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Newsletter of the European Athletic Association 3|05 December



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President's Message

HANSJÖRG WIRZ



It was a pleasure to see so many members of the European Athletics family at the recent European Athletics Calendar Conference and

Extraordinary Congress in Reykjavik, and it was an opportunity for us to present the importance of the 'European Athletics – the need for change' project for the future of our sport.

The Congress also took a significant decision for the future in approving the new EAA Constitution. The Constitution reflects the new era we are entering and better reflects the complexity of the operation of a modern sports organisation.

At its meeting in Amsterdam at the beginning of October, the EAA Council adopted a framework for change, recognising that European Athletics currently faces a number of challenges. Although the sport is not in immediate danger, we have a responsibility to consider what the situation could be in five or ten years time and act now to ensure that athletics continues to be a popular and attractive sport.

The EAA does not want to move forward in isolation, but in cooperation with the IAAF and of course our Member Federations. We want to set up a joint high-level working group with the IAAF as soon as possible to consider matters of common interest

such as a restructuring of the competition calendar, the creation of new competition formats and how to attract more young people to the sport.

World athletics is becoming ever more competitive and it is increasingly difficult for European athletes to win medals on the world stage. This year, for the first time, less than half the finalists at the World Championships came from Europe and the percentage of medals won fell to a low of 45%, compared to 64% at the 1988 Olympic Games. This is one of the challenges that we have to address.

We also have to ensure that the sport of athletics continues to meet the needs of modern society. Athletics must touch people's lives and involve them on an emotional level. There are many new and different leisure activities in today's world and we need to develop new ways of presenting athletics to attract and retain fans. We need to regard our events as a piece of entertainment.

2006 will be an extremely important year for the EAA as we move forward with the framework for change. In addition, our flagship event, the European Athletics Championships, take place in Gothenburg in August and will be a fantastic showcase for our sport. I am sure that with the support of the whole European Athletics family, our partners and the media, we can make next year a great success.

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Waterford Crystal European Athlete of the Year Trophy 2005



This year, the EAA will award the Waterford Crystal European Athlete of the Year Trophy for the 13th time. You can help choose the winners in the internet poll on www.european-athletics.org until 31 December – and win a trip to next year's European Athletics Indoor Cup in Liévin, France, on 5 March.

The winners of the Waterford Crystal European Athlete of the Year Trophy 2005 will be decided by votes from EAA Member Federations, the media and the general public, with the results from each group of voters counting for one third of the athlete's final score.

Amongst the shortlist of 22 men and 22 women are 18 world champions, three world record breakers and 18 leaders of the IAAF world rankings for their event.

Contenders: Men

■ VIRGILIJUS ALEKNA (LTU), DISCUS

Won in Helsinki with a last round throw of 70.17m, the first ever 70m plus throw in a global championships. Only beaten once all year, he lies fourth in the IAAF overall world rankings.

World Championships	1
World/European Season List	1/1
World Ranking (overall/event)	4/1
World Athletics Final	1

■ RALF BARTELS (GER), SHOT

Bronze medallist in Helsinki with 20.99m and winner of the SPAR European Cup in June, he set a personal best of 21.36m in May.

World Championships	3
World/European Season List	5/2
World Ranking (overall/event)	100/5
World Athletics Final	4
SPAR European Cup	1

■ TIM BENJAMIN (GBR), 400M

Broke 45 seconds for 400m for the first time this year, dipping under the mark a total of five times with a best of 44.56 at the World Athletics Final to go eighth on the European all-time list.

World Championships	5
World/European Season List	7/1
World Ranking (overall/event)	50/2
World Athletics Final	2

■ RENS BLOM (NED), POLE VAULT

Became the first ever male Dutch Gold medallist at a global championship when he cleared 5.80m in difficult weather conditions to win in Helsinki.

World Championships	1
World/European Season List	12/3
World Ranking (overall/event)	92/3
World Athletics Final	8

■ YURIY BORZAKOVSKIY (RUS), 800M

Heads the IAAF world rankings for his event and took the Silver medal in Helsinki. Was the quickest European this year with 1:44.18.

