

# BARNSBURY PRODUCTION ASSOCIATES

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To:        Luciana Castellina  
            Deputy - European Parliament.

From:      Midge Mackenzie

Date:      November 8th, 1994.

Re:        WOMEN & POWER  
            A Political Journey.

Dear Luciana:

It may seem like an age since we did the filming in Brussels, but the film is terrific.

Finished for the Commission, DGV Equal Opportunities Unit, and delivered just before the elections, your contribution to what has been so far a collective vision of women in the Parliament is very important.

The film does not have a combative presentation, but echoes the nature of your process, that is of conciliation between twelve partners in a political dialogue.

Therefore, the video shows women from all parties, all countries, creating an initial dialogue on the experience of this political journey.

Many voices speak to this shared experience. If you like, it is a collective overview.

From my point of view, this is only a small beginning.

However, it is very important, as this is the first documentation of the significant group presence of women in the Parliament.

In the the last election it was a great triumph for women to increase their majority from 20% to 25%

However in terms of the media there has been little celebration of this fact, or any of the implications of what the women Members, as key players in this Parliament, have achieved.

To produce, just this initial thirty minute group portrait, was only possible with the positive support of Agnes Hubert at the Equal Opportunities Unit DGV, through the Audiovisual Co-Production fund.

And with additional funding from the Socialist Group in the Parliament for the location filming in Greece.

We also had the support of the Audio Visual Unit and crews from the European Parliament, and my own film company Barnsbury Production Associates contributed significant production funds.

But none of this would have been possible without your own willingness to contribute to this documentation. So please may I say:

"Thank you very much for your time and your thoughts."

It was an experience that I enjoyed, but I also know WOMEN & POWER, A Political Journey, this initial group portrait is just a beginning.

So as women we are always left with the question of "What next?"

There was a successful screening of the video at the UK Parliament in London prior the European Elections, and the video was also used on the Fawcett Society bus to promote women candidates in the election.

Perhaps we should also hold a Press Conference in Brussels?

Sponsored by the Parliament, and Women's Rights Committee, together with DGV and the Women of Europe Newsletter to launch this video?

This would help to raise the media profile of women members in the parliament, and achieve distribution for this video to women within the community.

When you have had a chance to screen the video can you let me know whether you think a Press Screening would be a good idea?

Also whether a Press Conference is something you would like to personally support?

Meanwhile, we are continuing to develop the six part television series WOMEN & POWER - A Political Journey, which would incorporate the interview we filmed earlier. We will be submitting this programme proposal to the EBU for co-production funding, and I will keep you updated on our progress.

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Personally, I believe you share a terrific achievement that has not yet received the widespread television exposure and public appreciation that is truly deserved.

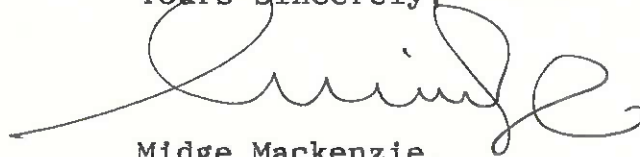
Please let me know what you think about the idea for a Press Screening at the Parliament?

Also, thank you again for your personal contribution to this group portrait.

I look forward to hearing from you.

All best wishes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Midge', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Midge Mackenzie.  
Producer/Director.