



**A message from Tanguy Van Overstraeten,  
BJA Vice-President & Executive Committee Chair**

Dear Members,  
Dear Friends,

We are living in unprecedented times. In Belgium, we are now in the sixth week of confinement and in Japan, most people are going to spend the Golden Week at home.

We are anxiously watching the news and have all unfortunate stories relating to our beloved ones, friends and colleagues who have been affected by the disease one way or the other.

We know that this crisis is not only impacting our personal lives, it is deeply affecting our economy.

Yet, it is impressive to see how resilient and determined we are. Within a few days, we have adapted to a largely new working environment with everyone being connected and continuing to work together, where possible. The online holding of our annual general assembly and our recent communications are illustrations of what our Association has been able to deliver in such a crisis situation.

At global level, researchers are working around the world to find a vaccine or a cure largely relying on Big Data and AI technologies. Our governments are using

or deploying technologies to reduce the spread of the virus, from the use of location data to monitor compliance with confinement rules to apps being developed to trace contacts of contaminated citizens.

This is undoubtedly raising issues in relation to privacy and personal data protection that will need to be addressed and resolved. However, it is also shaping Europe's digital transformation. It will create further opportunities and foster innovation for the benefit of all.

Working from home for so many weeks is also likely to impact our professional lives with some positive aspects however. It will likely lead to a better recognition of agile working that should have a sustainable effect creating more efficiencies, increasing diversity (e.g. helping young parents to stay active while taking care of their families) and reducing the need for travelling which should also positively impact our environment.

These are all important subjects which our Association is exploring thanks to the hard work of its Committees. We look forward to discussing them with you in our upcoming events which we will hold first virtually and then physically as soon as this will be feasible.

We welcome your views and ideas and look forward to rewarding discussions on the ways to go through these difficult times.

Anja, Mika and Joachim as well as our Committees' Chairs and Members are building our future activities with the support of our Board. We are pleased to present the upcoming ones soon. We look forward to your participation.

Meanwhile, please stay safe and healthy,

Tanguy Van Overstraeten

BJA Vice-President & Executive Committee Chair



*A touch from Japan: handmade ceramic made by  
the spouse of Tanguy Van Overstraeten*