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Press Release

EBLIDA elects new president for 2007-2009



On Saturday the 12th of May 2007 in Reykjavik, Iceland, Mr. Gerald Leitner, secretary general of the Austrian Library Association, was unanimously elected as EBLIDA's new president, succeeding Jan-Ewout van der Putten, for the period 2007-2009.

Gerald Leitner graduated from the University of Vienna in German language, literature and history and also holds a degree in library and information science

Mr. Leitner has previously served on EBLIDA's executive committee from 2005 till 2007 and has been involved in a number of pan-European projects such as PUBLICA and PULMAN and brings nearly 10 years of experience with the Austrian Library Association to EBLIDA.

Addressing the EBLIDA Council in Reykjavik Mr. Leitner said that he hoped that EBLIDA could continue to act as the united voice of libraries in Europe, seeking influence on European Community decisions and initiatives which affect libraries, archives and information providers at all levels. To achieve this aim it is important to harness the full potential of EBLIDA's membership to create a "real team" and use the expertise and experience of the national associations and institutions to further the cause of libraries.

He continued by saying that it is essential that libraries and archives continue to focus on their users, providing relevant services and often to be created in partnerships and projects across Europe.

EBLIDA, European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations, was established in 1992 as a non-governmental, non-profit umbrella organisation representing libraries on a European level. Subjects on which EBLIDA concentrates are culture, copyright, Information Society related matters and information technology. For further information on the EBLIDA annual Council meeting and elections 2007-2009 please contact the EBLIDA Secretariat at ebilda@debibliotheken.nl.