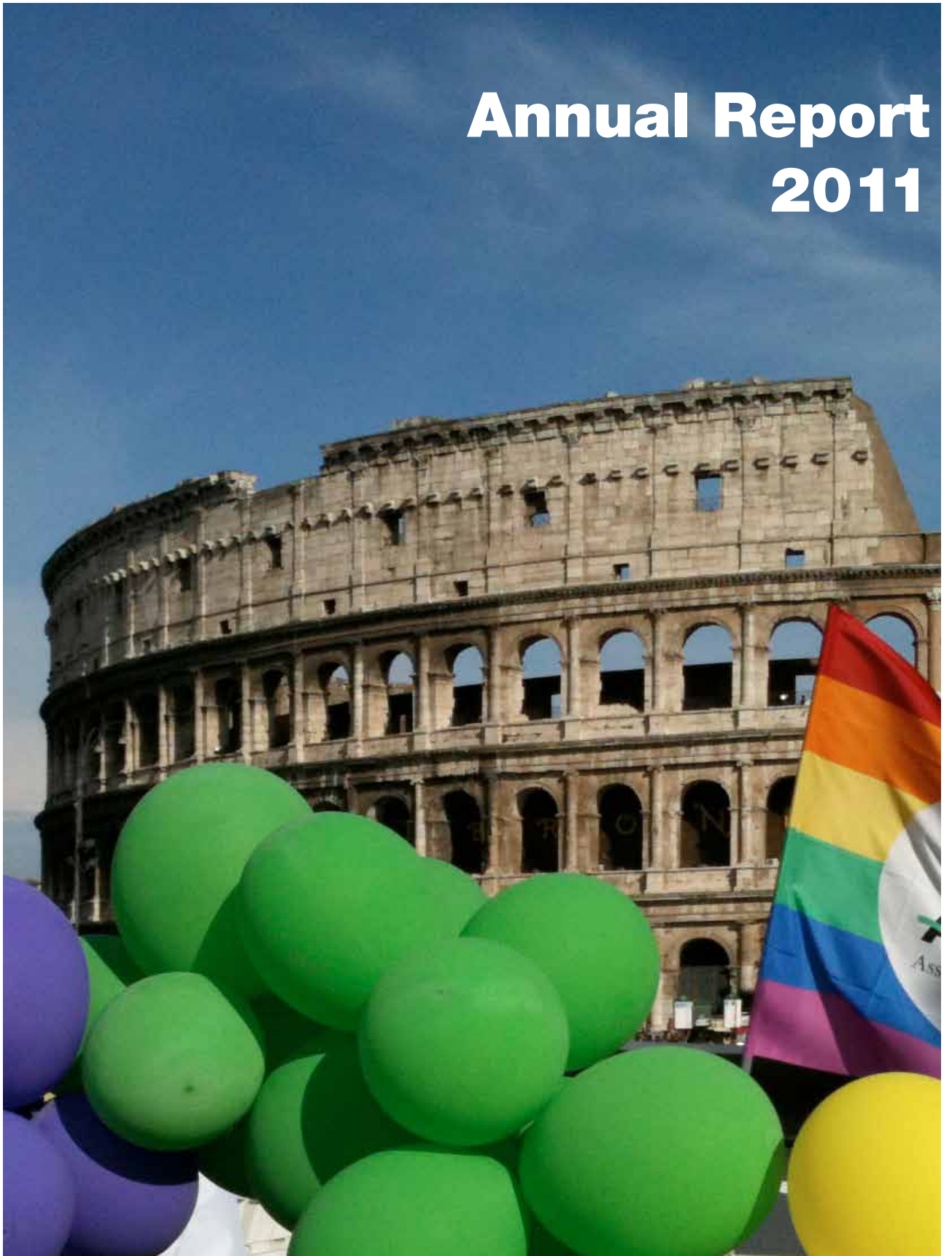




epoa

**european
pride organisers
association**

Annual Report 2011



EPOA

European Pride Organisers Association (epoa) aisbl

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Belgium

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EPOA is a international non profit organisation
registered under Belgian law.

Board

Mark Frederick Chapman
President

Andreas Nilsson
Sekretary

Tomasz Bazkowski
Treasurer

Hans De Meyer
Conference Coordinator

Juan Carlos Alonso Reguero
EuroPride Coordinator

Dimitri Tsambrounis
Outreach and Member Services

Niklas Borefors
Human Rights Coordinator

Members 2011

Hosi Wien

Vienna, Austria

The Belgian Pride vzw/asb

Brussels, Belgium

Zagreb Pride

Zagreb, Croatia

**Lesbian and Gay Pride de
Marseille**

Marseille, France

Tous & Go

Marseille, France

**Lesbian and Gay Pride
Montpellier**

Montpellier, France

AEC Toulouse

Toulouse, France

Berliner CSD e.V.

