



Recognised by the IOC - Member SportAccord, ARISF, IWGA and IMGA



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2012 WDSF AGM – BERLIN

Dear Colleagues,

Before I commence with my detailed Report of developments and our work during the past year, I would like to make a clear and very important statement.

I became President in 2006, and immediately after my Election in 2007 in Barcelona, I presented my VISION 2012 project, with the clear intention to strongly develop and change DanceSport during the ensuing years and to finalize the significant changes no later than 2012.

We are now in 2012 and we have finalized one important part of our Vision 2012 project, which was the development of a new all-inclusive World DanceSport Federation (WDSF). As you know, the IOC has been very supportive of our work to become the peak body for all DanceSport disciplines, not just for Standard and Latin.

Since the last AGM held in Luxembourg in June 2011, our Federation now represents not only Latin and Standard, but also all other DanceSport disciplines. As previously mentioned in one of my press releases, these other DanceSport disciplines are now totally included into WDSF. They include:

Latin & Standard
Freestyle – Showdance
Acrobatic Rock'n Roll
Boogie-Woogie
Country and Line Dance
Baton Twirling
Wheelchair Dancing
Our Professional Division
And very soon, Salsa, Hip-Hop and others.

But now we have to present some additional motions to all of you in order to finalize our VISION 2012 Project.

These motions will assist with the conversion of our Federation into a complete Olympic DanceSport Federation, which requires us to fulfil all of our roles and responsibilities as an Internationally Recognised Sports Federation.

My idea, from the beginning, was to bring our Sport more and more into the Olympic direction, in order that we can and should be considered as an Olympic Sport, with all the consequential responsibilities and benefits.



Of course, this means that we are forced to strictly follow all Olympic Rules and Regulations, and that we also need to take into consideration, that a few of our members may find it difficult to make the necessary changes.

At this point, I make a clear separation and distinction between the different ways of seeing DanceSport today.

One pathway is following the so called Ballroom direction. The competitions are held in ballrooms of hotels, perhaps Congress Halls, etc and they still consider these events as shows, entertainment and art. Unlike a sport, these events need to cater for significant commercial interests. In addition, the supporters of this pathway do not accept that DanceSport is a sport

The alternative, and the big difference with WDSF, is that we are focussed on developing in a completely different Artistic Sports direction. As part of this pathway, our DANCESPORT is conducted primarily in Sports Halls or Stadiums because we consider that we are a true Sport. In addition, we must fully comply with recognised sports principles and philosophies including compliance with Anti-Doping.

Even today, when you look at the dancing between these two directions they have become increasingly different. One is definitely show, the other is definitely Sport.

Today we unfortunately have a few of our members who are experiencing difficulties in understanding these two opposite directions.

I also believe that one of the problems is that because of history and culture, these members are depending too much within their countries on the first ballroom direction at the expense of the modern day development of the sport. The teachers of the dancers and the clubs organizing events are all related to this first direction and they have, as members of WDSF, not the same opportunities or power to organize by themselves competitions which abide with WDSF Rules and Regulations.

I understand that it is not easy for some countries to follow our VISION 2012 Project, and that these few members are struggling with the pace of the development of our policies.

This is probably one of the reasons why these member bodies will or have lost some of the dancers inside their Federation. Of course, we all find it disappointing to lose anyone, but athletes and officials all have the right to choose which pathway they wish to follow.

I would like to remind you that the Presidium of WDSF invested an enormous amount of time and effort speaking primarily with English competition organisers, in order to avoid the need to take any action against individuals participating in non-registered events. However, the WDSF has also invested significant time and resources in devising and implementing sporting, ethical and anti-doping rules which are appropriate for an IOC-recognised Federation. In order to be able to govern DanceSport in accordance with these rules, WDSF has a duty to monitor and



(if necessary) restrict participation in events which fail to respect such rules and therefore may ultimately jeopardise the integrity, standards and reputation of DanceSport and WDSF..

