

EEL e.V. • S. Oehlich • Habichtweg 7 • 21244 Buchholz

To all EEL-Members

**NEW Congress Venue in 2018**

**President**

Prof. Dr. Stefan P. Renner  
Böblingen, from December 1, 2017

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Dear members of the Society,

at the last Board Meeting this June we had an intensive debate about the congress venue in Turkey. The Executive Board took the concerns very seriously but in the end the Board agreed to stick to the perfect venue in Antalya, Turkey.

From my point of view, I have always supported the idea of having the European Congress in Turkey – especially to set an important mark that not the political but the scientific situation should decide on a congress venue. Our Turkish colleagues (especially Prof. Engin Oral and Prof. Taner Usta) did an excellent job from the beginning, supported by an excellent congress organization (Rauf Kinay, Opteamist).

Nevertheless, the political situation has not improved as we hoped. Many members contacted me in the last months saying that they are not willing to go to Turkey in this situation and the German foreign ministry has issued a travel warning. I don't want to judge any political things here as I think nobody of us has proper insights but this situation forced us to act.

The Executive Board including myself came to a decision in the last weeks. We all agreed on the superb job that the Turkish team has done but we also all agreed that a congress in Antalya would unfortunately be difficult, not only in view of financial risks for the organizers and the EEL.

Thus, we agreed to move to another congress venue in 2018 – as we keep Turkey in mind for a future congress. Prof. Peter Oppelt, Chair of the University in Linz, has agreed to organize the congress in Vienna together with his assistant medical director Prof. Omar Shebl and Prof. Engin Oral from Turkey. I am very grateful for his spontaneous acceptance and would like to thank him and his team already at this point.

Personally, I would like to thank all Turkish colleagues for their effort up to now. They agreed on being an active part in the society in future which I very much support. I would also like to thank them for their understanding and their continued support of the congress!

I ask for your understanding for our decision in this unfortunate situation. Please support Peter Oppelt and his team in making our EEL Congress 2018 interesting and successful - with many new ideas for congress program!

Wishing everybody luck, happiness and especially health for the rest of the year.

Kind regards,



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