

NOMINATIONS European Regional Representatives on ILGA Executive Board

Woman's Seat

Baldacchino, Ruth
Lewis, Jackie

Man's Seat

Juvas, Soren
Van der Eerden, Janfrans

STATEMENTS FOR ELECTIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES ON ILGA EXECUTIVE BOARD

1. JACKIE LEWIS - UK

I have been involved in many areas of work to strengthen ILGA. This has included contributing to development plans, ILGA's presence at the UN, developing cooperation between IE and IW, and extensive work towards the much improved constitutional framework for ILGA agreed at the Geneva conference.

In the year ahead, the Board needs to build on recent very positive developments so that ILGA becomes the strong global association that we need. I would very much like to continue making a contribution to this work as a reserve Board member, and I ask for your support in this.

I have expertise and skills in key areas such as organisational development, human resources, governance, and constitutional matters, together with detailed organisational knowledge and a strong commitment to, and sound understanding of, diversity issues.

I work in a London local authority and I am an elected member of the National LGBT Committee of UNISON, the largest UK public sector union, with 1.3 million members.

- IE Board member 1997-2006
- Reserve IE Board member 2006 -2007
- European regional rep ILGA Board 1999 – 2006
- Reserve ILGA Board member 2006-7
- UNISON representative on British Trades Union Congress LGBT committee 1999 -2005.

2. RUTH BALDACCHINO – MALTA

Being asked to write a statement for re-election as European Representative to ILGA's Board I thought I would share a few points about the work I have carried out as a Board Member during the past year.

My work on the Board was mainly related to:

- 1. ILGA Strategic Plan**
- 2. Membership Review**
- 3. ILGA & IGLYO**

If I am elected I will:

1. Work towards developing **ILGA's Strategic Plan**
2. Carry on with the work related to **ILGA's membership**
3. Strengthen the relationship with **IGLYO**, and other potential partners
4. Actively support **participation & discussions** involving young LGBTQ, women and transgender people within ILGA.

Let us never forget that our mission is to work toward the recognition of fundamental human rights to all LGBTQ people, challenge homophobia and heterosexism, and simultaneously celebrate with pride the rich diversity which unites us all.

It is with this mixture of reflection and excitement that I am ready to serve again on the Executive Board of ILGA.

[me-sketched-out]

- Executive Board Member, IGLYO
- Executive Committee Member, Malta Gay Rights Movement
- PhD candidate (Sociology)
- BA (Hons) Sociology, MA Women's Studies
- Research interests: queer migration, social history of desire & sexuality

3. JANFRANS VAN DER EERDEN - NETHERLANDS

The international dimension is always on my mind. My period of 15 gay activist years in the local association of COC in Leyden included international exchanges with Oxford (UK) and Torun (Poland). We helped the establishment of a gay and lesbian centre in Oxford.

Through the international policy group of COC Netherlands I became active in ILGA in early 2002. After being a reserve board member I am now 2 years a member of the board and I think this is too short a period to say I have completed my contribution.



In “daily” life I am an independent architect and a teacher in building engineering. I worked twice in Kenya in community, building and town planning projects.

In last year’s ILGA-Europe conference in Sofia I mentioned the beginning of a period with great opportunities for ILGA, the only global association of LGBT organisations. And indeed we see a fast developing recognition with growing opportunities; a result of the work of many over several years.

Apart from this I see the organisation of ILGA is not yet strong enough. The management of all kind of processes is improving, but still needs careful attention. We need a clear focus, good management and a strong organisational approach. To achieve this, ILGA also needs a well functioning board. You can imagine how complicated this is, as all board members live extremely far away from each other. We depend on e-mail and commitment.

My input will continue to be practical and directed to improve the output and smooth running of ILGA and its board. I intend to regularly meet with the General Secretary and staff in Brussels.

4. SÖREN JUVAS

I am not so good in speaking for my self
I make it short.

I do wish to accept the nomination.

I have been a member of the national board in RFSL since 1996.
I have accepted the nomination because I think ILGA's work is important and that
the work ILGA do makes a difference in the world.

NOMINATIONS for election to the ILGA-Europe Executive Board.

Identifying as Female

Kampus, Lisette

Freimaine, Linda

Krans, Irmeli

Lambillotte, Deborah

Le Doare, Christine

Sukic, Natasa

Identifying as Male

Christensen, Martin K.I.

