



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT - NR 16

Lund, 15th December 2021.

Dear Colleagues,

Dear Friends,

Two years ago, I wrote in the Christmas letter that my two years term as President was almost over.

At that time, we did not know that something called covid-19 would change everything. But it certainly did. The physical meetings in Paris, Helsinki and Berlin have been postponed twice and replaced by internet meetings. Luckily and much thanks to our secretariat and you all this has worked very well. The Bureau and the General Assembly meetings in the Spring of 2021 as well as the Colloquy now in the Fall had all associations participating. The declaration was approved unanimously by all members with a voting right. The fifth version of the statement "Europe Facing Global Powers at a Horizon of 10 Years" written by Roland A Kohn was hereby approved and finally we have a Berlin Declaration.

We are grateful for his excellent work in a very difficult time. Unfortunately, we cannot for the moment thank him in person for all his work. Instead, I have sent a personal letter expressing thanks to him from all of us. Besides he will be given a present at our meeting in Paris.

As you well know the Restricted Bureau had an internet meeting in late October. It proposed to the 2022 General Assembly in Paris to decide that the fee for 2022 will be reduced to € 1000 because of the pandemic and that no physical meetings took place during the previous year. The Restricted Bureau also recommended that the fee for 2023 will be the normal € 1.800.

The schedule for the coming year will be the following- unless some more wave of the pandemic will cause problems. We need to meet in person soon. Internet meetings are good but physical meetings are better especially for an association as ours. So next year we must be back to a normal agenda.

In **March 2022** there will be a Bureau and a General Assembly meeting as well as a seminar on Health organized by the French association in **Paris**. The dates are as follows:

- Wednesday 9th March 2022, afternoon: seminar on health organized by the French association.
- Thursday 10th March 2022: meeting of the Bureau and General Assembly of FP-AP.
- Friday 11th March 2022: visit of the new town of Marne-la-Vallée.

Mr J.P. Fourré, our First Vice-President, has said that the meeting rooms and most of the hotel rooms at the Residence will be available, as the French Parliament will not meet any more from 28th February onwards, because of the elections in France.

June 16-18, 2022, meeting of the Bureau and a seminar in **Helsinki**. The topic: Finlandization.

In the **Fall**, October-November **2022**, there will be a Bureau and seminar meeting in **Berlin**.

Once more we are coming close to Christmas and the end of the year. Lights and decorations are everywhere. People meet in family reunions and with friends. It is always a great ending of the year.

I love the snow and the silence in the forest. It is a wonderful time for me. Hope you feel the same.

Looking back at my years as President I will take the opportunity to thank you all for these four years.

It has been wonderful to know you all. Some I have contacted over the phone many times and they have become my good friends and you all will be welcome to my place up here in the North.

Without the help from our secretariat and the support of all of you it would not been possible to achieve what we have done during these difficult four years. The great work of Roland Roblain, Lisette Hermans and Krist Decannière have made everything so much easier. They deserve great thanks from all of us.

My great thanks also go to the Restricted Bureau with Jean-Pierre Fourré, Jan-Kees Wiebenga, Brigitte Langenhagen and Dario Rivolta. Now we know how to use Skype!

Let me end by wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy Ney Year 2022.

Rune Rydén

President



Let me end by wishing you all a

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
2022!**

Rune Rydén

President

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