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The History of the European Seminars from 1994 – 2017

District XIV, with about 240 Clubs in 13 countries, was divided in 1994 into 5 new Districts.

In the division procedures many criteria were defined, two especially concerning continuity.

To allow different ways of cooperation with and in national institution was one important criteria. To open chances of participation in national legal procedures concerning advocating for goals and positions of ZONTA International was another criteria.

Most countries like France, Italy, The Netherland, Germany, established Unions of ZONTA Clubs or other national entities. They are in stronger or less strong relationship to ZONTA International. That depends on national initiatives of gender topics and legal activities on the national level. For advocating for ZONTA International service programs these cooperative models are of the necessary sensibility on the one hand, and on the other hand they stand for active support of the ZONTA International service-and award programs. They further support the UN-and European Council -related activities of ZONTA International.

A further criteria was enabling the intention to organize with the new implemented Districts in the future Inter -District –Conferences, like in the seventies and eighties, when Districts XIII and XIV were established by division.

The idea behind was to continue with mutual information, friendship projects and social contacts beyond the new District borders and to offer a continuation of the European spirit. This European feeling was a crucial element in all foundation initiatives in the countries behind the former iron curtain, now being able to join ZONTA. The western ZONTA clubs answered with many signs of solidarity and support, with personal and financial commitment as well as personal and official invitation to the members of the new founded ZONTA clubs.

Nevertheless: the intended Inter-District-Conferences of the new five Districts were only organized during the two first biennium.

They failed because of large distances to reach the relevant cities and venues all over Europe, and because of the complicated organizational and financial burden with the affected five Districts.

After those two biennium the five Districts organized their own District Conferences within their various countries belonging to the District. But perhaps it might be said that this is not as much disappointing as expected, because the continuation of the European idea within the worldwide ZONTA organization created another activity: The European Seminars were born.

With the European Seminars a special format-following one of the division criteria to continue with cross-border meetings –was implemented. These European Seminars exist till today, the meetings are in various countries of Europe. The agenda shows ZONTA themes as well as worldwide passionate women topics. It is open to all European Districts, but interested Zontians from other parts of the world are very welcomed. The seminars are financed by the participants. The dates of performance are usually February/ March in odd years, so that there is no competition with other ZONTA events, relevant District Conferences or Conventions.

The Seminars took place:

1995 San Remo, Inter-District Conference of the 5 Districts, own District Meetings included
1997 Wien, Inter-District Conference of 4 Districts, D29 had their separate District Conference

1995 1. International Seminar for Europe in Lübeck, Germany 31.March -2.April 1995
2002 2. European Seminar in Stuttgart, Germany, 15.-17.February 2002
2009 3. European Seminar in Bonn, Germany, 13.-15.February 2009
2011 4. European Seminar in Bonn, Germany, 15.-17.April 2011
2013 5. European Seminar in Tampere, Finland, 8.-10.February 2013
2015 6. European Seminar in Brugge, Belgium, 6.-8.February 2015
2017 7. European Seminar in Vienna, Austria, 3.-5. February 2017

The European Seminars try to outline in their programs special ZONTA topics such as:

- How to be a Zontian –Women and Health, Environment and Multi-Culture (Lübeck 1995)
- ZONTA in a changing Society-responding to European challenges (Stuttgart 2002)
- ZONTA's way forward: how to implement Women's Rights (Bonn 2009)
- Keep up Women's rights: ZONTA's ability to improve the status of women (Bonn 2011)
- Women in the 21stCentury-old problems, new solutions? (Tampere 2013)
- Empowering women in decision-making (Brugge 2015)
- ZONTA in a changing society: ways and responses to European challenges (Vienna 2017)

The Seminar structure wants to offer an open forum of exchange and reflection, to inspire the discussions by outstanding incentive statements by invited politicians, researchers, leading officers of NGO's or CEO's, sometimes young entrepreneurs, ZONTA awardees or leading ZONTA officials, who report on their ZONTA work and responsibilities. A lot of time is left in the program for networking time - coffee breaks are important for informal discussions and for talking about the presentations and strengthen mutual information.

