



GREETINGS FROM ST.PETER 01/25

Salzburg, March 11, 2025

Dear members of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts,

Last Friday, 7 March 2025, the annual General Assembly of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts elected the President and three Vice-Presidents for the coming term of office. I look forward to working with Prof Dr [Kristin de Troyer](#), Prof [Ioannis Liritzis PhD](#) and Prof Dr [Verica Trstenjak](#) in the new term of office and thank you for your support of voting. I would also like to thank all candidates for their commitment. [Monika Czernin](#), [Thomas Jaeger](#), [Oliver Korte](#), [Elmar Kuhn](#) and [Monika Fioreschy-Unger](#) are standing for election as members of the arbitration court in the new term of office. [Harald Kainz](#) and [Paul Jankowitsch](#) were appointed as new auditors. The European Academy has proven to be a living democracy.

When I introduced myself as President, I pointed out that Europe is currently having to assert itself in a crisis-ridden world. The current presidency began its work in 2021 with a thematic network on major challenges facing Europe in the future. Looking back, it is clear how much we had our finger on the pulse of our times right from the start - with the projects on digitalisation and artificial intelligence, on the energy problem with environmental and climate issues, on interdisciplinary education for Europe, on the challenges of tolerance and finally on the connection between science and art.

[The Annual Report 2024](#), which is now available in print and online, reports on the numerous events of the past year, which are integrated into the themes of this network. It also highlights the Academy's new contacts with European and international institutions that have arisen as a result.

In the coming term of office, national centres of education and research will be used where our members can get involved with lectures and workshops. Academic degrees can also be awarded at some of these centres. As legally independent institutions, these centres can earn money with their services. In feedback, these centres can then support the academy as a non-profit organisation with donations and sponsorship. There are already some best practice examples in Maribor/Slovenia ([Alma Mater Europaea](#)) for the topics of health science, applied AI and art, Bratislava/Slovakia ([INTERCEDU](#)) for the topics of interdisciplinary education for Europe, Rottenbach/Austria (Congress Centre [VTA](#)) for the topics of the EU Green Deal and SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) of the UN, [Herrenberg/Germany \(Alma Mater Europaea\)](#) for the topics of innovation and governance. These national centres can, of course, be extended to other European countries. In particular, the Academy's country delegates are invited to consider expanding this programme in their countries.

These initiatives take place under a common vision for Europe and our Academy. On the one hand, Europe must distinguish itself in global competition. This includes international competitiveness and innovative strength, on which European prosperity is based. However, this must be linked to our European values. For our Academy, this means that we will continue our interdisciplinary and international cooperation across all political borders. We are committed to a peaceful and tolerant world, at least in science and art. To this end, a joint declaration entitled '[Vision for a Global Peace Offensive](#)' was signed in October last year together with the World Academy of Arts and Sciences ([WAAS](#)), which can also be found on our website.



A highlight of the academic year was once again the ceremonial inauguration of the new members on 8 March. Accompanied by classical and contemporary international music, the keynote speech by Academy member Prof [Claudi Bockting](#) (University of Amsterdam) focused on the psychological stress of people in high-tech societies in her role as a clinical psychologist and AI researcher (Class II). She also addressed the syndromes of the Covid pandemic. As the European Academy, we will support her initiative for an EU centre for mental health.

I wish you all much success and creativity for the current year. I would like to close with a modified wish from a great American president, John F. Kennedy - a wish that was also expressed by some members at the General Assembly: Please, ask not only what the Academy does for you, but also what you can do for the Academy.

Yours sincerely

President, EASA