President's Report 2014 – 2017 to the House of Delegates.

EOA now has 41 Member Associations in Europe, Middle East and Africa. 34 of those are full members, 7 are associated members. There are two different Ostomy Associations in Italy, United Kingdom, Russia and Belgium.

After the EOA Congress in Krakow, Poland in May 2014, the EOA Executive Council (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 and 20/40 Focus).

Appointed members:

- Kes Klare from the Netherlands, webmaster:
- Maria Hass, Deutsche ILCO was also attached to the EOA-EC for the EOA directory. Maria has also, voluntarily, take care of sending 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.

Deceased members.

In 2015 we lost one of our most valuable people, Thomas Nylunt, President of NORILCO. Thomas was involved in the 20/40 Focus group and he led the special meeting of this group in the EOA Congress in Krakow in 2014.

In 2015, we lost also Roslyn Anderson, Chairperson of Ghana Ostomy Support Group. Roslyn was the founder of this Support Group in Accra, Ghana.

We'll never forget Thomas and Roslyn and all their efforts for the ostomates in Norway and Ghana.

Meetings of EOA-EC.

The EC have had four meetings after the elections in Krakow. The first meeting was in 2014 in Gothenburg, Sweden, the second in 2015 in Bonn, Germany and in 2016 the EC had their meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland. 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 meet once a year to have time to discuss important items to enhance the work of EOA. An extra meeting in February 2017 in London, was necessary due to the postponed Congress in The Netherlands.

Kock Pouch Project.

The first meeting of your EOA-EC board was held on 17&18th October 2014 in Gothenburg, Sweden, to which a special guest, Dr. Leif Hultén, was also invited. Dr. Hultén is the successor of Professor Kock, who invented the Kock Pouch and he knows a lot about this special technique and the problems experienced by people with a Kock Pouch in Europe. At the Nordic Ostomy Associations (NOA) meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland, the Dutch Ostomy Association (DOA) presented a proposal for a project on Kock Pouch. NOA and DOA will work together on this project and, at the EOA Congress in Denmark in October 2017, will have the opportunity to provide further information on the current situation.

News from EOA-EC.
Kes Klare from the Netherlands has been EOA webmaster since the EOA Congress in Portugal in 2005. In 2016, Kes advised the EOA-EC of his decision to retire from the position in 2017. On behalf of all the members of EOA, I record thanks to Kes Klare for all his efforts on the website. He did a great job!

I'm very pleased to announce that we found a new webmaster, Elzbieta Lesinka from POL-ILKO, Poland. We asked Elzbieta to design a new website for EOA and a presentation of the new website will take place during the EOA Congress in Denmark.

Visits to our EOA members 2014 – 2017.
It was a great pleasure for me to visit some of our EOA Member Associations for a celebration or for a special occasion.

Visit Czech ILCO, Prague, November 2014.
"Life without Limits" **-** This is an EU project of Czech ILCO, Deutsche ILCO and Slovilco about the quality of life for ostomates. Pavel Kreml and Marie Redinova from Czech ILCO reported on the provisional outcome of this project. For me it was a great honour to be invited to the conference in Prague for the official presentation of the final report of this project. The board of Czech ILCO did a great job in collaboration with SLOVILCO from Slovakia and Deutsche ILCO, Germany.
"A normal life" is what we all in our Associations wish to achieve. My sincerest wish is that this survey will be a huge contribution to that objective.

60th Anniversary of IA 2016.
During the weekend of 16-17th April 2016, IA (the Ileostomy and International Pouch Support Group) celebrated its 60th anniversary. I was invited by the Board of IA to attend this special meeting in Hinkley, United Kingdom. It was very special for me to be together with more than 200 members of IA. On Saturday morning 16th April, Professor Neil Mortensen, National President of IA, opened the meeting with a warm speech. "Looking Back- Moving Forward" was the theme for this national conference. It was nice to meet the new national secretary of IA, Jackie King. As you probably know Anne Demick retired from this position and is now elected as Chairman of the Executive Committee of IA. In the morning programme, I had the opportunity to congratulate IA on its 60th anniversary on behalf of the EOA-EC and all our Member Associations. Thanks to the Board of IA for inviting me to this well-organized meeting of the National Council.

