

## **Foreword**

*The first European Orchid Council Conference and Exposition (EOCCE) was organized in 1967 in Vienna. The second conference followed 2 years later in 1969, together with the Floralties in Vincennes, Paris. 19 years later, in 1988 the EOCCE was again in Paris, the conference program was in a building at the Trocadero, the orchid exhibition was in a tent on the Champs de Mars, both localities with the perfect view to the most famous landmark of Paris, the Eiffel-tower. I still remember the storm during one afternoon, strong enough to force the responsible of the organization committee to shut down the exhibition for some hours. And now in 2018 we saw the 3<sup>rd</sup> EOCCE again in Paris, not in the heart of the town, but not too far away.*

*The organization committee unified 4 different French societies, the Société Française d'Orchidophilie (SFO), the Société Nationale d'Horticulture de France (SNHF), the Fédération Française des Amateurs d'Orchidées (FFAO) and France Orchidées.*

*The scientific program was held under the title "What future for Orchids". Part of the conference was also an editors meeting, bringing together the editors of the leading orchid periodicals of Europe and resulting finally in an article-exchange project between different journals. Other meetings were held about orchid judging and orchid culture. A large poster exhibition showed results of the ongoing research in connection with this fascinating plant family. Unfortunately we don't have proceedings of all EOCCE's, it is very positive that we will have them from the one in Paris*

*Are there perfect shows and conferences existing? I doubt it, I have seen over the years a huge number of shows and conferences all over the world. There was always a very dedicated team of a few persons behind the event, trying very hard to get everything perfectly organized and planned. We should never forget that everything was done by non-professionals in their free time. There are always things which cannot be planned at all, and it ends always with a certain amount of improvisation.*

*The EOCCE in Paris was well organized and the orchid exhibition was impressive. On behalf of the European Orchid Council I would like to express the sincere thanks to the organization committee LOF.*

*Rudolf Jenny  
Secretary General of the European Orchid Council*