



We had a long and very warm summer in Europe this year.

My 'summer' was extended this year as after the holidays, COTEC work brought me to Italy and Portugal; you can read about these activities in this newsletter.

In Rome, it was my pleasure to meet the new president and vice-president of the Italian Association. In Portugal, I was very pleased to see so many of you for the Governance Day and the 6th General Assembly. Meeting you all and seeing how the European community of occupational therapists is getting stronger makes me very happy as I think this is essential for reaching our organisational aims.

During the Governance Day the Electoral Committee held a very good presentation to encourage you all to prepare and think about the elections of 2019. I was asked to tell something about my "drive" to work for COTEC and I became rather emotional about this, as I feel very strongly about making our wonderful profession visible and valued across Europe and strengthening our community.

For me this last year will be one of consolidating what has been achieved and do my utmost transferring my expertise, experience and network to the new generation and preparing to say goodbye.

Someone of the new generation who decided to step down now before her term of office has ended is Elitsa Velikova. She has started a PhD and that made her occupational balance even more fragile, so she felt she had to say goodbye. We are of course very sorry she is leaving, but as occupational therapists, we know how important it is to know your priorities and to keep the balance between voluntary and paid work and your private life. I would like to thank Elitsa for all the work done and wish her all the best.

I also would like to welcome the Polish Association of Occupational Therapists as our 31st member and thank them for their very enlightening presentation.

This summer I have sometimes been thinking ahead about how to spend my time "after COTEC", but for now I am looking forward to a new year full of activities and meetings with external partners and of course many, many occupational therapists.

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