In workshops the themes are intensified, and in the evening music or arts presentation change the atmosphere. The last day site visits are possible. Between 200 to max. 350 Zontians from all over Europe in the 8 districts usually attend and appreciate time of talking, learning, listening.

This format is an effective and inspiring completion of District Conferences and Conventions, where necessarily most of the time is dedicated to elections, budget and rules and regulations.

The European Seminars as well as Inter -District Seminars like Burg Ludwigstein, near Kassel, Germany (1994, 1997, 2000 , 2007) or Weekend -Seminars as in Königstein (2004) and Bonn (2006) by District 29 or Area-Meetings with interesting lectures of outstanding Zontians or important leading Women of politics or companies like in France or in The Netherlands are examples of many very active special approaches to get the Zontians informed, to motivate them for participation and to serve with information. Especially reports on the various UN initiatives, where ZONTA has a special status, or of the European Parliament or from the national cooperation partners for national advocating initiatives, sometimes in combination with ZONTA's international initiatives are of relevance.

So these parallel events with convincing formats in plenary and workshop sessions and in combination with some social or artist presentation are very successful European experiments.

Highlights of the European Seminars

1. European Seminar in Lübeck, Germany, 31.3.-2.4.1995

Past Governor Cornelia Klauser-Reucker, Switzerland, and Past Governor Leena Kankainen, Finland, invited the European Clubs and from all over the ZONTA World to this Weekend Seminar to discuss in the UN year of tolerance “Body and Soul” as well as “Health and Multi-culture”, seconded by themes of environment and sustainability aspects.

International President Folake Solanke outlined the biennial goals of multiculturalism and tolerance in ZONTA. She wants to empower ZONTA to promote harmony, thought as a one world concept. Her Vision are the three “**H**”: **H**ealth, **H**uman rights and World **H**armony”. Internationalism is one of the pillars of ZONTA, so that multicultural experience in ZONTA is one of the resources of our organization and Zontians should contribute more in this field.

Past Governor Irene Wiese -von Ofen, Chairperson of the newly organized Zonta International Environment Committee, took in the preparatory phase the initiative to look for presentation of links to the UN Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro 1992 as one of the outstanding visionary UN Conference, with recommendations and results, that are of high relevance for women : as role models in education, for inputs of networking with local initiatives and service projects that combine women’s needs and environment necessities.

International President Folake Solanke supported with this Committee on Environment an orientation to more “Sustainability” as defined in the UN Goals and told the audience about the rencontre she had with UN Secretary Dr.Boutros Boutros Ghali who outlined this one world vision of sustainability. ZONTA by supporting UNIFEM is one important partner on the way of eradication violence and poverty and working for this vision of a sustainable world in harmony.

The workshops at the Seminar had the following themes:

Women’s situation in Islamic countries by Dr.Meltem Göben,
Women’s situation in Islamic countries by Ulrike Neumann -Meyer,
Tolerance and Multiculture by International Vice President Val Sarah,
Women’s and Children’s Health in the UN by Fiorina Maggi, UN Representative Geneva,
Women’s Work and Health, Marie-Claire Seguret ZC Geneva,
Women’s Health from the Mental Point of View, M.D. Marianne Kastrup, Denmark
Environment and Health, Dr.Els Boelsma, ZC Den Haag, the Netherland,
The Human Genome Project, Prof.Ursula Friedrich, Denmark,
Genetic Outlook, Prof.Leena Palotie-Peltonen, Finland

Social program and site visits and many opportunities of meeting one another with highly motivated Zontians, who attended the Seminar, enriched this inspiring weekend.