Berlin, Germany

**Verein für sexuelle
Emanzipation e.V.**

Braunschweig, Germany

Cologne Pride

Cologne, Germany

Hamburg Pride e.V.

Hamburg, Germany

CSD in Konstanz e.V.

Konstanz, Germany

LuST e.V./CSD Nordwest

Oldenburg, Germany

IG CSD Stuttgart e.V.

Stuttgart, Germany

Athens Pride

Athens, Greece

Dublin LGBTQ Pride

Dublin, Ireland

Gay Pride Reykjavik

Reykjavik, Island

Arcigay Milano

Milano, Italy

Circolo di cultura omosessuale
Mario Mieli

Rome, Italy

**Mozaika – LGBT and their
friends Alliance**

Riga, Latvia

**Information Center
“GenderDoc-M”**

Chisinau, Moldova

Roze Zaterdag Nederland

Rotterdam, Nederland

Belfast Pride

Belfast, Northern Ireland

**Jerusalem Open House for Pride
and Tolerance**

Jerusalem, Israel

The Aguda Tel Aviv

Tel Aviv, Israel

Skeive dager/Oslo Pride

Oslo, Norway

Fundacja Rownosci

Warsaw, Poland

**Porto Pride Party/
Portugal Gay Porto**

Porto, Portugal

Accept Romania

Bucarest, Romania

Project GayRussia

Moscow, Russia

**Barcelona Pride/
ACEGAL Barcelona**

Barcelona, Spain

Maspalomas Gay Pride

Gran Canaria, Spain

AEGAL

Madrid, Spain

Stockholm Pride

Stockholm, Sweden

Zurich Pride Festival

Zürich, Switzerland

Birmingham Pride

Birmingham, United Kingdom

Pride in Brighton and Hove

Brighton, United Kingdom

Cardiff Wales LGBT Mardi Gras

Cardiff, United Kingdom

Pride London

London, United Kingdom

Manchester Pride

Manchester, United Kingdom

 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

CSD Deutschland e.V.

Cologne, Germany

ARCIGAY

Bologna, Italy

Summary

By Mark Frederick Chapman and Andreas Nilsson

This Annual Report covers the time between the conference in Rome, Italy from September 23 – 26, 2010 up to the 2011 conference in Brussels, Belgium.

2010 AGM and Conference in Rome, Italy

Once again EPOA returned to the eternal city for its 17th Annual General Meeting and Conference. Our hosts from Circolo di Cultura Omosessuale Mario Mieli made the delegates very welcome. Mark Frederick Chapman, President of EPOA, chaired the Conference, which was attended by 18 member organizations from across Europe. The conference was particularly pleased to welcome representatives from new member organizations: Dublin Pride Ireland, Lesbian & Gay Pride Montpellier, Maspalomas Gay Pride and Reykjavik Pride.

All the usual formalities of the conference were dealt efficiently. EPOA Treasurer Markus Manegold referred that the EPOA's Financial Report for 2009 shows a profit of 3.362,66 Euro.

The Conference also discussed and approved some important amendments to its Constitution on the basis of a Board proposal. This was primarily due to adequate the Constitution to the Belgian Law, since EPOA's headquarters was transferred from Berlin to Brussels last year. The other main amendment is the change of the duration of the Board Officers' term which now last 2 years instead of 1 and alternating years for elections.

The Board also presented the new EPOA website that has been launched during the year. Information still has to be completed.

The delegates discussed also the current joint-membership arrangements with InterPride (the International Pride Organizers Association). They agreed to coop-

erate further with InterPride and maintain the current partnership, giving the mandate to the Board to negotiate a new agreement with InterPride. In order to stimulate a wider and active participation from both organizations, the Board decided that next EPOA Annual General Meeting shall be held in Brussels immediately before the InterPride Conference in October 2011.

Warsaw reported to conference that they have hosted a very successful EuroPride 2010, with a large participation – also from Eastern European countries, where Pride events are still endangered. Positive international and nationwide media coverage hopefully has a good impact on society and politics in Poland. The organization offered to guests from all over the World a large variety of cultural and social events. Despite the success, the organizers are reporting a loss of more than 15.000 Euro.

