



Laudatio - Karin Junker former MEP, awarded with a certificate by the FP-AP

Karin (Junker) – is a fighter.

A girl born during the 2nd World War has to be.

She does not complain – but she takes matters into her own hands, fearless and bold.

She is a discreet and thoughtful host, likes to enjoy lobster as well as well as pommes frites, and decorates her apartment with art, and shows you around to very artistically enriching places in the town.

She loves to travel, - *she has been in more than 100 countries* - and when I first met Karin in the *European Parliament*, I listened to intriguing stories of her journeys including the “*Palace of Wheels*” between *New Delhi and Rajasthan*, and the “*Eastern and Oriental Express*” from *Singapore to Bangkok* .

I promise you won’t find a person that is more competent in planning a trip, knowing the best restaurants, the best flights, the best train- and bus connections, as well as the nicest hotels at the lowest prices. Quite a champion!

Did I forget her party affiliation? Of course, she is a member of the SPD (Social Democratic Party in Germany). She is always demonstratively styled in chic violet dresses – and consequently advocates for women’s rights.

Since 1964 - 53 years by now - , she has been an active member of the SPD; she was for 17 years a SPD Board Member, and for several years a Member of the SPD Presidium. For 12 years she was Head of the SPD Women’s Organisation, and now she is the Founder of the **PES** (the Party of European Socialists) - Women’s Organisation.

Today, of course, Karin is still extremely active, as Member of the **SPD Commission for European Policy**, as Member of the SPD Senior Citizens’ Organisation (Seniorenrat), and as honorary President of the (already mentioned) **PES Women’s Organisation**.

Oh Yes – she is very intelligent, not only with words or in writing, she knows how to gain a majority of votes and awareness for the aims that she wants to achieve.

No wonder that she achieved an unanimous vote for the **FP-AP 2010-Kiew-Declaration on Migration and Integration in Europe** – and everybody knows what a tough job that was.

And Karin consequently became **FP-AP Vice-President**.



In the **Former Members Association (FMA) of the European Parliament**, that Andreas, Manzella, Elisabetta Fonck, and I are representing today, Karin also acted successfully, - as

FMA Vice- President for some time, and as **Delegation Leader** of some very important and strenuous study visits.

This, and even more that I won't mention today, is one side of her life balance.

The other side is her outstanding professional career. Undoubtedly, it is her life experience, that made her so strong and charismatic. She worked all her life. For example as a trained journalist and for some time as a freelance journalist. *Today, all of us could learn that quite a few of you/us are or have been journalists, and lawyers – a good base to become a successful politician).*

Thus, Karin became not only a Member of the **WDR** (Westdeutscher Rundfunk – **West German Broadcasting Corporation Cologne**), but *inter alia* also presided over the **Program Committee** for 11 years *quite a task!* And Karin was straight from the beginning 17 years (i. e. from 1992 – 2009) Member of the **German-French Advisory Council of ARTE = ARTE**, which is the well appreciated public **Franco-German TV network** that promotes programming the areas of culture and the arts, in short: **t h e European Culture Channel**; you will know it.

I regard all this as outstanding, and as a grand training camp to meet the challenges of life successfully.

As far as the **FMA Managing Committee**, we would stress that our quarterly **FMA Bulletins** would be poorer without an article from Karin, and discussions would be less valuable without her reliable investigations and research abilities.

Taking all this into consideration, we at the **FMA** are happy that

you as FP-AP,

Dear Mr. DeBono,
and all of you, Dear Friends,

are ready to honour Karin Junker in such a special way.
Thank you so much!

And:

Congratulations to you,

Dear Karin,

also from your FMA colleagues, represented – as I already mentioned - today by



Andreas (Manzella)
Elisabetta (Fonck),

and myself.

Brigitte Langenhagen
Paris – March 10th, 2017
FP-AP General Assembly
against delivery