

Dear Friends,

Even the best things have to come to an end. As we anticipated, this conference has been both productive and enjoyable. The Swiss committee, under Walter WYSER's leadership has taken great care of us, satisfying our smallest wishes, making sure every participant felt at home. The program was very informative and the speakers very knowledgeable. And the leaders of the workshops prepared their presentations quite carefully. They succeeded in keeping us interested by providing us with valuable information, enthusiasm and good fun. Nobody was caught snoozing

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Their reporters will aid us in remembering all those new ideas , examples and experiences we learned about . I am so proud that so many of you volunteered to lead workshops or take care of the reporting. And with no big payday for your efforts ...just the desire to improve YE and to spend some time with friends.

I think all of you here and around the world who devote so much time and energy to YE should be very proud of yourselves. You hold yourselves to the highest standards and you continue to innovate and improve the exchange programs. Your inspiration and passion keep you going even when confronted with challenges big and small. For YEOs, Quality and Friendship are truly kings.

This speech is special for me as it is the last time that I will address you as EEMA president. Before leaving, I would like to thank a few people who have helped me so generously over the years and contributed to making this mission happy and stress-free.

First of all, Yrjo who has been a real mentor for me. He taught me the job and it has been a real pleasure to work with him during these three years. Thank you also to Vice-President Erwin. He is so reliable, a very cool-headed person who considers all possibilities before acting. His ideas were always worth being taken into account. Like Fire and Water, we balanced each other out perfectly!

Thank you also to the chairmen of the Icelandic and Swiss organizing committees and to their teams. Team-work is one of the major powers of YE. Their expertise made it possible for me to manage these two conferences in places so far from my home country.

And last but certainly not least, thanks to all of you who attended this conference, to those who could not make it this time - I think of friends like Selim DEMIREN - thanks for sharing experiences , friendship and moments of joy. We will now go back home full of energy, looking forward to implementing new ideas.

I wish all of you a safe trip home and to those who have the chance to remain for the Post Tour I wish you a very enjoyable journey in a picturesque country with the wonderful company of true Friends.