



WINFO

Quarterly Newsletter of Women in Nuclear WIN

No. 1/1993

How WIN came about

For many years there have been in two European countries – Sweden and Switzerland – very successful women's groups in nuclear & energy information. In Switzerland, Frauen für Energie was initiated and chaired by Irene Aegerter, while Sweden's Kvinnor och energie grew under the leadership of Agneta Rising. Both these ladies have long been active in the Information Committee of ENS and have talked about their experiences to the ENS PIME workshops for nuclear public information executives.

Proposed by Ms Aegerter and Rising, and endorsed by the ENS Information Committee, a first seminar "Women and Nuclear" took place in Ascona, Switzerland on January 26, 1990. This was the start of a venture which resulted in the creation of WIN.

The first leading group meeting of WIN

At Helsinki last May, WIN established its Leading Group: Irene Aegerter (Switzerland), France Brès-Tutino (France), Marke Heininen-Ojanperä (Finland), Sabine Knapp (Germany), Agneta Rising (Sweden).

The first meeting of this Leading Group – on November 27 at Zurich airport – elected Irene Aegerter as its chairwoman. It adopted the WIN Charter and set out the information work programme for 1993, which includes: the constitutional meeting of the WIN Organisation on the opening day of PIME '93 in Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic, on Sunday January 31; the annual WIN meeting in Paris, July 7-9; the "WINFO" newsletter four times per year; a WIN DAY which could be celebrated throughout Europe; a WIN video and a WIN award.

The Leading Group's second meeting will be in Karlovy Vary on the evening of Saturday January 30, with the Organisation's inaugural session being on the following day.

Charter for WIN: open & global

The Charter declares WIN an association open to women nuclear and radiation professionals and academics, as well as communications specialists from all over the world, who are willing to devote time to public information.

Working across borders, WIN will share information techniques and materials for international use.

The working core of the Association is the Leading Group – open to Europe and overseas and chaired by the president. ENS runs the secretariat. WIN is associated with, and supported by, the ENS Information Committee.

The constitutional meeting of WIN ...

... will take place at the Grand Hotel Pupp, Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic, at 15:00 hours on January 31, the opening day of PIME '93.

The constitution – which will formalise WIN – will be based on the Charter adopted by the first Leading Group meeting in Zurich last November. The present members of the Leading Group will be confirmed in office and, possibly, new members elected. The candidate proposed by the Leading Group for presidency of the Association is Irene Aegerter.

The establishing of the Constitution will be followed by discussion of the information work plan for 1993 and beyond. There will be a presentation of country reports. In more and more nations, WIN organisations are being formed, e.g. Finland, and France where it is called FAN.

Helsinki highlights women's role

The essential role played by women in nuclear energy was detailed by ENS president Colette Lewiner in her

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speech opening the "Women in Nuclear" (WIN) meeting in Helsinki last May.

The meeting – attended by women nuclear professionals from Britain, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Russia, Sweden and Switzerland – heard of the historic roles of Marie Curie, Irene Joliot-Curie, Lise Meitner and Idda Noddack. Nowadays, women are strongest in the nuclear field in France: 900 in EDF nuclear activities and 4870 at the Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique.

Finland's Justice Minister, Hannele Pokka, addressed the meeting, which was chaired by Anneli Salo and Irene Aegerter.

The Helsinki meeting pointed the way for WIN to develop from an informal club into a formal association.

Women's fair & congress 1993

The Women's Fair & Congress in Düsseldorf (July 1–4) – "top '93" – will have the women's group from the German Nuclear Energy Information Circle (Informationskreis Kernenergie) among its more than 200 exhibitors. Well over 25,000 women are expected to visit the fair. It is planned for WIN to hold its annual meeting at "top '94".

Come to WIN '93 in Paris

WIN's annual international meeting will be hosted by the French Nuclear Society (SFEN) in Paris, July 7–9, in conjunction with the ENS General Assembly.

A women's international panel on nuclear values will be chaired by ENS president Colette Lewiner. Technical visits will be open to WIN members on July 10.

Women-to-women: media-to-nuclear

A dozen women journalists from Belgium, France and Switzerland were taken on a briefing tour of a French nuclear power plant by ENS president Colette Lewiner on October 27–28.

The plant – Le Blayais near Bordeaux – is managed by Martine Griffon-Fouco, the first woman to run one of Electricité de France's NPPs. She joined in discussions with the journalists, who were also able to question young women engineers and technicians, backed up by the plant's head of public relations, Maud Sterlingots. The press coverage was excellent.

The event was arranged by EDF and the SGN nuclear engineering company, in collaboration with the utilities Electrabel (Belgium) and EOS (western Switzerland).



Le Blayais NPP's manager, Martine Griffon-Fouco (left), welcomes ENS president Colette Lewiner, who was leading a group of women journalists on an in-depth tour of the plant.