2. European Seminar 15.-17. February 2002 in Stuttgart, Germany

“ZONTA in a changing Society: Responding to European Challenges” was proposed by the eight European Governors 2000-2002 : D13 Mari Ramsten, D14 Barbara Riedel, D 20 Barbro Salste, D 21 Monica Thurell, D 27 Ina Thys-L’abbé, D 28 Monique Schlegel ,D 29 Iesje Vermeueln, D 30 Karin Nordmeyer, Coordinator of the 2nd European seminar.

Karin Nordmeyer, was not only the coordinator of this and the following Seminars, but their “Spiritus Rector”. She influenced programs, recommended/ looked for/invited high level speakers and was in charge for the résumés of the Seminars. As Representative of ZONTA International to the EUROPEAN Council, she was able with her individual high knowledge and commitment to make the EUROPEAN topics recognized by the ZI –Board as well as by the participating Zontians at the Seminars.

Keynote-speaker in Stuttgart was Elisabeth Rehn, Honorary Member of ZONTA International. In 2001 she was appointed as one of the two United Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) Independent Experts to assess on a global basis women’s role in peace-building. She was UN-Under-Secretary-General, member of the European parliament, Minister of Defense and Equality Affairs in Finland and special Rapporteur for the situation of Human Rights in the Yugoslavian War. She chaired international conferences and gave many official addresses.

She gave a speech on “Women as peace builders in regions of war and conflicts”. The peace building role of women is a long lasting international discussion. If we look at international conflicts never women are found in responsible roles of peace negotiations, although violence against women is one of the main instruments in conflicts. Elisabeth Rehn concluded her speech by saying that Zontians have an important role as advocates and communicators around the world. She urged us to be “a doctor, not a judge” and to support other women.

The workshops in the afternoon were in the responsibility of each District:

- D 13 “Legislative Awareness and Advocacy”, Kirsten Theisen, PID, StoW Service Committee,
- D 14 “Women and the democratisation process in countries of central and eastern Europe”, Gordana Cerjan-Letica and Duda Trzun, ZC Zagreb, Dora Schunck, ZC Vesprem
- D27 “The Enlargement of the EU, benefits for women in the candidate countries”
Els van Winckel, ZC Brüssel
- D 28 “Reconciliation of family-partnership and professional work“,
Ursula Gehring, ZC Marburg
- D 29 “FGM“ in Europe, Daniele Bugeon, ZC Le Havre,
- D 30 “Sustainable Development-a societal choice “Regine Aquier, ZC Montpellier , Angela Tessara, ZC Aosta,
“Managing Diversity“, Cornelia Klauser, ZC Lugano
- D 20 “Women as peace builder”, following the keynote speech
- D 21 LAA-“**L**egislative **A**wareness and **A**dvocacy”, Margit Webjörn, International President Elect, presented her idea of LAA as new ZONTA focal point

The Reception of the Mayor of Stuttgart as the evening highlight demonstrated the appreciation and recognition of ZONTA International as an important partner to the local authorities.

A 20 pages summary was elaborated by the eight responsible Governor. The whole seminar brought many new insights, good information on laws and European positions, statistik and published papers, discussions as well as revived friendship encounter and sympathetic new ones.

3. European Interdistrict Seminar 13.-15. February 2009 in Bonn, Germany

The organizing Seminar Team this time was: Karin Nordmeyer, ZONTA International Committee Chairperson Council of Europe, Annette Binder, Past International Director and Gabriele Brübach, Vice President ZC Dortmund.

“ZONTA’s way forward: how to implement women’s rights” was the heading of this seminar. The seminar was thought as a think tank, to help to develop more effective strategies to achieve ZONTA’s mission. The results would be published online.

Keynotespeaker on Sunday was Irma Ertmann, Ambassador of Finland to the Council of Europe, with her speech “From Cinderella to Cyberella.....can Zontians make a difference?”.

