Report from the European Ostomy Association (EOA) Coordination Committee (CC) for the years 2008 – 2011.

Introduction:

This report covers the time from 01012009 till 300411. It also contains reports from some of the appointed members of the CC. It is a pleasure for the EOA CC to see all the great efforts being done all over Europe to improve the quality of life for ostomates and persons with related diseases. Some EOA organizations have aid programmes including twinning with ostomates in countries where people with ostomy suffer from lack of appliances and discrimination.

Members of the CC has been:

Arne Holte, president	NORILCO	Norway
Ria Smeijers, vice president and treasurer	Nederlandse Stomavereniging	The Netherlands
Giuseppe de Salvo, member	FAIS	Italy

The following persons have been appointed to the CC with special tasks:

Vladimir Kleinwächter	Czech Republic	East Europe and the 2011 EOA congress
Daiga Skagale	Latvia	Young ostomates, liaison to Focus 20-40
Maydad Gissin	Israel	Middle East, Turkey, Cyprus
Kes Klare	The Netherlands	Web site

Due to personal reasons Daiga Skagale left her position in spring 2010.

Deutsche ILCO has taken care of the EOA Contact office in Bonn. Thanks to D-ILCO and to their employee Maria Hass who has excellent taken care of this vital task.

Members:

EOA has now 41 members in 35 countries from Algeria in South West to Israel in South East to Norway in far North and Iceland in the far West. It is a fact that some countries are more active than others. During the last year there has been close to no contact with Belarus in spite of several attempts from Vladimir and Daiga. To Algeria the contact is lost for the time being. One Belgian association has seized heir membership, but hopefully more associations will join EOA in 2010. This is Greece, Turkey, another from Romania and another from Belgium.

Meetings:

The most important meeting was the EOA meeting held in conjunction with the world meeting in Frankfurt in November 2010. The world meeting decided a new format for IOA with just three regions, not five as earlier. The EOA House of Delegates decided that the current CC should be in office until the Congress in Ukraine in May 2011. A task force consisting of Thijs Fonville (The Netherlands), Anne Demmick (UK) and Maydad Gissin (Israel) should work on a new/an amended Constitution for EOA to presented an voted on at the Congress in May.

The CC met in Montesilvano in Italy in October 2009. This meeting took place the day after the Italian Ostomy Association, FAIS, had celebrated World Ostomy Day. All CC members were invited to the meeting which gave EOA no expenses.

In February the CC included the appointed persons (Daiga could not meet) and also three more persons with great organization skills (Gerhard Englert, Marie Steen and Henning Granslev) met in Frankfurt to discuss the future of EOA and also IOA. The conclusion was that a great change in the way the two organizations were organized ought to be recommended.

In April 2010 many EOA associations met in Frankfurt mainly to discuss the proposed changes in the IOA Constitution. It was no objection to the main items in the new Constitution, just some minor comments on the number of persons in the IOA Coordinating Committee.

Travels:

For some time the EOA economy has prevented members of the CC to do a lot of travels. Thanks to hard work to avoid great expenses the economy is now better and hopefully it will be possible to visit more EOA member organizations in the time to come. During 2009 the president has attended the ECET (ET nurses in Europe) meeting tin Porto, Portugal in June where he held two lectures. He was taken excellent care of by the Portuguese organization LOP. The president was also invited to the Hungarian East-West colorectal days in September where he

held a lection for top surgeons from Hungary and The United States.

In October 2009 he and also Ria Smeijers attended FAIS WOD arrangement in Montesilvano in Italy. At all those three travels most of the expenses were paid by the organizer.

Giuseppe De Salvo went to the October's Conference in Gyula (Hungary) on the Disabilities in the Eastern European Countries, and Vladimir Kleinwächter has attended the Polish Association's WOD arrangement and also Hungarian ILCO's meeting in Pecs Hungary (se Vladimir's report for details).

In June both Vladimir Kleinwächter and Giuseppe de Salvo went to Lviv in Ukraine to meet the organizer of the 2011 EOA Congress. The intention with the meeting was to plan the congress together with professor Lozynskii who heads Ukraine ILCO and the Congress committee.

In January 2011 the president, Giuseppe de Salvo and Vladimir Kleinwächter went to Lviv to do the final planning on the Congress. Representatives from ConvaTec and Coloplast took part in some of the planning as they are both contributors to the congress. ConvaTec is the main sponsor.

Giuseppe has been to Athens to see a reliable contact there and hopefully also doctors and people from the Cancer Union. The intention was to start an organization for ostomates in Greece. So far this has been impossible, but hopefully EOA will have a new member there in some time as we now have a reliable contact there.