There are many examples of other International Sports Federations, like UCI (Union Cycliste International), FIS (Fédération Internationale de Ski), FIVB (Fédération Internationale de Volleyball), FIH (Fédération Internationale de Hockey) or ICC (International Cricket Council), amongst others, with similar problems in their respective sports. All of these Federations, which are also Olympic Recognised or Olympic Programme Federations, have found it necessary to introduce regulations of one kind or another to control participation in non-registered events.

The public may well have difficulty in appreciating the distinction between WDSF events and Non-WDSF events, in particular if Athletes participate in the latter. However, if problems occur in connection with a Non-WDSF event, for example in relation to health and safety, adjudication standards, ethical issues such as corruption, or breaches or non-compliance with Anti-Doping requirements, it would be the reputation of WDSF and DanceSport generally which would suffer.

Unfortunately, I confirm that despite all of our best efforts in speaking with the organizers of non-registered events in England, we were not able to achieve a positive result. Therefore, they are currently not willing to cooperate with WDSF. WDSF remains open to further discussions with these organisers in the interests of the orderly development and growth of DanceSport.

Some of these organisers believe that they don't need or want WDSF involved in their events, as mentioned previously. As a result, we have been reluctantly required to take actions which we would prefer to avoid.

Let me refer you to my explanatory letters and Press Releases dated March 18th 2011 and subsequently on October 25th 2011.

I take this opportunity to also remind that WDSF is the only worldwide DanceSport Federation recognized by the IOC, and that we were responsible for the internationalising of the term "DanceSport" as a consequence of our strategic directions many years ago. In addition, we are the only DanceSport Federation in the world which is entitled to, and has received, the necessary "Certificate of Compliance" from the World Anti-Doping Agency. In these circumstances, if you belong to WDSF, you are obliged to follow our policies, rules and regulations. If you don't want to be part of the sport of DanceSport, then you have the freedom to choose if you want to remain in the WDSF system.

Therefore, this year, as part of continuing to fulfil our obligations as an International Sports Federation, we need to update our Codes of Conduct for Athletes and Adjudicators in order to exercise control over the participation in non-registered events. I hope that all our members can support this motion, as it will bring our DanceSport Federation closer to the Olympic family and consolidate our position as an Internationally Recognised Sports Federation.



I also take this opportunity to remind members of the agreement which we reached during our AGM in 2008, when delegates convincingly decided to require all member bodies to comply with the policies, rules and regulations of our Federation. Members also agreed to implement these policies, rules and regulations in their own member countries. But a few of our members have probably forgotten this decision.

But, again, one of our most important aims is for DanceSport to be admitted to the Olympic Games. In the meantime, we are currently participating in many events recognized by the IOC including the Asian Games, the Asian Indoor Games and the World Games. Please remember that our athletes have already been winning Olympic medals at events such as the Asian Games which are conducted under the control of the IOC's Olympic Council of Asia. As a consequence, we must all be certain and convinced that this is the correct pathway for the future, and that this is what we want for our athletes and our Sport.

The Presidium is fighting for this and we will do whatever is necessary to fulfil our objectives and to have our DanceSport 100% inside the Olympic family.

What is clear to me, is that if the AGM in Berlin decides to go an alternative way to what this Presidium is presenting, and what has been previously approved some years ago as part of the Vision 2012 project, we will not be in a good and strong position to defend the interests of DanceSport and our Federation worldwide, in front of the IOC.

I now refer to a range of other matters for this Report including achievements that we have been able to realize during the last year, which I believe are very important to us all.

WEBSITE-YOUTUBE-IEC

If you have been able to visit our website during the year, you will have realized that it has become a very important communication tool for all our members and athletes. The website is constantly changing and improving, providing information about new innovations and new events, and, on YouTube you can see direct transmissions of the most important Championships and competitions held during the year.

I'm very proud to report that at this moment, we have reached more than 1'000.000 online DanceSport spectators. This is a wonderful development particularly because this penetration is even more that some existing Olympics Sports can produce during a year.

