

This Email was send to the EB on the 13<sup>th</sup> of June 2020  
Léontine Meijer-van Mensch

Dear Suay, dear EB members!

Of course, resigning from the EB was not an easy decision and it was not something that I did in the heat of an emotional moment. Actually and to be honest it has been in and out of my mind since Kyoto, already there I thought about withdrawing and probably I should have done so. A lot can be said about the whole MDPP process and I am trying to get an analytical grip on it. Being in this stage of my career is very demanding and I have not found the time to reflect yet – now I am more in the emotional process of separation - but I will more analytically reflect in due time. However, I do not want to depart in complete silence that is why I am writing these lines to you now.

Having an enlarged ego and knowing how to play the game is not completely strange to me. I think we are all members of that same club. We all would not be in the EB and with such professional careers if that would not at all resonate. I do however think that because we are in the positions that we are, we have a moral obligation to be very self-critical. I felt I could no longer be part of a structure that in my eyes is not loyal, that does not play the game according to “the” rules. Knowing that “the” rules are always very personal and cultural, I think that in an organisation of professionals, we should expect a certain level of professional conduct. I deeply respect different political opinions. I deeply respect the democratic system, where in the end a majority decides. I do however have a big problem with serious lobbying, with unfair back-alley political games and not being transparent. I still see Jette standing on that huge stage, all by herself and myself paralysed in the first row. What was my role in there, why did I not stand up? I still see the Australians, trying to find a compromise and way forward. Why did the EB remain silent?

I can and only want to speak for myself, but the actions in the weeks before Kyoto, in Kyoto itself and those the last couple of months are not my world, that is not me. It makes me melancholic that wonderful, highly competent people like Afsin leave ICOM. I still think about this young woman in Kyoto, talking into the microphone, I hope you do as well?

I hope you all stand and commit yourself to our president. A president that I respect a lot and it was an honour to be part of your first EB, dear Suay! I do have fond memories of each of you, these I will cherish and I am certain we will meet again. ICOM is a house with many doors and the EB is just one of them. I do however think that ICOM needs to open the windows, let some light and air in. Paint the walls and re-decorate a bit. I think it would be a good thing for ICOM.

I know for some leaving the EB is a huge thing and I can imagine some of you are disappointed, yet others might be relieved. If you know me a bit, you know that this is a genuine step I need to take and being genuine is important for me.

Warmest, Léontine