
Winners of the 2nd Edition of the Euro-Med Award for the Dialogue between Cultures 2007 Press Release

MRS. RODI KRATSA TSAGAROPOULOU and **MR. JAN WILLEMS** are the *ex aequo* winners of the Second Edition of the Euro-Med Award for the Dialogue between Cultures 2007.

The First Edition of the Euro-Med Award for Dialogue was launched by the Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF) and Fondazione Mediterraneo, Head of the Italian ALF National Network, in November 2005 about “Mutual Respect among people of different religions or any other belief” and the prize was awarded to the Mar Musa Al Habashi Monastery in Syria, represented by Father Paolo Dall'Oglio. This year, the Award is dedicated to the theme of “Women and men hand in hand for gender equality”.

The Winners were chosen by the Anna Lindh Foundation Heads of National Network of the 37 Euro-Med Countries during an election round which took place last July.

The Winners have been working at two different but equally important levels in favour of women empowerment: Mr. Willems at the grassroots level, through his artistic talent and activities; and Ms. Kratsa at the institutional level – promoting equal opportunities policies in the European Parliament and in the Euro Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly.



Of Greek origins, **Mrs. Rodi Kratsa** is currently holding the post of the First Vice President of the European Parliament (EP), and is member of the EP Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality. She is committed to the promotion of dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean political arena, the participation of women in strategy and policy making for a democratic society, and to equal opportunities for men and women. She believes that women’s values, capacities and perspectives are crucial in the achievement of these goals.



Of Dutch origins, **Mr. Jan Willems** is currently holding the post of artistic director and program designer of *Theatre Day Productions*, working in Hebron and Gaza. Training male and female adults to be drama teachers and actors in order to create a professional youth theatre in these regions is one of the main ingredients of his design. The last twelve years of his life were spent in Palestine (mostly the Gaza Strip and Hebron) where he trained and worked with men and women in many forms of social drama and theatre.

An honourable mention is given to the three runners-up who are: **Ms. Wassyla Tamzali**, a renown writer and activist for women rights (Algeria), **Professor Hanna Herzog**, Researcher on gender, religion and politics and Professor of Sociology at Tel Aviv University (Israel), **Ms. Mahassen El Emam**, General Manager and Founder of the Arab Women Media R&S Center (Jordan).

The Award will consist in a trophy bestowed during a prestigious ceremony, and in the winners' participation in several activities of ALF Networks, both in Europe and in the Mediterranean partner countries.

The Anna Lindh Foundation is the first common institution jointly established and financed by all 37 governments of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, with the support of the European Commission. The Foundation is a unique organization striving for dialogue, acting as a Network of 37 National Networks of diverse civil society groups and institutions with over than 1500 member organizations.

For more information, please visit the Award's website:
www.euromedalex.org/euromedaward/en/index.html
or via email at networks@euromedalex.org