Roland Hilfiker is responsible for our website, together with John Caprez, and I would like to congratulate both of them for the extraordinary job they have done during this last year. An independent Report from Roland is separately enclosed.

SportAccord, the World umbrella body for all International Sports, has generously congratulated WDSF as a result of our online success, and we are sure that this is



also something that will help us to be closer to one of our final objectives, the Olympic Games.

Regarding IEC in Sports, we still have our television distribution agreement with this important Swedish company, and our five main Championships are broadcast through this company all around the world. I thank Richard Bunn for his efforts in this area.

GRAND SLAM BIDDING FOR A FIXED 5 YEAR TERM

As you all know, we have presented the bidding documents to all our members and we have received many requests for holding Grand Slam events during the next 5 years from many countries.

It was very hard to select only 5, but we were following the criteria of having both Grand Slams on the same weekend, evenly spreading events throughout the year, and being able to secure TV coverage.

Lukas Hinder, our 1st Vice-President, will provide more detailed information about this development and process.

NEW ADJUDICATING SYSTEM- CERTIFICATION OF ACTUAL PDA SYSTEMS

As you know, we are continuing to use the new Adjudicating System on all Grand Slams events and Freestyle Championships, and we hope that we can be able to implement this System in all Championships commencing in 2013.

The public and the athletes are very enthusiastic about this new system, because it is much more objective, and it assists athletes to define their strengths and weaknesses in the different dances.

In addition, the public can follow the progress and the results of each couple after each dance. Our TV partners are also happy with this new system despite the fact that it now takes about 45 minutes to complete a final.

With the help from Olav Groehn, we have established our own new Adjudicating Software, and we have been using this since the beginning of this year.

As mentioned in a previous report, we should also this year start using PDA systems in all Championships and Grand Slams. For this reason, we have appointed Olav to certify during 2012, all existing PDA systems worldwide for WDSF competitions.

Detailed information about these developments is included in the Report of our Sports Director.



ACADEMY – WORKSHOPS-CONGRESSES – NEW DANCESPORT TECHNIQUE BOOKS

The Academy is continuing to work very hard. We have prepared three new DVD's, in addition to the two produced last year. They are the new Viennese Waltz, Cha-Cha and Waltz and they are now available.

We have also now started with Workshops, continued with Congresses, and we will now start on specific topics through our Academy. These topics will be primarily dedicated to learning about the five components to be judged in the new Adjudicating System. This includes consideration of all the requirements for athletes regarding Movements, Nutrition, Physiology, Anatomy, Traumatology, Psychology, etc.

We are also developing new DanceSport Technique Books. In our opinion, dancing has changed and evolved over the last 50 years since the first books were written. We hope to be able to make the first presentation of these technique books during our AGM in Berlin 2012.

We are sure that this is something that is needed and will help all trainers and athletes to develop into the right direction.

Please refer to the Reports from Natasa Ambroz and Marco Sietas.

PD – KOREA - HYUNDAI CARD SUPER MATCH 12 - DANCESPORT

This year we had the opportunity to produce a big DanceSport extravaganza in Korea, organized with the help of significant sponsorship from the important Korean Company, Hyundai Card.

Ten of our champion couples in the WDSF Standard, Latin and Professional Divisions will remember the "Hyundai Card Super Match 12 – DanceSport" as a most important event whereby our DanceSport champions were honoured at one of the greatest DanceSport extravaganzas in the world.

The "Hyundai Card Super Match 12-DanceSport" is certainly the biggest DanceSport extravaganza's ever staged. The 8000-strong audience set the stage for a most memorable performance for both our top athletes as well as their fans who packed the newly renovated SK Handball stadium in the Olympic Park of South Korea over the 2 days.

The couples were extremely happy to have been selected to be part of this important two days extravaganza in Seoul, Korea.

Hyundai Card was also very pleased with the success of this event and they distributed DVD's of the event around the World.

