor at the International Space University and Vice-President of the International Astronautical Federation.

More than 40 participants enjoyed inspiring discussions in a relaxed networking atmosphere.

WIA-Europe would like to thank the Space Innovation Congress, specifically Ms. Rita Andrews, for supporting and sponsoring this WIA-Europe event in London.
On June 2nd, WIA-Europe organized a panel discussion on "Innovation for Exploration! A Bridge for the Future" at the occasion of the Berlin Airshow ILA.

Speakers at this discussion were Brigitte Zypries, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, coordinator of Germany's aviation and space policies, Prof. Pascale Ehrenfreund, Chair of the DLR Executive Board, Claudia Kessler, HE Space CEO and co-founder of WIA-Europe and Dr. Dava Newman, NASA Deputy Administrator. The panel was attended by around 100 enthusiast men and women.


“A European aerospace sector with an inclusive representation on all levels”

Simonetta di Pippo (Honorary President WIA-Europe), Houlin Zhao (Secretary General, ITU) and Kiyoshi Higuchi (President of the International Astronautical Federation) held their welcome speeches at the beginning of the breakfast. Other speakers held a 40-minute talk: Jennifer Warren (Vice President, Technology Policy & Regulation of Lockheed Martin Corporation), Jean-Yves Le Gall (President, Centre National d’Etudes Spatiales CNES; IAF President Elect), Roberto Battiston (President, Italian Space Agency ASI; IAF Vice-President).
WIA-E Networking at Farnborough Airshow 2016

On the 14th of July, a networking get-together of WIA-E was organized at the UK Space Agency stand. The goal of this event was to get inputs of local space men and women, towards the establishment of a UK Local Group.

WIA-E invited by La Sapienza University to a local event within the Rexus/Bexus programme

The Sapienza Space Systems and Space Surveillance Laboratory (S5Lab) has organised an event within the "REXUS/BEXUS ESA Educational Programme (http://www.esa.int/Education/REXUS_and_BEXUS_experiments_selected)

The Rome event, held in the morning of 15th July 2016, achieved resounding success. The room was full of students, professors and representatives of several aerospace Italian industries, interested in knowing more about the objectives and features of the Educational European projects as the REXUS/BEXUS programme.

Professor Piergentili from the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering (DIMA) of Sapienza - University of Rome, welcomed the attendees by presenting S5Lab activities, for example, where BSc, MSc and PhD students can be involved in national and international projects, from nanosatellites design and development, to space debris observation and mitigation and the educational projects in the framework of the BSc degree of Aerospace Engineering. As second speaker, Annamaria Nassisi, Director of Communication of WIA-Europe, had the possibility to show and promote the main activities and objectives of the association, with particular emphasis on the support offered to young professionals and students active in the space field.

For more information on the board members please have a look at the website: http://wia-europe.org/events
In the presence of the top representatives of European space industry and institutions, among them ESA Director General Jan Wörner, Chairwomen of DLR Pascale Ehrenfreund and President of CNES, Jean-Yves Le Gall, Women in Aerospace Europe awarded its lifetime achievement award for 2016 to Candace Johnson in recognition of her achievements as a global serial entrepreneur, a telecom networks and infrastructure expert, an investor and a business angel.

Besides her engagement in numerous activities and positions Candace Johnson currently focuses especially on new satellite technologies, be it earth observation and intelligence, satellite situation awareness, micro-launchers and new communication technologies via laser from earth to satellite. She is also looking into ways to make telepathy as normal as mobile communications are today, since she foresees that in the not-too-distant future, it will be possible to communicate amongst people, continents, and galaxies via brain-waves.

The WIA-Europe Board of Directors has endorsed the recommendation of the WIA-Europe Awards & Grants Committee for this year's Student & Young Professional Award Winner and 3 Grantees. Please find below the names of our winners:
• 2016 WIA-E Student & Young Professional Award Winner: Michaela Musilova
• 2016/1 WIA-E Grants Winners: Marilena Di Carlo, Emma Kerr, Martina Porfiri

For more information on the board members please have a look at the website: http://wia-europe.org/news/
As research consistently shows, interpersonal connections are one of the key factors for a successful professional career. Our local groups create and reinforce links between the local actors of the aerospace community, well beyond the opportunities that daily business can offer. All local groups are free to organise a programme that matches the expectations of the local WIA-E community. The more you are actively involved in organizing local events, the more you will personally benefit and make your local community benefit from WIA-Europe. Each contribution makes a difference! Do you have any questions or would you like to be put on the list for a local group, or propose to start one in your area? Let us know!

