



Dear E.D.E. colleagues,

There are just a few more weeks left until the end of 2009. Despite the hectic pace of the weeks before Christmas in our profession, we should also take time for ourselves and our families, to cultivate and nourish our relations with those nearest to us.

The adoption of the Mission Paper was an important step this year, indicating the way forward for the development of our association. Lively discussion over the best solutions to adopt continues to drive us forward, offering us a critical look at accepted practice and encouraging us to initiate relevant change while gauging with a balanced eye what can be changed and what is worth preserving.

In the name of the Executive Board I wish you a reflective holiday season full of strength and interesting encounters, and above all good health for 2010.

Sincerely,
Wilfried Schlüter
President

Dear friends and colleagues,

The Luxembourg association GRIPA had the honour of co-organising the 11th Congress of the E.D.E. in Luxembourg, the country where the association first saw the light 20 years ago. As a member of the

Executive Board (EB) and the General Board (GB) of the E.D.E. and as organiser of the Congress, I am pleased to address to you the following words.

As I said at the Congress, it has been my goal to organise the various meetings of the Executive and General Boards – as well as the Congress as a whole – in a **successful, informative and convivial** way. Anyone can acquire perfect knowledge through professional literature and seminars, but developing a common understanding throughout Europe must take place and be fostered through contact and discussion.

A large circle of family or friends can implement ideas and keep them alive far more easily than the best theoretical plan which is not put into practice.

EB meeting on 22 September, 2009 from 2:30 to 6:30 pm: session dealing with 3 main points (W. Schlüter, M. Dürrer, C. Marty, J. Bohler, A. Cluzel, B. Koprivnikar and G. Hartmann).



Jean Bohler, Luxembourg

E.D.E. Vision 18

This is the 18th edition of the electronic Newsletter of the E.D.E.: E.D.E. VISION.

This newsletter will inform you about the current developments within the European care centres and in particular about the position of directors/managers. The E.D.E. also intends to adopt a position on real issues in European politics in the context of care for the elderly. E.D.E. VISION's primary purpose is however to inform you about projects of the E.D.E. and its member countries.



Prof. Dr. Wilfried Schlüter

The fact that the newsletter is published electronically makes it readily accessible and enables national associations to pass the contents on to their members.



Editor: Wim Schepers

This is the last issue of E.D.E. VISION edited by Wim Schepers. All colleagues from the E.D.E. thank him sincerely for his voluntary work during the last years.

1. E.D.E. Mission

The document compiled by the working group (Bohler, Koprivnikar, Morandell, Raspini, Schepers, Ivanisevic) on the future orientation of the European association was discussed for the second time and made ready for definitive presentation to the GB and at the Congress.

2. 11th E.D.E. Congress

The two working groups, from the E.D.E. (Birkholz, Bohler, Koprivnikar, Marty, Schepers) and the GRIPA (Bohler, Dahm, Loguerio, Pinckers, Reuland, Schwartz, Spielmann), the moderator of the Congress Mill Majerus as well as André Vasanne from the Congress organising service MeeTincS gave final explanations and comments on the Congress. The 2011 Congress in Prague will be organised by the EB. Jiří Horecký of the Czech association and a representative from the Czech congress organising service will be invited to the sessions.

3. E.D.E. Vision

Until now Wim Schepers has done a first-rate job producing the electronic newspaper of the E.D.E., collecting the texts and having them translated into the three E.D.E. languages (G-F-E). Neither the GB members nor the country associations have submitted suggestions for significantly altering the publication's operating methods. As of 2010 E.D.E. Secretary Martin Dürrer will take over the responsibilities of creating VISION. He has immediate access to information and to members, allowing him to take swift and effective action when time is of the essence. The EB members extend preliminary thanks their honorary co-worker Wim Schepers, and will come back to this point at a later date.

At the end of the meeting all participants were happy to accept the invitation of Josefshaus in Remich, where they spent several friendly hours over an abundant buffet and good Luxembourg wines.

GB meeting on 23 September, 2009 from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm in the "Fondation Pescatore". (GB members at www.ede-eu.org)

The largest establishment in the country (380 residents) made its premises available free of charge and invited the members of the GB to a superb lunch. A visit of this 120 year old foundation was the highlight of the day.

- In the session the work of the GB was presented and discussed.
- Various information on E-Qalin was communicated and reviewed.

