

Dr. Harry Hertz,  
Director  
Baldrige Performance Excellence Program  
100 Bureau Drive, Stop 1020  
Gaithersburg,  
MD 20899-1020  
USA

Brussels, 14<sup>th</sup> August 2012

Dear Dr. Hertz,

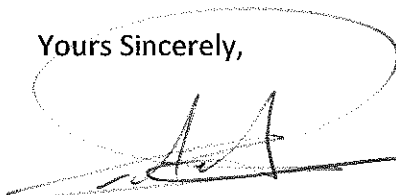
On behalf of EFQM, we wish to congratulate the community and staff of the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program on the occasion of the Baldrige Program's forthcoming 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

At the time of writing this congratulatory letter we have just witnessed the end of the 2012 Olympics and it seems appropriate to take the Olympic motto of "Faster, Higher, Stronger" to describe the shared ambitions we have for our respective Regions.

EFQM is delighted to offer these congratulations, not just as a fellow founding member of the Global Excellence Model (GEM) Council, the inaugural meeting taking place in NIST in 2000, but in celebration of our long-term partnership that commenced in 1988/1989 as EFQM was born and looked towards Baldrige for inspiration and motivation to help it take the first steps towards achieving its Vision for Europe.

On behalf of the EFQM Office and its 500+ membership base, allow me to wish you a magnificent anniversary celebration and continued success in the years to come.

Yours Sincerely,



Pierre Cachet  
CEO  
EFQM