

Letter from the AEP president

Dear colleagues,

First of all, I send you my greetings and best wishes for the New Year.

In 2005, the AEP will continue and expand its growth.

In the past two years, our Association achieved many major accomplishments. Amongst these were the success of the Geneva Congress, successful launch of the AEP Itinerant CME Courses Programme, participation in the European accreditation system (via the AEP-UEMS-WHO-WPA Task Force), creation of a stable committee for the organisation of the European Congress of Psychiatry (COSC). We will follow up this dynamic development, initiated under the impressive presidency of Mario Maj, and also launch some new initiatives.

The AEP will implement five key priorities in 2005–2006.

- Confirming the educational mission of the AEP. The AEP will continue offering a high-quality CME Courses Programme, both in its Itinerant Programme (in which 25 national societies are now involved) and during AEP Congresses.
- Launching the annual European Congress of Psychiatry in 2006 (Nice Congress). This meeting will include a high-quality Core Scientific Programme and will become one of the most meaningful psychiatric conferences in Europe.
- Creating a specific Task Force to reflect on the identity of European psychiatry. This Task Force will explore specific issues particularly relevant to the identity of European psychiatry (such as general psychopathology, biological psychiatry, ethics) and formulate our conception in a position paper to be submitted to the General Assembly.
- Improving the work of the AEP Sections. A Section's Programme will be defined to strengthen the Section's involvement in AEP Congresses and to promote additional activities in between Congresses.
- *European Psychiatry*, the official AEP Journal, will continue its development with the appointment of three new Editors: S. Frangou (UK), P. Gorwood (France) and R. Heun (Germany), who have great ambitions for its successful growth and will focus on improving the journal's impact factor.

The newly elected AEP Executive Committee and Board will work hard to implement these priorities. However, the future development of the AEP depends first and foremost on the active involvement of psychiatrists in our activities. The Association therefore relies on you to strengthen its success over the next years!

I look forward to receiving your ideas, comments and suggestions on the AEP activities and to seeing you in the 13th AEP Congress in Munich (2–6 April, 2005).

With kind regards,

Henning Sass,
AEP President 2005-2006