The whole Saturday was concentrated on workshops with interesting themes and good results :

A. ZONTA’s credibility as a women’s NGO-how to take advantage of ZONTA’s strength
Workshop Leader: Hela Prosteder, D 14 Governor,
Facilitator: Barbara Devin, ZC Fünf-Seen-Land,

B. Making our clubs fit for International Service - how to close the gap between the global and the local level.
Moderator/Introduction: Irene Wiese-v. Ofen, ZIF Vice President 2005-2007,
Facilitators: Susanne v. Bassewitz, Past AD D 29, Britta Gerling-Köhne, ZC Essen II

C. ZONTA advocacy with respect to CEDAW –how to meet the challenge
Workshop Leaders: Ute Scholz, District 27 Governor, Anna Lukasiak, ZC Gdansk

D. Visibility –how to make ZONTA and ZONTA’s vision better known in a world where *branding* is so important.
Workshop Leader: Kari Vieth, Governor D 13,
Facilitator: Poula Helt, ZC Frederiksborg

E. Zonta’s response to the challenges women face in society - an outlook to our future actions and visions.
Workshop leader Karin Saeger, D 30 Governor,
Facilitator Juliane Bardt, ZC Bonn-Rheinaue

F. ZONTA advocacy mechanisms-how to implement legal instruments against trafficking.
Workshop Leader: Jaana Sippus, District 20 Governor
Facilitator Aune Brotherus-Kettunen, ZC Helsinki II

An important part of the discussions in these days was the talk to and with ZI President Beryl Sten because of the financial transactions concerning the building in Chicago, the conflict with the Foundation because of buying and selling, and the removal of ZIF Directors and the General Secretary. Questions on the intended changing of the inner structure of the ZONTA administration could not be answered neither the financial transaction consequences. IP Beryl Sten was able to answer at the moment and to solve a lot of opposing questions, but the main questions –because not yet finalised with the legal advisor –were left to be answered at the coming Convention.

A reception at the Old Town Hall of Bonn assembled all Seminar guests in a nice atmosphere.

4. European Interdistrict Seminar 15.-17. April 2011 in Bonn, Germany

“Keep up women’s rights! Enhancing ZONTA’s ability to improve the status of women in the future” was the motto of this weekend seminar. Responsible for the organization was once more with her great experience Karin Nordmeyer, Chairperson of the ZONTA International Committee Council of Europe and the Seminar Treasurer Gabriele Springer, ZC Essen I.

ZONTA International President Dianne K. Curtis could not come to Bonn, but sent a personal message. IP Vice President Maria José Landeira attended the Seminar, but wanted to be welcomed as a member of her Club Copenhagen I because this seminar is an European assembly and not a ZONTA event that encompasses the whole world, where ZONTA International representatives are expected to take part as official representatives.

With her Dinner speech on Friday evening the Mayor of the City of Bonn, Angelica Maria Kappel, gave an impression of the situation of female politicians and of the extremely diverse fields of responsibilities and activities in our cities. Cities are the basis of democracy and in the hierarchy of Federal Republic, Länder and Local Authorities this level is the most important because most directly influencing the life of their citizens. More and more the female capacity is recognized so that in the public fields as Mayors or Minister there are increasing percentages of women, whereas in big companies the percentage should be enlarged.

Seven workshops were offered. The purpose of each particular workshop was firstly to inform on facts and the different positions and secondly define strategies and find mechanisms to improve women’s rights in that respective field in order to prepare Zontians to become “active agents for change”.

Who we are? And where do we want to go?

Workshop leader: Susanne von Bassewitz, ZC Düsseldorf
Rapporteur: Isabell Ziegler, ZC Düsseldorf

Visibility – how to make ZONTA International better known?

Workshop Leader: Claudia Seifert, ZC Bonn
Rapporteur: Tuija Heikkilä, ZC Tampere I

Let’s read together-practical ZONTA action with migrant women.