Rome reported that plans for EuroPride 2010 are progressing well. A big Pride Park, free of charge for all visitors, which will be held in the central and multicultural atmosphere of Piazza Vittorio, and the route of the Parade (from Termini station to Circo Massimo, passing by the Coliseum) have already received approval from the municipal authorities in charge. Art exhibitions, theatre, opera and book reading events, a film festival, music concerts, parties, conferences and meetings have been planned to be held in prestigious locations in the centre of Rome.

Lastly, there was a general discussion about what the delegates expect from the Conference and from EPOA as an organization. As a result of this, the delegates decided that the Conference should organize more workshops to give the opportunity to every delegate to share information. The Board was assigned to organize workshops for the next AGMs.

Marseille was voted to host EuroPride 2013.

The delegates have particularly appreciated the description of Marseille as a multicultural city with a long history and tradition of peaceful dialogue between many different cultures, religions and languages. The Chair of Lesbian & Gay Pride Marseille Mr Jean Marc

Aston said that he is confident that EuroPride 2013 in Marseille would be the perfect occasion to build up an Inter-Mediterranean event, to invite also delegates from the other side of “Mare Nostrum” and the perfect chance to restart the debate about a full equality for LGBT people in France, 16 years after the successful EuroPride 1997 in Paris.

Results of EPOA Board elections

During elections the following were returned to the board of EPOA

President: **Mark Frederick Chapman**

EuroPride Coordinator: **Juan Carlos Alonso Reguero**

Conference Coordinator: **Hans De Meyer**

Diversity Coordinator: **Anita Hillerström-Vagli**

Treasurer: **Tomasz Baczkowski**

Andreas Nilsson (Oslo, Norway) joined the board as Secretary, **Niklas Borefores** (Stockholm, Sweden) was elected as Human Rights Coordinator, **Dimitri Tsambrounis** (Athens, Greece) is the new Outreach and Members Services Coordinator, **Andrea Maccarrone** (Rome, Italy) is now Media and Internet Coordinator. Colm Howard-Lloyd who had previously held this position, could not be re-elected, as candidates have to be present at the AGM. The Board and members thank Colm for the dedicated work he did for EPOA and wish him well for the future.

The board and members especially thank and pay tribute to **Kurt Krickler** (former Human Right Coordinator), **Vincent Lorijn** (former Secretary) and **Markus Manegold** (former Treasurer) for their long, excellent and dedicated service to EPOA. Even though they have decided to not be on the Board, the Board and members hope they will continue to share their experience and passion with them.

Paul McConnell (Dublin, Ireland) was appointed as Auditor.

Outside of the Conference delegates were treated to a full social programme organized by Circolo di Cultura Omosessuale Mario Mieli (Roma Pride), including a gala dinner, a city tour and an “EuroParty” night. Delegates

also had the opportunity to meet the City Councilor for Culture of the City of Rome Mr Umberto Croppi and the Councilor for Culture of the Province of Rome Mrs Cecilia D’Elia. They discussed the impact of EuroPride 2011 on the City of Rome. Both the Councilors were conscious that EuroPride can be a great opportunity for Rome and Italy and granted their personal and institutional contribution and cooperation to ensure the event to be a success.

Board work

The following report highlights some of the main issues that were discussed and worked on during the board meetings. The detailed information and decisions made are reported in the board minutes.

Meeting 1, Rome, September 26th, 2010

- Scholarship fund – started the work
- Anita Hillerström Vagli (diversity coordinator) resigned from the board due to personal reasons.

Meeting 2, Athens, January 15th, 2011

- Decisions were made which bank to use in Belgium
- President, Treasurer and Secretary can approve an unbudgeted expenditure up to 200 Euro. Unbudgeted expenditures above 200 Euros have to be approved by the board.
- Starting the process of getting the domain europride.info back to EPOA.
- Starting the process of setting up Google docs as a working tool for the board
- Establishing a sub-account for the scholarship fund
- EPOA shall work and comment on Human Rights issues if they concern Pride events and related issues. We are not to compete with ILGA-Europe but will seek a co-operation. ILGA-Europe will be invited to the joint InterPride/EPOA conference in October.
- We will provide the necessary information and download of the application form about joining EPOA on the website.

Meeting 3, London, March 26th, 2011.

