

## **11° EVS CONGRESS – SPEECH OF MR. PRESIDENT, PARIDE GULLINI**

Mr President, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

I regret not being able to speak your language to express my emotion and my affection for your welcome to this wonderful and very participated initiative. It 'an honor to represent the European Association of registrars at the opening of our 11 th Congress, and above all a pleasure to confirm the tradition that wants Poland following Italy in the organization of our Congress. In 2002 the city that hosted our annual meeting was Strykow, today after Italy (in 2010), is the city of Zielona Gora. The EVS in 2001 had five countries members that today are 10, but we hope soon to add more. My personal and also on behalf of EVS thanks goes to the President Tomasz Brzozka, who has strongly wanted the Congress and to the Mayor Janusz Kubicki and his city sharing and supporting the initiative. We know from personal experience what it means to organize a congress and I think we owe Tomasz and all his staff a big applause. We are living a historical moment when the economic crisis is affecting all countries and there are some upcoming forces are calling into question the fundamental values of the European Union

The European Union now counts 27 countries and there are about 12 million (European Commission data) Europeans who study, work and live in a Member State of which they are nationals. These citizens must carry out several administrative tasks that require submission of public documents, including acts of civil status or proof of citizenship or a tie or the existence of a family relationship.

The Council of Europe, with the program in Stockholm, has invited the European Commission to make for 2013, legislative proposals regarding the free movement of documents through the suppression of their acceptance and recognition of the effects of certain documents of civil status that the legal status of persons of a Member State should be recognized in another.

The recognition of the status of people in different countries becomes essential to build a Europe of peoples.

The European Commission with the Green Paper 147123/2010 - COM (2010) 747, has launched a survey to promote the free circulation of public documents and the recognition of the effects of acts of civil status, urging all those who are interested in making proposals and finding solutions.

In this new European context, takes place the action of EVS which, amid many difficulties for the very low economic resources and for the language, tries to make its contribution to enable citizens to have all the answers that our society demands so that they can fully exercise their rights. Training, exchange of experience on various practical cases, the enhancement of the professional officers of civil status are therefore key to facilitating these processes of integration.

E. V.S. submitted by April 30, 2011, its proposals to the European Commission and so did ANUSCA, based on the experience of coordinator for the European project ECRN (for the electronic transmission of civil status documents secured by Digital signature). ANUSCA has developed an original solution that, based on its experience, outlines a way that overcomes the obstacles set by the European Commission.

The occasion of this 11th Congress allows us to study these aspects but, even more important, to bring into question the issue of simulated marriages, which is very actual, because it directly concerns the life of our local and national communities in relation to the strong attraction that the Countries of the EU exercise for the populations of countries in Africa and Eastern Europe, looking for a port that allows them a more dignified life.

And it's obvious that, in order to achieve this goal, many try to use the spaces, including the forced ones, that the laws of different countries allow.

Weddings are one of the simulated paths to circumvent the rules on residence permits and cause diseases that have also created new spaces for the organized crime to exploit the weaknesses of many people.

The work of registrars as you can imagine becomes particularly difficult in these cases and is in the perspective of defense and protection of law, fundamental guidelines of the European Union.

Thanks to the Technical Committee EVS, and in particular to the two Vice Presidents Bailer and Zadavec, for choosing this topic for the Congress which allows us, thanks to the contributions of eminent scholars, to have a European framework of the phenomenon and to take note of the measures that individual countries are taking to stem it. I am sure that from Zielona Gora will come an original EVS contribution for possible regulatory solutions that our institutions can take on.

With the best wishes I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Polish officers of civil status for the warm welcome.

Paride Gullini