This year new enthusiasts have taken over the role of local group leaders in Bremen (Antonella Sgambati & Michaela Cantisani) and Cologne (Sonja Brungs). And to finish beautifully 2016, our members can enjoy the creation of two new local groups: Darmstadt (lead by Olympia Kyriopoulos) and in the UK (led by Elisabeth Seward).

Below you can find an overviews of the activities organized by our local groups in 2016. Please follow the “Events” and “News” sections of our webpage to know further details on upcoming activities.
April 7 – Heli-cocktail with Susanne Tewes

On April 7th, Local group Bremen organized an aperitif in Restaurant Luv, together with Susanne Tewes. Susanne is the first female pilot of the ‘Marinefliegergeschwaders 5” in Kiel-Holtenau. In 2005 Susanne joined the Bundeswehr. She completed her nautical and military training at the Naval Academy Mürwik. She gave a presentation about the application steps, tasks and the daily life challenges that she faces in her job every day.

May 13 – Visit to Envihab at DLR Cologne

On May 13th, Local group Bremen gave their members a unique opportunity to visit and take part in the Space Tour in Cologne. The European Astronaut Center (EAC) as well as the DLR Envihab (from the words 'Environment' and 'Habitat') were visited to witness the future research for Space and Earth.

At the end of the tour, participants discovered the ARGOTEC space food and tasted it with an astronaut guest!

June 16 – Valentina’s Day: Promised the Moon

Event held in the Volkhaus Theater Bremen, to celebrate the day that Soviet Cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova becomes the first woman to travel into space (on June 16th 1963), with a projection of the science fiction silent film “Woman in the Moon” (Fritz Lang, 1929). In this dreamlike context, 50 participants had a chance to admire Tereshkova's original space suit and meet some of the "German Female Astronaut" candidates.

September Q1/Q2 2016
Local Group Brussels participated in the event organized by Google@6 with Alice Michel, WIA-E Local Group Leader in Brussels, as guest speaker.

The Cologne Local Group organized a networking breakfast on the 1st of July at the Envihab of DLR in Cologne. During the breakfast, which was attended by 20 women, Sonja Brungs introduced herself as the new Cologne group coordinator. Since there were many new women, WIA Europe Board member Christiane Lechtenbörger introduced them to WIA-E.

After the breakfast, the women enjoyed a guided tour through Envihab.
May 17 – Dinner: With Candace Johnson

WIA-Europe's Geneva Local Group organized a dinner on May 17th, in the presence of the guest of honour Mrs. Candace Johnson, Co-initiator of SES/ASTRA and architect of SES Global, one of the world’s largest satellite systems, President of The European Trade Association for Business Angels, Seed Funds and Early Stage Market Players and WIA-E 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award winner. Many participants attended the dinner at Café de la Mairie.

March 8 – Networking lunch: Manage your Energy

International Women's day started off with a great networking lunch with special guest Life Coach Sietske Hoving van der Wal. Around 30 women gathered at the dance room in Escape at ESTEC for a lunch and coaching session.

Sietske introduced them to a 1-hour session where she told them more about energy management, self-development and even included short exercises where they gained tools for coping with certain life situations. This was just a small taste of her coaching program Success in Balance.
March 9 – Aerospace Women’s Day – Big steps in high heels

Women’s Department ‘Amelia’ from the study association VSV ‘Leonardo da Vinci’ together with WIA-Europe Leiden, organized the Aerospace Women’s Day, themed “Big steps in high heels”. This event was filled with workshops and lectures from women in high ranked positions in the aerospace sector, as well as several moments to ask questions or to get in touch with professionals and speakers.

This event at the Delft University faculty of Aerospace Engineering started with a short introduction by the Dean Prof. Dr. Bijl. The event was be concluded with a drink.

April 13 – Networking lunch: How to start a start-up?

Martijn Seijger, director ESA BIC (Business Incubation Centre), held a presentation on 13 April about How to Start a Start-Up! Refreshingly he presented without a powerpoint presentation and instead asked lots of questions. With a group of 20 attendees consisting of women and men, he talked through the steps to start up a business, where to get funding and where to go for advice.

He not only shared his own experiences as an entrepreneur but also from his experience with the start-ups from ESA BIC. One of the things he mentioned was that start-ups often underestimate the importance of Intellectual Property (IP).

If you want to become an entrepreneur, there are several competitions organised which can help you get started, for example the ‘NASA Space Apps Challenge’ in April and ‘Act In Space’ in May.

May 4 – Networking lunch: How to sell your idea?

During this networking lunch, attended by 20 participants, our dedicated member Artemis Westenberg, gave a talk about "How to sell your ideas!". To many of us selling something, especially when it is intangible or personal, is quite scary. However, if you look at it from an objective point of view, presenting yourself and / or your idea is no different than showcasing your garden to neighbors. Even when they might have completely different taste in gardens they will be polite enough to respect your choices in gardening. Selling your idea is based on the same respect that most of us will show towards others. Respect they will receive back as respect is most definitely a two way street. What other concepts underlay the selling of anything was worked through at the workshop ‘Selling Idea’.

