

Dear EJ Colleagues and Friends,

I hope to find all of you in good health, even though we are all worried about what is happening in our dear Europe after the Russian invasion of Ukraine. As you know, we recently had two important events in Timisoara: a special meeting about the new European geopolitics in the wave of the war in Ukraine and an elective general assembly.

In regard to the new geopolitics, prominent speakers presented from different angles the current situation and the new scenarios that we will face, also considering new concentrations of power and the urgent need for the European Union and Europe at large to have real defense policies. A panel discussion highlighted the necessity for media to play a more effective role in such a context to make people aware of the new challenges ahead in a changing geopolitics also strongly affected by growing interdependence.

The General assembly was the first one on-site after the beginning of the terrible pandemic that affected all our lives. On that occasion, the election of new EJ organs took place. The assembly also personally marked the end of my long period at the helm of our association, which began in 2005 as AJE President.

It has been for me one of the most exciting journeys of my life. I am happy for the many colleagues and friends from different EU and non-EU countries that I met and whom I have cooperated with, with passion and enthusiasm to provide our contribution in supporting visions and goals of the EU founding fathers, whose values and principles are always timeless, even in an ever-changing world.

We have made together many experiences, coming to know different cultures and traditions, and enjoying all of them. We have also seen different attitudes towards the European project and we have always committed ourselves to keep one vision: unity in respecting diversity, democracy, rule of law, strong support of freedom of the media and putting values at the basis of any action.

We have also experienced situations where tolerance needed to be considered without, of course, allowing certain limits to be exceeded, and keeping mutual respect. I have always considered human networking to be the best ground on which we can create the best things in our life as human beings living in communities, from the local one to the largest ones, being them European or worldwide.

Human networking allows people to know and better understand each other and to often become aware that “my problem is your problem” and vice-versa, which means creating the conditions for working together for common and shared interests and goals. Human networking means also to create conditions for overcoming suspicions and mistrusts which are often – especially in border regions, with borders being in many cases scars of history – poisoning many kinds of relations. In our journey together we made many lifelong friendships, which are some of the most important values for a human being.

Let's hope that the terrible war in Ukraine will soon come to an end and both the European Union with its institutions and every single European democratic country will concentrate all their efforts on stability and peace in this turbulent world.

Dear colleagues and friends, the general assembly in Timisoara elected a new Executive committee and within the ExCom the Rumanian colleague Felicia Ristea was elected as new president. In the attachments you will find the minutes of both the general assembly and the new elected ExCom with the relevant attribution of offices. I thank the general assembly for electing me honorary president; an acknowledgement that will give me further motivation to reach our EJ aims.

Members of our Association asked me to continue giving my support to EJ within the new Executive committee; it is the reason why I accepted to candidate as ExCom member and I will be happy, of course, to provide my contribution, especially on the basis of my long experience, to both the new president Felicia and the entire ExCom.

A new EJ Webpage layout with connected mailing list is in progress; in the meantime president Felicia ask me and Francesca to manage communication with the already existing system, and we will be happy to do it.

I would like to express heartfelt thanks to all the members of all ExComs that were in office during the period of my presidency for their supportive and loyal cooperation and to all our past and present EJ members for their support. For all of you I was simply Paolo, and it has been the title that I most enjoyed. Let's continue working together also attracting and motivating new members, especially the young, to keep the European dream alive.

Best, and ciao.

Paolo

Attachments:

- General Assembly's minutes, May 10, 2022.
- New elected Executive committee in Timisoara on May 10, 2022.
- New EJ President message