



Bruges, December 19, 2011

Dear Euhofa friends,

These short, dark days, at least in the Northern Hemisphere, make the year 2011 seem even grimmer than it already was. Indeed, we can't ignore that the worldwide economic recession has some influence on the way we think and act in our day-to-day lives, both privately and professionally. Who had thought, at the start of 2011, that Greece, with all due respect for the country and its population, could undermine the European currency and the European sense of unity? Unfortunately, this proves once again that the world economy is a succession of "wobbling" dominos.

Fortunately, 2011 has not only brought trouble and affliction. At EUHOFA International we have had an excellent year, a year full of happy memories and concrete action plans. Our jubilee congress in Estonia was perfectly organized and the academic part offered a lot of added value for the numerous participants. We did not only plant our EUHOFA tree, but especially took a big step forward towards more cooperation between the members by the signature of the International Hospitality Traineeship Project between the Netherlands, Spain, Australia, and the United States.

In any case, we are eagerly looking forward to the first results of this cooperation, which will be presented at our 51st congress in Belgium that will take place from November 11 until November 16 2012. The academic program of this congress "Motivation in the Hospitality Industry from the Bottom to the Top" has already been fully elaborated. The website www.euhofabelgium2012.be is online and the first enrolments have already been registered.

Together with my colleagues Mrs. Sonja Saelaert, Congress President, and Mr. Ronny Calcoen, Vice Congress President, I will be very honoured to welcome you in my homeland. Belgium, and more particularly Bruges and Koksijde, undoubtedly have a very broad and varied offer in store for you in the fields of gastronomy and tourism. We will also be pleased to welcome your partners. Especially for them we have drawn up a magnificent program at an attractive price.

I wish you and all your loved ones the very best for 2012.

Kind regards,

Filiep Defraye
President