Sabbadini, Renato

Sabelashvili, Pata

Serne, Pierre

Szypula, Tomasz

Not wishing to identify as either female or male

Baldacchino, Ruth

STATEMENTS FOR ELECTION TO THE ILGA-EUROPE EXECUTIVE BOARD

(In alphabetical order based on first names)

1. CHRISTINE LE DOARE - FRANCE

Dear Friends,

I am a French lesbian activist involved both in feminist and LGBT issues.

I was the president of the activist Lesbian and Gay organisation SOS Homophobie for 5 years, and I am now president of the Paris LGBT Center.

As such, I am interested in all LGBT issues and my strongest skills lie in activism, communication, organisation and finance.

I was the treasurer of Paris ILGA 2005 during ILGA-Europe's conference in Paris.

I have been elected board member of our organisation last year, so I got a chance to learn a bit more about ILGA-Europe from the inside.

This was a very stimulating but overly short experience; one year is not enough to accomplish much.

As a board member I was asked to speak on different occasions, and one of the most interesting was the Paris Lesbian conference this year. My subject was a comparison of LGBT rights within the EU, so I prepared an updated study which you can find on the web site.

Well informed, I was able to inform French media about LGBT European issues.

I remain interested mainly in improving communication and solidarity between our organisations. We all need the support of other organisations and of ILGA Europe.

I wish to be re-elected this year so I can pursue what I have started and contribute to strengthened the links between us all.

Christine Le Doaré

2. DEBORAH LAMBILLOTTE - BELGIUM

Dear Friends,

I am Deborah Lambillotte, Age 53, an intersexual lesbian gender activist, of Belgium nationality with a European heart and mind..

I have just ended my fourth term on the ILGA-Europe board, and my second year as Co-chair.

It was a year full of changes and evolutions for ILGA-Europe:

In December the ECOSOC granted us consultative status. Allowing us to enter the United Nations, participate in its work and speak in our own name.

As a member of the employment subcommittee of the board, and with my professional knowledge of Belgium employment laws and regulations, we could finalize this year the reorganization of our staff structure, introducing a grading and salary structure, eliminating non equal terms and conditions that still are in Belgium law. These changes permit the executive director and the employment sub committee to have clear guidelines for employment issues.

As Co-Chair I represented ILGA-Europe as well intern and as extern to the movement, in events organized in the European Year for Equal Opportunity for All. In discussions and action with and in support of members in countries where EU “acquis communautaire” on Human Right is not always perceived as an essential part of the EU membership.

I am convinced that as a citizen of a fortunate country as Belgium, on LGB Issues and Rights, I have to engage myself and my knowledge of best practice to make this available to LGBT persons coming from less fortunate countries.

Also this year I am nominated to stand for the ILGA –Europe Board and I hope to get your trust and vote to go on with the work I started for all of you, to grant continuity and be off support to a new co-chair who will take the place of Riccardo Gottardi.

Best Wishes
Deborah Lambillotte

3. IRMELI KRANS - SWEDEN

My name is Irmeli Krans and I am a board member of the Swedish LGBT social democrats. In my profession I am a Detective Superintendent and work as a trainer at the Swedish National Police Academy. My subjects are, as we call them, “Hate crime” and “Violence in a close relationship”. I have been a police officer for almost twenty years now and working with the LGBT-issues in the Police service and the Swedish Defence Force for several years. My dream is a society where everybody can feel safe and are accepted for who they are. And I would like to see that kind of society in the whole Europe and do what I can for realise that dream.

4. LINDA FREIMANE - LATVIA

One year passes so quickly! It takes time to begin to understand what ILGA Europe is all about. My first year was a year of learning, but also a year of growing into an organization, and familiarization with the great people who work with it. I don't feel that I have contributed enough yet - therefore I would like to continue to serve on the board at least one more year.

I am also a board member of the LGBT alliance Mozaika in Latvia. Working simultaneously with a national and an international organization gives a great perspective to the LGBT work at both levels. One influences the other, and somehow the things that we do make more sense with this double perspective.

Last year I promised to use my hands and my brains. For next year I can also promise to use my experience as a lawyer and a consultant on strategic communication issues for the benefit of the board's work.

As of September I have more free time, which I am happy to dedicate to ILGA Europe and Mozaika. I truly hope that I will have a chance to do so.

