

## **Euro-Meetings Report 2006**

**Dear Friends ,**

**Another excellent season of athletics within Europe is over, a year highlighted by many great meetings that not only served as perfect preparation to the European Championships and several IAAF global events ( that were successfully conducted in Europe ) but showed the traditional value of our circuit .**

**We have great optimism for the future and refuse to share in certain pessimistic views concerning the direction of the sport . We are witnessing the arrival of some new stars into our sport ,  
.....athletes who can command the interest the public , the sponsors and the media alike with performance on the track , then match it with a commanding personality outside the stadium . This development of thee new stars is essential for our sport to blossom again**

**There are two areas of great concern that can impact on our future  
.....the necessity for a wider television audience and the resolve to freeing the sport of the tarnish that is associated with doping .**

**At all levels on Euromeetings , it is essential that we broaden our horizon in regard to television coverage . The sport needs to be taken to the general public on “free to air” television as well as the more unique coverage that exists for certain meets on cable or satellite networks . It is important that the broadcast of the meets gets to a wider audience as possible and this purpose is best served by “ free to air” networks . We need the sport of track and field into as many lounge rooms around Europe as possible . Bigger audience figures can promote greater sponsorship .**

**The viewing figures of the EAA’s European Championships confirm this market is not only viable but demanding of quality that emanates from within Europe . A strong Europe will dictate that the sport is strong elsewhere around the globe & we will be doing the IAAF’s job for them as well as cementing our own futures.**

**Once again our sport in Europe has been smeared by foreign athletes bringing their immoral standards to our circuit and providing us with too much negative publicity and threatening the credibility of our sport**

**How can we as Euro-Meetings do anything to sort out these problems ? There are several options and a number of very positive initiatives that we can institute .....**

- **Demand full penalties for athletes with positive doping-tests from IAAF & member Federations that are handed down with speed ( not months and months after the offence )**
- **Implore the IAAF & the Federations to fast-track sanctions so that another Federation's problems do not become our problem in Europe ( why should a doping problem in USA become our problem ? )**
- **Whilst we inevitably hear of those caught in positive tests , it seems that no one approaches the media to give the other side of the story.....how many negatives tests are recorded and how thorough the testing procedure has now become ( especially in Europe ) A need for positive propaganda on this issue is vital and must come from IAAF & EAA .**
- **Make demands on IAAF & Federations to deal with ( perhaps ban ) and deregister coaches and managers who are serial offenders with athletes constantly emerging in doping cases .**
- **Make sure that athletes who have failed a 1<sup>st</sup> test are not allowed by IAAF and/or member federations to compete on our circuit .**
- **Contemplate a registration scheme for Federations , athletes , managers and coaches .....whereby members of Euro Meetings can bring litigation ( and retrieval of funds ) against those who may have taken money from our circuit under false pretences . We work very hard to raise these funds and deserve some indemnity against those who breaks the rules .**

**As previously stated , we are confident about the future of Euro Meetings . We implore all members to concentrate on their dates and schedule of events so that we can achieve a harmonious and successful 2007 season**

**The sport deserves this and so do the members of Euro Meetings, who work tirelessly to create the only real circuit in athletics .**

**We will today go through our Constitution and we have proposed some changes to make Euro Meetings a stronger body inside the athletic world.**

**Further we will have elections for the board for the next 4 year period.**

**We close this report with congratulations to you all for the excellent work you do for athletics and we wish you all the best for the New Year as we work towards “ a better tomorrow”.**

**Kind regards the Board of Euro Meetings**

**Varna 12<sup>th</sup> October 2006**

**Svein Arne Hansen  
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1st Vice President**

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