

Portrait of a woman

Cécile Edel, President of "Choisir la Vie" (*Choose Life*)



Cécile is the inspiration behind the first March for Life in Paris in 2005. This year, the March for Life gathered nearly 50,000 people. Under the guise of a fragile, graceful and smiling young mother, she has a will of iron, courage of steel and a crystal consciousness against which all the arguments brought forward by the militants of the culture of death shatter. Cécile Edel is a luminous personality, a true "*sentinel of the Invisible*".

Get to know Cécile better by listening to the radio show that we recorded, [here](#).

National News

FEMINA EUROPA and the Parliamentary day for Life

Two members of FEMINA EUROPA went to the National Assembly on 19 January. Jacques Bompard, the organizer, let Christine Boutin introduce Parliamentary Day for Life with a strong message: "France will only regain her greatness when she honors life again. **Life is or is not**; it is not an adjustment variable like the VAT rate! The fight for life is before us; it is demanding and requires coherence. It is based on two pillars: knowledge of

the social doctrine of the Church and prayer.” The Jerome Lejeune Foundation stressed that 2016 had been a year of promotion of abortion: the period for reflection previously required was removed, midwives gained permission to perform medical abortions, health centers can now perform surgical abortions, and an **abortion quota** per clinic has been established. Added to this, a law condemning any hindrance to abortion will punish the perpetrators of information considered as dissuasive, whatever the medium of communication! Cécile Edel (Choisir la Vie) and Marie Philippe (IVG.net) reminded us that the ‘offence of obstruction’ law acts against women’s freedom and that government websites lie by omission about the reality of abortion. Speakers included Gregor Puppink of the ECLJ (European Center for Law and Justice) and Father Blignières who came to talk about conscientious objection. As Vaclav Havel reminded us: 'A totalitarian system demands silence, not that individuals believe in it!' We must therefore be like resistance fighters and give witness without delay to the truth and beauty of life!

FEMINA EUROPA at the March for Life

Many members of **FEMINA EUROPA** were in the ranks of the March for Life on January 22nd in Paris. Our congratulations to those who participated!

FEMINA EUROPA meets the Marches for Life beyond France

FEMINA EUROPA also participated on the previous day in a meeting with representatives from the organizing committees of Marches for Life abroad (Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Spain, United States, Slovakia, Portugal, Switzerland).

European News

Children and pornography. On 8 February **FEMINA EUROPA's** representative at the European Union attended a conference in the European Parliament on the increasing exposure of children to pornography in this era of new digital challenges. A ruling is under consideration which would weaken the protection of children. On this occasion, an appeal was made to MEPs to ask them to improve EU legislation on this topic. **FEMINA EUROPA** signed the appeal.

Petition Mum, Dad and Kids: The European Union needs a clear definition of the family, "the universal reality of humanity – marriage between man and woman, and the bonds of father, mother, and child."

- Already more than 600,000 signatures: compulsory target = 1 million signatures

- 10 countries having reached their national quota: France is lagging behind!

It is high time to support this citizens' initiative: **SIGN** and **HAVE OTHERS SIGN** the petition before April 3, 2017: <http://www.mumdadandkids.eu/en>

FEMINA EUROPA attends New Women for Europe's General Assembly
Brussels, 2 December 2016



FEMINA EUROPA is a member of the Board of Directors of New Women for Europe. NWFE is a federation that provides a structure to women's organizations (more than 100 throughout Europe) and ensures their representation in European institutions, in particular in the European Parliament, working to influence policies implemented at the European level.

In the presence of two MEPs, Mrs Skrypek and Mrs Zaborska, and representatives of NWFE member associations, the Secretary General presented the project currently supported by NWFE: "Protecting and promoting motherhood: a path to women's empowerment". After a detailed presentation of the results of the study "Maternal mobbing and surrogacy", FEMINA EUROPA's EU delegate gave an interesting briefing of the work of the FEMM Committee (Women's Rights and Gender Equality) which she follows in the European Parliament.

See: http://www.newwomenforeurope.org/About_us.htm

FEMINA EUROPA General Assembly

You are cordially invited to the next FEMINA EUROPA General Assembly
On Tuesday, March, 2017 at 7: 00 p.m.
49 rue des Renaudes, 75017 Paris.



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