5. LISETTE KAMPUS - ESTONIA

When I ran for the board last year and was elected, I thought „Well, this will be a huge learning opportunity”. Now, after being board member for a whole year, sharing co-secretary duties with good colleague Martin, and other board responsibilities with the rest, I think „Well, this year I know what is it that I am bringing to the board”. I think that now more than ever every single person standing for elections should ask from themselves if they really can bring in motivation, time, willingness and capacity to work as a board member of ILGA-Europe. It is no place to just sit for the sake of sitting there.

Thus, it is my promise not just to „fill a place”, but to bring in my motivation and time to be a part of this board which takes responsibility to maintain the organization's stability and advance its strategies, to ensure the organization's smooth running and excellent performance. In particular, my input to the board (should I be elected) would be continuing the work of co-secretary, and to put my time and energy on strategic planning and issues focusing on internal development of the organization.

Another strong interest point for me is to be in a board that works on ways how to involve the membership to the work of IE so that there would be a common sense of ownership in whatever we as an organization achieve.

Being a board member is a responsibility that we take in front of the membership, the staff of IE and the other members of the board. I believe I was able to take this responsibility, and I am willing to take it again.

6. MARTIN K I CHRISTENSEN – DENMARK

Martin K.I. Christensen, Landsforeningen for Bøsser og Lesbiske (LBL)

After one year on the board, I find the work so interesting that I have decided to run again.

As co-secretary for the last year, I have been involved in the development of an Operational Manual, and I have participated in the development of a new employment strategy - both steps in the professionalization of the running of the organization.

I enjoy working with organizational development, and I feel that I have been able to use my experience as chair or board member of numerous other LGBT and straight organizations for the last 20 years, since 2001 also as member of the board of the International Branch of LBL.

One issue that I will focus on, if reelected, is the further development of ILGA-Europe's communication with its membership. I will also work for the allocation of funds for bi-lateral small-scale projects among the members in order to enhance the capacity building activities. Another focus would be fighting against the continued discrimination of LGBT-people in the new EU membership states.

I am 40 years old. I have a master's degree in History and Middle East Studies and work as chief editor of the membership magazine of the Danish Construction Association.

7. NATASA SUKIC - SLOVENIA

I am involved with GLBTQ activism since the mid eighties, when I first started to work in feminist association LILITH and after that I co-founded lesbian group SKUC-LL in 1987. Lesbian section SKUC-LL was the first lesbian association in former Yugoslavia as well in Eastern Europe. In the same year SKUC-LL also became a member of ILGA – I participated at the first Eastern European ILGA conference in Budapest.

Since 1987 I am active in Slovenian GLBTQ movement. I was a coordinator of SKUC-LL from 1987 to 1997. I initiated a book edition "Vizibilija", specialized on lesbian theory and literature; I was editor in chief until 2005. Last three years I coordinated trans-national activities of EQUAL project - TRACE. In last decade I am editor of radio program Lesbomania.

I have university degree in electrical engineering; at the moment I am a post-graduate student at the faculty for humanist sciences in Ljubljana, with the focus on queer representations in popular culture.

I was nominated for ILGA-Europe executive board and I stand as a candidate, because I would like to share my long-time experience, knowledge and enthusiasm for GLBTQ rights, and I would like to contribute to future steps towards more inclusive, equal and just society, free of any discrimination.

8. PAATA SABELASHVILI - GEORGIA

"The main reason why I would like to be elected as a member of ILGA Europe Executive Board is that the vast region of former Soviet Union is not represented in the Board. I in the capacity of the president of Inclusive Foundation have good knowledge of situation in this region. We partner 7 organizations in this region and are aware of the challenges that these developing organizations face in their work. More than that, small eastern organizations have potential to benefit from ILGA Europe's advocacy and lobbying initiatives on centralized, European level. It is therefore very important to represent this region in the Board to bring regional equity in ILGA Europe initiatives and enable experienced colleagues to better capacitate their new counterparts in our region.

ILGA is well recognized actor and its Board consists of representatives of well established organizations. However, challenges that we face in our region are significantly different. The Board will benefit from my membership as I will be able to bring geographically and thematically inclusive vision to it. It is very symbolic that elections take place in Vilnius. This is the first time when ILGA-Europe assembles in the region that I strive to represent."

9. PIERRE SERNE – FRANCE

Dear friends,

I am a 35 years old activist from France, involved both in politics and LGBT issues. Two years ago I was elected as treasurer of ILGA-Europe. For my first year I got used to ILGA-Europe and European specific financial mechanism, then this year I committed myself to improve our accounting system, work with new staff and develop a strategical approach for using our growing resources.