World Championships	2
World/European Season List	4/1
World Ranking (overall/event)	34/1
World Athletics Final	3

■ VADIM DEVYATOVSKIY (BLR), HAMMER

Although only ranked number two in his own country this year behind Ivan Tikhon, his 84.90m throw in July took him to fourth on the European all-time list. Won the Silver medal behind Tikhon in Helsinki.

World Championships	2
World/European Season List	2/2
World Ranking (overall/event)	72/2
World Athletics Final	3

■ LADJI DOUCOURE (FRA), 110M HURDLES

Became only the second ever European hurdler to run under 13 seconds with 12.97 at the French Championships in July. Won Gold at the World Championships in both the 110m hurdles and the 4x100m and was European Indoor champion earlier in the year.

World Championships	1
European Athletics Indoor Champs	1
World/European Season List	1/1
World Ranking (overall/event)	6/1
World Athletics Final	6
SPAR European Cup	1

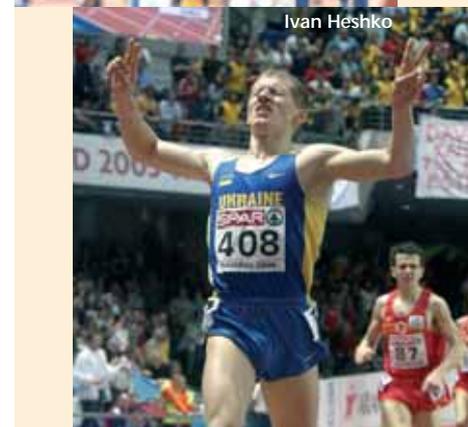
■ FRANCISCO JAVIER FERNANDEZ (ESP), 20KM WALK

Leader of the IAAF world race walking rankings, he was a Silver medallist in Helsinki and also the winner of the IAAF Race Walking Challenge.

World Championships	2
World/European Season List	3/1
World Ranking (overall/event)	29/1



Ladji Doucouré



Ivan Heshko



Stefan Holm

■ IVAN HESHKO (UKR), 1500M

Gold medallist at the European Athletics Indoor Championships in March and winner at the World Athletics Final, he just missed out on a medal in Helsinki, finishing fourth.

World Championships	4
European Athletics Indoor Champs	1
World/European Season List	9/2
World Ranking (overall/event)	24/3
World Athletics Final	1

■ STEFAN HOLM (SWE), HIGH JUMP

Cleared a personal best of 2.40m, the highest jump indoors since 1994, to win the European Indoor title in March and tops the IAAF world rankings for his event.

World Championships	7
European Athletics Indoor Champs	1
World/European Season List	3=/2=
World Ranking (overall/event)	25/1
World Athletics Final	3



GERD KANTER (EST), DISCUS

Won a Silver medal in Helsinki and then took the World University title a week later. His national record of 70.10m in April moved him to tenth on the European all-time list.

World Championships	2
World/European Season List	2/2
World Ranking (overall/event)	32/2
World Athletics Final	2

SERGEY KIRDYAPKIN (RUS), 50KM WALK

Winner of the 50km walk in Helsinki in a personal best time of 3:38:08 which took him to eighth on the European all-time list.

World Championships	1
World/European Season List	3/1
World Ranking (overall/event)	-/-

YURIY KRIMARENKO (UKR), HIGH JUMP

Surprise winner of the Gold medal at the World Championships where he was the only man to clear 2.32m.

World Championships	1
World/European Season List	7=5=
World Ranking (overall/event)	216/8
World Athletics Final	8

MARIAN OPREA (ROM), TRIPLE JUMP

Bronze medallist in Helsinki, he moved to fourth on the European all-time list with his national record of 17.81m in Lausanne in July.

World Championships	3
World/European Season List	1/1
World Ranking (overall/event)	38/1

TERO PITKÄMÄKI (FIN), JAVELIN

Threw over 90 metres in three competitions in 2005 with a best of 91.53m in June to place him sixth on the European all-time list. Tops the world rankings in his event and lies 16th overall.

