



**Rapport du Président Alumni Europae ASBL,
Monsieur Reinhold Ziegler
Assemblée Générale - Mardi 5 Décembre 2023, 19:30H CET**

Welcome to all of you to this AGM.

Let me thank you for attending and reading my speech commenting the end of this term 2023.

First of all, let me express my sincere gratitude to my fellow board members who invested generously their time in our pro bono mission, who have contributed to the growth of AE.

We now are close to 7.000 members. More than that, we delivered substantial qualitative results:

1. First of all we are proud to mention our tremendous Euro Alumni Day 2023. The ES Luxembourg 1 is now 70 years young and we celebrated this anniversary with more than 500 alumni present at our First Euro Alumni Day. We met within the premises of the ES; we enjoyed a great meeting, we discussed at the bar or during the dinner and celebrated the party until late in the evening. Not one single problem appeared and the comments were unanimous: It was great to meet again. Conclusion: 2024 will show up a 2nd Euro Alumni Day in Brussels for the 60th birthday of the first bac. See you all soon again there.

2. Thanks so much to Ioanis Notoglu, our executive board member who worked on the mission to have a constitution for our network. The old one, from the very first days of AE was totally out of date. Thanks so much Ioannis, now we can face quietly the challenges to come.
3. No working association, company, structure or what so ever without a competitive website. We had a site, dating back to the early days of AE and just like our statutes, it's simply out of date. Many thanks to you Michael Stenger, our treasurer and executive member of the board: thanks to you, our new website is ready now and will be launched soon. The old system will be shut down and please, to you all, you will have to register again. Avoiding it, means to be kicked out. It's so simple, press the button and please: Just do it.
4. We insist on our mission to help the juniors following us. We do it substantially with the webinars we organise and diffuse within the whole ES System. S6 and S7 ask themselves what comes after the bac. Alumni Europae offer answers, discussions and meetings with these candidates via zoom meetings which are more and more popular. And let me mention what our Secretary General, Clement Potocki did in 2023: He organised with Peter Ducombe, a secondary teacher of ES Lux 1 a meeting focussed on the issues after the bac for the local S5 and S6. It was not a zoom meeting but a real meeting, face to face among pupils and alumni. 10 alumni attended the meeting and it was a "Question & Answer come together" with a tremendous success. Considering that more than 400 pupils attend in ES Lux 1, S5 and S6, we have not only very much to do (and to answer) but we can enlarge significantly our audience and our impact. Thank you Clement for this truly successful initiative. It's a sound recommendation for the next board how to act.
5. We are proud to say that AE is cooperating intensely with COSUP and COSEA - the students representatives within the ES system, both for the classical as well as for the accredited ES. Let me say that we face roughly 30 ES today.

6. WE believe in meetings as I said regarding Clement's strategy. Zoom and FB are great tools but nothing is as valuable as a face to face meeting. I mentioned the tremendous success of our meeting in Luxembourg. It's a very good occasion to thank from the depth of my heart all those who contributed to its success: Let me mention the Director Mr. Wedel of the ES Lux, Mike Stenger, Clement Potocki, the extraordinary member Anne Kraus and Roland Dumont du Voitel who were present on the spot in Luxembourg and before the event. Yes, meetings „ de visu“ are essential for a network. A good reason to prepare in time Brussels for 2024. But smaller, more frequent, more local meetings are essential; a good reason to develop our local chapters and let me mention: Paris, Luxembourg, London, Brussels and many more to come. We believe in the „ Pot de l'amitié“ when sharing a glass of wine or beer is a good start to be in contact again.
7. We close this year for the first time with a modest benefit. 2024 will be a tough year for all our members who are students any more, who work. Yes, we decided to collect a ‚horrendous‘ membership fee of € 20,00 / per annum for all those who work. And of course you are free to donate more. Thank you so much in advance.

We very often asked ourselves: Why AE ? How can I explain it ? How can I justify to recruit our members? Let me give you the answers:

Let me enumerate the reasons of our „ raison d'être“ :

As an Alumni Europae member, you gain access to a thriving community of alumni from all the European Schools.

1. Experience the camaraderie and lifelong friendships you forged during your time at a European School.
2. Uncover valuable resources, including our network's archive of alumni experiences, university guidance and professional insights.

3. Foster connections with alumni across the globe and participate in enriching events, such as global alumni reunions and local chapter gatherings.
4. Attend regular webinars hosted by experienced alumni, tailored to the needs of S6 and S7 students, empowering them to make informed academic and career choices.
5. Embrace your European identity and proudly promote shared values, upholding "United in Diversity," the cornerstone of your European School education.

Join Alumni Europae, a non-profit organization founded in 2011, dedicated to fostering ties between former students, their families, teachers, and staff of the European Schools.

We envision a united Europe, enriched by the diversity of our talents, anchored by our common European education, rooted in cultural identity, democratic values, and the richness of European languages.

Join us in creating a brighter future for Europe, together. This is our credo we will publish on our website.

I said AE will start a new chapter tonight. That's true! Mike and I, two veterans of the AE Board, will - after a decade with AE - step down as we promised last AGM in 2022 by the end of this AGM 2023. The last AGM extended our mission for one last year and now it's time to say: Good bye.

The main reason to delay our departure was our wish to secure continuity. We managed to gain again Ben Montgomery, one of the founders of AE. Ben left AE and is back home now. I believe Ben is a sound gain for the board and for AE's future. Please support him as well as the whole new board with your confidence.

Mike and myself have worked so much to ensure continuity and reliability; two goals which are valid first of all for our members and in a second step, for all

our stakeholders: the European Commission, The Secretariat Général and the community of Headmasters and teachers of our European Schools.

I ask you all tonight to support the Executive Board Members to be confirmed: Katrin Hoppmann, Ildiko Meny, Laszlo Molnarfi and Clement Potocki - who all did a marvelous job. They will ensure our mission tomorrow.

There is much about my presidency that I will look back on fondly.

I found it particularly moving:

Ursula von der Leyen's message to her fellow alumni, where she states: "As alumni, we all have something in common: we grew up sharing cultures, languages and lifelong friendships across borders. Make Europe thrive."

With this in mind, I say goodbye with:

Let us all be ambassadors to make Europe thrive!

My best wishes for the next board, for the next Chairman.

Thank you.

Reinhold Ziegler

Chairman Alumni Europae ASBL