Workshop Leader: Raija Kalimo, ZC Helsinki I
Rapporteur: Anu Hamailainen, ZC Lappeenranta

Women and Health – today’s evidence, tomorrow’s agenda

Workshop Leader: Annette Binder, ZC Hamburg –Elbufer
Rapporteur: Chantal Platteau, ZC Waasland, Wiltrud Walther, ZC Frankfurt

ZONTA: Catalyst for intercultural and personal development

Workshop Leader: Cornelia Klauser, ZC Lugano
Rapporteur : Eva Heikkilä, ZC Hämeenlinna

Legislative Awareness and Advocacy Mechanisms

Workshop Leader: Barbara A.Devin, ZC Fünf Seen Land

Rapporteur: Fiona Ruff, ZC Bad Soden-Kronberg, Getraud Ribitsch, ZC Graz

Reconciliation of family and work.

Workshop Leader: Alexandra Wachendorfer, Guest

Rapporteur: Irene Wiese-von Ofen, ZC Essen I

The seven rapporteur drafted a common concluding statement, which was discussed with Karin Nordmeyer, who acted as a likewise lector and finally presented it to the plenary.

The Concluding Statement was unanimously accepted:

Where do we want to go?

- development of the organization by improving advocacy efforts,
- by improving visibility,
- by combining advocacy and service,
- by advocating and influencing legal processes for reconciliation of family and work.

Where do we want to go?

- Personal development in and for the organization by skills to learn,
- by encouragement through role models
- by rising awareness for different dispositions and support projects and campaign concerning women and health

A lot of details were discussed, so that the participating Zontians could take at home many concrete “best practice examples” for their club activities.

The reception in the Old Town Hall of Bonn in the evening should be mentioned as well as a nice social event in a remarkable atmosphere of a building standing for urban culture in an old university city.

It should be mentioned that the Council of Europe’s NGO-Unit and the Public Relations Division provided excellent informative material.

5. European Interdistrict Seminar 8.-10.2.2013 in Tampere Finland

The Weekend Seminar was organised by Governor 20 Tuija Heikkilä and her team: Irma Ertman, Tarja Hopeakangas, Anu Hämäläinen, Tuija Kirveskari-Tähtinen and Erja Lindholm. The initiative came once more from the International Committee Chair Council of Europe Karin Nordmeyer.

The overall theme of the Seminar was:

“Women in the 21st Century -Old Problems, New Solutions? “

President Elect Maria José Landeira Oestergard and Vice President Sonja Höning-Schough attended the seminar and contributed with presentations and took part in the discussions.

The keynote speaker was Sirpa Rautio, Director of the Human Rights Centre, Office of the Ombudsman, Finland. The lecture was about “Violence against Women” and whether we should accept this even tomorrow. It was remarkable how this male speaker was unanimously of the same opinion as the Zontians and that especially on the international level the proscription against violence should be supported by the Zontians in the own Parliaments to eradicate violence against women.

The other lecture was about “Women in Conflicts and in Peace building”. Especially by the growing experience in the Irak and Syrian war we have to recognize that violence against women is running into a new dimension of indignity and destruction of women. The initiatives of the UN should be seconded by any national initiative, by organization like ZONTA or other NGO.

The necessity of peace building was underlined by Maria Stefanova, ZC of St.Sofia, Bulgaria, who reported from the experience of the Yugoslavian War.

The Workshop on Rape as a method of war, was introduced by Prof. of Criminal Law Terttu Utriainem. Rapporteur was Eva Nielsen, ZC Esbjerg, and Anita Schnetzer-Spranger, ZC Mainz. This is in Correspondence to ZONTA’s International Programmes on Violence against Women.

Another workshop was on the Role of NGO’s in the social Integration of Immigrants Irene Wiese-von Ofen, ZC Essen I, brought some best practice examples of the Ruhrdistrict, where immigration is the resource of economic power since the beginning of the industrialisation, so that immigration is the daily challenge, in schools, in universities, in arts, in music, in housing, in gardening and many other fields. But the region learned to live with conflicts and to pacify a quarter, a city, a region by various strategies. NGO generally, but an organisation like ZONTA can help a lot, because the civil society is able to invent other initiatives than the rules orientated administration. Both working together is the optimum.