Visit to ISILCO, Reykjavik, 7-9 October 2016.
The yearly EC meeting was this time organised by Jón Thorkelsson, our EOA treasurer in Reykjavik, Iceland. During our stay in Iceland the EOA-EC was invited to a meeting with the members of ISILCO. It was fortuitous that the monthly meeting of ISILCO coincided with the EOA-EC meeting, affording members of the EOA-EC the opportunity to meet with the members – a memorable occasion!

20th Anniversary Zvezo ILCO, Slovenia, June 2017.
On Saturday 10th June 2017, I was invited to the 20th anniversary of Zveza ILCO Slovenia. It was an excellent, well organized, meeting. After a very warm speech by the President, Ivan Mrevlje, we enjoyed a nice meeting in a wonderful atmosphere with music and dance. I met also many representatives from neighbouring associations of Slovenia. It was special for me and the other EOA friends to have discussions, exchange views and ideas regarding the situation in different countries in Europe, during a workshop being led by the President of the Slovenian Association of stoma care nurses Mrs. Renate Battas. Thanks to the President

Ivan Mrevlje, Irena Kalan and Zoran Terglav of Zvezo ILCO for the very nice days in Slovenia.

Visit to Denmark, Taastrup, March 2017.
Due to unforeseen circumstances the EOA Congress in May 2017 in The Netherlands was postponed. On Saturday 18th March 2017, a delegation from the EOA-EC had a very fruitful meeting with Henning Granslev, Chairman of COPA Denmark, in Taastrup. We are most grateful to COPA for volunteering to host the 15th EOA Congress in October 2017 in very good co-operation with Henning Granslev.

New member Associations of EOA:

Moldova.
In June 2015 a new Ostomy Association was born in the Republic of Moldova. The President of the Moldovian Association is Mrs. Valentina Sandu. Many thanks to NORILCO for their support regarding the membership fee for this new Association.

Belgium:
In June 2016 I informed you all about the establishment of a new National Ostomy Association in Belgium: StomaVlaanderen. President is Mr. Jean-Pierre Vanderstukken. There is a close relation with the Regional Ostomy groups in Belgium and also with Stoma Vereniging Antwerpen (Associate Member of EOA).

Kosovo:
The most recent new Member Association of EOA is KOA: the Kosovo Ostomy Association with Mrs. Arta Uka as its President. EOA-EC invited Mrs. Arta Uka to the EOA Congress in Denmark, where she will inform us all about the situation for ostomates in Kosovo.

France:
In July 2016 the EOA-EC received a sad message. The Board of the French Ostomy Association advised us that they decided to close the office in Paris. At this time, there are still three active regional Associations in France. I hope it will be possible in the future, to establish again a new National Ostomy Association in France.

Progress in Africa:
A part of the responsibilities of the EOA-EC is to take care of and to help to establish new Ostomy Associations in Africa and I am pleased that there is a lot of progress to report, as follows:

In my last EOA-EC report, I informed you all about two very successful Ostomy Associations in Africa: Stoma World Kenya, based in Nairobi. President is Mr. T. S. Devgun. In the last years the situation for ostomates in Kenya has changed a lot. With the support of Lions for Ostomy Care (dr. Pezcollar, Italy and Dr. Harikesh Buch, India) the quality of care for ostomates in Kenya is much better. Thanks also to the Canadian Ostomy Association and Friends of Ostomates Worldwide (FOW) for their support.

