

1. Mr. President of Portuguese Dental Association, Dr Orlando Monteiro da Silva
2. Mr. Representative of the Portuguese Health Ministry, Dr Rui Calado
3. Past-Presidents and fellow EOS council members
4. Dear Friends:

It is my great pleasure to welcome you, 2200 delegates from 71 countries, to the 84th Congress of the European Orthodontic Society. Maybe you don't know, but since its foundation 101 years ago, it is the first time that our congress comes to Portugal. So, Welcome!

Being your President for one year was a very challenging, but also inspiring task. Well, maybe a little of extra work to! But looking backwards, I think that the majority of issues were handled correctly.

There was, however, one problem that I want to bring to your attention. In March it came to my knowledge that our Turkish colleagues were having problems with the Portuguese Embassy in Ankara. To make it short, the consulate was being very burocreautic, creating problems and delaying the Visas. First, I spoke with the head of Staff of the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign affairs, and then with the Portuguese Ambassador in Turkey. I got assurance that they would expedite the process, AIMS was also involved to feed the consulate with updated lists of delegates, etc. However, I know that although I spoke even more times with the Ambassador, things were never as smooth as they should be. And last week we even exchanged some dry letters. We have more than 85 Turkish colleagues with us today, but I also know that some became so annoyed with this burocracy that decided not to come. What I want to say here today, as your President, is that I personally tried everything that was available to me, and that I feel embarrassed by what happened to some of you. Please forgive us, and be assured that we will try everything to make your stay with us as pleasant as possible. Again, I am sorry, and I wanted to say it publicly in this ceremony.

Speaking a little about the scientific programme, we will have the following topics and keynote speakers:

CLASS II TREATMENT: WHERE ARE WE? Anne Marie Kuipers-Jagtman, Sabine Ruf
ORTHODONTIC MANAGEMENT OF VERTICAL PROBLEMS Eustáquio de Araújo Stavros Kiliaridis

INNOVATIVE TREATMENT APPROACHES, Eric Liou, Toru Deguchi, FINISHING AND
DETAILING Bjorn Zachrisson, Renato Cocconi,
FREE TOPICS, Carlos Silva,

In addition, and based on the submitted abstracts, the Scientific Committee (and here I take the opportunity to express my thanks to their rigorous and honest work) has, anonymously, selected 65 oral presentations, 625 posters and 2 table clinics. Well, there will be a lot of information for you to discuss and learn.

Before leaving this topic, I want to ask you to actively participate in the discussions that will occur in the end of each session. These discussions can be more productive than some presentations. Help us to achieve that.

The social programme was planned to promote friendship between orthodontists from all over the world. We orthodontist, tend to be a little conservative and reserved. Well, as the poet says, life is too short to waste time. Why not change it a bit while in Lisbon. I encourage each and every one of you, to try to talk to someone you don't know. Maybe you will make a new friend, and we, those behind the scenes planning the social events, would be happy to see that our efforts were successful and people are truly socializing. Besides, weather forecast is predicting a bright sunny week in Lisbon, so we have all the conditions for pleasant social events.

We, the Organizing Committee, AIMS and your President, have done our best to prepare a nice congress. However, we rationally anticipate that we might have overlooked something. Actually, today I already discovered a lot of small mistakes! Anyway, if you have any problems do not hesitate to contact one of us.

Enjoy your congress and the city of Lisbon,

Thank you for your presence!