Giuseppe has also been to Albania with the same purpose. This trip was very successful. See Giuseppes report for details.

The future:

The world meeting in Frankfurt in November decided a new future for IOA with three regions instead of five. The role of IOA is diminished having just a coordinating role. The IOA Coordinating Committee (CC) consists of the three regional presidents and one appointed person from each region – all together six persons. Ria Smeijers from The Netherlands is the appointed person from EOA.

The IOA CC has taken on different task of common interest. EOA has the responsibility for the IOA accounts and World Ostomy Day (WOD) to be held first Saturday of October 2012. The current EOA president has together with the president of the American region met representatives for Coloplast, Hollister/Dansac and also ConvaTec to work out routines for communications, applications for sponsorship and also to get to know each other.

One major change in the new format is that all membership fees now will go to EOA. Earlier only 40% is paid back to EOA, the rest remained in IOA regions.

The EOA CC knows there are lot of good work being done in the 41 member organizations. The CC also knows that some organizations have plans for twinning and aid projects. FAIS Italy will arrange teaching of Romanian nurses, ILCO Sweden will travel to Zimbabwe in Africa, where there are reliable contacts, working to establish an ostomy organization and the EOA president will go to Addis Ababa in Ethiopia to start an organization there.

The EOA CC recommends that EOA Constitution remains with any necessary adaption until the next EOA congress in Lviv in Ukraine in May 2011.

The CC hopes that contact again will be established with Belarus and with Algeria, and that Greece, Turkey, Cyprus and more countries will join our EOA family in 2011.

Preparations for the EOA Congress in Lviv

ASTOM Ukraine offered at the 12. EOA Congress to host the next Congress in the city of Lviv. The offer was accepted by all delegates. In June 2010 two persons from EOA went to Lviv to go on the planning together with representatives from ASTOM, and in January 2011 the same two persons went together with the OA president to do necessary follow-ups. Also representatives from Coloplast and ConvaTec took part in part this meeting.

ConvaTec who is the main sponsor has urged EOA to use a greater part of the 9000 USD they has given to bring in people from countries that do not have an organization for ostomates. That is the reason why we have people here from Jordan and Moldova. Hen this report is written we still hope and work with people from Greece and Albania.

As you will know, the slogan for this Congress is Reaching out – and that is just the intention, reaching out to Ukrainians – and to other ostomates living in places where their quality of life are much less than it is for most of us.

It has been a challenge to get to where we are now. That is due to language problems and to the banking system. Paying with credit cards are not always easy in Ukraine, and cash may often be more easy.

The cooperation with the local organizer has been easy except for language problems from time to time. They have done a marvellous job and as president of EOA I want with this to say thanks to professor Lozynsky, president XXXX of ASTOM Ukraine and their committee. Thanks also to Vladimir Kleinwächter, Ria Smeijers and Giuseppe de Salvo who have done a great job during the preparations.

Economy:

TREASURES REPORT 2008, 2009 AND 2010.

The statement of financial performance for the years 2008, 2009 and 2010 together with the estimated budget for the coming three years had been sent by Maria Hass, the EOA office, to all Member Associations.

European congress in Brno, Czech Rep.

In March 2009 the complete financial report of the EOA Congress 2008 was finished.
Thanks to the sponsoring of the following national associations of **UK IA, Demark, Iceland, the Netherlands** and **Norway** and the following companies **Convatec International, Coloplast Norway, Hollister, Convatec Sweden**, the congress is closed with a positive result.
This surplus is divided on a 50/50 basis between Czech ILCO and EOA.
Each received €1294,95.

I will express my thanks to Miroslav Sery, Karel Rusin, Vladimir Kleinwächter and TA-Service Brno for the excellent support. They were the main stay of the congress.

Twinning Project.

In October 2009 we received a donation of $2500 from the IOA for the Brno Congress to invite new member association.

Membership fee.

Every year in October we receive the 40% part of the membership fees paid by the European members of the EOA. In January 2010 we received a postponed payment from 2009 from 6 associations.

WOD 2009.

3 October 2009 our President Arne Holte and I were invited by FAIS Italy to attend their congress in Montesilvano. It was a special experience to celebrate with so many Italian ostomates WOD.
I will thank FAIS, especially Fernando Vitale and Giuseppe De Salvo for the invitation and the hospitality.

Auditors.