- Certain representatives requested the right to have a say when speakers from their own country are engaged at conferences, leading to prolonged discussion.
- Angela Cluzel detailed her important work for the E.D.E. in European matters.
- Heinz Stieb from the Austrian Association was elected chairman of a new working group which will support the Executive Board in implementing the goals set out in the Mission Paper.
- E.D.E. Treasurer Carlos Marty gave explanations on the financial situation of the E.D.E.

Mrs Gabriele Hartmann will write up exact reports on the sessions, which you will be able to access once they have been approved.

A guided city tour gave participants an in-depth view of the city of Luxembourg, and a hearty lunch rounded off the discussions.

11th E.D.E. Congress from September 24 – 26, 2009 in Luxembourg

Dear colleagues, if you weren't there you missed out on something good! Believe me, the Congress was a **success**.

As far as the **wealth of information** goes, you will be able to download the speakers' documents on the website www.ede2009.lu, or simply listen to them online. As far as the **convivial** side goes, it was unique but will remain fondly in all of our memories.

Almost 400 participants from 19 different countries were present and around 20 speakers took the floor to tell of their experiences and share a wide variety of impressions on the state of long term care. I will not presume to summarise the speeches, but please do have a look at them when they are posted on our website.

Wonderful catering, engrossing visits, good and interesting sponsors as well as a terrific – and professional – organisation rounded everything off perfectly.

Thanks to all those who shared their company. And a very big thank you for allowing me to help organising this Congress.

Jean Bohler, Luxembourg

TIME OUT

On April 6, 1989, the European Association for Directors of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly (E.D.E.) was established in Luxembourg. The association's 20th anniversary was warmly celebrated at the 11th European Congress of the E.D.E., which took place from September 24 – 26 in the Conference Centre in Luxembourg's Kirchberg district and was organised by the Luxembourg association GRIPA.

With the motto "Time Out", this year's Congress aimed to encourage the care sector to rethink its basic tenets. Around 400 participants from 19 countries were called on to take time out and to question the traditional structures of long-term care: Am I doing things right? What changes are desirable and which are necessary? E.D.E. President Prof. Dr. Wilfried Schlüter (Germany) referred in this context to the growing

rift between the claims and the realities of long term care, a rift that must be answered by a thorough rethinking of the function of home care director. More strategic action and less operational engagement is required from home care directors. Doing our work better, faster, cheaper is not good enough any more.

For the current term of office Prof. Dr. Schlüter indicated the following aims:

- Developing strategies to meet effectively the lack of managers and directors in the European long-term care ("demographic personnel development")
- Implementing the quality management system E-QALIN in additional European countries

- Intensifying cooperation with bodies of the EU
- Participating in international projects in the area of long-term care.

With 23 member associations from 19 European nations, the E.D.E. continues to advocate the professionalisation of services in long term care establishments. With its European guidelines the association has had years of success establishing a cross-border professional qualification for home care directors.

From "Altenheim", November 2009

Will 2010 bring layoffs?

An unthinkable idea in a sector universally recognised as understaffed?

Yes, but nevertheless the question must be asked in relation to home care work, where a large association in the French department of Nord ceased its activity in June and where numerous structures are in great difficulty. The question is also justified in relation to establishments where more than 15 % of structures have fewer resources in the context of the "convergence".

During the summer and since the beginning of autumn we have not stopped drawing attention to this question with everyone we deal with at the Ministry and at the President's office. Secretary of State for the Elderly Nora Berra and her teams are open to dialogue, hosting numerous meetings. The AD-PA will explore every possibility to avoid layoffs, as well as the major crisis that would ensue. We well appreciate what is at stake here, as well as the risks – including legal ones – for those who would take such a decision.

More than ever it is clear that the major public debate demanded by the AD-PA on help for the elderly and the new national solidarity provisions is indispensable. In this context we are ready to demonstrate full transparency on the budgets of establishments and services, as soon as our partners agree to the same transparency regarding their social budgets.

At a time when the public authorities are calling for solidarity faced with the possibility of a flu pandemic, one can well ask if it is reasonable to render even more fragile a sector that is already facing grave difficulties.

Let's hope that the next parliamentary debates on the 2010 budgets will be the occasion for a true reaffirmation of the importance of our sector.



*Pascal Champvert
President of the AD-PA*

Inside the E.D.E.



At 6 minutes past midnight on November 10, 2009, Noah, the son of Irene Morandell (president of the BFA/ADSA, South Tyrol) and Roland Francheschini, was born.

The VISION editors and colleagues at the E.D.E. extend to the family their heartiest congratulations.