

KARL BRUNNBAUER – Honorary President of EUNWA

From EUNWA 1.0 to EUNWA 2.0

EUNWA Annual Meeting - Venice, 07 October 2022

Dear friends,

Thank you for your invitation and participation in EUNWA's first annual post-pandemic event.

As some of you already know, at the end of 2021 EUNWA moved its headquarters from Vienna to Venice. This was not a random choice. In recent years, EUNWA has established a solid collaboration with the City of Venice and in particular with the office headed by **Councillor Enrico Gavagnin** and, no less important, the Italian neighbourhood watch association, **ANCDV**, has accepted the challenge of relaunching EUNWA's initiative in Europe, and this event testifies that it is doing a good job. In this regard, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the **Metropolitan City of Venice, the Municipality of Venice, and the Mythos hotel group** for their support of this event.

As you may have noticed from the title of this event 'Awarding excellence: the French case', this year we focused specifically on the French reality of *Voisins Vigilantes and Solidaires*. This new format of our annual meeting responds to the need for a deeper knowledge of the various national realities of Neighbourhood Watch. Indeed, this format gives the awarding country the opportunity to present its activities in depth and share its national experience with others.

Over the past year, we have been working hard to reconnect with European Neighbourhood Watch associations and re-launch our network. The last meeting, at the end of September, we had with our friends from the English Neighbourhood Watch, which, I remind you, is the oldest and largest Neighbourhood Watch organisation in Europe with 3.5 million members. At that meeting, the leaders of that organisation renewed their keen interest in the activities of EUNWA and its mission.

We took advantage of the pandemic time to completely rebuild our website, navigable in all European languages, and launched a multilingual online questionnaire to survey the health of Neighbourhood Watch in Europe. EUNWA's last publication on the state of the art of Neighbourhood Watch in Europe (White Book) dates back to 2015. Since then, many things have changed and are changing in front of our eyes. We therefore plan to publish a new edition of the White Book in 2023.

On this point, I would like to draw particular attention to Leo's extraordinary and intensive achievements since taking over the presidency.

Mr Henry Ford the founder of the Ford Motor Company said three sentences:

“Coming together is the beginning.”

“Keeping together is progress.”

“Working together is success.”

I would like to conclude by reminding you that working together is key to achieving our mission. Alone we can do little. That is why I invite the national associations present to work together and in particular the Italian one to support the efforts of the new EUNWA president.

Remember:

„The true mark of a happy city is not the absence of danger, but the absence of fear“

Thank you for your attention!