World Championships	4
World/European Season List	1/1
World Ranking (overall/event)	16/1
World Athletics Final	1

RONALD POGNON (FRA), 100M

Became only the fifth ever European sprinter and the first Frenchman to run under 10 seconds for 100m with 9.99 in Lausanne in July. Set a European record for 60m of 6.45 seconds in February and won 4x100m Gold in Helsinki.

European Athletics Indoor Champs	2
World/European Season List	5=1
World Ranking (overall/event)	50/5
SPAR European Cup	1

ROMAN SEBRLE (CZE), DECATHLON

European Indoor champion in March, he went on to take the Silver medal at the World Championships and was the winner of the IAAF World Combined Events Challenge.

World Championships	2
European Athletics Indoor Champs	1
World/European Season List	2/1
World Ranking (overall/event)	40/1

RUTGER SMITH (NED), SHOT

Silver medallist at both the World Championships and European Athletics Indoor Championships, he has set national records both indoors (20.79m) and outdoors (21.41m) this year.

World Championships	2
European Athletics Indoor Champs	2
World/European Season List	4/1
World Ranking (overall/event)	136/6

ANDREAS THORKILDSEN (NOR), JAVELIN

Silver medallist in Helsinki, he has set four national records this year with his best of 89.60m at the World Athletics Final taking him to 10th on the European all-time list.

World Championships	2
World/European Season List	3/3
World Ranking (overall/event)	30/2
World Athletics Final	2

IVAN TIKHON (BLR), HAMMER

World champion and unbeaten this year, he threw 86.73m in Brest on 3 July to miss the world record by just one centimetre.

World Championships	1
World/European Season List	1/1
World Ranking (overall/event)	34/1
World Athletics Final	1

ANDRUS VÄRNIK (EST), JAVELIN

Took the world title in Helsinki with a throw of 87.17m and also won at the Golden League meeting in Rome.

World Championships	1
World/European Season List	5/4
World Ranking (overall/event)	165/4
World Athletics Final	8

SIMON VROEMEN (NED), 3000M STEEPLECHASE

Set a new European record of 8:04.95 in Brussels on 26 August and finished fifth and first European at the World Championships.

World Championships	5
World/European Season List	5/1
World Ranking (overall/event)	174/11
World Athletics Final	9



Roman Sebrle

Contenders: Women

TATYANA ANDRIANOVA (RUS), 800M

Won the Bronze medal at the World Championships and is quickest in the world this year with her personal best of 1:56.07 at the Russian Championships.

World Championships	3
World/European Season List	1/1
World Ranking (overall/event)	36/3
World Athletics Final	8

CHRISTINE ARRON (FRA), 100M & 200M

Won her first individual medals at a global championship when she took two Bronzes in Helsinki. Won over 100m at five of the six Golden League meetings and ran under 11 seconds seven times in 2005.

World Championships	3/3
World/European Season List	
100m	4/1
200m	4/1
World Ranking (overall/event)	10/1&3
World Athletics Final 200m	3
SPAR European Cup 100m/200m	1/1

EUNICE BARBER (FRA), HEPTATHLON & LONG JUMP

After a great battle with Carolina Klüft, won the Silver medal in the heptathlon in Helsinki and then added the Bronze medal in the long jump. Set a new French record of 6889 points in Arles in June.

World Championships Hep/LJ	2/3
World/European Season List Hep	1/1
LJ	8/7
World Ranking (overall/event LJ)	14/7
World Athletics Final LJ	4

KAJSA BERGQVIST (SWE), HIGH JUMP

Came back from a career threatening injury to dominate the 2005 season, winning all her competitions including the World Championships with 2.02m.

World Championships	1
World/European Season List	1/1
World Ranking (overall/event)	21/1
World Athletics Final	1

FRANKA DIETZSCH (GER), DISCUS

World champion in Helsinki with a season's best of 66.56m, she also won at the SPAR European Cup in June.

World Championships	1
World/European Season List	2/2
World Ranking (overall/event)	86/2
World Athletics Final	2
SPAR European Cup	1

CONSTANTINA DITA-TOMESCU (ROM), MARATHON

Won her first global title at the IAAF World Half Marathon Championships in October and took a Bronze medal in the marathon in Helsinki. Set a national record of 2:21:30 in the Chicago Marathon to go third on the European all-time list.

