Dear colleagues,

It was in Ostend in 2017 where I received the mandate from you to become involved in the AEHT's activities as vice-president.

In the beginning, I knew almost nothing about the functioning of the association, even though the headquarters of the association are in my school in Luxembourg, along with the office of the secretariat. Little by little I was able to understand how the AEHT works and I was able to identify its strengths and weaknesses.

After four years of investment, of satisfaction but also intense challenges, I would like to inform you that I do not wish to apply for a new term of office, although I am more than ever convinced of the relevance of the activities pursued by the AEHT in the interests of our respective schools, but also for the European Union, since the AEHT makes a major contribution to a better understanding of the world, and above all of the differences in the world in which we live.

The pandemic has not made the task of the office and the event organisers any easier in recent years. The financial situation of the association has forced us to make difficult, hard and sometimes even unsatisfactory decisions.

I regret the departure of the general secretary Mrs Nadine Schintgen who could not stay as a professional employee of the association. Nadine's departure does not leave me indifferent. I have the impression that the association had to part with a certain form of professionalism that some people appreciate while others aspire to a new functioning. In this context, I am pleased to have been able to obtain time from the Luxembourg Ministry of Education with the partial secondment of Ronny Thill on behalf of the AEHT, and I wish him all the best in his new duties, assuring him that I will not fail to help him if necessary.

In 2017, I committed to launching a new academic program within AEHT. It is now a done deal. After a first small successful experience in Leeuwarden in 2018, we were able to develop this one effectively in Split in 2019 thanks to the exceptional and valuable assistance of the organizer. I believe that the AEHT should be able to continue along this path to involve the school leaders even more. The success of the academic programme in Tallinn will certainly confirm what I have said, and I wish my friend John Lohr great success in his moderation.

As far as the future institutional development of the association is concerned, I believe that the AEHT should be able to evolve further in the future by seeking contact with other associations which are pursuing similar objectives. It makes no sense to have several associations in Europe pursuing similar objectives in the same sector - that of gastronomy, the hotel trade and tourism. It would be a good idea for those in charge to sit down together, forget their egos and discuss the opportunities to join forces.

I am available to participate in such a mission if the general assembly shares this point of view.

The development of the association is one thing and I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues and friends Ana Paula, Nuria (who had to leave unexpectedly), Sanne (who came as a replacement), Remco, Neeme and Ray for their patience, kindness, commitment and professionalism.

Organizing an event like the annual meetings here in Tallinn to mark the end of a pandemic to some extent and to re-launch the noble activities for the youth entrusted to us is another. I would like to end my little flight or my end-of-year report by focusing on the latter, by thanking the organisers very, very warmly, and above all my friend Neeme Rand, who has been the AEHT's quiet force for many years.

Michel Lanners, outgoing AEHT vice-president (30.10.2021)