



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT- NR 15

Lund, 18 June 2021.

Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

Last year, about this time, I wrote the following to you: “Let us hope that next year we will have physical meetings as usual in March in Paris and Helsinki in late June as well as one in Berlin in October”.

We will see if our meeting schedule will be completed next year 2022 instead. We hope so!

In October 2019 we met last time in wonderful Cagliari in Sardinia. Two years is a too long time. In an association as ours we need to meet regularly to keep our friendship going. I miss you in my quarantine. The photos are from my garden.

Let us hope for a better future. I see some good signs. The fast development of new vaccines for covid -19 surprised me. Now, almost all in our age group are fully vaccinated and about half of the people in Europe have got at least one jab of vaccine. That is incredible if one thinks of how long it usually takes to develop and produce a vaccine and to distribute it to the people. There are some bad signs as well. Covid-19 has spread quicker and lasted longer than many experts suspected. Many countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America will not be fully vaccinated for quite some time. New variations of covid-19 appear from time to time.

A new one called delta seems to be very infectious.

As you well know the Bureau approved on June 4th unanimously the suggestion of the Restricted Bureau to wait until early October to decide if we can have a physical meeting and colloquy in Berlin in November.

If we cannot have that, the Bureau will organise a video conference sometime in November to allow our rapporteur Roland A. Kohn to present his text “Europe Facing Global Powers at a Horizon of 10 years” which could be approved at that meeting.

Mr. Roland A. Kohn has made a fourth draft of his report. It is the final version. The member associations can send amendments before 15th September 2021.



I want to say a few words about Magdeleine Willame-Boonen (Belgian association), who has been a member of our Bureau for four years and who passed away recently. She was much appreciated and her observations were always to the point, be it linguistically or with regard to the content.

Enjoy the summer and until we see each other in person again, I say:

Keep distance, your head cold, your heart warm and your hands clean.

Happy summer!

Rune Rydén



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