World Championships	3
World/European Season List	6/2
World Ranking (overall/event)	20/2



Yelena Isinbayeva



Carolina Klüft



Nadezhda Ostapchuk



Olimpiada Ivanova

YELENA ISINBAYEVA (RUS), POLE VAULT

Became the first woman ever to clear five metres in the pole vault in London on 22 July. Improved to 5.01m, her eighth world record of the year, to win the world title in Helsinki and was also European Indoor champion. Leads the IAAF overall world rankings.

World Championships	1
European Athletics Indoor Champs	1
World/European Season List	1/1
World Ranking (overall/event)	1/1
World Athletics Final	1

OLIMPIADA IVANOVA (RUS), 20KM WALK

Set a new world record of 1:25:41 to win the 20km title at the World Championships and also won at the European Cup Race Walking in May.

World Championships	1
World/European Season List	1/1
World Ranking (overall/event)	-/-

TATYANA KOTOVA (RUS), LONG JUMP

Won the Silver medal at the World Championships, tops the world rankings for the event and was also a winner at the World Athletics Final.

World Championships	2
World/European Season List	2/2
World Ranking (overall/event)	36/1
World Athletics Final	1

CAROLINA KLÜFT (SWE), HEPTATHLON

Beat Eunice Barber to the world title with a score of 6887 points and lies third in overall IAAF world rankings. Was European Indoor champion at pentathlon in March with 4948 points, the second highest score ever.

World Championships	1
European Athletics Indoor Champs	1
World/European Season List Hep	2/2
LJ	5/4
World Ranking (overall/event)	3/1&8

OLGA KUZENKOVA (RUS), HAMMER

Winner of the world title with 75.10m, she has thrown over 70 metres in eight of her 11 competitions this year.

World Championships	1
World/European Season List	3/3
World Ranking (overall/event)	144/4
World Athletics Final	3

TATYANA LEBEDEVA (RUS), TRIPLE JUMP

Was the sole winner of the one million dollar Golden League jackpot as the only athlete to win six meetings out of six. Missed the World Championships through injury but stands top of the world rankings for her event.

World/European Season List	1/1
World Ranking (overall/event)	19/1
World Athletics Final	2

Win a trip to the European Athletics Indoor Cup in Liévin!

All participants in the public vote on www.european-athletics.org will be automatically entered into a prediction competition. Entrants who have voted for the top three male and female athletes in the correct order in the poll will be entered into a draw to win an expenses paid trip to the European Athletics Indoor Cup in Liévin, France, on Sunday 5 March 2006. The second name out the hat will win a PictureMate printer donated by the EAA's Technical Partner EPSON and there will be some additional runners-up prizes.

TATYANA LYSENKO (RUS), HAMMER

Broke the world record with a throw of 77.06m in Moscow on 15 July and won the Bronze medal at the World Championships.

World Championships	3
World/European Season List	1/1
World Ranking (overall/event)	121/2
World Athletics Final	4

STEFFI NERIUS (GER), JAVELIN

Unbeaten this year except for at the World Championships (Bronze) and at the World Athletics Final (second), she set a personal best of 66.52m in qualifying in Helsinki.

World Championships	3
World/European Season List	4/2
World Ranking (overall/event)	102/2
World Athletics Final	2
SPAR European Cup	1

CHRISTINA OBERGFÖLL (GER), JAVELIN

Surprise winner of the Silver medal at the World Championships when she became only the second ever woman to throw over 70m with the new specification javelin. Her new European record of 70.03m was a massive 5.44m improvement on her previous best.

World Championships	2
World/European Season List	2/1
World Ranking (overall/event)	243/4

NADEZHDA OSTAPCHUK (BLR), SHOT

Unbeaten this year, she won Gold medals at the World Championships and the European Athletics Indoor Championships and set a new national record of 21.09m in July.

World Championships	1
European Athletics Indoor Champs	1
World/European Season List	1/1
World Ranking (overall/event)	49/1
World Athletics Final	1

YULIYA NOSOVA-PECHONKINA (RUS), 400M HURDLES

Double World Gold medallist in the 400m hurdles and the 4x400m, she was the only athlete in the world to run under 53 seconds for 400m hurdles this year with 52.90 in Helsinki.

