



**European Federation
of Funeral Services**

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Registered on November 29, 1994
with the Public Security Directorate for
Vienna (Federal Ministry of the Interior),
No. IV-SD/2136, VVM/94.

President: Ulf Lerneus
Executive Director: Anke Teraa

TO:
**All members of the
European Federation of Funeral Services**

Stockholm, September 27, 2021

Dear members of EFFS,

On 23 September 2021, the EFFS held its General Assembly in Düsseldorf. It was a hybrid meeting, the EFFS board was physically present and the other participants were present via Teams, which worked very well.

The meeting was opened by a welcome from our Executive Director Anke Teraa and after that, each represented country was able to talk openly about the situation with the pandemic. There were many similarities.

Later, it was parliamentary with the president's report and review of the finances and the auditors' report. A proposal for some adjustments had been made to the current constitution and the proposal for the amendments was approved.

Anke Teraa then talked about the collaboration with the Volksbund Foundation, which safeguards and maintains large numbers of war cemeteries in Europe.

After that, it was time for the election of the Board, and I am honoured to have been elected as your new President of the EFFS.

The past, the present and the future

I would like to begin by thanking all of you for the confidence of the President of the EFFS, which is a great honour for me to represent the funeral industry in Europe.



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I began my journey in the funeral industry 1981. For many years I worked at Fonus Funeral Home with everything from funerals, meetings with relatives to police pick-ups and insurance investigations. I have learned a lot during my years. I have learned to deal with people who are in grief, people who feel stress and anger. I have also learned a lot about myself, but above all I have learned what tools are missing but required to get the industry forward.

In 2006, I started at my current position. Federal director and CEO of the Swedish Funeral Directors Association. With a Federal Board of nine people in the Swedish Association, we have made great progress during these years. Both great and a little less great decisions have been made, but all have been of great importance to the industry in Sweden. I am grateful to my entire team for their professionalism and endurance in handling all of our Swedish matters.

For two years now, the whole world has lived in a pandemic, a pandemic that has claimed many lives worldwide. The situation has put a lot of pressure on all of us, and it is my view and hope that the funeral industry has taken a big step forward and really shown the incredible social resource that we actually are. It is critical for all countries that we exist and that we function to the best of our ability.

But as always, with great power comes great responsibility, not least for us. The ethical part of a funeral procedure and in the care of a deceased for me is crucial.

Today, I stand before you as the new President of EFFS. These are big shoes to fill, after Guillaume Fontaine, and I will here say a Big Thanks to Guillaume for his work as a president and his always positive attitude.



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I am grateful to have been considered and I am grateful for the support I have received, not only from my own, but also from my European colleagues and friends.

My keywords and my motto as your President will be: **Education, Seriousness** and **Care**.

I will develop them later on because each word carries weight but together they carry power. Thanks again for this honour and I look forward to what we will achieve together.

EFFS is nothing without members. I really hope that you as members feel that you have a resource in the EFFS.

I am also very glad to work with our Board who has a tremendous amount experience and lot of ideas. Last but not least, I am looking forward to working with our Executive Director Anke Teraa who is the person which really is our strong hand of support in all situations in our organization.

Sincerely,

Ulf Lernéus
President