

BIOGRAPHIES

MMM Europe - The European Delegation of MMM

The MMM Europe spokespeople



Anne-Claire de Liedekerke is **President** of MMM Europe since September 2009 given her profound conviction that mothers have a crucial role to play in society. She is an art historian and a mother of 3 grown-up children. Her family moved a lot between Europe and the USA which gave her the opportunity to gain experience as a volunteer with professional commitments in the art and education areas. During her first stay in the US, she was lecturer at the Community College of Leesburg in Florida. After a 4 year stay in Paris, the family moved to Texas where she became a docent at the Dallas Museum of Art. In Canada, Anne-Claire was vice-president of the board of directors of the Lycée Français in Calgary. Back in Belgium in 1992, she worked at the Société des Expositions of the Palais des Beaux Arts in Brussels, and co-created the guide “Expats in Brussels” that she recently ceded to devote her time to MMM Europe.



Julie de Bergeyck joined the MMM team in 2009 to work specifically on the 18-month Family Platform project. She has been in charge of **coordinating the “Survey of Mothers in Europe”** from the inception of the questionnaire, the quality test through focus groups and interviews, use of the survey tool, translation in 10 languages and analysis with the help of a team of volunteers across Europe, and results writing. She is a mother of three young boys and has a communications background. She worked in the Internet advertising business in Brussels and in the US where she spent 8 years in a leading advertising agency, before working at Microsoft. She recently took a three-year break to raise her third child and volunteered for different local and national organisations.



Caroline Bombassei is **Secretary General** of MMM Europe since 2011. She is the mother of two girls. She has worked over 15 years at the European Commission where she helped manage the communication and information across several DGs. She holds a BA in Communication & Marketing. She currently dedicates her work to the youth by giving classes on relational, emotional and sexual life in schools, and has other volunteer activities.



Joan Stevens is the **Research Manager** of MMM Europe. She lived in Europe for 17 years and is a mother of 5 children and grandmother of 16 children. Joan is a professional music teacher, and also served as chairman of a Foster Care Citizen Review Board. She has a long experience with volunteer organizations and causes and work with her husband to support MMM Europe. She was Secretary General for MMM Europe for 4 years until very recently when she and her husband went to live in the US.



Françoise de Bellefroid, founder of MMM Europe. *A Belgian national, Françoise de Bellefroid was appointed President of the Mouvement Mondial des Mères (MMM) in 1994, after having represented the European Federation of women in the home (FEFAF) since 1983. She set-up the MMM European delegation of in 2002. Today, she is still actively supporting the European team as Honorary President of MMM Europe.*

Mouvement Mondial des Mères: MMM



Florence Von Erb – President of the Mouvement Mondial des Mères: MMM

Florence von Erb is convinced that any attempt to the rights of women is an infringement to the fundamental rights of human beings and a brake impediment to a harmonious development of societies.

A modern woman with both a working and a family life, Florence enjoyed a distinguished career on Wall Street, at JP Morgan and a fulfilling family with a husband and four children. She however, like many women, juggled with the schedules of business meetings and appointments to the doctors, school meetings and care for her children.

Her own life experience gradually made her realize the lack of recognition of the invisible unpaid work done by mothers in society. Rich or poor, the role of mothers is without borders. The social, economic and cultural value of their work generates progress, development and social cohesion in all countries.

Multicultural, having grown-up in Latin America, Florence knows the situation of women with socio-economical disadvantages, and without even the option of choosing between work and the education of their children.

As of 2004, Florence begins to follow the different studies of the commissions of the United Nations devoted to the issues of women, family and children. In 2005, the meeting with the world movement of mothers (MMM) is decisive. She found in the movement her willingness to commitment to women's issues and a vision to promote the role and status of mothers around the world.

Florence von Erb therefore left her Wall Street offices to become the MMM United Nations' delegate in order to "make the voice of mothers heard". In 2008, she accepted the Presidency of MMM. Her new challenges to inform, understand, persuade and act were matched by her ability to quickly establish links with other NGOs, to build a diverse network of contacts in the United Nations and push her humanitarian role in new directions, for the cause of mothers.

Florence von Erb has the deep conviction that "motherhood transcends cultures, religious beliefs, and economic resources." The solidarity of mothers is universal because every mother has the same desire for her children: to see them grow and flourish in a world of peace and progress.