We hope that we can continue with this extravaganza in future years. This has become a very important achievement for our Korean Federation and WDSF.



ATHLETES COMMISSION – NEW STRUCTURE AND ELECTIONS

The Athletes Commission needs to be structured in a way that includes representatives from the Youth, Adult, Senior and PD athletes inside that Commission.

We started with elections in all Championships last year, and will continue during 2012. Hopefully we can finalise this structure by the end of this year.

We are convinced that the Athletes Commission is a very important entity inside WDSF and our Presidium, as the Commission can provide to WDSF the views of our athletes in all Sports matters.

Please refer to the separate report.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A RANGE OF DIFFERENT GAMES

We are continuing to work on a number of different Games including:

THE 2013 WORLD GAMES in Cali, Colombia

Please refer to the Reports from Marco Sietas and Lukas Hinder

WORLD ARTISTIC GAMES

These Games will be held in China, near to Shanghai. We expect that they will take place probably during the month of March 2013.

You may remember that in the World Artistic Games there will be up to 8 different Olympic Sports Federations, and one of course is WDSF. We will be presenting Standard, Latin, Freestyle, Formation, Rock'n Roll and Hip-Hop at these inaugural Games. We have been delighted to have been responsible for creating these Games through SportAccord.

WORLD DANCESPORT GAMES

WDSF has also been in the process of evaluating bidding cities for these Inaugural World DanceSport Games, which will include the participation of all DanceSport disciplines now inside WDSF.

I am delighted to announce that Kaohsiung (Chinese Taipei), has been selected by WDSF to conduct these Games during the month of September 2013. This is a very important achievement because for the first time, we will have our own Games, accepted by the different official entities.

INTERNATIONAL MASTER GAMES ASSOCIATION (IMGA)

The European Master Games took place in Lignano last September 2011 and DanceSport was present for the first time with a huge success of public and many of our Senior dancers were represented.



The President of IMGA, Mr. Kai Holmes, was also present on our events and expressed his desire that DanceSport has to be part of all coming Master Games in the future.

The next World Master Games will be in Turin 2013.

I think that this has been a very important achievement for our Sport. Developing a very important competition for our Senior athletes.

FIDS

As you all know, last year the President of our Italian Federation, Ferruccio Galvagno and his Presidium, decided to resign as officers of FIDS, in order to allow for the investigation of irregularities inside the Federation.

Luca Pancalli, President of the Italian Paralympic Committee was nominated from CONI as Commissioner to take over FIDS until the next elections. Carla Giuliani continued as Secretary.

I can confirm that we totally support the work which has been completed by Mr. Pancalli and Mrs. Giuliani, and all the new Technical Officials inside FIDS. As a consequence, I am pleased to report that everything is now perfectly solved and FIDS is again working 100% as a loyal WDSF Member.

ENGLAND – NEW MEMBER – MAXWELL AS PRESIDENT

As you may know, we have a new member in England, DanceSport England (DSE) which has replaced the old member body EADA. The new President of DSE is Peter Maxwell, and we all know him very well.

DSE has of course problems inside England because of the strong position of the British dance establishment, and the DanceSport events organizing companies. However, we are confident that under the leadership of Peter Maxwell we will be able to achieve something important very soon.

Please refer to the separate Report from Shawn Tay.

ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL SPORTS FEDERATIONS (ARISF)

As the Vice President of ARISF, I can confirm that ARISF is working very well, and as you know, it is an active member of SportAccord and practically all members of ARISF are present at the International World Games.

I report that ARISF intends to organize an independent convention outside of SportAccord. Consideration is also being given to organizing an independent Games for ARISF Members only.

These matters will be decided during the next convention, probably end of 2012.



SPORTACCORD

As we all know, SportAccord is the ultimate organizer of the various Sports Games like Combat Games, Mind Games, Beach Games and now Artistic Games. Please be assured that SportAccord is very supportive of our Federation, and in particular what we are doing regarding the World Artistic Games.