World Championships	1
World/European Season List	1/1
World Ranking (overall/event)	13/2
World Athletics Final	2

PAULA RADCLIFFE (GBR), MARATHON

Finally won a Gold medal in a major global championship when she led the marathon from start to finish in Helsinki. Set a world record in a women only race of 2:17:42 in London in April and lies fourth in the IAAF overall world rankings.

World Championships	1
World/European Season List	1/1
World Ranking (overall/event)	4/1

ANNA ROGOWSKA (POL), POLE VAULT

Has set six national records this year, with a best of 4.83m outdoors to go third on the European all-time list, and won a Silver medal at the European Athletics Indoor Championships.

World Championships	6
European Athletics Indoor Champs	2
World/European Season List	2/2
World Ranking (overall/event)	94/3
World Athletics Final	7
SPAR European Cup	1

TATYANA TOMASHOVA (RUS), 1500M

Defended her world title in Helsinki, winning in 4:00.35.

World Championships	1
World/European Season List	4/3
World Ranking (overall/event)	66/-
World Athletics Final	2

RYTA TURAVA (BLR), 20KM WALK

Silver medallist in Helsinki in 1:27:05, her second national record of the year. Tops the IAAF world race walking rankings and was also the winner of the IAAF Race Walking Challenge.

World Championships	2
World/European Season List	3/3
World Ranking (overall/event)	34/1

YEKATERINA VOLKOVA (RUS), 3000M STEEPLECHASE

Silver medallist in Helsinki in a personal best of 9:20.49, she has also set personal bests in the mile and 3000m this season.

World Championships	2
World/European Season List	2/1
World Ranking (overall/event)	213/-

To vote in the 2005 Waterford Crystal European Athlete of the Year poll, go to www.european-athletics.org. But hurry, the poll closes on 31 December.

SPAR European Cross Country Championships



The Ukraine's Sergiy Lebid has won a record five European Cross Country titles and is aiming to add a sixth in Tilburg when the event takes place there on Sunday 11 December.

Sergiy Lebid is the only male athlete to have competed in all 11 SPAR European Cross Country Championships since the first in 1994. Recently he spoke about his experiences at the event.

"The European Cross Country Championships is a special event for me as I have always been successful. Even from a young age it always felt easy to run well at the championships and I developed a tradition of winning. I enjoy cross country because you don't run so many laps as on the track and supporters are closer, right next to the course."

In 1994, in the first Championships in Alnwick (GBR), Lebid finished 79th while still a junior (junior races were introduced in 1997). In 1995 the championships were again held in Alnwick and he improved to 11th.

"In 1994 I was injured and could not run for two weeks before the event. I was in good shape prior to that but the injury meant that I could not run well. In 1995 the championships were on the same course so I was able to use the lessons that I had learnt in 1994, it was easier to run well and the result was much better."

In 1996 he finished 58th in the mud of Charleroi (BEL).

"1996 was the same story as 1994, I was injured before the championships. It was cold, muddy and a hard race and I simply wasn't well prepared."

Lebid's first medal came in 1997 in Oeiras (POR). He finished third, just four seconds behind winner Carsten Jörgensen (DEN) and three seconds behind Claes Nyberg (SWE) who took the Silver medal.

"If I had to choose one championship that was more special than the others, I would say 1997 - winning your first medal always stays in your heart."

Since that year, Lebid has only failed to finish on the podium once, in Velenje

(SLO) in 1999 when he was seventh. He took the Gold in 1998 in Ferrara (ITA), the Silver in 2000 in Malmö (SWE) and since 2001 has been unbeatable in the event, winning Gold in Thun (SUI), Medulin (CRO), Edinburgh (GBR) and Heringsdorf (GER).

"In 1998 I was in very good shape but did not go into the race really intent on winning. But during the race the circumstances and the feeling were right. I felt strong and I was able to win my first title, and it really felt quite easy."

