

The Presidents speech at Perg

This meeting is the first meeting of my mandate.

First of all: thank you so much to all of you for having elected me!

Thank you for your trust! I'm intended to do my best for a positive and productive mandate.

One of the main features I noted from my first participation to the activities of this Section was the positive and friendly atmosphere within our group: I was really impressed, and it's a fundamental basis for the good results obtained, so one of my main objectives and efforts is **to preserve this warm atmosphere, and do all I can to avoid everything that can compromise this climate!**

My ambition, our ambition is to strengthen our field and specialty.

Unfortunately, the strengthening of our specialty is easier said than done.

Although a majority of European countries do have a full specialty, some countries lack of Occupational Medicine specialists. There is an heterogeneity in training schedules, number of training centers, number of trainees in different Countries, and in a few countries, general practitioners or non-specialists in Occupational Medicine are allowed to take care of the health and safety of workers, **and so the health and safety of too many workers lack of an adequate support.**

In this respect Europe is far away from harmonization.

The main objective of our Section is to work hard to improve and harmonize this situation.

To do so, we need all the effort of all of us, and of our Association.

During my mandate I'm intended to promote as much as possible

An Involvement of all delegates into the activities

We are working in different Countries, and with different roles and experience, in the academy, in the national health services or other public bodies, and/or as consultants.

These differences in the roles and experience may be an added value to our activities, as there is the possibility to bring together different point of view.

I know that our time is full of different commitments, and sometimes it's hard to find the time for the activities of our Section, we cannot exclude that that the need to use the English language may be challenging for some of us, so an involvement in the activities may be complicated and possibly tiring, but only with the contribution of all of us it's possible to obtain significant results.

To achieve such a results various activities can be implemented, as, just examples:

- the activity of ad-hoc WG (working groups) with specific tasks (we will discuss this topic later on), but Regarding the WGs to be activated, will be discussed later on,
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- the participation of the Occupational Medicine Section, represented by the Board, or by delegates, to initiatives, as to scientific meetings and other (we will discuss this topic later on), from this point of view a relevant example is the Special Session organized during the last ICOH Congress, giving a relevant international visibility to our Section
- the preparation of documents presenting the position of our Section on specific topics
- the opening of contacts with competent bodies
- other

Regarding the activities, I'm confident that the delegates may be active not only during the meetings, but **also, and possibly active mainly, in between the meetings**

(in case organizing specific virtual briefings, now it's easy), and that our meetings are the occasion to report and discuss the results of the activities

If we agree, I'd like also to organize webinars/virtual meetings, possibly open also to the members of our national associations; as an example, we sent you the recent the *Guidance notes for diagnosis and prevention of the diseases in the ILO List of Occupational Diseases*: I've contacted the coordinator, Dr Schenglu Niu, asking him the possibility of a seminar on the topic, and he declared his availability. But this is only an example.