President’s welcome speech, EONS Advisory Council meeting in Ljubljana, 23 - 24 November 2012

Dear president of the European Oncology Nursing Society (EONS), Mrs. Birgitte Grube and EONS Board members, dear colleagues, on behalf of the local organizing committee under the presidency of Mrs. Biserka Petrijevčanin, who is also a president of the Professional group of nurses and nurse assistants in oncology in Slovenia, a very warm welcome to our country.

It is my great honour, privilege and pleasure to welcome you to the EONS Advisory Council meeting here in Ljubljana. Thank you for having selected our country and our capital as a hosting country and hosting town between some other options in EU, such as Germany, UK, Portugal. We are quite familiar with such events in previous years and we are very proud of every EU, domestic or world nurses meeting, conference, congress or other event.

This year is also the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations and oncology nursing is very closely connected with old people and solidarity too.

It is important to the nursing profession in Slovenia too to organize such a great event in our country and a special opportunity also for our professional work and voice of nurses, the opportunity for everyone to share knowledge, experiences, and organizing issues – in the best way possible.

In Slovenia nurses and midwives are joined in one unique organization which is also a regulatory body for both professions. Our organization consists of 11 regional organizations and 31 specialist groups; between them there is also the Professional group of nurses and nurse assistants in oncology.

Current and future challenges for nurses and other health workers and co-workers have a great influence – good and bad - regarding education and Bologna process, unemployment, reducing resources, economical migrations, but also sharing knowledge, exchanging information and best practices, doing research projects together, etc.
The whole world is confronted with an economic, political and financial crisis and of course with huge changes of values, not only professional but also personal ones. Nurses as advocates of patients try to maintain quality, safety and empathic approach to the patients and also try to have the influence to the health political systems in their countries. This is the power of nurses. We hope that the Advisory Council meeting will be a good opportunity to discuss or to do some of these important and good things.

Dear colleagues,
I wish you will have a pleasant and successful work and stay here in Slovenia, hoping you will find some time to get to know our capital and visit some of the gems of our highly picturesque and beautiful country. And I hope you will conclude your visit to Slovenia with the best possible impressions.

Darinka Klemenc, president of the Nurses and Midwives Association Slovenia