



**Address by Maxim van Ooijen, chairman of the The Hague 2010 organizing committee on the occasion of the transfer of the ILGA-Europe Conference from Malta to The Hague, 1 November 2009**

I have seen eight of these ceremonies, but I can assure you it feels quite different standing here.

The three gentlemen you see here do not represent the diversity of our organization. You will see that when you meet our local staff next year.

We are very pleased with the close cooperation with the federation COC Netherlands. Also I am happy to announce that RozeLinks, together with the The Hague women's groups will be organizing a women's event. So if any of you ladies have any suggestions for this, please feel free to e-mail me or Chantal and we will take it into consideration.

What else have we got? Well, Vienna and Malta have set high standards regarding hotels, palaces, elaborate lunches and good looking waiters. So we will do our best to get you this as well.

We are fortunate to have strong support of the minister for LGBT affairs and the city of The Hague. In fact, the deputy mayor of The Hague has agreed to invite all participants to attend a dinner in the town hall.

We will try to live up to the expectations. Having said that, it is only fair to give you the actual weather in The Hague. It is now 13 degrees, mist and this afternoon rain is expected.

So we will do our best to provide you with a nice indoor program next year.

See you in The Hague.  
Tot ziens in Den Haag.

