



ECNC Update

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Editorial ● ● ●

ECNC started in 1993 as an ambitious initiative: a new foundation aiming to serve nature throughout Europe and, more precisely, attempting to become the topic centre for nature conservation of the emerging European Environmental Agency. ECNC did not reach this goal, we know, but errors are a prime source for evolution. ECNC accepted the new challenge of becoming an actor in Europe's nature conservation scenario in its own right.

I joined ECNC as President in November 1994, at a critical moment, when important decisions were to be taken. The challenge was termed "Moving Forward". The Statutes of ECNC were thoroughly revised, updated and modified; the organic structure of ECNC was settled with a crucial reshaping of the Network of Partners and the role of the Scientific Council. The ECNC Secretariat underwent serious changes both in structure and functioning. We evaluated our performance, our potentials; we squeezed our growing credibility; we produced a sharp Business Plan with a clear vision; we consolidated our style, and.... we succeeded in closing our larval phase. ECNC is today a fully developed and respected "imago" with sufficient credit in performance and an appealing working programme. A mission driven enterprise with its own built-in niche, melding Science and Policy and linking

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many institutions and organisations within the whole of Europe

The challenge of consolidating a truly European conservation actor has been fulfilled. Now, the challenge ahead is to spread our action and influence as much as possible. Thus, we need more resources to grow. A clear path has been marked. After two terms serving ECNC as President, sharing enthusiasm and efforts with great people, I feel more than satisfied, but I feel sincerely that another person should take over. I have been struggling too long with the roots. Now, we need a President to look at the canopy. Institutions are live creatures, enriched and fuelled by the renovated energy of the many people that contribute with their ideas, their work and their patience.

I am confident that we will find our new President and the process has been set in place.

Prof. Dr Antonio Machado
President ECNC