I confirm that WDSF as a member of SportAccord has been completely accepted after our name change and the implementation of the first part of Vision 2012.

IOC-SHORTLIST – RECOGNITION – FULFILLING ALL REQUIREMENTS

As you all know, the WDSF Presentation for IOC recognition was prepared and submitted during last year. I confirm that as part of this process, WDSF have again fulfilled all the necessary requirements requested by the IOC.

I refer you to my previous Press Release that WDSF has again received IOC recognition for the next three years. However, I must also unfortunately report that on this occasion we were not selected onto the shortlist of sports for consideration to be included in a future Olympic Games. I understand that we were very close.

Despite the outcome, WDSF was delighted to even be offered the opportunity to be considered by the IOC. We look forward to the next opportunity for consideration where we hope that we will have a greater chance for our Federation to be on the shortlist for inclusion in the Olympic Games.

STRATEGIC PLANING – J.L.BOURQUIN

Jean-Laurent Bourquin, the former long standing Senior Manager of the IOC Sports Department, decided to leave this IOC Department last year, and has founded a new company which is offering advice to International Sports Federations.

Lukas and I contacted Jean-Laurent and asked him if he would be able to be part of our Strategic Planning Group, in order to be able to take decisions on how we have to work and what should be our strategy and objectives for the next five years.

Jean-Laurent has accepted our invitation and we are extremely happy to inform you that he has joined our Strategic Planning Group. The first meeting of our group which included Jean-Laurent was held in April 2012.

Please refer to the Report from Lukas Hinder.

SPECIALISED SPORTS LAWYERS FROM LAUSANNE ASSISTING WDSF

In order to ensure that our Rules, Regulations and Policies are appropriate for those of an IOC-recognised Federation, we have decided to work closely with a very prestigious Swiss Sports Law Practice known as Carrard & Associates in Lausanne, in particular, with Jean-Pierre Morand and Ross Wenzel. This firm are also the primary Sports Lawyers for the IOC, WADA and a number of other Olympic Federations.



Mr. Ross Wenzel will be present at our next AGM in Berlin, in order to explain the detail of, and reasons behind, the proposed amendments to our Codes of Conduct, Statutes and Disciplinary Council Code.

We are delighted that our Federation has access to the services of such excellent Sports Lawyers in such an internationally prestigious and important Sports Law practice.

Please refer to the separate Report from Lukas Hinder.

VISION 2012 – ASSOCIATE MEMBERS- IDO – IPC (SEE PRESS RELEASE 24.6.2011)

As you can see by the Press Release I sent out after the last AGM, we are on the way to fulfilling our VISION 2012 Project with all the Associated Members. I confirm that we will continue discussions with IDO in order to find a way that we can work with their athletes, mainly Salsa and Hip-Hop, for our next Games.

We also are in discussions with the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), and we hope that at latest by next year, we will be in a position to also incorporate Wheelchair DanceSport as a Division inside WDSF.

WDSF COMPETITION RULEBOOK – NEW PROPOSAL

As you can see from the separate presentation from Michael Eichert and Marco Sietas, we are presenting to you a new Competition Rule Book which incorporates all WDSF Rules and Regulations.

I want to thank Michael Eichert for the extraordinary work done and we hope that our members can accept this new comprehensive Rule book as our only guide for the future.

We will present a motion to accept this new Rulebook and I really hope that you all can agree to its acceptance.

RUSSIA – CURRENT SITUATION – THE FACTS

To refresh your understanding of recent developments in Russia, I have reproduced below a copy of the letter I sent to all of you on January 25, 2012:

Governmental and sporting authorities in Russia have informed the World DanceSport Federation that its National Member Body, the Russian DanceSport Federation, had its recognition suspended for a period of 90 days from 23 December 2011.

The Russian Ministry for Sports decided to suspend the recognition of the national federation governing DanceSport in Russia on the grounds of serious and substantiated allegations that the latter's conduct was not in compliance with the laws and ethics relating to the proper governance and administration of sports in Russia.



