

Updates from the Secretary General

Dear Members,

2020 definitely develops as a strange year ! For the first time in Eurocord's history we will have a General Assembly in "remote control", thanks to the possibilities offered by Videoconferencing. And your numerous attendance is heartwarming. Admitted, we have some exceptional events to concur (approval of the prolongation of some of our Directors' mandates with 1 year), and one might have the impression some parts of the world-economy fell to a standstill. Nevertheless, nothing is less true for our sector ! Truly, we will all have faced logistical worries and cumbersome social organizations, but our business has, all in all, resisted remarkably well to the awful effects of this pandemic. I remain extremely admiring towards the serenity and the ability to face adversity in all our members' companies ! Next year (June 6th to 9th 2021) we will have the opportunity to get together again in Vienna and I sense this will be a great event. Save the date right now.

No wonder Eurocord has continued its operations in an almost "business as usual" environment. Though almost all EU offices in Brussels have now been empty since March 15th, we nevertheless have had a quasi unchanged number of (conference-) meetings, addressing both the internal affairs within Eurocord (ISO, CIRTIS, MEG 4, TC 1, 2 and 3) as the EU macro-economic issues our industry is confronted with (Plastics Directive, AEGIS' positioning in the world trade challenges, commercial defense against wild Indian dumped prices, etc...). Intensive talks, especially in a permanently changing institutional environment, but the willingness to get to decent results is undoubtedly present in all participants' minds.

Eurocord is also involved, as a communication stakeholder towards the industry, in a project called "GLAUKOS", which will develop biobased textile fibers and textile coatings that are adapted to the needs of the 21st century. The complete life-cycle of clothing and fishing gear will be redesigned: their sustainability performance (i.e. biodegradability and bio-recyclability) should be enhanced significantly, while their technical performance should be matched to the end-user requirements. The ambition is to reduce significantly the carbon and plastic footprint of textiles and fishing gear. This project is also subsidized by the EU "Horizon 2020" plan. I truly hope this consortium of companies and institutions will come with a workable alternative or solution before the end of the project (2024).

Summarized, a challenging but rewarding first half of 2020, we truly hope your respective businesses experience the same drive and we wish you all a nice summer period and maybe some vacation if possible.

Philippe Verschueren