



**Marcel Oelbrandt**  
**Secretary-General IOV**  
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Marcel Oelbrandt lives in Belgium and is busy with Folk Art almost fifty years. He joined folk dance group Drieske Nijpers in 1967 and was leader of the group (1974-1981) who performed in more than 30 countries around the world.

Marcel is President of the Flemish Community of Folk Art, a federation of folklore groups who is member of IOV since 1987. Many Belgian Folklore groups went abroad and had good experiences on IOV-festivals all over the World. In this field he is working together with Etienne Vankeirsbilck, co-founder of IOV.

The last 10 years of his active carrier, Marcel worked as staff assistant for The Flemish Institute of Folk Art (IVV). This institute is working on folklore dances, traditional music and costumes and the institute is accredited as NGO by Unesco. As staff assistant of IVV he joined a group of IOV members on the 2009 First Global Forum on Protection of Endangered Cultural Heritage in Jiuzhaigou, China, and he was present at the sessions of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Unesco in Nairobi, Kenia (2010), Bali, Indonesia (2011) and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (2016).

In 2012 Marcel Oelbrandt was candidate for the office of Secretary General at the General Assemble of IOV in Prague. In September 2013 he became RES Western Europe.

At the General Assembly in November 2016 in Bergamo (Italy), Marcel Oelbrandt was nominated as Secretary-General of IOV.

During this General Assembly, delegations from 37 countries elected the new Executive Committee of IOV. On the picture from left to right: Fabrizio Cattaneo (Secretary), Marcel Oelbrandt (Secretary-General), Hans Holz (Vice-President), new IOV President Ali Khalifa, next to Honorary President Carmen Padilla, Emma Chen Höfler (Vice-President) and Henk Huijser (Treasurer).

