

## Welcome to EOA News

As we come to the end of the year, we cannot believe how much we achieved this year; how many people we met, and the impact we've had. We always love to hear your news and receive your stories too, so if you have something to share, please get in touch: [carolinebramwell@ostomyeurope.org](mailto:carolinebramwell@ostomyeurope.org)

## *New Friends & New Beginnings*



On 26th October, the EOA Executive Committee attended the first ever African Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, where delegates from South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Tanzania, Uganda, Nigeria, Rwanda, Ethiopia, and Kenya came together to discuss the issues in their countries.

The day was full of love, support and encouragement and from this powerful collection of individuals a new Africa-wide association was agreed to be formed, called Africa Ostomy Association.

Since that day, a committee has been formed and the legal process is under way in the

formation of this new Association.

Every African country that attended gave a presentation, which was streamed live on the internet, and the presentations can now be viewed on the EOA website.

Such was the impact of this inaugural event, prime time television attended to film on the day and the President of EOA, Jon Thorkelsson was interviewed, along with other delegates from Stoma World Kenya.

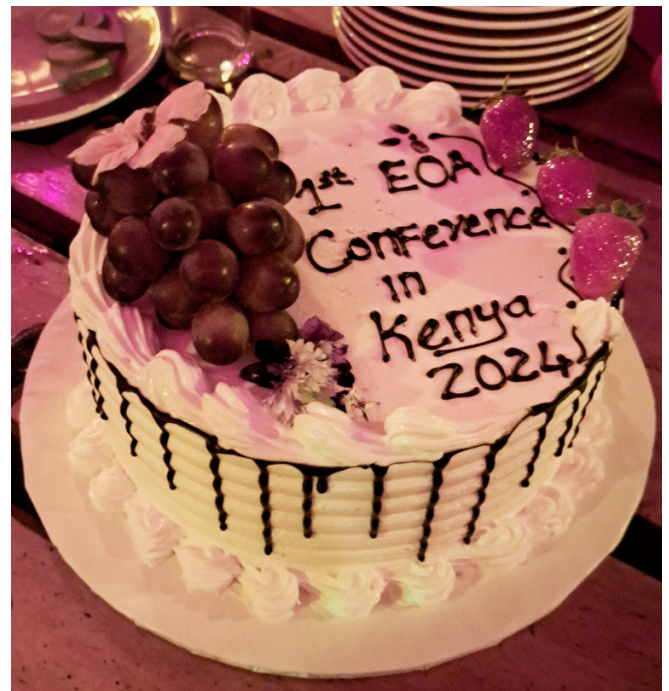
The day was completed with a wonderful dinner. The hosts, Stoma World Kenya, had arranged a



wonderful itinerary for the EC. This began in Nairobi with a visit to a cultural centre and to watch the amazing dance troupe performing the different dance styles of Africa.

Following the conference, the Executive Committee were taken to Amboseli, where they held their annual meeting, and were wonderfully looked after and taken out into the Amboseli National Park on a safari.

This was the most spectacular trip, which all the Executive Committee enjoyed and praised Stoma World Kenya for organising a fantastic conference and being such wonderful hosts.



Following a tour of the facilities in Nairobi where stoma products are received for distribution, on the final evening, Stoma World Kenya surprised the Executive Committee - Jon, Maria, Isabella and Caroline - with a cake to celebrate this first ever African conference.

## EOA Congress May 2025

### Important Update

As mentioned in our last newsletter, plans are currently under way for the planning and organisation of the EOA Congress.

After not having a face-to-face event since before the pandemic it is hoped that we can meet again in person. However, at present we are establishing the details of how this can be achieved affordably.

The Congress is due to be held on 7th-11th May in Norway, however, we ask that you **DO NOT YET** book any flights, until such time as the details are confirmed.

## WANTED



We like to keep our members aware of all that is happening across Europe and our membership, so if you have news to share on our website or in our newsletter, please email:  
[carolinebramwell@ostomyeurope.org](mailto:carolinebramwell@ostomyeurope.org)

We cannot guarantee it will all be used, but keep us informed so we can inform other members.

# ***EOA Executive Committee 2025-2028***

## ***Call for Nominations***

At the EOA congress in Norway in May 2025, we will be holding the tri-annual meeting of the House of Delegates and the election of the new EOA Executive Committee (EOA EC). This will take place on Saturday 10th May 2025.

For the next EOA Executive Committee and for the presidency, we need nominations of candidates to be elected at the Congress at the House of Delegates meeting.

Please note: Jon Thorkelsson may not run for the EC or for President after serving two terms as an EC member and then two terms as President. Isabella Grosu and Maria Hass may not run for the EC after both serving two terms as EC members. Only Caroline Bramwell may run again for the EOA EC.

Therefore, nominations are needed for both the presidency and the EOA EC.

