



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT - NR 8

Malta, 15th December 2017.

Dear Colleagues,

Dear Friends,

My two year term of office as the F.P - A.P. President is coming to an end as unfortunately does everything and everyone. This is also the time of year when each and every one of us do celebrate these festive days with our dear ones, our families and friends. In and at our matured age, we thank God for giving and allowing us to have enjoyed a full life with all its ups and downs, but which matured each and every one of us in her/his own unique way and character. Most of us will have their legacies continued for by their offspring's. May all of us continue to enjoy many further ones in the future.

So to each and every one of you, I wish you all the very best on these special coming festive days.

Last two years.



These last two years have been of personal satisfaction and off a great honour bestowed on me by the General Assembly. Two years of several accomplishments having both success and disappointments.

Success was achieved with and by the numerous positive activities we held and their creative outcome. Success reached by having a very helpful advisory Colleagues in the Restricted Committee, that of Mr Jean-Pierre Fourré, Ms Ilona Graenitz, Mr Rune Rydén and not least Mr Jerzy Jaskierna.

Success that with the ample help of our colleague from Sweden, our association attracted more Nordic Associations to become part of our family, namely Finland and Norway.

It is also our aim to further border our base by attracting the Baltic Associations as well. This was the basic element for still accepting the claim by the Lithuanian Association, as members, even if they had not contributed financially as obliged due to no funds at present.

Success was registered in holding and having so many positive outcomes in Lyon, Paris, Sweden, Dublin and Malta. Members and experts that were invited to these meetings all made and gave important aspects and innovative info on the chosen subjects.

Furthermore invitations gratuitously sent by both Poland and Germany were most welcomed and accepted. Poland on their annual university occasion in which so many intellectuals took part with so many various aspects to the final outcome.

Germany celebrating their 40th Association Anniversary was extremely impressive, solemn and very well organized. Several of our European Associations were cordially invited and took part in the proceedings.

Success was also reached in having all the member associations participating vividly in all Bureaus, Colloquies and Seminars. Success in the Council of Europe discussing one of our Colloquy's with two of our able representatives, Ms Ilona Graenitz and Mr Uwe Holtz.



Success was also registered to which our European Associations are grateful to all those that contributed on our behalf the preparatory texts for our colloquies.

A very important success was in having some of our associations Governments accepting in financially aiding or initiating financial contributions to their countries former parliamentarians associations.



Visit at H.E. Mr Michael D. Higgins, President of the Republic of Ireland.

Disappointments.

Disappointments in not being able to persuade some Parliaments in their financial contributions to their respective associations. This is a pity as I believe strongly that former parliamentarians who continue to show interests in both their country's political sphere and rule of law, are the ones that should and have to be helped in continuing their valid contributions both by their experience and for

the future welfare of their countries and humanity in general. Their vast past experiences would thus not be lost but made use off.

I do recommend that future Presidents should continue in this pressing for financial aid to those associations still lacking this most important financial elements. Personally I believe that it is the duty of any respectable government has an obligation to assist financially each and every association to enable the former parliamentarians to continue contributing their vast knowledge to the betterment of both the European Union and the Council of Europe. Maturity and experienced knowledge accumulated through years gives one a better focused visionary aspect to and for this vision.

Another disappointment was the cancellation of our associations visit to our colleagues from Turkey. I can see the issues that at present it was not the right time for such a visit, but hope that when certain elements are cleared in our friends' country, then new discussions can be re-started for such a visit. Keeping contacts and assessing friendships helps one get to know one another better to understand and also help in achieving the true values of what central and southern Europe democratic beliefs. This can only be achieve by contacts and personal friendships as well.

New Members.



In these two years we had the pleasure of having the additional inclusion of two new Members, the Finnish and Norwegian Associations. These two countries with Sweden makes a good balance to our European Association by having three Northern Countries as our colleagues. We welcome them with open arms. Special mention has to be given to our Swedish colleague Mr Rune Rydén for the crucial part he took in having the possibility of these two new friends joining our European Association.

We have also to continue concentrating in our efforts to entice further the Baltic Countries in our midst as future colleagues. That is one of the reasons that we have extended the member status for now even due to their lack of current payments. Letters have been re-written to their Speakers Office, copied to their Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. We are awaiting their answer.

The same procedure was also made in copy like fashion to other Parliaments regarding other Associations.

Seminars in the Future?

The accumulated experience of Former Parliamentarians, their continuous contact and discussions in both Colloquies, Bureau and Seminars, have given an impetus to our European Status. Our communications through the colloquies and seminar reports were well balanced and thoughtfully envisaged. Some recommendations have been well viewed and occasionally accepted and adopted by the European Union.

I believe that a new element initiated in Malta by holding a seminar of "Statelessness" in between colloquies should be studied – discussed in detail so maybe this system can be adopted in general as an innovative aspect of having these sort of seminars by the European Associations in between the colloquies. This system can be an interlock as an in-between the Colloquy held every two years.

Our colleague Mr Walter Swimmer is doing fine work on the preparation about “The Future of Europe”. This subject is of interest to one and all. Where do we want Europe to go and look forward too?

Our knowledge in different fields of past expertise may help contribute to a visionary aspect for our European future. This is not an easy task, so each and every one of us is obliged – nay must – submit his/her visionary aspects of Europe future road to be taken should look forward too.



I would like to forward a suggestion that the Restricted Committee be permitted by the General Assembly the capacity to issue “Statements” on important current issues, such as happened now with the American President shifting important United Nations general acceptance that “Jerusalem” faith should be decided either by the parties’ final agreements or being run under the United Nations supervision.

Jerusalem which houses the three Religions, that of Christian, Muslim and Jewish Faiths.

Jerusalem belongs to all humanity and our Association should declare our views to one and all.



I conclude as the President, wishing each and every one of you, a Happy Ending of 2017 and a better future and comradeship for the coming year 2018. Enjoy these coming feast with your loved ones, especially your families and friends !

Lino DeBono

President.



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1. Mr Lino DeBono : Restricted Bureau meeting in Malta
2. Mr Uwe Holtz : Ms Graenitz & Mr Holtz visiting Ms Gafarova, President of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons at the PACE Strasbourg
3. Maxwells Dublin : FP-AP received by the President of the Republic of Ireland
4. Mr Aaltonen : Scandinavian delegation in Malta
5. Mr Clifton Dench : Malta seminar “Statelessness”