Preface

The European Turfgrass Society (ETS) was established in 2007 aiming to provide a common ground and forum for everybody that is involved in the turfgrass industry such as researchers, companies, greenkeepers and others. ETS has achieved its goals through the organization of conferences and field days. So far ETS has successfully organized conferences in Pisa, Italy (2008), Angers, France (2010) and Kristiansand, Norway (2012) and field days in Valencia, Spain (2009); Ghent, Belgium (2011), Monte Carlo (2013) and a regional field day in San Michele all'Adige – Trento, Italy (2012).

In the recent years, European turfgrass industry has experienced unforeseen difficulties due to the worldwide economic recession that resulted in peoples' reduced quality of life narrowing their interest only to the basic human needs, namely food and clothing. Under such a narrow spectrum of thinking, sectors of ornamental and functional horticulture including turfgrass industry have shrunk.

Under these circumstances ETS networking has been proven to be a valuable tool to overcome the hurdles with collectively coordinated actions. These ETS efforts have been taking into account the contemporary needs of turfgrass industry aiming to the sustainable use of natural resources, the environmental protection and considering the perception of various stakeholders.

All the above are distilled into the main theme of the 4th ETS Conference to be held in Osnabruck, Germany "Balancing turfgrass performance and sustainability". In Osnabruck Conference, research and professional experience will merge and exchange valuable and novel information aiming to promote turfgrass management and science under a collaborative and sustainable manner taking into account the current economical restrains. This knowledge and experience will be disseminated in the most efficient manner toward the turfgrass industry through more than 70 oral and poster presentations to the conference participants. In addition, all presentations will be available worldwide through their publication in the scientific journals *European Journal of Horticulture Science and European Journal of Turfgrass Science*.

These accomplishments are the result of hard work and great organizational skills that are performed by the Organizing Committee of the Conference at the University of Applied Science Osnabrueck. My sincere gratitude goes to all members of the Organizing Committee for realizing this 4th ETS Conference in such a short time and in particular to the convener Prof. Martin Thieme-Hack and his collaborator Dr. Klaus Mueller-Beck, President of the German Turf Society (Deutsche Rasengesellschaft e.V, DRG).

All these efforts would be impossible to accomplish without the precious input of ETS Board members. I would like to thank them all for their volunteered work and valuable input in the effort to sustain and grow ETS influence and networking throughout the European turfgrass industry during these two past years.

This volume contains the selected full papers, reviewed and presented in oral form at the 4th European Turfgrass Society Conference. In addition, all other presentations will be published as extended abstracts in a special edition of "*European Journal of Turfgrass Science*". All submitted contributions have undergone a thorough double blind peer review process by at least two independed reviewers of the scientific committee and an additional review from the Editorial Committee. The European Turfgrass Society acknowledges and appreciates the contribution of Authors, Reviewers and Editors which has been invaluable to the improvement of the quality of this publication.

The European Turfgrass Society President

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