As a consequence, the World DanceSport Federation Presidium decided to suspend Mr Pavel Dorokhov as a Member of the Presidium, without any prejudice at this time, in order to facilitate an impartial and expeditious investigation into the serious allegations brought forward by the Russian governmental and sporting authorities. The duration of the suspension is subject to the ongoing investigations into the allegations, which are carried out by the Russian authorities and, independently, by the World DanceSport Federation

At the same time, the World DanceSport Federation communicates that the foremost Russian authorities have formally assured the Presidium that all competitions granted to the Russian DanceSport Federation will be conducted under the terms agreed upon by the latter, and that all championships and opens will take place as scheduled starting from 2 February 2012.

The Committee of National and Non-Olympic Sports, under the mandate of the Ministry for Sports and the Russian Olympic Committee, will supervise the proper staging of all WDSF DanceSport competitions in Russia until further notice.

The World DanceSport Federation will provide further information on the matter in the near future.

In February of this year, with support from a range of Russian Sports authorities, a new DanceSport Federation was formed with the name Russian DanceSport Union (RDSU). I confirm that all our Associated Members, in compliance with VISION 2012, also belong to this new Federation.

Since the suspension of the state registration of DSFR came into force, all events in Russia have been held on an exceptional basis with the help of this new Federation and the Committee of National and Non-Olympic Sports; the one unfortunate exception was the European Youth Latin Championship, which had to be cancelled on short notice.

On March 28, the newly formed RDSU received official recognition from the Ministry of Sports, as the only DanceSport Federation recognized in Russia for the next 4 years (2012-2016). The withdrawal of the state recognition of DSFR has been extended until 2016. Therefore, RDSU is now the only DanceSport Federation which can hold National or International events in Russia.

In addition, I advise that the RDSU has received the recognition of the National Olympic Committee of Russia. We know that many of our athletes and many of the regional DanceSport representatives now belong to this new Federation.

In view of the above, in particular the fact that the RDSU is the only DanceSport Federation in Russia permitted to organise events until (at least) 2016, we believe that we have no choice but to make an important change as to which body represents Russia as a member of WDSF. We will therefore ask for the approval of our AGM to expel our existing member DSFR.

I can also inform you that RDSU has made an application to become a member of WDSF. In the event that the General Meeting decides to expel the DSFR, the



Presidium will aim to consider as expeditiously as possible the application of RDSU for membership.

WDSF REGISTRATION AND LICENSING SYSTEM - RLS – ID CARDS

Michael Eichert is presenting a report about the current situation on the RLS, and that we want to implement very soon ID cards for all dancers, which will make the work of the organizer of competitions much easier and more effective.

With this new system, we believe that it will be much easier to control our athletes, the status they all have inside the Federation, and assist in meeting Ant-Doping obligations including compliance with the international ADAMS system.

Please see the separate report from Michael Eichert and Shawn Tay and please be so kind and read it very carefully.

MEMBERSHIP COMMISSION – NEW FOCUS (AFRICA)

In recent years, we have focused very much on Latin America. In this regard, we are very proud to inform you that our members in South America are now organizing very important WDSF events, and that in most of these competitions more than 300 couples are participating. This is a big achievement and this year in October, we will be ready for the first Pan-American Championship, where hopefully also Canada and USA will be present.

Starting immediately, we will now focus on Africa, where unfortunately DanceSport has not progressed in the way which we expected some years ago.

To commence this new focus, our Membership Commission will start to implement and develop DanceSport in the African Continent. As part of the development process, the Membership Commission will commence arranging for DanceSport Training and Workshop sessions in Africa.

Please refer to the separate Report from Marco Sietas.

SPORT AFFAIRS

I am very pleased with the number of new competitions in the last year.

This has been partly responsible due to the changes in many of the Rules regarding Ranking Points, including the importance of events and new Cups. Therefore, please be so kind and look very carefully to Marco Sietas' Report.

