



Mr M. Fenner
President
Erasmus Student Network
Rue Hydraulique 15
1210 Brussels

Brussels, 19 December 2008

Dear Matthias,

As the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) embarks upon celebrations for its 20th anniversary, heralded by a series of key projects and events throughout 2009, I am writing on behalf of the European Youth Forum (YFJ) to extend our warmest congratulations to all involved with the organisation!

This is both an important and symbolic moment, and the activities foreseen over the year, namely the ESN Train, the Birthday Book, the Postcard Campaign, and the Give 20 events, will be a fitting observance of this milestone year. The activities themselves demonstrate the reach and the depth of the ESN membership, and the dynamism of the organisation as it seeks to increase the mobility and opportunities for exchange enjoyed by Europe's students. The YFJ wishes you the very best for the work ahead, and thanks you for the valued support and worthy contribution ESN has been making to the European Youth Forum in its first two years of membership.

While Europe has experienced much change over the last twenty years, the need for organisations such as ESN, and for the role they perform, remains, and all of us in the youth movement remain conscious of the work that still lies before us. As the YFJ has itself just adopted a new Work Plan for 2009-10 and a new leadership for that period, we note the significance of such a moment as a time both for celebration and for reflection, and in addition, for a re-iteration of that which underscores our work. To deliver the changes and improvements called for by Europe's youth, we need to foster our cooperation, and feed our development – seeking and nurturing partnerships and building on those that already exist. In such a way, we can together continue to embody and truly reflect the values of participation, representation, independence and democracy that will bolster the empowerment of young people throughout Europe and give shape to a future that they have determined and built.

The 20th anniversary activities that ESN will be holding in the coming year are anchored by these values, and the desire to foster cooperation and build intercultural understanding – leading to a stronger, more peaceful and more united continent. The European Youth Forum welcomes these initiatives and joins you in celebrating this anniversary, wishing you continued success and achievement in the years to come.

May I wish you all the very best on this anniversary and extend the congratulations of the YFJ!

Tine Radinja
President-elect