- The registration is complete. We are now waiting for the public announcement and the final documents. This should be done by the end of April.
- The domain name rights have been finally transferred over to the organisation. We have accepted an offer from “Logic in motion” to host and support the new website.
- The board discussed the proposed structure and gave the president and secretary the task to continue the work.
- The board unanimously decided to postpone the membership invoice until the bank account in Belgium is in order. From that date the members will have 30 days to pay before the 20% penalty fee will be put in order.
- The board unanimously decided to take Euro 2000 from the EuroPride 2011 license fee to start up the scholarship fund.
- The Mark Chapman and Hans De Meyer will discuss how to co-operate with InterPride on scholarships this year since there is a joint conference.
- The board decided not to have a fee just for the EPOA AGM but to put forward the option of applying for scholarships.
- EuroPride 2014 – the board has not sent out information about this to the members about this, therefore we will extend the date until April 30th.
- Niklas put forward a suggestion that EPOA should support the Yogyakarta principles. This was approved by the board
- The board decided to split into working groups and discussed the by-laws in accordance to a proposed new structure based on the following: Administration, Financial procedures, Membership and EuroPride.

Meeting 4, Rome, June 9th, 2011

- The organisation is now publically announced in Belgium. This means that the registration as international registered association under Belgian law is complete.
- The new site is up and running. Every board member is asked to look at the site and propose changes and ideas of further information needed on the site. The

website has not yet been announced to the members.

- Mark Chapman and Andreas Nilsson will continue the work and it will be done at the latest at the AGM on the 19th of October.
- The board will put forward four working committees at the AGM for the members to sign up for. The committees are:
 - Human rights and Diversity,
 - Communications,
 - Scholarship/Fund raising/Finance,
 - Outreach
- EPOA will implement the statues for scholarships given by InterPride.
- We have received two letters of intent applying for EuroPride 2014. At the AGM in October the members will be presented the bids from Athens and Oslo and will decide on which member will receive the license. Athens withdrew their letter of support in the beginning of August.
- A press release about EuroPride 2011 in Rome will be sent out on Monday, June 13th. Andrea Maccarone will coordinate this with Mark Chapman.
- Dimitri will during the summer send greetings to the Pride events wishing them a Happy Pride and take contact after the events trying to get them to apply to become members.
- The board decided that Barefoot Wine is to be the preferred partner at the official EPOA reception during EuroPride events and we will encourage Marseille to do the same thing.
- The constitution has to be updated in accordance to Belgian law due to the registration of the association in Belgium. This will be done and the changes will be put forward to a vote at the AGM. The board decided that at least 30 days prior to the next AGM the proposals are to be sent out to our members. The board will ask our members for their approval of the changes or suggestions to changes prior to the AGM. Because of the limited time given at this year’s AGM we hope to keep the debate short and productive.
- Hans is working with putting together the changes to

Human Rights

the by-laws the board put forward at the last meeting. The out-line of the new by-laws was presented to the board. The new by-laws will be put forward to a vote at the AGM.

During the meeting the board was visited by:

Barefoot wines

Jeremy Black, from Barefoot Wines met with the board and presented the company. Barefoot Wines are sponsoring the official EPOA reception at the Palazzo Doria Pamphili.

OSCE – Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Four representatives from OSCE met with the board explaining their monitoring process of different Pride celebrations across Europe and other parts of the world. Their findings will be published in a report.

New members approved by the board in 2011:

- Arcigay – associate member
- Kölner Lesben- und Schwulentag (welcome back as a member)
- Tous & Go, Marsielle
- Zagreb Pride
- AEC Toulouse
- Accept, Romania
- Barcelona Pride (ACEGAL Barcelona)
- Birmingham Pride

By Niklas Borefors

This past year EPOA has been a supportive Human Rights organization – not a pro-active one after discussions on the board.

We have discussed on the board how we could support other pro-active Human Rights organizations and how we can make to new homepage more available in this area and through the homepage be active toward our members and also link other organizations work and press material regarding Human Rights.

Draft for the new homepage of EPOA – Human Rights page

EPOA recognizes the need for global equality for LGBTI people. We stand behind the belief that all people are born free and equal with dignity and rights.

Some places don't have the rights and freedoms we enjoy, and we want to change that. Visit InterPrides Solidarity page and download important Human Rights information to share with your community.

EPOA supports the Yogyakarta Principles, a set of principles applying international human rights law to violations experienced by lesbians, gay men, bisexual and transgender people to ensure protections. We work to change the world with our visibility at Pride!

We are here and want to help.

Information about EPOA's scholarship program

Links

- **ILGA** – International Lesbian and Gay Association
- **ILGA-Europe** – the European Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA)
- **ILGA World Map**
- **IGLYO** – An umbrella organization for LGBTQ youth and students
- **IGLTA** – International Gay & Lesbian Travel Assoc.
- **Yogyakarta Principles** – a set of principles applying international human rights law to violations experienced by lesbians, gay men, bisexual and transgender people to ensure protections. We work to change the world with our visibility at Pride!

EuroPride

By *Andrea Maccarone*

EPOA, is very happy and proud to proclaim EuroPride 2011 in Rome a great success!

