

WIL Europe exploring collaboration opportunities with Mariya Gabriel, EU Commissioner for Digital Economy & Society

Description

On Tuesday 5th December 2017, WIL Board members met with EU Commissioner Mariya Gabriel in order to:

- **further introduce our network**, highlighting WIL's effort to help increase women presence and leadership in the digital sector;
- **thank the Commissioner for agreeing to become the Patron of the 4th edition of our Women Talent Pool programme and to participate to kick-off event** to be held on March, 15th 2018 in the headquarters of Orange in Paris;
- **discuss future collaboration opportunities**, in particular how WIL Europe could contribute to the Commissioner's agenda and initiatives

Attendees

WIL Board Members

- **Thaima Samman**, Partner at SAMMAN Law and Corporate Affairs and WIL President
- **Dorothee Belz**, Founder and Managing Director, Go Digit
- **Pinuccia Contino**, Head of the Unit "Product safety and Rapid Alert System", European Commission
- **Paulina Dejmek-Hack**, Member of Cabinet, Economic Advisor for the President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker
- **Isabella de Michelis**, CEO and Founder, Ernieapp Ltd
- **Brigitte Dumont**, CSR Chief Officer, Orange Group
- **Antonyia Parvanova**, Former Member of the European Parliament
- **Line Pélissier**, Diversity Director, Orange Group
- **Nanna-Louise Wildfang Linde**, Associate General Counsel, Microsoft
- **Nathalie Wright**, Vice-President Software, IBM France

Conclusions

In addition to the **Commissioner's involvement in our Women Talent Pool programme as Patron of the 4th edition** and her **participation to the kickoff event**, the following points of collaboration were agreed with the Commissioner:

Support in the development of the Commissioner's agenda and initiatives

- WIL Europe will become part **of the digital coalition** as a **consultancy body to her Directorate**
- WIL Europe will organize **regular working meetings** with the Commissioner
- WIL Europe will contribute to a **strategy being prepared by her Directorate on the role of women in the digital world*** as well as to the **Digital Opportunity pilot project****

Promotion of the Commissioner's agenda and initiatives

- WIL Europe will be happy to **promote the Commissioner's agenda and initiatives** across our European network and across the organizations represented by its members
- In particular, WIL Europe will welcome Ms Gabriel as **guest speaker of an EU Breakfast Debate at the European Parliament in Brussels**

**Ms Gabriel and her team kindly reminded WIL Board members that one of the pillar of this strategy is also to use technology as an enabler of gender equality and women empowerment*

***Ms Gabriel and her team also reminded that for the Digital Opportunity pilot project, the objective is twofold:*

- *Attracting female students to companies in the digital sector*
- *Encouraging companies to look for and hire female interns*

Next steps

WIL Europe will liaise with the office of the Commissioner to:

- Understand **how it can best contribute to the Commissioner's aforementioned strategy** as well as to **the Digital Opportunity pilot project and future initiatives**
- **Set a date and topic for the first working meeting** to be held with the Commissioner
- **Set a date and topic for an EU Breakfast/Lunch Debate** at the European Parliament in Brussels

Contact persons

For the Commissioner Maryia Gabriel:

- **Lora Borissova**, Head of Cabinet (lora.borissova@ec.europa.eu)
- **Andrea Almeida Cordero**, Personal Assistant (andrea.almeida-cordero@ec.europa.eu)

For WIL:

- **Thaima Samman**, WIL President (thaima@wileurope.org)
- **Antoniya Parvanova**, WIL Board Member (antonia.parvanova62@gmail.com)
- **Alexandra Lacroix**, WIL General Manager (alexandra@wileurope.org)