



Board Director 2013\15  
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### **A modern Format for a renew European Meeting**

IIW President Ebe, Inner Wheel Authorities, Dear Friends,  
*satisfaction* and *gratification*, these are the words I have chosen to open this short report  
About a modern format for a renewed EM

*Satisfaction* in seeing - as a founder, together with Catherine Refabert - the European Meeting coming back to Italy for its 15<sup>th</sup> Edition. *Gratification* for the ongoing testing of a modern format aimed at renewing these annual meetings *in both form and substance*.

The required “concept” I described in my speech at 14<sup>th</sup> EM, last year, involves significant innovations aimed at making the EM a journey throughout the year, using the new digital technologies which, due to COVID pandemic, have increased and accelerated overall, in a way unthinkable before.

To know each other better, to mix, to encounter and, above all, to work together with more appealing and engaging methods.

A “European” team work partly renewing every year through the succession of National Representatives and their Deputies, able to create knowledge and to spread it countrywide, thus ensuring an experience which is not self-referential as it can cover the whole of us through the sharing of information and training material, indicating where to find or download it (in case Documentation Area should finally be implemented, too).

So, did we reach Ems goal?

The answer is: Yes, we did.

A modern Format has allowed the implementation of the following main parts.

Three-year planning, according to “cyclicity”: from one Convention to another.

The planning of this first year, the post-Convention one, was studied and introduced in our first virtual meeting through the “workshops” – with the 3 permanent study areas: Law, Training, Management. Permanent in terms of their relevance and multiple developments. Continuity in differentiation.

Workshops: workshops have proved a very interesting interactive experience. With Leaders carefully arranging them by means of explanatory letters and PowerPoint guides to facilitate discussions.

2 Workshops for each Area.

Participation in the workshops has been optional.

The choice of the workshop free, according to interests and attitudes.

It was possible to attend two workshops, indicating first and second choices. Total openness, total collaboration.

The discussion generated by questions and answers, observations, comments, has shown the fundamental importance of interaction between National Representatives and Deputies, of experts' advice and of pluralism of opinions to develop a higher awareness. Discussion is always constructive.

Let me highlight that it will be not the Leaders to issue workshop reports at the Plenary Sessions, rather 3 voluntary members, and that time for discussion will be given. A further witness of our wish to have a member of the team work emerging to prospect the experience from her point of view and to achieve the spirit of discussion, guided by appropriate considerations and questions, stimulating answers and comments inside each Area.

Plenary Sessions: with permanent study areas, Plenary Sessions will offer a wide range of interventions. From IIW Authorities' reports, to contributions to Inner Wheel topical subjects, details, to enrich our knowledge and our culture. And more.

Digital Transition: digital transition is ongoing also in the Ems.

What was proposed in the new concept during the 14th EM, the first virtual, has been widely realized.

We have planned and are carrying out:

1 meeting to introduce the planning via Zoom.

6 Workshops via Zoom.

2 hybrid Plenary Sessions.

What is missing? We need to implement the 4<sup>th</sup> Area, of documentation, the possibility to create an e-Library, to collect document, information and training material, and to make them available to National Representatives and even further.

Charlotte Devos IIW PP was assigned this task, hoping to receive support and finally make this need possible through the opening of a website specific for Europe.

*Integration and continuity*, these are the words I have chosen to close this report. I really wish the concept which gave birth to the format implemented can transform the European Meetings into a great European team work – as already mentioned – able to create an *integration and continuity* process to entrust National Representatives with an important action of link, study and analysis of the Inner Wheel and of its wide and multifaceted activity in Europe.

Thanks for your attention.