

President's Letter May 2010 Helmut Berg



Dear Members,

At our conference in Vienna last year we **looked down** into the abyss of the worldwide economical crisis. One year later, in preparation for the conference in Palma we were much more positive and planned in terms of hope: Inspiration, Dedication, Re: Creation.

A couple of days before the anticipated start of the conference we had to **look up** in the sky seeing – nothing. We were told that

there was a cloud generated after the ongoing eruptions of volcano Eyjafjallajökull (short version: Eyjafjalla) on Iceland. This cloud is full of dust particles which are said to create great danger for aeroplanes.

As a consequence and for the first time in the still young history of EuRA we had to cancel the conference in Palma. Our heart was almost torn apart. We have to wait another year to have the "best EuRA conference ever" – Palma 2010 was an excellent candidate for this title. However, Palma 2011 will be even more.

I am convinced that we will beat the figures that we have had this year:

487	attendees in total
125	of them newcomers
42	countries represented

On 19 April 2010, the day we had to cancel Palma 2010 we already had the first member booking the hotel for Palma 2011. This is what I call fighting spirit. I firmly believe that we will have more registrations than this year.

The reactions from the would-be attendants had been phenomenal. The spirit of standing together was second to none. The office under the leadership of Dom and Tad handled the situation in a warmhearted and still professional way. I cannot think of any better management compared to what D&T performed. If we would be in a meeting now I would ask for a big round of thundering applause. And I am sure you would give them a hand.

The economic crisis that seemed to be so disastrous – we were able to handle it, some better, some worse. But a comparably small part of mother earth left us helpless.

For the relocation industry there will be no consequences. Flight of expats had to be postponed as the delivery of removal goods. The only thing that we will miss is the opportunity to having met old and new friends, listening to what the trainers and speakers had to tell us and breath the special EuRA atmosphere.

But look: it is only 356 days until the Palma Conference in 2011