Finances were not my only task. I participated of course in the finances sub-committee, but also the employment sub-committee which had this year the huge task of revising our staff structure, implementing a pension scheme, creating a salary scale,... The treasurer's input in this process was important and it was a big part of my work. I also had a role in the recruitment process of some of our new staff.

To conclude, after three years in the Board, I am nearly an "old" member in a renewed team. We had an excellent atmosphere of work and friendship in this year Board which gave us the opportunity of good work together.

It makes me want to continue my work in the Board. And, if reelected, I can stay available for dealing with finances.

10. RENATO SABBADINI – ITALY

Linguist by training, city councillor in Italy (1995-2004), now working for a green MEP. In the LGBT movement since 1992, Arcigay treasurer (1996-7), spokesperson for Worldpride Rome 2000 (1997-8), foreign affair person for Arcigay (2002-7).

Having witnessed the birth of ILGA-Europe in Madrid, I am happy to see how our organisation has managed to undergo a wonderful growth in terms of operational capacity without losing the warmth and humanity it has had from the beginning - an important motivation in my desire to contribute to the achievements of our aims.

Though the last years have seen fundamental steps towards equality in several EU Countries, too many situations in our continent remind us of how much there is still to do. Advocacy and lobbying stay therefore among our top priorities, and I would like to contribute to that with my personal and professional experience. But I would also like to explore with you ways to accompany whatever change in the legislation of our countries with an extensive work aimed at changing the culture of our societies, to consolidate what we already have and to increase the chances of real change in the hearts and minds of all Europeans.

11. RUTH BALDACCHINO – MALTA

I am honoured to accept this nomination to run for the ILGA-Europe Executive Board. As a Board Member during the past year I had the opportunity to work together with two great teams – the Board and the Staff.

A few points about the work carried out being part of the Board during the past year:

- 1. Part of the Strategic Plan Working Group**
- 2. Part of the Governance Sub-Committee**
- 3. Family Training**
- 4. Reviewing of employment conditions & re-structuring of ILGA-Europe's internal structure**

If I am elected I will:

1. Ensure ILGA-Europe keeps having clear objectives and priorities in order to act as a voice for LGBTQ people in Europe
2. Contribute towards the organisation's development Work towards making ILGA-Europe more diverse in its objectives, priorities and procedures
3. Support the participation and discussions involving young LGBTQ, women and transgender people.

It is with the past year in mind and exciting years ahead of ILGA-Europe that I am ready to serve again on ILGA-Europe's Board.

[me-sketched-out]

- Executive Board Member, IGLYO
- Executive Committee Member, Malta Gay Rights Movement
- PhD candidate (Sociology)
- BA (Hons) Sociology, MA Women's Studies
- Research interests: queer migration, social history of desire & sexuality

12. TOMASZ SZYPULA - POLAND

Beginning

I have been involved in activism since 2001, first in the Krakow branch of Campaign Against Homophobia. In 2004 I founded and coordinated the first Gay Pride Festival called 'Culture for Tolerance' Days in Krakow. Now the Festival is run by an independent foundation and I'm a member of The Council of the Foundation.



Education

I graduated from journalism at Jagiellonian University in Krakow in September 2004. I also graduated from Human Rights School of the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights in June 2006 and from School for NGO Leaders in June 2007.

Present

Since October 2004 I'm the Secretary General of Campaign Against Homophobia (KPH). In October 2006 in Sofia I was elected as a Board Member of ILGA-Europe.

Privately

I'm 27 and I work as a Public Relations officer in a Poland's leading PR company. Happily partnered. With my Partner we have two cats ☐

Why ILGA-Europe?

I know ILGA-Europe since the Budapest Conference in 2004, in one year being a Member of The Board I have learned more about ILGA-Europe's values and performance. I would like to give my commitment to the organization, my whole

experience, gained in Poland and my abilities of working in team – a group of people who share the same vision.

Proposals from Candidate Organisations to host 2009 Regional Conference.

Proposals were received from:

1. COC Haaglanden proposes **The Hague** as candidate for hosting the 2009 ILGA-Europe Conference
2. Malta Gay Rights Movement (MGRM) proposes **Malta** as candidate for hosting the 2009 ILGA-Europe Conference