

- **Personal background**

I've been interested in orchids since I was 12. Everything started with a gift plant and a small book, and it was already too late! Since then, I've been reading as much as possible about orchids, I've been visiting as many collections as possible, took part to many field trips and to many orchid shows and conferences. My orchid collection has also been growing! I've published my first article about orchids in 1999 and, since then a lot of other articles have followed. I'm also the author of 2 books about orchids, one small and general book about cultivation and a monograph of the genus Phalaenopsis.

I've been giving lectures in France and internationally (EOCCE, APOC, Canadian Orchid Council, etc.).

I was nominated as editor for L'Orchidophile, the French orchid society journal, in 2012 and elected as a Board member of the French Orchid society the same year. I am still chairing the publication committee and L'Orchidophile editorial board and I'm still a Board member.

Around the same time, I started the training to become an orchid judge, which was completed in 2015. Since then, I've been elected vice-president of the French Orchid Judging association (AFJO).

I'm representing both French Orchid Society (now Fédération France Orchidées, FFO) and AFJO to the EOC AGM and I've been elected to the Board in 2019. I've been taking part to general discussions and more specifically to the judging and journals parts. Together with Sarah Forsythe (former editor of the Orchid Review), we restarted the editors' forum in London's EOCCE in 2015, which was also organised in Paris, 2018. The article platform initiative is now mainly under the wise and active responsibility of Gab van Winkel and helps many European journals to get interesting articles.

- **Why do you want to be Secretary General?**

I would like to give time to the EOC ad to offer my ideas and energy to work together with the Board members and the delegates so the EOC can be more than a show every three years and an assembly of nice people. I would like to improve the collaborations and team working at all levels of the EOC and intend to imply all people willing to help.

- **What do you see as the most important tasks and goal(s) of the EOC?**

The most important goal of the EOC should be to enable the European societies to work together and to empower a European vision for the future of orchids. This vision should go from the horticulture to the conservation, through science and historical records. It is important that the continent continues to exist on the orchid world map and the EOC is the best tool that we have.

- **Thinking from the perspective of an individual member organisation, how do you see the value of the EOC to this member?**

This question is one of the most frequent any delegate or Board member is being asked! It is not always easy to answer it, as the EOC is frequently perceived as a very quiet assembly, leading to slow decisional and excessively bureaucratic processes.

From a French point of view, the greatest value of the EOC has been to make it possible for the two biggest orchid societies to work together during the organisation of the EOCCE2018 in Paris, which finally led to the reunion of the societies in 2020-2021.

The other benefit I would emphasize is the ability to meet interesting orchid people and to share experiences and work together so the European orchid societies can work better and feel supported at the European scale.

- **Do you have ideas in what way the EOC might better serve its members?**

- Judging: develop European standards for training, develop symposiums
- European orchids: propose all members to use the Orchisauvage model developed by the FFO and use this to give data to GBIF or other international big data initiatives.
- Collections: create a European label for important collections (both institutional and private)
- Journals : Gab is doing well managing the platform, I guess we should carry on this way. Maybe we could imagine a EOC journal, published yearly and containing one article from each member journals. This could be a digital only publication and would create a great publicity for members journals.
- EOCCEs: how to make the concept appealing again?
- Communication: make EOC and its actions better known
- Lectures: the Covid crisis has proven that we can organize lectures internationally with no link to a conference, we should establish a lecturers' list and we could also organize a few lectures a year on Zoom so all the member societies could benefit of it.
- International: we should enhance relations with the other supranational societies (WOC, APOC, etc)
- CITES/regulations: we should be considered a good interlocutor at the European level for orchid trade, we should also be more proactive in the diffusion of good usages to the members, noticeably during EOCCEs exhibitions...

- **Do you prefer to keep the activities of the EOC at the present level, or do you see possibilities to find new resources to facilitate additional activities?**

I would imagine to open membership to institutions, foundations and public orchid collections (e.g. Botanical gardens, Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jardins du Luxembourg, Kew Gardens etc.). This would imply to modify the statutes and to imagine a specific role for these new members, but it would widen the membership of the EOC and increase the EOC audience and influence.

If the activities are more dynamic, we can probably imagine getting more member societies. We could also imagine applying for European funds to finance projects (scientific, educational, conservation...) from our members.

The digital tools are making it possible to work more effectively, more rapidly, without being forced to travel across Europe too often. These tools should be greatly considered to develop new EOC activities without important new resources.