"1999 was not a good experience. We flew from the Ukraine to Budapest and then had to take a bus to Slovenia after waiting for two hours. We only arrived in Velenje at 6am on the day of the race. I was simply too tired and I could not run as I should have been able to given the shape I was in."

"In 2000 I had a small injury. Before the race I thought I could win but it didn't work out. But I was happy with second place. And from 2001 on I never made any more mistakes. I always started the race in good condition and therefore was able to win."

"The build up to last year's race in Heringsdorf was tough though. I was training in the south of Russia, it was minus 10 degrees and there was so much snow. For 20 days I could only run on the track and I became dizzy from going round and round. I was so happy to arrive in Heringsdorf and be able to run on a loop that was longer than 400m!"

And what about the 2005 Championships in Tilburg?

"Well of course I want to continue my tradition of winning."



Sergiy Lebid winning the fourth of his five European Cross Country titles in Edinburgh in 2003

European Athletics Indoor Cup



The third edition of the European Athletics Indoor Cup takes place in Liévin, France, on Sunday 5 March 2006.

The 2006 European Athletics Indoor Cup will be part of a weekend of athletics 'in two acts' at the Stade Couvert Régional in Liévin in northern France. The Cup, which takes place on Sunday 5 March will be preceded by the annual Meeting Gaz de France du Pas de Calais on Friday evening. Some of Europe's top athletics stars will be competing over the weekend with world 110m hurdles and 4x100m Gold medallist Ladjani Doucouré having stated that his only indoor competition of the winter will be in the colours of France at the European Athletics Indoor Cup.

Events

MEN

Track: 60m, 400m, 800m, 1500m, 3000m, 60m hurdles & 800m x 600m x 400m x 200m relay

Field: high jump, long jump & shot

WOMEN

Track: 60m, 400m, 800m, 1500m, 3000m, 60m hurdles & 800m x 600m x 400m x 200m relay

Field: pole vault & triple jump

Qualified Teams

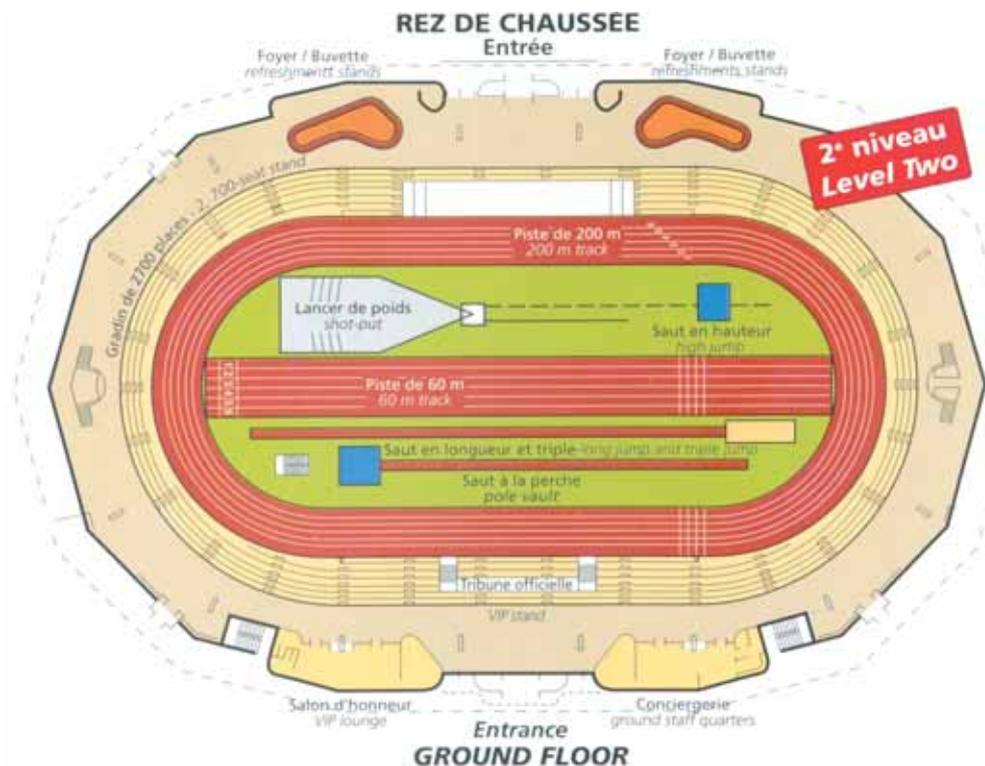
MEN

Finland
France
Germany
Italy
Poland
Russia
Spain
Ukraine

WOMEN

France
Germany
Poland
Romania
Russia
Spain*
Sweden
Ukraine

* The Spanish women's team replace Italy who have withdrawn from the competition because of a clash of dates with their national indoor calendar.



