Soroptimist started in 1921 in California, in 1930 in Antwerp and in 1939 the Belgian Union was founded. The Belgian Union celebrates this year its 75th anniversary and this makes us one of the oldest Unions of the European Federation.

April 16, 1930 the club of Antwerp received its Charter from the hands of club Den Haag. The second Belgian club, Brussels (now Brussels Doyen), was born in December 1938. At that time, Madeleine Garot of the Club Antwerp became President of the European Federation. With the Foundation of a second club, according to European statutes of that time, the Belgian Union is founded on July 8, 1939 in Brussels. Marthe Hirsch is the first national President.

In 1939 the War started, the meetings were suspended and club Antwerp lost several of its members, including Mrs Hirsch. In October 1945 the meetings re-started, Marguerite Verbrugge became the National President and several clubs were founded: Ghent and Liège were chartered in 1947. The club of Arlon followed in 1950.

The Belgian Union has currently 57 clubs and 1702 members.

Different themes have been treated by the various national Presidents. The last two years, I asked the Belgian clubs to work on the theme of the eradication of all forms of violence against women and girls and to educate the young ones at the beginning.

Gerda Rosiers, President SI Belgian Union

A global voice for women

Sous le Haut Patronage de Sa Majesté la Reine
Onder de Hoge Bescherming van Hare Majesteit de Koningin

BELGIUM



75e anniversary

8th of March 2014 – 9h00
Bibliothèque Royale - Albertine
Bd de l'Empereur 2 à 1000 Bruxelles

asbl SI Belgium

A global voice for women

Sous le Haut Patronage de Sa Majesté la Reine
Onder de Hoge Bescherming van Hare Majesteit de Koningin

BELGIUM