

## **Presidents Report 2011 – 2014 to the House of Delegates.**

EOA now has 42 member Associations in 38 Countries in Europe, Middle East and Africa.

35 of those are full members, 7 are associated members.

There are two different Ostomy Associations in Italy, Portugal, and Russia.

After the EOA congress in Lviv, Ukraine in May 2011, the EOA EC consisted of:

- Ria Smeijers from the Netherlands (President)
- Giuseppe de Salvo from Italy (Vice President)
- Jón Thorkelsson from Iceland (Treasurer)
- Anne Demick from UK (Member and second contact person to IOA)
- Marie Steen, Sweden (member/ 20/40 focus).

Appointed members:

- Kes Klare from the Netherlands. Appointed webmaster:
- Maria Hass, Deutsche ILCO was also attached to the EOA EC for the EOA directory. Maria has also, voluntarily; take care of sending of the President's messages and other information from the EOA EC, to all our member Associations.

The EOA EC thanks Deutsche ILCO for this valuable support to EOA and the efforts of Maria Hass. Also many thanks to Kes Klare the EOA webmaster.

### **Vladimir Kleinwächter.**

In March 2012 we lost one of our most valuable persons: Dr. Vladimir Kleinwächter, Czech Republic. Vladimir was Past- President of EOA. He was very important for EOA and special for the member associations in Eastern Europe. We'll never forget him and all his efforts for ostomates in Europe and worldwide.

### **Meetings of EOA EC.**

The EC have had three meetings after the elections in Lviv. The first meeting was in 2011 in London, the second in 2012 in the Netherlands and in 2013 the EC have had their meeting in Milan. During these meetings the EC discussed several issues. The Internet and e-mail have been wonderful in providing instant regular contact for EC members but it is also very important for the EC to meeting once a year to have time to discuss important items to enhance the work of EOA.

### **World Ostomy Day 2012.**

The EOA EC was responsible for organizing WOD in 2012. Anne Demick UK, together with Barry Maughan, Chair of IOA and Ria Smeijers are the Organizing Committee. "Let's be Heard" was chosen as the theme; the UK organisations offered a new logo for WOD. As your President, I was invited by FAIS in Montesilvano to celebrate this special day. FAIS had chosen to give special attention to the 20/40 focus.

### **Visits to our EOA members 2011 – 2014.**

It was a great pleasure for me to visit some of our EOA member associations for a celebration or for a special occasion.

### **COPA Denmark.**

In September 2011 I was invited by COPA, the Danish Ostomy Association, to celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. COPA was the first, therefore the oldest ostomy association in the world. It was nice to see a delegation from the Odessa, Ukraine Association, the twinning partner of COPA and delegations of the Nordic Associations.

### **Visit to ILCO Serbia**

In April 2012 I was invited by the President of ILCO Serbia, Snezana Cmiljanic-Miljojevic, for the celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Serbian association. It was good to be there, together with the presidents of Romania, Poland, Slovenia and Czech Republic. Highlights of this visit were a reception at the City Hall of Belgrade by dignitaries, an interview on national TV, where Snezana and your President brought to attention the needs of the Serbian ostomates,

### **Visit to Poland.**

In May 2012 our Treasurer Jón Thorkelsson and I visited POL-ILKO, for the first time in connection with the next EOA Congress in 2014 in Poland. In Krakow, we met the organizing committee of POL-ILKO and the President Andrzej Piwowarski.

### **Nordic meeting.**

In August 2012 I was invited by NORILCO, to the Nordic meeting in Trondheim, Norway. This meeting is organized every two years by the boards of Sweden, Finland, Iceland, Denmark and Norway. The members of these boards share their plans for the future and meet each other. This is an extraordinary event in Europe and it was a privilege for me to open this meeting.

### **Deutsche ILCO.**

In June 2012 your President was invited by the Deutsche ILCO for their celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> birthday of the association. More than 400 members and guests came together at the Alte Kongreshalle in Munich to celebrate this special event. Deutsche ILCO invited all their neighbours; Switzerland, Austria, Czech Republic, Luxemburg, Poland, Denmark and the Netherlands. In my speech I brought the congratulations of all the EOA members to Deutsche ILCO and I thanked them, in particular Gerhard Englert, for their efforts for many years for EOA, providing our contact office and the work of Maria Hass.

### **EOA FUND.**

The EOA-EC decided to establish a fund: the Prof. Dr. Gerhard Englert Fund. This fund is a tribute to Gerhard Englert for his work. In the meeting of the House of Delegates in Krakov, we'll discuss the aim of this EOA fund.

### **Czech ILCO.**

On 9<sup>th</sup> April 2013 I was invited to Prague by Marie Redinova, the President of Czech ILCO. During this meeting in Prague, the members of Czech ILCO celebrated the fact they were the European winners of the Coloplast Award for all their activities for WOD 2012.

The second reason for my visit to Prague was the start of a new European Project "Life without limits". Czech ILCO will work together in this project with Deutsche ILCO and SLOVILKO. The aim of this EU project is to find out what the differences are of "quality of life" for ostomates in these three European countries. Marie Redinova will give a lecture about this project during the EOA congress in Krakov.

### **Progress in Africa:**

A part of the job for EOA EC is to take care for and to help to establish new Ostomy Associations in Africa: There is a lot of progress in Africa:

### **New associations in Africa.**

#### **Kenya:**

With joy I'll inform you about the establishment of a new association in Kenya. This association is called: Stoma World Kenya and is based in Nairobi. There are already 167 members and the association is still growing.

