

Good evening Mrs. Minister Hetto-Gaasch, Mrs. Lazarou, Mr. Quiddington, ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to EUMA's Spring 2011 Training Days in Luxembourg, Hotel Novotel Kirchberg.

Allow me to briefly introduce myself. My name is Catherine Johannsson, I have been Chairman of EUMA Luxembourg since January 2010.

I will not be very long since I am not the sole to make a speech today; but I couldn't let pass the opportunity to express my gratitude and happiness on a day like today.

The EUMA Luxembourg committee is proud to host the 120 people attending this event.

With a population of slightly over five hundred thousand people, Luxembourg hosts over three thousand private enterprises, nearly two hundred banks and many European institutions, which makes our country a strategic reference point within Europe. These facts potentiate our responsibilities in today's professional world and place us, Management Assistants, as key elements in the private and public business industry.

Given the great international population in Luxembourg, our Management Assistants Association, could not be less and our members in Luxembourg also come from all parts of Europe, which also helps to give us different point of views and know how.

Nevertheless, our association and practice as vastly international as it is, it is not yet seen as an equal practice for men and women.

For years, women have fought to achieve positions that had been only attributed to men, which are slowly but surely arriving. On the other side, there are still many professions, like ours, regarded as mainly practiced by women only. A very clear example is the fact that we have only one man, who represents 1% of the people present at the training days this year.

I think our Minister of equal opportunities in Luxembourg, Mrs. Hetto-Gaasch, our next speaker will agree with me.

Mrs. Françoise Hetto-Gaasch, has held the position of Minister of equal opportunities since July 2009, she represents what should be the balanced presence of men and women in leading positions, this has been one of her priorities.

Thank you Mrs. Hetto-Gaasch for being here today, we appreciate that you have taken the time to join us and giving us your support.