



Report, Hyderabad, October 5, 2017

Distinguished members of the EC, Mr President ISC, dear fellow Councillors, observers

Those of you who attended the ISC Mid- Year Meeting in George, South Africa this spring, probably remember that I compared the situation of the ISC to Star Wars movies. I was HOPING that after George we would finally be moving on with bringing this space ship into 21st century but it seems that there are groups and individuals who are not ready for this. I could just deliver my George report again and be done with it, but fortunately there still are people who are willing to put themselves in the line of fire and pursue the goals set already in Haarlem in 2015.

As we are constantly told, the ISC is an advisory body to the Executive Committee and that is what we try to do here. The word ADVISORY means that the EC does not have to take our recommendations as such – or indeed at all. That still does not mean that the Council has no relevance or function.

I would like to remind you all that the Councillors are elected by their National Committees and so THEY represent the feelings, ideas and opinions of that country, not that just one club. International Skål Council is still the easiest and most efficient way to get your voice heard.

We have heard from President Bill that we have done a lot of work since Monaco. All the Councillors who attended the Mid-Year Meeting in George had an active role in finalizing the new Congress format and the Global Market place. I'm sure that there still is a lot to be done but now that the ground work is done the rest will follow.

Denise from Australia, Asuman from Turkey and Cyndi from USA were crucial in making the MDF a reality and I want to thank them for that.

As you are all aware, a new ISC Board was elected in Monaco. We got off to a swift start but hit a minor obstacle when Junior Vice President Jorge Moya had to resign due to health reasons. We are electing a new Junior Vice President here today and I wish both candidates the best of luck; I know that whatever the result, we will get a fantastic VP and you both continue your amazing work for the benefit of Skål.

As we are all in this voluntarily and do the work for Skål on our spare time, the things that can be accomplished even in the course of one year are limited. I hope that after Hyderabad we will see more Councillors “getting their hands dirty” and working with us towards our common goal: strengthening and revitalizing Skål International.



I want to thank President Bill and Secretary Julie for their enthusiasm, devotion, support and friendship; the ride so far has been bumpy but fun. Working with you is a privilege.

In the immortal words of Charles Dickens: “It was the best of the times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.”

The journey continues,

I commend my report to you,

Marja Eela-Kaskinen

ISC Senior Vice President 2017