



Dear Friends,

On behalf of the European Youth Forum (YFJ), may I extend our warmest wishes to this IGLYO General Meeting of Members (GMM).

We had very much hoped to be able to join you at this important moment in your organisation's calendar - a moment that we know will serve to further strengthen the important work that you are doing, and which will impact upon the valuable contribution that IGLYO continues to make to the Youth Forum.

Beyond its statutory value, the significance of a GMM such as this, lies in its reflection of the cooperation and partnership that is central to IGLYO's development and work; and the mark of your success in this regard are the over twenty years of growth and consolidation that IGLYO has enjoyed. This is all the more heartening considering the financial difficulties that you have recently overcome, and despite the challenges that regretfully still confront young lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer youth across Europe.

As young people, we understand the difficulties in making our voices heard; many of us understand all too acutely the difficulties of social exclusion and sadly, the results of discrimination. The resolution on homophobia presented by IGLYO to the YFJ General Assembly in 2006, and duly adopted, is but one example of the YFJ's commitment to combating all forms of discrimination experienced by young people, and indeed, of the necessary partnership of all youth organisations in this work. This General Meeting of Members is then, an important space to give voice and demonstrate the cooperation and dedication that mark out the youth movement; recognising the expertise that lies within this movement can provide an impetus for action to consolidate understanding within and between communities, and foster dialogue and further inclusion. By working together, with a real sense of openness, understanding, and volunteerism, and with genuine access to resources and opportunities, the potential to deliver change as young leaders of today - not simply, tomorrow - can be realised.

We would like to take this opportunity therefore to wish IGLYO continued success and achievement in the important work it is doing, and to thank the outgoing board and in particular Björn Roozendaal, for their dedication and commitment, and the long service they have given to the organisation, and to European young people in general. We wish you the very best for the future and also extend our wishes to the new leadership, as they assume the challenge of heading this vital and dynamic organisation. We look forward to continuing the happy partnership between our organisations long into the future, and duly wish all of you a successful and fruitful General Meeting of Members!

With best wishes,

Bettina Schwarzmayr
President