Visit in the private homes of Zontians at Sunday morning and a walk on the hills to the landscape environment in the snow, with a wonderful look to the city, accomplished the program: Many thanks to the organizers!

6. European Interdistrict Seminar 6.-8.2.2015 in Brugge, Belgium

The Weekend Seminar was prepared by Frieda Demey and her Team in accordance with Karin Nordmeyer, Chairperson of the ZONTA International Council of Europe Committee.

ZONTA International President Maria José Landeira -Oestergaard attended the Seminar as well as President Elect Sonja Hönig-Schough.

The motto of the Seminar was “Empowering Women in Decision Making.”

The chance was used to have rapporteurs and moderators from institutions in Brussels.

So the program was à jour and with high level of knowledge.

Vivian Reding, former Vice-President of the European Commission, Member of the European parliament, enriched the Seminar by her presentation of “Women in Politics-European policy on the participation of women in decision making process”. She encouraged with her temperament and her humor as well as with her precise observation the listening Zontians to trust in their abilities and use any chance of being part in decision making processes.

The second keynote came from Prof. Anne de Paepe, first female Rector of the University of Gent, who solicited another educational approach for women.

The afternoon brought outstanding women in a dialogue with winners of the ZONTA YWPA-JMK-and AE-Awards together, so that the definition of the “smart woman”, used in the program, became more and more visible and characterized the young women comparable to the well settled women. ZONTA can be proud of these young distinguished prize winners – no wonder that they want to continue the contact with ZONTA and ZONTA with them!

For District 29 Irene Wiese-von Ofen, Past International Foundation Vice President, proposed to build up an Alumni Network to strengthen the contacts of the awardees among each other and with ZONTA. First experiences in some clubs are existing. Necessary is a systematically approach to all three categories of prizes i.e. the YWPA-JMK-AE awardees, and vice versa with ZONTA as a whole.

This proposal is not only a D 29 -proposal but in accordance with the Chairman of the International YWPA-Award Committee Ute Scholz. But more important is, that this corresponds to the wishes of the awardees, who were present in Brugge. D 29 has already experience from the successful Area programme “Great girls meet Great Women”, Susanne v. Bassewitz implemented as former AD. International Director Sharon Langenbeck as a former AE-Awardee expressed her high interest in including the AE-Fellows in this intended network.

In the evening a sympathetic reception at the Town-Hall - an extraordinary building as well - gave a special highlight to the seminar and offered once more many opportunities of exchanging experience and learning from each other.

Finally the Sunday walking tours in the city of Brugge exemplified the high level of European medieval urban culture - in buildings, open space and landscape architecture.

This mixture of meeting extraordinary women and extraordinary sites is a supplementary special value of these European ZONTA Weekend Seminars. It shows the cultural richness of Europe.

7. European Interdistrict Seminar in Vienna, 3.-5. February 2017

The Seminar was excellent and likable organized by Past International Director Ingeborg Geyer, Vienna, and her Team Margot Fleck, Eva Maria Kodek - Werba, Mia Matisek, Christine Zöchling, Gerda Senkyr. Co-Initiator Karin Nordmeyer, supported by the Vienna ZONTA Clubs.

” ZONTA in a changing society - ways and means of response to European challenges.”

This time International President Sonja Hönig Schough and President Elect Susanne v. Bassewitz as well as the whole International Board attended the seminar and hosted an informal discussion in the afternoon of the previous day to the seminar. Each Zontian, attending the seminar was invited to take part and give her suggestion on topics that need to be discussed: “Fit for tomorrow- what do you think matters most in order to best fulfill Zonta’s mission? “ So the Board got an impression on wishes and feelings, hopes and desires of their members. The Board intended to systematize the questions and discuss them.

Another previous day opportunity were two morning and afternoon leadership training offers.

Part one of the Seminar began with a short video message of the Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of Austria ,Sebastian Kurz .In his **Warm Welcome** included an appreciation of ZONTA’s activities concerning violence against women and best wishes for the continuation of these efforts.