The second Association in Africa is ILCO Zimtrust in Harare, Zimbabwe, director is Mrs. Lizzy Moyo. The Twinning partner of the Association in Zimbabwe for many years is ILCO, Sweden. It is great to see what's going on in Zimbabwe. The EOA-EC have invited Lizzy Moyo to the EOA Congress to inform us about the work for ostomates in Zimbabwe.

In Northern Africa, dr. Naguib Mikhail El Nikhaily in Cairo, is the President of the Ostomy Association in Egypt. The situation for ostomates in Egypt is very bad and the EOA-EC is very impressed with the efforts of Dr. Naguib.

Good news from Nigeria! Mrs. Maria Okonji advised the EOA-EC of the establishment of an Ostomy Association in Nigeria.

It will be the first time the Board members of all four Associations of Africa meet each other in October in Taastrup and I hope this occasion will be the start of co-operation between these four African Associations.

LIONS for Ostomy Care.

Training for surgeons and nurses was organized in the District Hospital at Kisumi in Kenya from 11th until 16th February 2013. This training was co-organized by Dr. Carlo Pezcollar (Lions for Stoma Care) and Dr. Harikesh Buch (Past President of ASPOA) from India. The EOA-EC decided to support this activity with a donation. This training was a great contribution to the quality of stoma care in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.
In 2016 the EOA-EC decided to support Mr. Lameck Odero, stoma care nurse in Kisumu, with a donation from the Gerhard Englert Fund, to attend a training course in Canada, organized by the Wound Ostomy and Continence Nurses' Society (WOCN).
Dr. Pezcollar has been invited to give a lecture during our Congress in Taastrup, about the work of Lions in Latin America. Thanks to Dr. Pezcollar and Dr. Buch for their great efforts for ostomates worldwide.

ECET Congress, June 2017 in Berlin, Germany.

The Board of the European Council of Enterostomal Therapy (ECET) invited me to attend their Congress in Berlin, Germany. On 20 June 2017, I gave a presentation on the work of EOA. On Wednesday morning 21 June 2017, I took part in the so-called "round table" meeting about the situation for ostomates in Europe. The President of Deutsche ILCO, Mr. Erich Grohmann, was also invited to this meeting and it was an opportunity for me to meet him. It was nice to meet the President of ECET, Mrs. Gabriela Kroboth and many other stoma care nurses from all over Europe. I invited the President of ECET to attend our Congress in October 2017.

Friends of Ostomates Worldwide (FOW).

There are two associations of FOW, 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:

I am, together with Anne Demick, a delegate of EOA on the IOA Co-ordination Committee (CC). The IOA CC consists of three regions; ASPOA (Asia and South Pacific), OAA (The Americas) and EOA. The chair of IOA at this moment is Ken Aukett, the President of OAA. The IOA-CC is responsible for the IOA website and to organize every three years the World Ostomy Day. The three regions pay each year a small amount to the IOA webmaster. I am also the treasurer of IOA-CC. (For your information: there is now only a small amount in the IOA bank account).

Meeting with the companies:

The last meeting of the IOA CC was in 2014 in Gothenburg, during the Congress of the World Council of Enterostomal Therapists (WCET). Anne Demick and I, as representatives of EOA, were invited to a meeting with the companies. The companies advised us that it would

no longer be possible to provide direct financial support to IOA or EOA and that funding for Congresses would need to be negotiated with the national companies on a regional basis.

President's Report:

This is my last report to the House of Delegates. During the EOA Congress you will elect a new President and EC members. I'm really very pleased there is interest in the work of EOA-EC.

Dear EOA members, it was a great honour for me to work in the last six years, as your President, together with the members of EC, the appointed webmaster and with Maria Hass. We did our work in a very good atmosphere and I thank the EC members for their co-operation and great support in good and bad times. Thank you very much dear friends!

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 Taastrup, near Copenhagen in Denmark in October 2017. The theme for our meeting is: Caring, Charing and Supporting".

Looking forward to meeting you all in Taastrup, Denmark!

Ria Smeijers, the Netherlands, 28th August 2017.
President EOA.