September Q1/Q2 2016
June 15 – In honour of Valentina Tereshkova

Olga Zhdanovich, working for ESA’s Quality Standardisation Board and a Russian herself shared the interesting story of Valentina Tereshkova, the first woman in space, and the incredible era of the space race.

Russian cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova was the first woman to have flown in space back in 16 June 1963, where she completed 48 orbits of the Earth in her three days in space. Until today 59 more women have followed in her footsteps and flew to space, the latest being ESA’s Samantha Cristoforetti, also a WIA-E member.

WIA-EUROPE MUNICH

March 7 – Regular's table of DGLR (Deutsche Gesellschaft Luft und Raumfahrt)

The WIA-Europe Munich Local Group is offering the opportunity to widen your network within WIA-Europe, and even beyond, by joining the regular's table/Stammtisch of DGLR (Deutsche Gesellschaft Luft und Raumfahrt) district office of Munich.

WIA-EUROPE PARIS

Little Break

More activities soon. Candidate for Chair is Welcome. Join us and follow the procedures on our website: http://wia-europe.org/about-us/local-groups/
**June 8 – Meeting: WIA-Europe Rome meets with Dr. Ellen Stofan**

On June 8th 2016, members of WIA-E met, Dr. Ellen Stofan, a planetary scientist, STEM advocate and Chief Scientist at NASA. The WIA-delegation responded to the formal invitation of the United States Embassy in Rome, in the person of the Deputy Chief of Mission Kelly C. Degnan. Moreover, several WIA engineers and representatives of the most important Italian space industries and institutions expressed their points of view and actively participated to the discussion, also supporting Dr. Stofan’s message for diversity in STEM education.

**June 27 – July 2 - Executive Course International Contracts in Aerospace Industry**

WIA-E Rome Local Group members has negotiated a special price for their member participation to the 1st edition of the “Executive Course on International Contracts in Aerospace Industry”, held in Turin from the 27th of June to the 2nd of July. Two members attended. The Executive Course offered a week study program, targeting mainly professional and managers from the aerospace and aviation industry. The course focused on growth of aerospace sector and resulting contract complexity providing a theoretical and practical analysis of the various sources and principles of law that govern international contracts in aerospace and aviation industry.

The lectures included Mario Comba – IUSE President, Gianmaria Ajani – Dean, University of Turin and Anna Masutti – University of Bologna.
A special focus was dedicated to the European legal framework of the aerospace market; European aerospace industry and the latest EU strategy proposals. The Executive Course received a very positive feedback by WIA-E Rome participants.

**July 27 – Networking: Book presentation of "Il cielo che ci cade sulla testa-impatti cosmici e ravvicinati", by Ettore Perozzi**

On the 27th of July WIA-E Rome organized a meeting focused on the book presentation of "Il cielo che ci cade sulla testa-impatti cosmici e ravvicinati" (The sky that falls on our heads: cosmic and close-range impacts), by Ettore Perozzi.

Perozzi is in charge of operations at the Near Earth Objects (NEO) Coordination Centre of the European Space Agency at ESRIN in Frascati, and his book deals with the phenomenon of craters created by the impact of celestial bodies with the Earth, which in the past were responsible for climate change and species extinction on our planet. It tries to answer some question, such as what risks derive from cosmic impacts and if we have the technology to face this challenge.

**WIA-EUROPE TOULOUSE**

**June 30 – Presentation: Claudie Haigneré**

Claudie Haigneré, first ESA female astronaut, captivated an audience of over 60 people at the WIA-E Toulouse event at the Toulouse Space Show on Thursday June 30. Twenty-five of the participants were local teenagers invited to learn more about her amazing career.
A guest of the WIA-E Toulouse local group, Claudie generously engaged with the young people (mostly girls) for more than an hour, explaining her numerous “lives”: doctor, researcher, astronaut, government minister, president of French scientific institutions, ESA special advisor, and mother of an 18-year old young woman already en route for a career in science and technology. She explained her motivation, the choices she made along the way, the importance of being bold and how women should not be afraid of taking risks.

Participants were thrilled to exchange with the most exemplary French scientist and astronaut. The values and behaviours demonstrated by Claudie Haigneré are clearly shared by WIA-E members and it was an honour for the Toulouse local group to welcome Claudie to the event.

For any further information on our Local Groups, please visit the Local Groups on our website http://wia-europe.org/about-us/local-groups/
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: http://wia-europe.org/join

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