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ESHA President

Closing speech for the Conference

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ESHA 10<sup>th</sup> Conference

**Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues, dear John, thank you for handing the ESLN Program out to ESHA. It was an interesting and challenging time to work together with you and the consortium.**

**However this project is too precious to be laid ad acta after Rome. We can ascertain that ESLN is a highly successful pilot project. We now have to plan the future of this project:**

**In addition to the online version we made the necessary changes that allow for the use of the materials as an online course for self study or the use in institutes.**

**We decided to develop three new modules to complete the course:**

- Module 4: Creating the Learning Centred School
- Module 5: Education Leadership and the Community
- Module 6: Educational Leadership in a Changing Europe.

Through these changes and in our future work

- We must reach all school heads in Europe.
- We should translate the course into other languages.
  
- We must interest European and national institutions to offer this course as a “training on the job program”.

- We should offer an official accreditation for the program.
- We should identify the program closely with ESHA and its members so that it will be part of the portfolio of services for our members.
- We should support further development and dissemination of the program.
- We should develop an entrepreneurial approach to marketing and disseminating the ESLN programme.
- We should develop strategies to extend the scope and content of the programme including the development of further modules.
- We must find partners for funding to finance the translations and production of CD's as well as promote the courses and the new modules as often as possible.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues

We are living and working in a time of big changes, and I think we are reshaping the plane while flying. There are strong winds from different sides. It will be decided in the next years in which direction the plane will fly and who will impose the landing place on the schools. The time has come for ESHA and all European school heads to oppose the development of the economising of our life and of our school. While listening to the keynote speakers and the workshop animators I must say that we all want full autonomy for our schools, based on national and European standards, which have to be developed together with all of us. One of the important topics in the

general board meeting of ESHA was autonomy, intertwined with quality, and these position papers were completed and agreed upon. These will be published on our home page.

Autonomous schools will work with accountability, achievement **and** responsibility, and the basis of our work has to be

Truth, Trust, Tradition and Time

- the four Big T's. For this I think we are not alone and we have and we will find strong partners. That's what I heard in speeches and workshops.

As everyone knows, preparing a workshop is a lot of work and I am sure, that many of you will take home a lot of useful information and stimulation for your schools.

The feedback was very positive.

I am sure that everyone who attended the congress, will agree with me, that it was a fantastic and successful event, topped by a gala dinner in Italian style, where the cuisine and service exceeded the expectations that we all have when we are in Italy.

Of course, everyone hoped that we would have some form of entertainment from our participants, - we were **not** disappointed!!!

In fact, the choirs from around the world, led by a little country, Holland, could maybe even take part in the next European Song Contest. This led to a wonderful atmosphere, lively conversation and a lot of fun.

**And now I have some special thank yous.**

I would like to thank all the participants who attended. Although it was beautiful weather and Rome is a wonderful city you still came.

My next thank you goes to ANP for organizing this conference. We all know, how much work is involved. My thank you also to

Rosanna Barone for organizing and and

Caterina Cimeno for chairing the conference

And today, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have a very, very special thank you to Antonino Petrolino, our past president of ESHA. Antonino Petrolino will finish his term at the end of the year. "I would not be buried alive" that was what he mailed me when I asked him some details of his time in ESHA and absolutely I will not do this because I know he will do his work till the last day of the year. However I think this Conference gives particular evidence in a festive ambience not yet to say good bye but to thank him in the ESHA circle for his work for ESHA over so many years.

The stages of his involvement in ESHA have been:  
In 1999 he entered the GB in representation of ANP and in 2000 the EB as an observer(observing) member.  
In 2001 He became General Secretary and 2003 President of ESHA.

Perhaps he never intended to become President of ESHA. But when the President Elect from Sweden Anders Cassner could not assume his role because his heart prevented him from doing so, Antonino Petrolino did not hesitate to take over the Presidentship in this very difficult situation for ESHA.

He was President without having been President Elect: but he was at that moment the “oldest boy” on the Executive Board and the only one to keep the organizational memory of the changes undergone in the last five years in the association.

In his time as General Secretary and then as President, ESHA integrated new organisations from Eastern Europe - a very important task in an expanding Europe to help school head organisations on their way to the European Union.

The dynamic development of ESHA in the last years was only possible because Antonino Petrolino steered the right course and prepared the new Executive Board for the future.

I would personally like to thank him for his loyalty, his support and his friendship and I hope that I can do, in the future for the new President Elect Chris Harrisson from NAHT in England what he did for me. At the end of this year after our last Executive Board meeting in Brussels in December, Antonino will leave after eight years of loyal duty.

Then we will say good bye at the very last moment in the Executive board but we will not say adieu -we will say Auf wiedersehen.

Ladies and gentlemen, we planned to publish the ESHA Members' Book in Rome but we have not reached our goal to be ready for Rome. However we can present what

we have finished up until today and you can see it in our slide shows during the conference.

But a single and unique print of this ESHA Members' Book will be handed out today to the Past President of ESHA, Antonino Petrolino, as a special thank for his dedication to ESHA for so many years.

Thank you very much Antonino and allow me to say thank you to Chantal, your wonderful wife. She did not only grant you the time for ESHA, she was often together with us and we enjoyed it very much.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues

Rome now hands over to Copenhagen. Herewith I close the Rome conference and we look forward to 2008 Conference in Copenhagen.

I request you not to hit the road immediately because we now have the presentation of the forthcoming event in Copenhagen.

Jørgen and Jens, the floor is yours.

Dr. Burkhard Mielke

President of ESHA