

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2005,
DUBROVNIK, CROATIA,
25TH JUNE.**

SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT

INTRODUCTION

In this report I shall outline some of my main activities as Secretary General of the EPC since the 2003 General Assembly in Athens, Greece. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all EPC members to play an active role in the 2005 General Assembly in Dubrovnik (Croatia). Your input and guidance is vital in the process of establishing priorities for EPC for the coming quadrennium.

1 EPC Membership

As advised in 2003, the IOSDs joined the EPC family in 2001. Since then, two of them, ISMWSF and ISOD, have merged to form IWAS, which is represented in EPC by Maura Strange. On behalf of EPC, I would like to thank Jim Frere, the ISOD representative until amalgamation, for his contribution to our movement over the past years. As regards the remaining IOSDs (CP-ISRA, IBSA and INAS-FID), there is nothing to report.

Turning to national organisations, there have been no requests from new countries to join EPC during the last two years. However, due to a re-alignment in IPC regions, three former EPC members (Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) now form part of the Asian Paralympic Committee. Also, the Maltese NPC has informed us that it does not wish to be an EPC member.

As a result of these changes, EPC now has a total membership of fifty: forty-six National Paralympic Committees and four IOSDs.

During the period 2003-2005 we have attempted to ensure our data base of EPC members' contact details is completely up-to-date. I am pleased to report that, according to the information received at the EPC Secretariat, this is currently the case, and I urge all EPC members to continue informing the Secretariat of any change in their contact details which may occur.

2 Communication

Web site

A new EPC URL (www.europaralympic.org) was launched at the beginning of 2005. We now have our own hosting arrangement and our site is no longer hosted on IPC servers. Our domain offers us the opportunity to set up around fifty E-mail addresses for Executive Committee members and any member who may wish to do so. Cristian Sainz, who is Athletes' Representative on the Executive and works in IT, has been in charge of this project. M^a Isabel Velasco continues to be the Webmaster. She has a severe disability (cerebral palsy), and has her own company operating in the Internet and web site sector.

We identified three initial tasks at our first meeting with her: giving the web site a new look, ensuring the site is accessible for all disability groups, and updating the content. I am happy to report that we have achieved these three objectives, although updating content is an ongoing and time consuming task that depends largely on all those involved in EPC (Executive Committee, members, organising committees, etc.) forwarding up-to-date information. Obviously her responsibility does not stretch to generating the site content.

All documentation for this General Assembly has been made available on the web site, as well as the entire package of documents related to our GA in 2003. Sound recordings of the 2003 GA are posted on the site in MP3 format and may be consulted and downloaded.

Logo

We have designed a new EPC logo in line with IPC guidelines. This has been approved by IPC and is now being used in all publications and documents. We have updated our stationery and stamp accordingly.

Leaflets

EPC has designed a new promotional leaflet and printed 10 000 copies. It includes information of a general nature on our structure and activities. The new logo and web site address have been incorporated in the design, and the pamphlet will be available for all members in Croatia.

Summary of meetings

Immediately after each EC meeting, and also in relation to other important gatherings, we send all members a brief summary of the meeting, outlining the main topics discussed and agreements reached. These are also posted on our web site.

EPC News

At its meeting in April 2004, the Executive decided not to publish an issue of EPC News in 2004, but rather to focus our efforts and limited resources on the web site and leaflet. We also agreed to use the other communication tools we have at our disposal (summaries of meetings, IPC Newsletter, the Paralympian, etc.) to keep members informed.

3 Meetings and Conferences

Four full meetings of the Executive Committee have been held since the General Assembly in 2003, and a fifth is planned for Dubrovnik immediately prior to the General Assembly. We have also taken advantage of our presence at other events to meet informally on three occasions:

Full meetings:

- Athens (Greece), 26th September 2003.
- Zurich (Switzerland), 16th-17th April 2004
- Rome, (Italy), 13th-14th November 2004
- London (UK), 19th-20th March 2005

Informal meetings:

- Athens, Greece, Paralympic Games 2004
- Brussels, 14th March 2005 (meeting of the President, Secretary General and Treasurer with EU representatives)
- Madrid, 14th May 2005 (President, Secretary General and Treasurer, to prepare the GA and Conference).

As mentioned above, we have circulated summaries of the Executive Committee meetings to all EPC members.

In addition to Executive Committee meetings, EPC has also organised one official conference:

- Athens (Greece), September 29th 2003

One other EPC-related conference has been held during this period, in Bonn, Germany, from the 3rd to the 5th of December 2004. This was within the framework of the Paralympic School Day project put forward by Yves Vanlandewijck, Chair of the IPC Sport Science and Education Subcommittee. This project is co-ordinated by EPC and has received generous European Union funding.

In my capacity as EPC Secretary General - and on behalf of EPC - I have attended a number of other meetings which are listed below.

- November 2003, Verona, Italy: European Sports Forum.
- September 2004, Athens, Greece: with Bob Price and Xavi González, to discuss co-ordination between EPC and IPC.
- December 2004, San Sebastián, Spain: International Congress on Technological and Social Innovation in Sport.
- March 2005, Brussels, Belgium: along with Bob Price and Jürg Weber, I attended a meeting with the new head of the European Commission Sports Unit. Special Olympics were also in attendance.
- March 2005, Brussels, Belgium: meeting with Special Olympics.
- March 2005, Brussels, Belgium: meeting with representatives of the German Sports Office at the EU to discuss a possible co-operation agreement.

4 Gifts and Flags

Many EPC events have been attended by top-ranking politicians and officials such as Sports Ministers. These special guests have all been offered a gift as a token of EPC's appreciation. We have also offered gifts to the organisers of some of the events listed above, and to collaborators and volunteers on some occasions.

The stock of gifts held at the EPC Secretariat, such as polo shirts, caps, pens and folders, has been used up. We distributed many of them at the Paralympic Games in Athens since they bore the old EPC logo which we stopped using after the games. We have now replenished our stock with new items bearing our new logo. These are for use by the incoming Executive and shall be distributed widely to delegates and official guests in Dubrovnik.

As regards flags, on many occasions they are not returned by championship organisers. The remaining ones are now rather threadbare. In any case, with the new logo we were obliged to order some new flags, and we now have ten for indoor use at meetings and twenty for outdoor use at championships and similar events.

5 Secretariat

Mr David Stirton has continued working for EPC and for me as Personal Assistant at the EPC Secretariat in Madrid during this period. He works on a part-time basis for approximately eight hours a week and his salary is paid by the Spanish Organisation of the Blind. He also devotes part of his working hours to EU affairs, above all administrative tasks related to the Paralympic School Day project mentioned above in liaison with Mr Bart Schell, the Project Manager, who is based at IPC Headquarters in Bonn.

Since 2001, I have been able to track down and file EPC documents which date from before my term of office, and we now have an electronic minute book containing the minutes

of all Executive Committee meetings held since 1997. Paper copies of the minutes of some EPC meetings prior to 1997 have been located and will be digitalised and added to our electronic files.

We are also attempting to build up an electronic archive of photographs which capture the most significant milestones in the history of EPC. These will be used for the web site and EPC News, but are also available to all EPC members upon request.

**Enrique Sánchez-Guijo Acevedo,
EPC Secretary General,
7th May 2005.**