The big parade from Piazza della Repubblica to Circo Massimo, passing by the Coliseum was just the culmination of 10 days of celebration, cultural events, political and business meetings as well as parties. Between June 1st and June 12th the EuroPride Park in Piazza Vittorio has seen thousands of people participating at different events and activities arranged by different associations and the organizers. Also to mention is the great concert of the Pavarotti Foundation at the Auditorium, the LGBTI Film Festival and the International LGBTI multi-sports races.

At least thirty-five floats and one million people participated in the big parade, marching through a sunny and friendly Rome with many guests, participants, and delegations from all over Europe and the World. We were also happy to welcome the organizers of Baltic Pride, LAMBA Turkey and Zagreb Pride.

Franco Dota of Zagreb Pride, a new EPOA member, addressed the crowd at the Circo Massimo and informed about the rights in his country, and the appalling situation in Split where eight thousands Neo-Nazis have prevented two hundreds brave marchers to celebrate their first Pride. EPOA condemns this attack and sends its full support and sympathies to our sisters and brothers in Croatia as well as in all countries where Prides and LGBTI rights are still endangered and attacked.

EPOA strongly supported a EuroPride in Roma in 2011, eleven years after the World Pride in 2000, to support and help the Italian LGBTI community in the fight to obtain equal rights, equality and dignity. Italy is one of the last countries in Western Europe without any kind of positive legislation to protect or promote LGBTI rights, relationships and families. With the strong political march this year we brought the solidarity of Europe to

Rome and Italy. EuroPride Roma 2011 has seen the extraordinary participation of the pop star Lady Gaga. We are very pleased about this uncommon strong and clear support. Her passionate speech, calling for rights, full equality now, freedom, love and dignity to all our lives worldwide was touching as well as her live performance of Born this Way and The Edge of Glory.

On the stage EPOA president, Mark Frederick Chapman and the board thanked Circolo di Cultura Omosessuale Mario Mieli the organizers of EuroPride 2011 for their immense work and success and officially handed over the EuroPride title from Rome to Marseille, organizers of the next EuroPride in 2013. EPOA also invites everybody to come to London in 2012 for InterPrides WorldPride.

We are in the middle of the Pride season in Europe. EPOA wishes all Pride organizers and hosting cities in Europe and around the world Happy Prides of joy and peaceful campaigns for equality.

Report of EuroPride Coordinator

By *Juan Carlos Alonso Reguero*

Following a briefly resume of all my activities as EuroPride coordinator from September 2010 to October 2011.

Promotion

- During the international fair of tourism celebrated in Madrid the 3rd week of January I develop a special promotion of EuroPride Rome 2011 and the EPOA association at the LGTB area of the fair.
- During the international fair of tourism celebrated in Barcelona in April I made the same promotion of EuroPride Rome 2011 and the EPOA association at the LGTB area which is called "Pink corner"

I have developed both events in collaboration with AEGAL. All printed programs, brochures, and informative items of Madrid Pride are displaying the EPOA logo following my instructions in order to promote the association.

All these materials were distributed all over the Spanish territory, certain tourist information corners of Spain in Europe and international fairs of tourism.

In the webpage's of Madrid Pride you could find the logo of EPOA and a little explanation informing about our membership of the association.

- In April, I organized a promotional party of EP Rome in Madrid at OHM disco. We made a promotion at the streets of the neighborhood of Chueca with T-shirts, drag queen etc and we finish with a great session of a DJ of Mucaassasina one of the famous clubs in Rome.

Sponsoring

- In May I sponsored the official presentation of Barcelona Pride in Madrid and I suggest the organizers (ACEGAL) to join to EPOA and to apply to EP2015.
- Tourism delegations from Tel Aviv come to Madrid in September 2011 and I meet them. I offer them all my collaboration and help for reapply to EP in a near future if they wish.

I have attended to all EPOA board meeting except Athens. I have attended to EP in Rome (as every member of the board) and Pride of Zurich invited me as EP coordinator.

Marseille

I invited to Jean Marc Astor to Madrid Pride, once here I had a meeting with him. I offered to be in Marseille during the constitution of the new umbrella association, and collaborate with them consciously.

I travelled to Marseille during October 2011 and you could find the details of my trip on my report.

I offered them the possibility of promotion of the city of Marseille, first any weekend showing the cultural project and EP together and eventually during Madrid Pride 2012.

Finally I offered them all my collaboration for work all together for achieve a great success of EP.

SUGGESTION: I personally think that all Prides, which are members of EPOA, must have in their web pages a link of the EPOA webpage and give some information about it.