



# The World Federation of Rose Societies

Registered Charity No. 1063582

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## **Cancellation of the 15<sup>th</sup> International Heritage Rose Conference**

Dear Member Countries,

I would like to take this opportunity to send you my moral support regarding the COVID -19 outbreak and I do hope you and all your family members and /or close friends are all safe.

You were invited and to come in Brussels to attend the 15th International Heritage Rose Conference organised by the National Belgian Royal Rose Society under the auspices of the WFRS. I wish to thank you for your interest and support.

However we are facing a global health crisis unprecedented for decades, and we all need to follow strictly safety guidelines which have been put in place for each country. We have no idea what to expect in the coming weeks. In Belgium we are on strict confinement / lock down until April the 5th. All countries are adopting COVID-19 measures that are in various stages, which makes the situation very difficult to manage.

The unpredictable aspect of the COVID-19 has led me to take the responsibility to cancel the event. You can imagine that this was an extremely difficult decision to make, given the enormous investment and work accomplished to date, for a beautiful event worthy of the WFRS and the Royal National Belgian Rose Society.

Frans Thomas, President of the Belgian Rose Society and myself are very sorry to have to cancel it, but we feel that the risks involved are too great.

We plan to rearrange the Conference at a future date. I am conscious that we must observe the rules and protocols of the WFRS regarding future planning of conventions. The next World Convention will be held in South Australia in October 2021. In this regard with the « Force Majeure » situation, we will have a

fair discussion to evaluate the different scenarios possible to reschedule the 15th International Heritage Conference.

Rest assured that you will be informed once a decision has been duly made. In the meantime, if you booked to attend the Conference, I urge you to immediately cancel your flights and your hotel reservation before the 26 of March 2020 .

During this challenging time of difficulties and anxieties, let's cultivate and gather our roses as much as we can ...

Many thanks for your understanding  
Keep safe and healthy

With my very best and kind regards

*Henrienne de Briey*

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WFRS President