

Candidate`s Statement to stand for president, 2018-2021

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This statement is accessible in the EAA webpage, *My EAA Membership – Vote in EAA Elections*:
https://www.e-a-a.org/EAA/Elections/Voting_form.aspx?Code=F635585A

*This makes part of the new services that the EAA webpage now provides to its members. **Every member can update her/his Member profile and you all are encouraged to do.** You can access the personal profile of each fellow member from the Search Members option (https://www.e-a-a.org/EAA/About/About_EAA/Members_search/EAA/Navigation/Contact/People_search.aspx). Thus, the EAA webpage also becomes a common portal for EAA members that will distribute worldwide information about all of us and our activities.*

My commitment to the EAA and the mid-term program that I together with the current EAA Executive Board have started to design and implement, led me to take the decision of standing up for a second turn as president. It is a privilege to serve so alive organization as the EAA. I am even more convinced now than two years ago that:

1. EAA can play a role for **promoting archaeology and welfare of our members** and of any other archaeologist or person devoted to archaeology; this including, above all, our young fellows, those affected by the crisis, and women, because for different reasons their situation is becoming weaker at the time being;
2. EAA, amidst the current complex geometry and problems of Europe, must **foster the ideals of trans-European values**, exchange, solidarity, communication and openness that once gave form to the association;
3. EAA must keep improving and transforming itself to become *a more powerful and representative association* in the future;
4. most of EAA`s members are looking forward this horizon and trust this is the organization that they are willing to be members of.

I feel with the energies and mood to keep ahead with the important transformations that EAA and its members must face. We are now approaching them. For the time of the elections, members will know the **three documents that develop EAA Strategic Planning**. I am fully committed to the further development of these documents and its full implementation. All them together look for the **financial health of the EAA** as the basic way to gain stability and build up our future; the **development of the Secretariat** as a way to increase and strengthen our services to members; and a **deep change of EAA governance**.

The latter becomes a highly part of I wish to work for creating an EAA more transparent, dynamic and active. But we do need a major change in EAA`s model of governance. We have to simplify the way of defining and applying politics and thus taking decisions. At the same time, we have to become much more productive and be able to react quickly to many different issues and to widen the topics that we ought to attend. I will stress here the **key concepts to outline a new governance and functioning** of the EAA.

1. to **empower our members** for being active agents of EAA politics and action: by combining their expertise and field of interests and by using it in a positive way, EAA can broaden its capacities and to engage members in its functioning;
2. the **constituents of EAA** life will be, from Vilnius, four: Communities, ie. Self-sufficient groups of members involved in the same interests and in promoting particular fields of action; Committees, ie. permanent task-oriented working groups (such as: external affairs,

European policies, international relations, teaching and training, archaeology and gender, publications, heritage management and illicit trade, professional associations, communications and media strategies, rise-funding, ...); Task Forces, ie. no permanent working groups created for specific and temporal tasks, (a good example right now would be a Task Force for the European Year of Cultural Heritage); and Commissioners, ie. persons in charge of particular missions who must report to the Boards and members;

3. the **persons responsible** for all these constituents, as representative of particular groups of expert members, must be empowered at the EAA decision level: they should be able to address directly to the executive line of the EAA, propose actions and statements, and get them approved if they are for the common interest of the EAA;
4. simultaneously, **EAA Executive Board must be improved** to clearly point out the roles of each of its members and embed the basic dimensions of EAA policy and executive decision; the implementation of these decisions must rely on the Secretariat.
5. the Management Group (president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and administrator) must gain a proper personality as the **EAA action group** for the ordinary life of EAA.

There is yet something we must put for the mid horizon: Because of the increasing precariousness and temporality of the labour market (either in commercial or research sectors), more and more often we will find colleagues and friends who do not matter which country are they, their incomes level will be low and irregular. So we should start thinking about the possible impact of this in our membership and how to support those young and senior colleagues deprived of the benefits of a permanent job. Any option for this presents practical difficulties. But it also would become a way of **creating a net of trust** in between all the members and functioning of the whole EAA. Trust is, beside engagement, the basic structuring principles of association life. And we must do our best **to promote trust and engagement**. Previous points have to do mostly with creating engagement. The latter point has to do mainly with producing trust. It is the time, for an Association that speaks about itself as flat, inclusive and democratic, to move in this direction that puts economy in the place that it must have: not as the driver of the social, but as a production of the social conditions we want to create for the welfare of all of us.

The future will depend on many things. But, as candidate to stand for a second term as president, I do maintain a clear idea about the key topics I have outlined here: mission of the EAA; a model of governance to empower our members, promote transversal engagement and ameliorate representative function; a model of membership aligned with the huge transformations in knowledge society; and a realistic program to foster intra-association solidarity and trust.

I am appealing you all. *The above involves a major development of the EAA to serve its members better both internally and in relation to the social and political challenges we are facing: I feel this change is needed and I feel that EAA and its members are ready to overcome it for gaining a most sustainable future for us. But it is still a huge change that requires full members support and conviction. So I am asking for the maximum support of EAA members to get a clear mandate to conduct these changes because I know that the basic principle of corporate responsibility is that one cannot do whatever he or she wishes or believes, because the corporate life is bigger than any individual singularity. The current context challenges us and demands a transformation: EAA should work for making Archaeology relevant to resist the three fundamental crisis that are burning the idea of Europe: the crisis of refugees (that dismantles the notion of openness and movement inherent to archaeological practice and record), the crisis of expertise (that dismantles the common ground for positive action and inaugurates the postfactual era of post-truth), and the crisis of representation (that dismantles modern political identities and leaves us without knowing who represents what). Thus, this is my request: if you the EAA voters, think that I can lead the association in such a context based on these explicit proposals, I will be honoured of serving you all as president.*