

ESHA Newsletter



European School Heads Association

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We need more Europe at school!



No to the European constitution is not no to Europe. Can you deny or have doubts about what has already been achieved, the links we established, the culture of the whole structure? Together with her European partners ESHA France will continue her road. More than ever we must fill the gaps about Europe at our schools, the absence of information and of knowledge.

One of our aims should be: prepare a place for Europe in all our schools: Youth wants Europe...

Fighting for Europe, often isolated, we go on to make known what in the eyes of the world justifies a voluntary structure, what unites us, what brings us together in our common destiny: the elements of justice, openmindedness and humanism capable of nursing an ideal of peace, of solidarity and of fraternity. A sign "School of Europe" at the entrance of our schools could underline the message of this ideal and of our ambition. The headmasters' support is essential for the success of our European projects.

Let us clearly demonstrate our earnest will to be more European.

Let hope guide us! *Michel Assémat, President of ESHA France*

Dutch 'No' to the constitution is a Dutch 'No'



Like the French ones, the majority of the Dutch voters voted against the new European Constitution. In fact, this is not a 'no' to any European cooperation: indeed, it shows that Dutch politicians have not been able to communicate with the people.

During the last 10 years, all discussions made about uniting Europe have been done at the level of political leaders. The last expansion of Europe with the 10 new countries and the possibility of Turkey entering the Union has given origin to many quarrels, because of the fear that Holland was going to lose influence inside the EU.

After World War II, the idea "nie wieder" (never again) was the drive for the EU. This generation thinks that you can rely on this even though they should do nothing more.

This constitution would have given more security to the next generations because men have not changed, as history tells us. The real problem in Europe is not the constitution or the budget discussions; it's the cultural gap between the countries, as we have seen in the former Yugoslavia. We should connect people in Europe and organize discussions between people and their organizations. This is also a goal for ESHA, because our members are in charge of teaching the new generation. *Tom Duif, President of AVS*

« Homestays »

Do you want to spend a week both at home and in the school of one of your colleagues from another country (Europe, United States, Canada and Australia) and to share both the good and the bad experiences in your work ?

Do you want to give each other advice where possible ?

The programme is open to schoolheads, deputy schoolheads and superintendents, both in primary and secondary education.

The formula of the programme is cheap and simple. Its aim is an international exchange based on mutual hosting between schoolheads. You only have to pay for your journey costs and a nominal fee of some euros when the match has been realised.

If you are interested in it, please go to the website www.avs.nl, press the button English, then International activities and then Homestays.

Europe is born again Eastwards



The General Board of ESHA took place in Kiev, Ukraine, from May 19th to 21st, by chance at the same time as the European song contest *Eurovision*. It was amazing to see the importance that the local people gave to this event, thanks to which they were for a few days under the spotlights of the media all over the world. Although the occasion was not in itself of a major relevance, it gave evidence of the enthusiasm that Ukrainian people experience when feeling part of a wider community open towards Western Europe. Not by hazard, the event was summarized by a one-word slogan: *Awakening*. This attitude made some of us think about that odd circumstance. Eastern European citizen look at a wider Europe as at a historical chance for their future; at the same moment, the Western ones - who decided to give it origin when this was an almost desperate option - become more and more doubtful about its further development. The European Union was born west of the iron curtain: but now its parents are more and more sceptical towards their once beloved child, whereas the newcomers prove themselves eager to adopt it. It is perhaps normal that, after having earned very much out of this project, a few Western European may find difficult to accept that the latecomers take now more profit than them. On the other hand, if profit had been the only force driving Europe, the Union would probably never have been born. Anyway, enthusiasm and open mind did not lack during all the General Board session. The most relevant decisions were about: the start of a new ESHA website, completely rebuilt and designed from scratch; the audit of the financial situation; the analysis of different initiatives being run and the discussion about further more to be launched in the future. Many of the members were present and active. It was clear that there is a strong commitment in making ESHA an even more active and strong community that it used to be up to now. And it is meaningful that the majority of the initiatives deal with communication tools and facilities for exchanging good professional practices. Next appointment for the General Board is set mid-November, in Helsinki, Finland. Not to be missed, since once again we shall have the opportunity of receiving a very warm welcome in a country that is otherwise thought of as being chilly.

This is Europe, my friends: and we like it.

Antonino Petrolino, ESHA President

ESHA France organizes a conference about "Autonomy" on November 24th in Paris, during the exhibition EDUCATEC. 12 colleagues promised to take part in the panel. Please, confirm your participation to nellyquet@yahoo.com



European School Leadership Network



42 participants from 12 countries are working on line about CPD (professional development of our staff) and will meet in Budapest on September 22nd-24th

Prepare yourself for the module 3 about "the Leadership of Change in an Emerging Europe" (February 2006 - September 2006)

Website

Discover our new Website!
www.esha.org

Newsletter

This Newsletter is not only for GB members. We hope, we can reach all our 53000 members.