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A Message from the President

AEFP

**19/01/23**

**A Message from the President of the AEFP, Dr. Rüdiger Paul Kirsten, regarding the postponement of the Entente Florale Europe Awards Scheme until 2024.**

'I would like to notify friends and past/future participants that the Entente Florale Europe Awards Scheme will be held in its usual form in 2024.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Directors of the Entente Florale Europe, the member countries decided that due to the current difficult situation in the towns and villages across Europe, the annual awards scheme would not be held again until 2024 with participants from all countries.

The ongoing effects of the pandemic in the member countries and the challenges of the current crisis triggered by the inhumane war in Ukraine, have led to lasting changes in the nature of the life in cities and in communities across Europe. The aim of the Entente Florale Europe awards scheme which is to improve environmental awareness and greening in the towns and villages of Europe, remains a very important task for the future.

However, we also recognise that there is a very difficult resourcing and personnel situation in local communities within our member countries, due to the many additional tasks which have to be dealt with.

With the implementation and greater consolidation of the Europe-wide awards scheme in 2024, we aim to send out a signal that the interests of sustainable green development in towns and villages remain a very important issue for Europe.

We call on all member countries to actively encourage participants to take the initiative and come on board with renewed vigour. In addition, there is the possibility for all cities and municipalities in Europe to take part in this awards scheme, without having to be a member of a national organization.

We look forward to continued interest in our activities and are always available to answer questions regarding arrangements for the future implementation of the awards scheme.'

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| **Dr Rüdiger Paul Kirsten** |  |  |
| **President A.E.F.P.** |  |  |