### **Who may nominate and who may be nominated?**

- Each member of EOA (full member or associate member) may nominate candidates for the position of President and for additional officers (EC members). The candidates must be ostomates.
- Every nomination should be accompanied by a short curriculum vitae of the candidate and must have her/his handwritten signature to confirm their willingness to be nominated and elected.
- Current EOA EC members who qualify for re-election will also require a nomination.
- Nominations for the officers of the EOA EC must be sent 90 days prior to a General Session.

During the online Congress 2022, Marie Steen (Sweden) and Henning Granslev (Denmark) were nominated as EOA Nominations Representatives.

This means all nominations must be sent to EOA Nominations Representatives only. According to the conditions mentioned above, this should be done in English and in written form by ordinary mail and by email.

The documents must arrive before the deadline of 9th February 2025.

Please consider that 9th February will be a Sunday, so early submission is recommended. All nominations received after 9th February will not be valid.

This is the address of the EOA Nominations Representatives where the nominations must be sent to:

Henning Granslev /Marie Steen  
c/o COPA  
Jyllandsgade 41  
4100 Ringsted  
Denmark  
Email: [h.granslev@gmail.com](mailto:h.granslev@gmail.com)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either the Nominations Representatives by email ([h.granslev@gmail.com](mailto:h.granslev@gmail.com) or [marie.sten@funktionsratt.se](mailto:marie.sten@funktionsratt.se)) or the EOA Vice President, Maria Hass ([maria.hass@ilco-kontakt.de](mailto:maria.hass@ilco-kontakt.de))



# Keep Up Momentum on Disability Rights

Earlier this month an open letter to the European Commissioner for Equality was signed by 108 organisations, prepared by the European Disability Forum. This was signed by EOA as well as some of our members.

The main goal of the letter was to get the Commission to confirm they would update the European Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 with new flagship initiatives and actions.

Following this, we have great news! Commissioner Lahbib confirmed this update during a debate today in the European Parliament. She told Members of the European Parliament: "During the first year of my mandate, I intend to communicate to the EP and to the Council the new actions and flagship initiatives that will help to close the remaining gaps".

This official confirmation was thanks to our joint efforts, and we will now work in 2025 to ensure that the Commission closely involves organisations of persons with disabilities in preparing this second phase of the Strategy.

The full letter can be seen here:  
<https://www.edf-feph.org/publications/commissioner-lahbib-keep-momentum-disability-rights/>



## and World Ostomy Award

2025 sees the return of the delayed World Ostomy Day on 4th October, and alongside this EOA are again running the World Ostomy Award, in collaboration with global medical device company Coloplast A/S.

The theme for this year's WOD and Award is:

**“INVISIBLE DISABILITIES - VISIBLE SUPPORT : The Global Unity of Ostomates”.**

Through this Award we aim to raise the voice of people with stomas globally and uphold the following:

- Ensure that people with stomas have their voice heard
- Secure the rights and access to dignified care for people with a stoma
- Ensure that people with stomas have access to high quality information and education that enable them to self-care
- Encourage sharing and adoption of best practices across the globe

The World Ostomy Award is intended to further support the execution of ostomy initiatives worldwide. The prize is awarded to nine national stoma organizations, which present the best initiative to execute locally. Any national ostomy association worldwide, which has ideas for local initiatives that are directly concerned with furthering the needs of people with a stoma, are eligible to participate.

Keep your eyes peeled for more details about how to apply, as they become available. We will be emailing all of our members with details, and adding content to our website in due course.

## Microsoft Support for Non-Profits

Did you know that Microsoft provides grants and discounted solutions to eligible non-profit and non-governmental organisations that have a recognised legal status in their respective country?

In addition to the organisation criteria, that you can check via their website - <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/nonprofits/eligibility#organization> - eligible organisations must also operate on a not-for-profit basis and have a mission to benefit the local community that could include, but is not limited to, providing relief to the poor; advancing education; improving social welfare; preserving culture; preserving or restoring the environment; promoting human rights; establishment of civil society.

We know how hard it can be to bring in funds or save money, so every little thing like this can all help!

It's worth you checking out your eligibility.

## Keep In Touch

In the last year, we have updated the EOA website, in which you can easily find our latest news and stories, as well as copies of our Newsletters. We always welcome your own stories to add to this, so we have plenty to share across Europe and Africa.



We are now also on LinkedIn - this platform is typically used by personal profiles and is the 'Professionals Facebook' - where key individuals and organisations connect. EOA now has a business page of its own and we welcome you to follow us on there:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/european-ostomy-association/>

We have only started this recently, so would love you to join us there!

## Thank you

As we come to the final days of 2024, the Executive Committee would all like to thank you for your support this year and the trust invested in us to lead the European Ostomy Association. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible next year.



Jon  
Isabella  
Maria  
Caroline