The following keynote speaker was Irene Wiese-v. Ofen, ZC Essen, Germany, on the theme:

“The Right to the City – The Urban Agenda 2030”.

She outlined the rapidly growing population, the progressing urbanization, the raising migration, the consequences of these facts for the societies, and especially for women. Cities are therefore the worldwide problem for the living conditions of mankind, but nevertheless the essential engine in finding solutions. The UN therefore decided on an “Urban Agenda”, that sets out practically unattainable, but deeply longed-for life of freedom and equality and access to all resources. This longing is an important driving force for changes. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s) are expected to become the fundament of these necessary transformation. The global call for access for all social classes to all resources the city offers is the demand for inclusiveness. ZONTA as an international organization should take this demand for inclusive cities as its own and accept “The right to the City” as a chance for women worldwide if it is seen as a human right – it is a challenge and an obligation as a Zontian to be actively engaged in these processes.

The second keynote speaker in part 2 was Cordula Gleinitz, First Secretary Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the OSCE, gave a report on

“Female Dimension of Security in EUROPE “.

She gave an overview of the structure and mission of the OSCE, the responsibilities and the wide range of projects, that are supported by the OSCE with especially aspect of female life situation and the rising challenges of migration, lack of knowledge and increasing insecurity.

The third keynote speaker in part 2 was Martina Maurer, AMS Austria, Department Public Employment Service Austria of active Employment Policy for Women .She spoke about

“New Challenges for Women in the European Labourmarket”.

She reported on employment policy for women following her expertise in labour market data and labour market programs especially for women. An important part of her presentation was on the labour market integration programs for newly arrived(female) immigrants. In this segment of immigration those information and examples were of special interest for possible activities of local activities of ZONTA clubs.

The following Panel discussion, moderated by Maria Rauch- Kallat, former Minister of Environment, Youth and Families, was very lively. The ever and ever discussed lack of female CEO's and not equal pay ,was mentioned as well as the topic of less interest in MINT-education for girls – whether it is inborn or educated. The meaning to this dispute remained controversial. The question of introducing a legal “NO” for Burkas or not was by majority answered with a “No” to burcas, but not claiming for a legal ban.

In the afternoon 4 Workshops were offered :

1.Securing Human Rights :Women's rights are human rights (“Trafficking”).Introductory notes by Shams Asadi, Head of Vienna Human rights Bureau, and Anita Schnetzer - Spranger , ZC Mainz ,ZI Council of Europe Committee Chairman

2.Combating Violence against Women (“Human rights”), Introductory notes by Karin Nordmeyer, President UN Women Committee Germany, and Helga Konrad ,Regional Implementation initiative on preventing and combating human trafficking.

3.Job Market: Challenges for Women. Introductory notes by Claudia Gamon, NEOS deputy, and Els van Winckel ,ZI UN-representative Geneva.

4.Sustainable Development Goals and ZONTA's Mission . Introductory notes by Sonja Honig Schough, ZI President, Susanne v. Bassewitz, ZI President Elect, Jandranka Mustajbegovic, MD, PHD, University of Zagreb.

The social events offered wonderful aspects of the City of Vienna: the Get- Together was an evening at the “Heurigen”, a typical Austrian evening with wine and music and special meals.

The Closing Evening of the Seminar was a reception in the Hall of Emblems of the City Town Hall of Vienna. The three Presidents of the three Vienna ZONTA Clubs welcomed the guests and the City councilor for Women's issues,Integration and Human Resources of the City of Vienna.

A short Charter celebration of a Golden Z-Club, sponsored by the ZC of Vienna, was included.

For those who wanted to stay not for their own on Sunday a guided city tour was offered and a visit to the Leopold museum to the permanent exhibition on Klimt, Schiele and Hoffmann.

Vienna “at it's best” was the feeling of those Zontians who took part in the excellent guided tour about life and paintings of Egon Schiele. Thanks to all who organized this enriching weekend.