As decided during our last congress in Brno in 2008, two (2) EOA members, Henning Granslev, Denmark and Jon Thorkelsson, Iceland, where appointed as auditors by the House of Delegates.
They will receive a full report from the treasurer about all expenditures an income of the CC.

The auditors will during the congress in Lviv give a short report about their findings, remarks and omissions of the financial situation of the EOA and the work of the treasurer.

Financial status of EOA.

After the IOA congress in November 2010 in Frankfurt, the EOA is an independent Region.
We don't pay our membership fee to the IOA anymore and share with the IOA and there is no reason to share the dues.
During the Congress in Lviv, the House of Delegates, have to decide how we go on in the future concerning the finances.

The financial situation of EOA is healthy. We spend our money very conservative. We have faith for the coming years.

I will thank the following persons and Associations:

- All member Associations for paying their dues in time.
- The EOA Associations made it possible new members attending the congress in Brno and the congress in Lviv by sponsoring.
- The Deutsche ILCO for keeping the records of the accounts.

The Netherlands, 25 March 2011

Ria Smeijers
treasurer EOA

Vladimirs Kleinwächter's report:

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES IN 2009/2010

(1) Meetings

International meeting in Pécs, Hungary

I participated at the international conference *Colorectal Cancer Screening and Its Modern Examination Methods*, which was organised by the Hungarian ILCO in Pécs in 27 – 28 March, 2009. I have presented a lecture *Care of the Colorectal Cancer Patients in the Czech Republic*, which was published (in English) in the Conference proceedings *Vastag-és végbéldaganatok tömeges szürése és modern viszgálati módszerei*. Based on the discussion at the conference recommendations for the CRC screening in the countries of the Visegrád Four were issued by the Hungarian ILCO.

Meetings at the occasion of the WOD 2009

(a) Meeting of Czech ILCO (Czech Republic) and Slovilco (Slovak Republic), organised by the Brno ILCO Club in the town of Breclav, connected with a symbolic visit of the archaeological site of Pohansko, a settlement of the Great Moravian Empire, which covered both the Czech and Slovak territory, on 3 October, 2009.

(b) Meeting of POL-ILKO in Zielena Góra (Poland) on 11 -12 October, 2009.

At both meetings I informed the participants about the expected changes in the structure of IOA.

(2) Preparation of the 13th EOA Congress in Lviv, Ukraine

Throughout the year 2009 I acted as a contact with Professor Lozynsky, the main organiser of the 13th EOA Congress. It has been agreed that the Congress will take place in Hotel Hetman (Lviv) on 6 -8 May 2011. Hotel Hetman can provide all necessary facilities for the Congress and has enough capacity to accommodate Congress participants. A draft of a letter from EOA to Ukrainian Government representatives was prepared asking for support of the Congress and effort of Ukrainian ostomates to improve their social situation.

(3) Monitoring situation of ostomates in Belarus

Since 2008, when the Belarus ostomate association informed EOA that they had to dissolve the organisation, attempts were made to find out a way how to restore it. I tried to contact Dr. Aleksander Vorobey, the founder of the organisation, but without success. Similarly attempts to find a suitable professional person, a physician or a stomatherapist with help of Alina Matysiak from POL-ILKO were unsuccessful. The future of the Belarus association will have

to be discussed at the nearest EOA meeting in April 2010.

Brno, 16 January 2010

Vladimír Kleinwächter

Giuseppe De Salvo's report:

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES IN 2009

(1) Greece

The year 2009 opened with good hopes to constitute a first ostomates group and the periferic Greek region of Epirus, thanks to the help and of one of the very few Greek stomatherapists: Maria Fasia. Unfortunately, at the end of §February she wrote me that she changed hospital and department and does not have anymore the possibility to help the constitution of a a Greek Ostomy Association.

After fruitless attempts to contact the Greek Anti-Cancer League, and the Greek Society of Colon Rectal Surgery, Arne gave the name and the e-mail address of a Greek Hollister representative: Ageliki Karakatsani.

She took an appointment between the Greece Hollister Commercial Manager with the President and the Vice president of the Greek Society of Colon Rectal Surgery during a Congress in November in Thessaloniki. Both surgeons said clearly that they are not interested and do not have time for this project.

Miss Angeliki did not yield and just in the last days she arranged a meeting with the president of the Greek Anti-Cancer League with me on a Ostomy Association in Greece.

(2) Africa - N'Djamena

An Italian doctor who helps an association which works in Africa, asked to a Italian Missionary hospital in N'Djamena (cooperating with a Milan's university) to monitor the number of ostomy operations during from May 2009 to November - December 2009. In almost seven months only 10 ostomy operations have been carried out.

