



ECOO NEWS

A YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENTS, AND MORE TO COME: ECOO PRESIDENT REFLECTS ON 2025 AND LOOKS FORWARD TO 2026

As we step into a new year, I would first like to say thank you. Thank you to our members, colleagues and partners across Europe for your commitment, your expertise and your belief in the strength of our professions. 2025 was a year in which we achieved a great deal together and that makes me look ahead to 2026 with confidence and optimism.

But I think it is important to reflect on the past, and in particular to celebrate our successes. So let me start there.

The publication of the [Blue Book 2025](#) was a milestone for ECOO and for our professions. This latest iteration is the most comprehensive overview of the optometry and optics professions across Europe, benefiting from the input of 27 ECOO member countries. It clearly shows that opticians and optometrists are central to primary eye care in Europe, a message that is increasingly recognised by policymakers and health authorities alike.

When compiling the Blue Book, we took the opportunity to align it with the World Council of Optometry's Global Competency-Based Framework for Eye Care. This is an important development for the profession. Which is why, when we

undertook a review of syllabi of the European Diploma in Optometry (EDO) and European Qualification in Optics (EQO) in summer 2025, we also carried out a mapping exercise of the EDO with the new WCO framework. The confirmation that the EDO is fully aligned with the WCO's Framework reinforces the value of ECOO qualifications and supports the future of our profession.

[The I-SCREEN project](#) is playing an important role in helping to further understanding of the role of primary eye care professionals. I am very proud that ECOO is involved as a partner in this project contributing to research focused on the development and validation of AI-supported OCT screening for macular diseases in primary care settings. This work aims to improve the consistency, accessibility and clinical usefulness of early detection tools. And there have already been clear additional benefits for our professions, because we have been able to demonstrate, with evidence, the role we can and should play in primary care.

Behind the scenes, our [public affairs](#) work continues to protect and promote the interests of our professions. For example, the updated [driving licence](#) regulations incorporate amendments put forward by ECOO which will help ensure more consistent application of the required assessments of visual fitness to drive and also that eye examinations can be carried out by any competent professional authorised by national law.

We have also continued to work on the implementation of the Medical Devices Regulation 2017, often in partnership with industry colleagues in EuromContact and Eurom1. This has resulted in new guidance on the application of unique device identifiers for contact lenses, spectacle frames and lenses and ready readers.

All of these developments and successes are only possible because of the engagement and commitment of our members. I was therefore delighted that in 2025 we were able to welcome two new countries – Estonia and Lithuania – into membership, as well as a new Swedish member (Optikbranschen) and SILMO as a new affiliate.

There is a real value in optics and optometry professions across Europe coming together, to share experience and expertise, to build understanding, and to shape ambitions for the future. Our next

opportunity to do that in person will be our [spring General Assembly](#), which will be hosted by our Latvian member in Riga in May, alongside the annual conference of our colleagues at the European Academy of Optometry and Optics. And we will be investing in the future of our profession by once again providing a [bursary for one EDO graduate to attend the EAOP conference](#).

I am proud of what we have achieved together and excited about what lies ahead. ECOO will continue to focus on what matters to our members and to the eyecare sector. I am confident that we will keep strengthening our role in European healthcare, always with patients at the heart of what we do.

With warm regards,
Gabriëlle Janssen
ECOO President
January 2026



ECOO members at the autumn 2025 meeting in Puglia.

ABOUT ECOO

The European Council of Optometry and Optics (ECOO) represents the

interests of optometrists and opticians across Europe. Our members are national professional associations from 26 countries who together represent more than 200,000 opticians and optometrists. ECOO aims to promote eye health to the public across borders and to harmonise clinical and educational standards of optometric and optical practice throughout Europe.