



Motivation Statement of Candidacy

Candidate for the position of President: 2024-2027

Erna Winters
Netherlands



[1st Term]

Nominated by:

1. The Netherlands Library Association (VOB), Netherlands
2. Cologne Public Library, Germany
3. Bibliotheek Mar en Fean, Netherlands
4. The Hague Public Library, Netherlands
5. Aarhus Citizens Services and Libraries, Denmark

Present Position: Director, ABC Huis, Alkmaar, Netherlands

In my daily job I'm director of the [ABC Huis](#), which is a merger between a public library and a center of the arts. To bring together two organizations with different cultures is quite a challenge for which I needed both the ability to listen and to look for common ground between the professionals of the two organizations.

In my opinion this also applies to our European library community. It is essential to find the common ground and start from there to work together on advocacy. We have such great libraries all over Europe, from the big cities to the rural communities, from university and research libraries to school libraries. As president I will be committed to work for all of you, the whole of the library field in Europe, from North to South and from East to West. We are all working within the library field, although we come from different backgrounds, face different local or national situations concerning finance, gaining, and maintaining acknowledgement of the governments and issues that we have to deal with. I strongly believe in the cooperation within the European community of libraries, to share ideas and to learn from each other.

Together we can achieve more than on our own, to be more precise: we cannot have successful advocacy in the EU if we do not work together.

In three years time I hope we have established a strong position at the European Parliament and the Culture committee and that we have made big steps towards a European framework that could lead to a European library law.

Between 2009 and 2015 I have been a member of the board of EBLIDA, as member and also as treasurer. I'm also one of the founding partners of Public Libraries 2030. In both positions I've been active and still am in advocating the public libraries with members of the European Parliament.