With so few cases, it was considerated a priority by doctor Carlo Pezcoller and I to dedicate our limited resources to other areas where our pathologies are more frequent.

(3) Meeting

Last October 9th and 10th, I participated to the Conference organized by Magyar ILCO in Gyula, a little thermal town near the board with Romania, entitled: The social situation with disabilities in Eastern-Europe.

I prepared a detailed document and lecture with title: Economic and social

benefits for civil invalids in Italy.

It was a touching experience because there were many different disabilities and I saw much courage in people affected by other and more serious inabilities than the ostomy.

(4) Project of Law for the European Union

Last December 2009, I and other friends of FAIS (the Italian Ostomy Association) wrote a project of law for the European Union to sanction the principle of rehabilitation centres and of the proper appliances supply, in the European countries of the UE. Just in these days our official translator wrote the English version of the project of law. After the C.C. Agreement, we in Italy will put the project in the care of Italian parliamentarians in the Strasbourg Parliament.

ACTIVITY OF GIUSEPPE DE SALVO DURING 2010

1) **Greece**

After several months of contacts with a Greek Stomatherapist without results, a staff employee of Hollister helped me to get a meeting in February with the president of the Hellenic League against Cancer. The outcome of the meeting was completely negative because this doctor was afraid to lose his associated in case of birth of an Ostomy Association. The Hollister employee is in maternity leave now, therefore further contacts have been suspended.

2) **Albania**

After a couple of months of contacts with an Albanian doctor, director of a ostretician department in the hospital of Berat (South Albania), I flew to Berat in May. A meeting was hold with two nurses, two ostomates, the director of the city National Health Service, and with the director of the surgery of the Berat Hospital. It was programmed a base course of stomatherapy for the two nurses in autumn in Milan.

In the Berat hospital, a stoma care cabinet would have been opened and the surgeon of Berat would have informed his colleagues surgeons of Tirana (where most of the Albanian operations of ostomy are carried out) of the next opening of this stoma care cabinet for the southern Albania.

The two nurses cannot attend the planned course beginning on November 3rd, because the documents required by the Italian authorities cannot be produced within the beginning of the course. In April 2011 there will be a second session of

this course and there is the time to produce all the documentation required.

3) **Romania**

From June to September, I forwarded more than 150 kg of appliances to the Romanian Ostomy Association with the cooperation of the Lombard Ostomy Association and of FAIS, which paid the deliveries.

Next November a city Italian Association (Modena near Bologna), together with the Red Cross will deliver 500 – 1.000 kg of appliances to the Romanian Ostomy Association.

4) **Ukraine**

Last June, Vladimir and I went with to Lviv to participate to the planning of the next European Congress of May 2011.

PLANS OF GIUSEPPE DE SALVO FOR 2011

1) **Ukraine**

Travel with Arne and Vladimir to Lviv in January to verify the status of Congress preparation.

Eventual work as staff during the Congress in May, although very few Ukrainians speak a foreign language, except Russian.

2) **Ethiopia**

Participation with Arne to the works to help the birth of an Ethiopian Ostomy Association in February or March.

3) **Greece**

During the International Stomatherapist Congress in Bologna of next June, there could be the opportunity to meet Greek stomatherapists and the to establish relationships with the long-term aim to found a Hellenic Ostomy Association. At the beginning of 2011 the Hollister employee will go back to work and it could be possible to search new ways to open the Greek ostomy association, either in Athens or in other minor towns.

4) **Albania**

The two nurses will attend the base course of stomatherapy in Milano next April. During this time h the directors of the Berat hospital will try to make to

open the stoma care cabinet. Moreover, at least an American company present in Italy will look for contacts with export distibutors to sell their appliances in the Albanian (poor) market. The costs of the course will be paid the Italian Association, but if there will be not sponsors, it will be difficult to continue the help to the future Albanian Association for FAIS.

5) **Romania**

With the cooperation of the Romanian Ostomy Association, a course in Bucarest to 6-10 nurses, leaded by two Italian Stomatherapists with a Romanian nurse working in Italy as interpreter, should be held in Autumn 2011. Many relationships and agreements should be taken before the course, because to the nurses should be allowed to take care ostomates and to open stoma care cabinets, in the best situations. The costs will be paid the Italian Association, but if there will be not sponsors; it will be impossible to continue the help to the Romanian Association and to their ostomates.

Sesto San Giovanni, October 31st

Giuseppe De Salvo

Date:

Arne Holte, president	Ria Smeijers, Vice-president	Giuseppe de Salvo, CC member