

**To all Regular Grand Lodges**, in amity with the “*Orde van Vrijmetselaren onder het Grootosten der Nederlanden*” (Dutch Order of Freemasons).

Dear Brethren,

In conformity with the decisions, taken by our “*Grootosten*” during its meeting on June 18<sup>th</sup> 2011, the Board of our Order has further investigated the causes and nature of the internal quarrels within the “*Grande Loge Nationale Française*” and their repercussions on Freemasonry in The Netherlands and elsewhere. Our Board sought and found discussions with Brethren on both sides of the dividing line in GLNF, including Dutch Brethren living in France and involved with GLNF lodges, in order to get a better overall picture of the situation. We even offered our services in the search for a restoration of Masonic relations between the quarreling factions.

In addition to the information from these sources we received reports about the disturbing developments during the Annual Communication in Paris on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, both from Brethren present and from public sources.

Our Board agreed today upon a decision, proposed by Grand Master Willem Meijer, to suspend the official relations between our Order and GLNF, considering that

- conflicts between the formal leadership under GM Stifani and the ‘opposition’ have escalated further, resulting in a rather unworkable situation,
- the widely publicized quarrels within GLNF provide a stain on the good standing of (regular) Freemasonry in Europe,
- internal mediation has failed to the extent that both parties do not foresee a bridging of the present gap or a solution to the inimical skirmishes now prevailing,
- the rather autocratic attitude taken by GLNF’s leadership has contributed largely to the present situation,
- GLNF’s efforts to be involved in French political circles contradict a key principle of regular Freemasonry,
- as soon as GLNF’s internal relations are restored according to Masonic standards, the Dutch Order will be happy to restore full contacts.

The Hague, December 16<sup>th</sup> 2011

Sincerely and fraternally,



Henk Mreijen, Grand Secretary