



UNIVERSITY
OF BRESCIA

Gdańsk, 20th April 2023

Prof. Maurizio Tira
Former Rector of the University of Brescia (2016-22)
Piazza Mercato, 15
25121 Brescia (Italy)
Tel.: +39 030 2989201
Mobile: +39 335 323484
E-mail: maurizio.tira@unibs.it



Dear Rectors, Presidents, Vice-Chancellors,
Dear Delegates,

let me thank those who made EUA such an important reality, President Michael Murphy, the Board, the Secretary General and the excellent staff.

I am aware of the quality of my fellow candidates, and I am sure whatever the result will be, the future of EUA is in good hands and the Association will continue to grow.

Universities were founded before modern states and they have influenced the development of our Continent so much. Our Universities are expected to maintain high quality for centuries, while they're also supposed to adapt to new developments.

Our diversity is our richness. Anyway, we dare to search for that which unites us that is much more than what divides us. Communities that know no walls, cultural and religious, linguistic or gender barriers and ones that want to avoid any cultural misunderstandings.

While we condemn any kind of aggression and violation of freedom, we know that the remedies that are necessary to prevent violence are the same that we will have to use in greater doses in case of exacerbation of the disease: education to truth, critical thinking, tolerance, transparency, solidarity, freedom and beauty!

When facing the new dramatic challenges, well represented by the 17 UN goals, they call on sustainability, inclusion, innovation and technological development to achieve a renovated engagement of Universities. 2030 is so close and Europe has to brand itself as the "sustainable superpower": let's create a European network of networks of Universities for sustainability!

We have the privilege and the responsibility of working side by side to the future generations, namely the 17 millions students that are entrusted to our member Universities. No other Institutions boast such quality! We are driven to action by our students' ideas and – at the same time – we bear on our shoulders the responsibility to provide them with an ethical and cultural project.

No worldwide ranking will be able to measure our students' degree of maturity of, nor the degree



UNIVERSITY
OF BRESCIA

of cooperation among our institutions, like the stimulating experience of the European University Alliances. EUA is crucial for the implementation of the European Strategy and the New Innovation Agenda with the related Network of Innovative Higher Education Institutions (ENIHEI) where I am actively involved. That initiative must be bridged with the EUA Expert Group on Innovation.

From 2016 to 2022 I had the privilege and honour to serve as Rector of the University of Brescia, a young University in a middle-sized active and pleasant city in the north of Italy, the first in Europe to be violently hit by the pandemic. I also served as member of the board of Italian Rectors' Conference as the head for International Affairs, so actively participating in the EUA Council.

I developed a wide experience in running co-operation projects and coordinating several activities in the pandemic emergency, as well as the Afghan and Ukrainian crises.

After serving the Italian Institutions, I am ready to actively commit and contribute to the development of Universities in the broad European Higher Education Area, by working for the extension and consolidation of EUA membership.

As University leaders we learned how to lead through co-operation: my decision making approach is based on listening, learning and sharing.

We will stand firm on our academic values, but also on the values of Europe's open, pluralistic and democratic societies, thus anticipating the dawn of a reconciled human family. Thank you.

Prof. Maurizio Tira