

Diakonie Deutschland | Postfach 40164 | 10061 Berlin

**EURODIACONIA
Annual General Meeting, Edinburgh 2019**

**Diakonie Deutschland
Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie
und Entwicklung e. V.**

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Barrierefreier Parkplatz in
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LETTER OF MOTIVATION – Stephanie Scholz

Neither countries nor social and health services providers can fulfill their tasks on their own. Countries are interwoven into European and even wider contexts, as are, to a certain extent, faith-based social providers as well.

We, as members of Eurodiaconia are fortunate: We have a strong network organized for both cooperation and exchange. Eurodiaconia offers its members opportunities to exchange professional expertise while becoming more self-assured and innovative through first-hand knowledge of the existing models and approaches deployed in other countries.

I'm convinced that our network is strong and dynamic. As a member of the board I want to take part in developing our strategy further to make it sustainable for our mission.

In our local and domestic work, we are all dependent on a solid and enabling social framework, which is influenced by our governments as well as by developments at the EU level. It is at the EU level that Eurodiaconia fights visibly and successfully for this framework, supporting us in our efforts to convince our respective governments of the need for better social policies, as evidenced within the Europe 2020 strategy and the European Semester. This is an area I'm very familiar with due to my activities in Diakonie Deutschland and I will love to bring in my expertise in linking the political work at the domestic and European levels.

I'm convinced that it is very important to support the excellence of Eurodiaconia because it gives us as members a dynamic voice in addressing the Brussels institutions, which draw data and facts from

us in turn.

With this in mind, I would strive at strengthening the very important network that is being built and invigorated by the diverse opportunities of exchange that exist between us and the professional staff. Given the topical networks that we have within Eurodiaconia, I would like to listen and understand where there are some more or different needs for such tools in order to improve our network for all of our benefit.

My approach towards the mission of Eurodiaconia is shaped both by my Christian faith and my profession as a lawyer. Eurodiaconia's political positions are based upon Christian values and are a quintessential part of our advocacy work for the most in need and marginalized people in our society. We all understand that the rule of law, or the making and implementation of laws, is in itself insufficient. It is essential to base economic and social laws on Christian values e.g. love thy neighbor, human dignity as premised on the image of god, and equality.

It is very important and personally motivating for me working for the board of Eurodiaconia that the relationship between Diaconia and the wider society is discussed and advocated within the format of value-based policy making.

Given the further development of the Eurodiaconia strategy I would enjoy participating in the work of our network in order to contribute not only my German perspective but with a view considering all the needs of our members as a whole. This is likely to succeed through viable and fruitful exchange within the board and by listening to our members' experiences. Toward this challenge, I am certain my skills are well met.

In the coming years, Eurodiaconia will be confronted by difficult challenges, both within the EU, and in Europe in general. Right-wing radicalisation, insecurity regarding the future EU budget, and social inequality are only some examples of what lies ahead. As for me, since I started caring about politics my heart beats for Europe. It would be a great opportunity for me to bring this passion into the work and activities of the Eurodiaconia board.