



Prof. Anna Geppert

En Sorbonne, le 23 mai 2015

Dear AESOP colleagues,

Today, I have the honour of applying for AESOP's presidency 2016-2018. Starting on a personal note, I belong a generation of academics that « grew with AESOP ». I have participated and sometimes taken an active part in our activities, as CoRep delegate, member of the Best Published Paper Committee, Secretary General, member of the working group on Quality Recognition...

Since my first international conference in Lodz (1993), at that time as PhD candidate, what an evolution ! AESOP has grown from a modest network of scholars to the sound organization it has become today, offering its members a wide range of activities and opportunities, engaging with national and European institutions to promote planning education and planning research.

Through this success story, AESOP has kept something that makes it special : a friendly and supportive atmosphere which I believe is the secret of its success, necessary for the development of all our members and all our endeavors. Being at the same time highly professional and personally friendly is quite an achievement for an association rich of over 150 member institutions. If you entrust me for the function of President, I will do my best to keep this AESOP spirit alive.

In terms of policy, I see the upcoming period as a time of consolidation of our activities and collaborations. In the last years, we have witnessed the development of many new initiatives, in terms of education (*EUSS*), publications (*Planning Education*, *InPlanning*, *EUSS books*), events (*AESOP Lecture series*), quality certification for Planning programs, collaborations with various planning associations... These blossoming initiatives, due to the commitment and enthusiasm of many colleagues, will require our common effort to develop and flourish. Also, a new generation of valuable young scholars is upcoming, who require our attention and our support for the development of their careers.

Another goal which I would like to pursue is to keep increasing AESOP's visibility, in particular on the European arena. In the past, many initiatives have established links with Espon, with the European Commission and Parliament, with the Committee of Regions... Being the largest planning academic network in Europe, I believe that we should keep interacting with these institutions and have a say in the definition of the European Unions 2020-26 agenda, for higher education and research as well as for territorial policies such as the cohesion policy.

I sincerely hope to have the possibility to serve AESOP again with this mandate. I am fully aware of the importance of this commitment, and have made room in my agenda to be available for AESOP if you give me your trust.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Geppert