

Simon Rijdsdijk - welcome word – 18th EVS Congres Iasi
Romania

Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren, liebe Kolleginnen und Kollegen. Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Colleagues,

When I am in this hall and see you all I feel warm inside and think of the moment that our European Association of Registrars, EVS, was founded eighteen years ago. Before that time, there was not so much inter-collegial exchange of knowledge and expertise between colleagues across borders. Many colleagues from border communities did not even know each other, even though they lived only a few miles away from each other on each side of the border.

There has actually been a lot of change since the foundation of the EVS in 2000. And it should grow and improve even more. Certainly while international personal and family law, nationality law, and the problems surrounding the relocation of population groups, are only becoming increasingly complicated. This despite all the good intentions of striving for harmonization of laws and regulations within Europe. At the same time let us also be happy and proud with what makes Europe so beautiful. These are all our different cultures, people, customs, landscapes.

When I am in Germany, Estonia, Poland, Italy, Slovakia, Belgium, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Scotland, etcetera, I really want to feel and experience that I am in Germany, Estonia, Poland, Italy, Slovakia, Belgium, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Scotland, and so on.

And... when I am in Romania, I really want to feel and experience that I am in Romania! And we experienced that on

that wonderful day yesterday!

At the same time I want to feel like and be a European wherever I am. This means that we must cherish our differences as something that makes Europe so beautiful, but at the same time ensure that our inhabitants within Europe must be able to arrange their affairs as easily as possible. And with this I am on the point of great importance of the existence of the EVS. That's why we are united in the EVS. To get to know each other and the fact that we know each other as colleagues at least in Europe and know who we are and what we do. Whether this is in Brussels, Berlin, Bucharest, Iasi... it does not matter. It reminds me of the slogan attached to the Europahaus in Otzenhausen, Deutschland, that says: "Europa entsteht durch Begegnungen" "Europe comes from encounters"

... and that's the way it is.

Not directly through EU regulations and international conventions, but much more to hear what we as colleagues have to say to each other, to understand what we mean by each other, to share our knowledge and practical experience, to find solutions together for international legal issues in our field. If a person is not properly registered by us, he does not even exist. We are actually at the basis of international law and democracy. Realize how enormously important your work is!

Liebe Kolleginnen und Kollegen, Dear colleagues,
Collegiality means that, if we get the chance, we support our colleagues and if necessary help them. What indirectly means that we help our residents across borders.

Collegiality also means that one respects and has reckoning with the other and has an eye for his concerns. That is why we are a family. When we all met again in the past few days, I felt that warm welcome to each other. The warm welcome of our Romanian colleagues, who have done everything to make this a fantastic conference.

A world where people feel expected and welcome: this is the reason why we all go to work every morning. We want to make every effort to ensure that people feel taken seriously and that we try to solve problems for them. In addition, it helps that we see citizens as people, as our guests, and not as "a case". That is why in our profession we need sensitivity, respect and empathy towards the people. And with our knowledge and expertise we can help people and offer solutions. Which does not mean that we can always offer what people want.

And dear friends, your profession is complicated and is getting more and more complicated every day. But look at you all: what a mass of knowledge and expertise is united here again!

All this makes me very proud and honored that I have been elected and appointed to be your new president. It is a great great honor! Thank you so much!

So as EVS we form together an association in which we can support each other and meet each other every year in a different place in Europe.

I am proud that I am allowed to be here in Iasi and greet you all. And one more thing: I feel at home here with you all and that says a lot.

So, let's go to work these coming days to achieve that we as professionals and the people in Europe get on in our developments.

Finally, I would like to thank the Romanian association, led by Renata Marin, especially for the organization of this EVS congress. A congress that until now and is expected to be fantastic in the coming days! Thanks!

So, let's try this in Romanian also:

În cele din urmă, aş dori să mulţumesc asociaţiei române, condusă de Renata Marin, în special pentru organizarea acestui congres EVS. Un congres care până acum se aşteaptă să fie fantastic în zilele următoare! Multumesc!

I wish you all very successful and pleasant days! I thank you all!