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Short Bio

I am a professor of political science and Jean Monnet Chair at the University of Rome Tor Vergata, currently also serving as the Dan German Distinguished Visiting Chair at Appalachian State University in North Carolina, USA. I have been working at a number of both US institutions – including the Brookings Institution and SAIS Johns Hopkins University – and European ones, ranging from Sc.Po. in Paris, NUPI in Norway, the University of Lisbon, ULB in Brussels etc. I have also served in a number of policy and senior managements positions in government both in Europe and in the United States.

Proposed program for the term of office 2017-2019

My almost 10-years long experience in the US gave me the opportunity to compare the EUI to the best US academic institutions and the role of the Alumni Associations (AA).

In general terms, **the primary purpose of an Alumni Association is to serve as powerful networking tool for its members, while providing the Alma Mater with valuable resources in both human and fundraising terms**. In order for the EUI AA to really be able to do that, a number of improvements could be introduced. Notably:

1. **Reinforcing the AA's global structure:** there is a need to set up and/or reinforce AA regional chapters and sub-regional chapters - each with a small coordinating committee / coordinator. A good European example is for instance how the College of Europe's AA operates.
2. **Networking events:** networking is an essential raison d'être for an AA. The **general meeting** could be moved from October to the summer, when it is easier for people – especially academics - to travel. Like other top institutions do, AA gatherings could be transformed into week-end long, family-friendly events. Each **national, regional and sub-regional chapters** should also organize recurrent smaller like drinks, dinners, parties, seminars, conferences etc.
3. **Reinforcing the “EUI brand”:** while the EUI is certainly comparable to US Ivy League Universities in terms of research output, in international terms its “brand” is just not as recognizable and valuable on the international job market. A thriving AA – by strengthening the bond among EUI-ers and increasing EUI visibility – can help raising the value of the EUI brand.
4. **Improved and better use of social media:** the EUI's AA currently has its own platform but it is scarcely present on more user-friendly social media such as Facebook, Google+, Twitter which can better increase the AA's visibility and the level of engagement of its members. Currently, there is no way to reach the AA mailing list – a simple tool such as a list-serve would for instance allow AA members to spread news and announcements.
5. **Selective benefits for members:** have we not read Mancur Olson during our years at the EUI? Currently, AA membership comes with extremely limited benefits: essentially an EUI email and the invitation to a couple of events. This offer should be expanded, including ahead-of-time invitation to the Summer Ball, continuous information about the seminars and conferences happening daily at the EUI etc. A “marketplace” could also be of benefit to AA members.
6. **Transform the Alumni into a resource for the EUI.** EUI Alumni constitute the elite of international academia, government, international organizations, private businesses across the world. They could be an impressive resource for the EUI. Just like in the US, Alumni should be encouraged to contribute to the EUI life: from serving on boards to contributing financially, to act as speakers etc. The AA should thus work together with the EUI leadership to make sure this impressive human capital is not dispersed.