

Dear colleagues,

As member of the Executive Council I've been able to get to know the inside of how ITI works really well.

ITI is for me the only organisation for performing arts in the world that brings together so many visions – I always feel humble, knowing that I come from a privileged part of the world where there are still budgets to make art and it inspires me to be with so many colleagues.

The reasons why I want to put my candidacy as president of ITI are:

- I strongly believe that the values of ITI and the different views on theatre are the future of theatre – we need to step away from the perspective we are often in and open up with new visions.
- I know that in my position, being part of many boards like Opera Europa, theatre groups, Music Theatre Now Committee, I can really help to move things forward for ITI
- The path that Tobias and Zhongwen took by giving ITI new energy, renewing certain things like the charter, making it more inclusive and accessible, is the one I want to support
- I believe in a strong intergenerational vision, with embracing the visions of the older members and using their ideas for a next generation – a combination is crucial in the long term vision of ITI
- I want to help more artists from different parts of the world to be noticed and picked up by festivals and presenters
- After organising the ITI World Congress in Antwerp together with my colleagues from the Netherlands I think we put ITI back on the map both in Belgium and Holland- I want to help other countries to do the same
- I believe in more international exchange of artists and passing through knowledge and network possibilities

These are the main points that I'd like to focus on besides helping all the committees and the directors of ITI.

I hope I can be of service and bring my network that I've build up in the last 30 years to the use of many of you.

Guy Coolen