2012 WDSF LONG AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

We started last year with the Awards for Exceptional Collaboration and contribution to the WDSF during the last year and this year we are very proud to give this very prestigious Award to a person who is present during most of our important competitions and Championships and always makes positive Reports for different magazines with excellent pictures and movies. This year the WDSF Long and



Distinguished Service Award will be presented to an exceptional photographer and friend of DanceSport, Helmut Roland.

I sincerely thank Helmut, for all of his dedication and selfless work for DanceSport and WDSF.

DISCIPLINARY COUNCIL

I advise that Erich Staeldi has decided to step down as Chair of the WDSF Disciplinary Council. Although I am disappointed, I can understand his decision as he cannot dedicate any more time to this important task. I sincerely thank Erich for all his very hard work over the years, and I confirm that we have to find a new person who can take care of this very important position inside WDSF.

We will have new elections this year, as the term for this Council was 2009-2012, and we hope that we can obtain the services of a new person who has the time to dedicate to this very sensitive and important position as Chair of the WDSF Disciplinary Council.

The proposal for a new Chair and members of the Disciplinary Council will be made during the AGM in Berlin.

REPLACEMENT OF FERRUCCIO GALVAGNO BY NOUNE MARTY

As you know, after the problem inside FIDS, Ferruccio Galvagno resigned as a member of the WDSF Presidium, and it is now time to replace this position inside our Presidium.

We would like to propose the President of the Fédération Française de Danse, Mrs. Nouné Marty to fill this position.

Nouné is a very active person and I can confirm that she has completely changed how the French Federation worked before, and how it is working today. Inside the French Federation all DanceSport disciplines are now represented in the same way as we have in WDSF. In addition, I believe that we can all appreciate that France is growing very quickly in the quality and quantity of its athletes.

Nouné Marty is prepared to work very hard for our Federation and I'm sure that with her inclusion in the WDSF Presidium we will have a very important new member helping with our hard work.

REPLACEMENT OF DANIELE TONDON BY ALEXANDER MELNIKOV

As you all know, Daniele Tondon has also resigned as Director of the WDSF Professional Division, and the Presidium of the PD has elected Alexander Melnikov as its new Director. Mr Melnikov was previously the Vice-Director of the PD.

I know that it is not easy work for Alexander and he is working now very hard to have our Professional Division growing and becoming more and more important over time in our Dance world.



Please see the separate Report from Mr. Melnikov and you will realize that we now have many PD events during the year. As a result, all our Professional athletes can participate practically every month in important competitions.

It is very important to understand that during the last two years, all of our WDSF World Champions who have turned Professional have continued being part of our WDSF Professional Division. As more opportunities continue to be found for PD couples, we really hope that athletes can see the benefits of remaining within the WDSF DanceSport system. This is not a short term project of WDSF but part of a long term strategic plan.

THANKS

I sincerely thank all Presidium Members for the hard work they have performed during this last year.

As mentioned on a number of times in my report, it was not an easy year, with some significant challenges inside WDSF.

With our VISION 2012 Project, and our continuing development as an Olympic Sport, we continue to be required to fulfil a range of obligations and responsibilities. In these circumstances, a few of our member bodies have experienced difficulties in fully appreciating that compliance with Olympism is the only way of fully developing DanceSport.

I will not individually mention all the Presidium Members, but I thank all of them for the extremely important dedication to our Sport, and for taking so much time from their business and personal lives to help solve our day to day matters and our internal challenges.

I would also like to thank all the people who are working so hard for WDSF, from outside, like our Communication Department, with the excellent website we have today and all the direct transmissions of our events. I also offer my very special thanks to all delegates, officers and officials of WDSF Member bodies because without you there would be no DanceSport and no WDSF.

Finally, I want to thank, of course, our Secretary in our Barcelona office for the excellent work she has performed during the whole year for all of us.

In conclusion, I believe that we live in exciting and challenging times, and that together we can continue to build something special, something unique and something that will allow DanceSport to develop to its fullest potential.

Carlos Freitag

WDSF President