#### **Zimbabwe:**

A new Ostomy Association is also established in Zimbabwe: ILCO Zimtrust in Harare. The Director is Mrs. Lizzy Moyo. The Twinning partner for Zimbabwe is ILCO, Sweden, contact person: Marie Steen, Board member of ILCO and also EOA EC member.

#### **Ghana:**

Good news also from Ghana. In 2012 a new Association was born: The Ghana Ostomy Support Group in Accra. The Chairwoman is: Mrs. Roslyn Anderson. On 15<sup>th</sup> March 2014 I travelled to Ghana to meet the Board of the new Association. The Director of the Dutch Ostomy Association – the Twinning partner – accompanied me on this trip. A report of our visit of Ghana will be published, as soon as possible, on the EOA website.

I will thank the Ostomy Associations from Sweden and the Netherlands for supporting these new associations.

#### **Ethiopia:**

Arne Holte, Past-President of EOA and Giuseppe de Salvo, EOA vice-President of EOA EC, travelled to Ethiopia in 2011 and while an Ostomy Association has not yet been established, the EOA EC and Ethiopia remain in contact.

### **LIONS for Ostomy care.**

A training for surgeons and nurses was organized in the District Hospital at Kisumu in Kenya from 11 until 16 February 2013. This training was co-organized by Dr. Carlo Pezcollar (Lions for Stoma Care) and Dr. Harikesh Buch (Vice President of ASPOA) from India. EOA EC decided to support this activity with a donation. We expect this training will be a great contribution to the quality of stoma care in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Dr. Pezcollar is invited to give a lecture during our Congress in Krakow. Thanks to Dr. Pezcollar and Dr. Buch for their great efforts for ostomates in Africa and worldwide.

### **Advocacy:**

The EC received alarming information concerning the cutting of budgets for appliances for ostomates in some countries. Governments and Health Authorities have, since the recent economic issues in Europe, been cutting budgets, or plan to do so. I have had a message from the Presidents of the Ostomy Association in Poland, Sweden and Czech Republic. Even in the Netherlands, there are problems with the Government and medical insurance companies about the appliances for ostomates. Member associations need to ensure they are advocating for ostomates and making sure they are being consulted. We know that all ostomy appliances are different and choice is essential for us to lead a normal life.

### **Visit to the European Parliament.**

On 10<sup>th</sup> October 2012 I was invited to Brussels for a meeting with the Dutch delegation of European parliamentarians. It was a wonderful experience to walk around there in the throbbing heart of Europe. I was welcomed by two MPs from the Christian Democrats and the Socialist Party. Then I got the opportunity to give a presentation on the stoma care in Europe. It is good to know that there is still much room for improvement in the care of stoma patients in the different EU countries.

In the coming years, according to the MPs, the EU has to look at the appliances sector. It is essential for the EOA to have already some contacts within the EU, where necessary, to take action.

### **Economy measure on deodorants for ostomates.**

The presidents of Slovenia, Jan Čačko and Czech Republic, Marie Redinova informed me about the economy measures on deodorants for ostomates. The EOA EC has written to the Disability Forum and to the members of the Borderline Committee of the European Union in Brussels to express our concerns over these measures.

### **Meeting with Eucomed**

On 26<sup>th</sup> June 2013, I have had a meeting in Amsterdam with two delegates of Eucomed, Mr. Klaus Grunau, Hollister, and Mr. Joseph Rolley, Convatec. It was a good and informative discussion and they informed me about the activities of Eucomed on a European level. Eucomed represents the medical technology industry in Europe, the manufacturers and suppliers of medical technology. Mr. Grunau and Mr. Rolley believed it is important to inform the Governments, the healthcare insurance companies and the policymakers in the European Union, about the care for ostomates in the member countries. The knowledge about ostomy care is incomplete in the European Union.

### **Contact ECET:**

#### **ECET Congress, Italy/Paris.**

On 1<sup>st</sup> June 2011 I was invited to the ECET Congress in Bologna, Italy. I met a lot of interesting and important people, ET's and manufacturers, in connection with our work at EOA level.

In 2103 I also attended the ECET Congress in Paris where I had the opportunity to give a lecture about the work of EOA and the national Ostomy Associations.

### **Friends Ostomy World wide.**

There are two associations of Friends Ostomy Worldwide, one in the USA and one in Canada. These associations are sending appliances to ostomates in all parts of the world and to some of our EOA member associations. On behalf of EOA EC I would like to thank FOW for all their efforts for



ostomates in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

**Contact IOA:**

As your President I am, together with Anne Demick, a delegate of EOA to the new IOA. The new IOA consist of three Regions; ASPOA, OAA and EOA. The chair of IOA at this moment is Barry Maughan, the President of ASPOA. The IOA is responsible for the IOA website and WOD. Together, the three regions pay a small amount to the IOA webmaster. I am also the treasurer of IOA and there is now only a small amount in the IOA bank account, the remaining funds having been distributed to the regions.

**20/40 focus.**

It is great to hear that many of our associations are organizing activities for the youngsters. Together with some of our members associations, the EC supported a meeting for young people in Romania. We have invited a special guest from Norway to our EOA Congress in Krakow to give a lecture and a show a video to the 20/40 group. They will also have the possibility to have a meeting together during the second day of the EOA Congress.

It was a great pleasure for me to work in the last three years as your President, together with the members of EC, the appointed webmaster and with Maria Hass, Deutsche ILCO. We did our work in a very good atmosphere. The EOA EC members have also written short reports on their efforts. (see below)

Thanks to the EOA members for your response, your collaboration, your country reports and your support for EOA EC.

The next EOA congress will be held in Krakow in Poland in May 2014. The Theme for our meeting is: BE INSPIRED.

Looking forward to meet you all in Krakow ..... to be inspired!

Ria Smeijers, the Netherlands, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

President EOA.

