

Farewell Speech

Dear reader,

In January 2001 I became a board member of Aeries. The General Members Assembly appointed me as president of Aeries in October 2002 and right now, in April 2004 I already write my last President's Speech to you since I resigned as president of our association last month. Some of you might have noticed that last three to five years were sometimes quite difficult for Aeries, particularly caused by a lack of manpower and money.

In this case, I learned a lot at Aeries. It has always been a challenge to do as much as possible with a minimum of available human resources and financial resources. A good example of a low-profile, but successful event is the recently held symposium at Schiphol Airport about the Future of Aviation in the Netherlands, co-organized by Aeries. Over 180 participants showed up listening to speeches by top executives of the Dutch aviation industry. I would like to thank our partner 'PNL' for this event as well as the speakers, sponsors and volunteers for their efforts to make it a great success.

After three inspiring, instructive and sometimes even 'turbulent' years, time has come for me to introduce you to my successor Daan de Jong. Daan is a student in public administration at the University of Amsterdam and he is a board member of Aeries for over six months now. In this past six months he showed an inspiring enthusiasm and dedication to Aeries. I believe Daan to be the right person to chair Aeries the coming period and I wish him all the best and lots of success (hopefully with a little more resources...). I regret not to be part of his team, but I stay at Aeries as editor of Airlines Magazine. I thank you all for your trust and support in the past years!

Willem-Jan Zondag
President until April 8th 2004



*The Aeries Board
From left to right: Tom Goossens, Linda Bos, Daan de Jong and Wouter Wester.
Not on photo: Sander van de Lagemaat*

Maiden Speech

Dear reader,

Six months ago, I joined the Aeries board as the secretary/internal affairs. At the time I was reluctant to join the board because I considered myself yet sufficiently prepared for the task. Clearly, I have gained a lot of experience and self-confidence during the past half year. Even to the point that I was confident enough to take on a position that had been in the hands of a true Aeries veteran for quite some time.

This growth in confidence was strengthened by the immense possibilities that were offered to me by Aeries. These possibilities and the challenge they pose have been a personal drive to become the new President.

I am not the only one on the new board inspired by the potential Aeries possesses. Linda Bos and Tom Goossens, have recently joined us. Their ambitions and capabilities is an enormous encouragement for the board, and the association as a whole! With a complete and motivated team standing and the potential present, the only thing we need to do is to get started! We are eager to initiate new events, turn in new directions, and make even bigger efforts to increase the standard!

Finally I would like to thank Willem-Jan Zondag for the enormous effort he put into Aeries. Luckily for me and every other Aeries member, Willem-Jan will still be around to direct, manage and edit this great magazine!

Yours truly,

Daan de Jong
President as of April 8th 2004