



Association Européenne des Cheminots

Associazione Europea dei Ferrovieri
Europäische Vereinigung der Eisenbahner
Asociación Europea de Ferroviarios
European Association of Railway Personnel
Europese Vereniging van Spoorwegpersoneel
Europejskie Stowarzyszenie Kolejarzy
Europa Asocio de la Fervojistoj

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Membre du Conseil Economique et Social de Nations Unies (ECOSOC)

Siège social: 25, square de Meeûs - B-1000 BRUXELLES

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Europäischer General Präsident der A.E.C.

Horst-Gerd Vanselow, Eppens-Allee 16, D-21423 Winsen (Luhe)

Dear friends and members of the Association Européenne des Cheminots in Europe,

I wish you all and your families a joyous Christmas and a prosperous New Year for 2012. The "Time between the years," as we Germans say has another meaning in all European countries. I hope that many of you will be able next year to meet up again at our regional and European events. I call upon you all to work with me for the prosperity of our Association and our ideals.

What will next year bring for our Association? Each period has its various happenings and meaningful decisions. Each General President has to use his own way to work with you and borrow from your experience to achieve important things. My writings will open up transparency and fruitful working together; but also distinctiveness and closeness to the Statutes. The contacts between the sections are important to me. I miss joint events by neighbouring sections. We must, as an organisation and in our committee influence our members through European events, not just to sit around separate tables. We must stress our togetherness more. I hope for more recognition of work on this basis. Whatever is decided must be a task for both the national and European committees. On this basis we can find our justification and the financial means to realise the goals of the organisation. But neither must we deny the shrinking numbers of our membership.

Many of us use every occasion to advertise the goals of our association and to get new members. For these efforts I thank you. I am committed to any form of project or offer but these must be presented in draft form. The aim of any project, extent of work and rough costs must be stated. Otherwise it would be in conflict with our European statutes. So let us bring about realistic joint projects. In previous years there have been committees, commissions and functions with a long list of members. Results and success bore no relation to the expenditure of time and effort put in by these committees.

Europe is again in turmoil. Concerns about disturbing bits of news about defaulting countries and from rating agencies reach us daily. The permeability of Europe's far borders in connection with the Schengen Agreement gets a new meaning. Europe must be re-evaluated. As the 'Association Européenne des Cheminots' we must renew our efforts to persuade those outside to enter into an independent Europe with common interests. That is what I was elected for.

Horst-Gerd Vanselow