

Monsieur le Recteur, Monsieur le Directeur, Madame la Présidente,

my dear colleagues,

In Düsseldorf and Cologne, ten years ago, I participated for the first time in the Council meeting of ICP, which I joined in 2005 in Cork.

It is for me today a great pleasure to open this first Council meeting in France!

First of all, I want to express my gratitude. Thanks to all of you, colleagues, former presidents, new president, new and former colleagues! Being part of ICP has been a great gift given to me over the last ten years.

It took me one year to write a book about our first hand experiences! So, I will not try to summarize them in a few sentences. I just hope that it will help towards professionalizing school principals. I will inform you, as soon as the translation of my book into English is available.

For me, it was a dream. We are about to transform it into a reality!!

Two French organizations have joined ICP, others are expected to do the same. Then, it will be possible to bring together 2,000 principals, all ICP members, in 2017, in Bordeaux, as it was decided last year in Cairns.

I have to leave this evening to participate tomorrow in a Conference set up by the OECD on financial education, for I am involved in a working group on that subject. I have no concerns about the success of this Council, which has been prepared very thoroughly for a year by 7 people, whom you' will meet here.

I particularly thank the leadership team of Esen, in the person of Jean-Marie Panazol and Jean-Claude Chapu, the President of AEDE France, Marie-france Mailhos , leader of the organizing committee, Loïc Toussaint de Quiévre-court for the initiative to enable the union ID to join ICP, Bernard Hugonnier who came last year to Cairns, Antoine Godbert, Director of the Erasmus Agency, and Sonia Dubourg-Lavroff, General Inspector, who will both receive us in Bordeaux.

Last but not least, let us thank for their help, Sue Sayles , who helped to organize the ICP Conference in Edinburgh in 2003 and gave us the benefit of her enthusiastic experience ,and Sjoerd Slagter, former President of VO-Raad and Regional Representative for Europe, who attended several meetings with us.

I wish all of you a fruitful work and a pleasant stay at ESEN! I

I will meet you in Bordeaux on Friday!

Thank you for your attention!