Dear Friends, Dear Colleagues, Dear Members,

Spring is there but the World is facing a major war that is invading more or less all Countries, in particular in Europe today. Most of us see their elective practice disappearing.

In these difficult times, redeployment is mandatory in order to help our anaesthesiologists and ICUs Colleagues as much as we can even if we must be very carefully getting out of our comfort zone. Particularly because we and our co-workers are confronted with equipment shortages even for our own protective equipment.

So, if you have time, train and train again your teams in order that they may « jump in » as securely as possible if needed.

More and more colleagues are asking about specific recommendations concerning minimal invasive surgery and COVID-19. For this reason you will find very soon on the ESPES website a “COVID UPDATE SECTION” where ideas, questions, short video’s or images showing how we deal with this pandemic in our operating rooms will be visible.

Of course all contributions have first to be send to the scientific committee in order to be "controlled ". But first of all, as for other Societies, you will find on the website a statement recommending considerations for MIS Paediatric Surgical Practice during the pandemic, put together by our Scientific Committee and “reviewed” and accepted by all the Members of the Executive Board.

Those recommendations are, by the way, to be adapted to local considerations as well as to rapid evolving knowledge.
2020 had to be «THE YEAR» where 3 Paediatric Surgical Societies should meet together. This congress is now cancelled. Many thanks to Holger Till IPEG’s President and Tomas Wester EUPSA’s President and all the teams who worked so hard to make it happen. I’m convinced we will meet together very soon.

ESPES Executive Board and ESPES ETF program 2020 are working hard in order to find an alternative solution. A lot will depend on the evolution of the pandemic.

ESPES committees and EB continue to serve the Society and are working in order to give you more through courses, workshops and the website. More about that soon. Most important today is to overcome this pandemia, remain unharmed you, your family, your relatives and in particular your colleagues and co-workers.

Be careful. But look through the window: nature is showing us the rebirth path.

Warmest regards

Henri Steyaert
ESPES President