



Dear friends

We are now in the end of October and about two months after the wonderful and successful annual congress that took place in beautiful Paris.

The Paris Congress was extraordinary for me and I know that many of you have shared this experience. I brought, and I am convinced that you also brought, home wonderful memories, new knowledge as well as new friends and contacts from the Congress.

For many of you the Paris Congress was the first but not the last AIJA congress. For me it has been the best Congress ever. The Paris Team gave us an excellent mix between marvellous social events in the most fantastic surrounding of Paris and an outstanding academic program.

We were around 600 people in Paris from more than 50 countries and from all parts of the world – only that achievement by the Paris team deserves a big applause. The reason why so many came is the result of a hard working team. The team put in an enormous workload to make this happen.

The basic elements for making a congress to a successful event is work, patience, nerves, knowledge and intelligence and in addition to that more work and patience.

I could never have wished for a better pair of local team organisers than Fabrice Peres-Borianne and Jean-Claude Rivalland. Jean-Claude and Fabrice used their hearts, brains and time in making the congress to become an extraordinary wonderful annual congress. As you know they were not alone, we were also blessed with a man who worked hard with finance and budgeting - the congress

treasurer Jean Philippe Jacob. The success was also the result of the team consisting of Xavier Carbasse, Thierry Aballéa, Cristelle Albaric, Stepanie Godof, Christophe Hery, Anne Salzer and Marie Pasquier. Once again – many thanks.

The congress was also been blessed by a dynamic, intelligent, creative, patient and hard working Working Coordinators in the form of Tanja Meinander from Finland and Philip Nolan from Ireland.

I would also like repeat a summary of my report during the general Assembly in Paris.

We have had more new members every year since 2002 and this year we have including applications in Paris 312 new members. I have not checked but I dare to say that this is one of the highest figures for AIJA during a 8 months period.

Since AIJA grows we have also been focusing on streamlining the tasks for office in Brusses. We have worked in order to establish the role of our Executive Director Chris Raudonat but also to streamline the roles of Anne Degimbe and Faty Chaoui.

We have also worked with the three pillar program

1. Strategic Plan
2. Statutes
3. Voice of the Profession

The work with the Strategic Plan and the Statutes are in progress. I am very pleased that the Guidelines for the voice of the profession were adopted in Paris.

The Extended Bureau in co-operation with AIJA's Human and Procedural Rights and Responsibilities Commission agreed to make a

statement expressing AIJA's deep concern and support for lawyers in Pakistan. We also wrote to a number of other legal and bar organisations including the Pakistan Bar, international institutions and the Government of Pakistan.

After we had issued the statement we started to get to know Mr Waheed Ahmad – a young lawyer from Lahore in Pakistan. We received his witness reports and we are truly grateful that Waheed came to us and shared his experience with us. It was an honor for us to have Waheed Ahmad our guest in Paris. Waheed's witness report is overwhelming and I have no words for what he described to us.

In June 2008 lawyers from EU and Mediterranean states assembled in Nice in order to sign a joint declaration where the parties expressed the wish that the Mediterranean union could become an area of law, dedicated to freedom justice and security

AIJA among other leading legal associations signed a declaration and I would express my gratitude to Mr Marc Jobert helping us doing this on behalf of me.

I would like express my deepest gratitude and admiration to each and all of you who works for AIJA. You are the reason why AIJA is a successful association. Without the work carried out by all of you AIJA and the world would be less magnificent.

I am also very grateful that you have had the trust to give me the opportunity to work as AIJA's President during the AIJA year 2007 – 2008.

Pär Remnelid
Immediate Past President