The Stade Couvert Régional in Liévin

Tickets

Tickets for the European Athletics Indoor Cup are priced at €25 (€20 for FFA members) for the main stand along the home straight and €20 (€15 for FFA members) in the rest of the arena. Until 15 January you can purchase a special 'Pack Fan d'Athlé' for €45 (main stand) or €30 which gives entry to the European Athletics Indoor Cup and the Meeting Gaz de France du Pas de Calais.

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You can find more information about the European Athletics Indoor Cup on the event website – www.lievin2006.com – which will be launched on 6 December.



SVT Head of Production Bo Lindqvist showing fellow broadcasters around the Ullevi Stadium during the World Broadcaster Meeting



European Athletics Championships

An update on preparations for the 19th European Athletics Championships which take place in Gothenburg, Sweden, on 6*-13 August 2006.

* The opening ceremony will take place in the city centre on Sunday 6 August. The competition starts on Monday 7 August in the Ullevi Stadium.

Broadcasters and Team Leaders visit Gothenburg

Around 60 representatives from 18 television and radio channels attended the World Broadcaster Meeting in Gothenburg on 10-12 October. Also at the meeting were representatives from the EBU, the EAA, the Local Organising Committee and the technical partners for the event.

The international broadcasters were provided with technical information about the host broadcaster operation, data and timing, facilities and telecommunications services as well as more general information about the event. Broadcasters also had the opportunity to visit the Ullevi Stadium, the site for the International Broadcast Centre and the RTV Compound and the media hotels.

"We are very pleased with this meeting and the preparations so far. Of course, there are some questions and requests but the overall impression is good," said Susanne Grohmann, Chief of Production for German TV channel ARD.

At the end of October it was the turn of the team leaders from the EAA Member Federations to travel to Gothenburg to visit the stadium, the training areas and

the four team hotels as well as to find out about the services that will be offered to teams during the Championships.

Rising interest in the Championships

According to a recent survey, 36% of Swedes are now aware that Gothenburg will host the European Athletics Championships next summer. This is an impressive doubling of the figure from a survey conducted in June. Television is the main reason for the increasing awareness – 57% claim they got the information from watching TV.

In addition, 12% of Swedes say that they plan to visit the Championships (compared to 5% in June) and 67% to follow the event through the media.

European Youth Forum

Two young leaders (aged 18-25) from each EAA Member Federation have been invited to take part in a European Youth Forum during the Championships on 5-10 August. The aim of the Forum is to inspire young leaders in athletics, to create

new networks and to help them bring enthusiasm to their continuing work in athletics in their home countries.

Participants will discuss topics such as the image of athletics, the influence of young people on the sport and the future of athletics in Europe. They will also have the opportunity to visit Gothenburg and the surrounding area and, of course, to attend the European Athletics Championships. After five days of sharing experiences with their European colleagues, participants will return to their home countries with new ideas that will contribute to the development of European Athletics.

Official music

Engine, a company specialising in creating music concepts for large events, will oversee the production, recording and choice of artist for the official music programme for the Championships.

"Our aim is to create a song that will be a musical trademark for the event and that can be used at different occasions," says Nicklas Larsson of the Göteborg 2006 organising committee.

LOC Contact

19th European Athletics Championships 2006

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For more information about the European Athletics Championships 2006 visit www.goteborg2006.com

Enter our competition to win tickets for Göteborg 2006 on www.european-athletics.org

European Athletics – the need for change

New EAA Director General Christian Milz talks about how the EAA is tackling the challenges facing European Athletics.

'Change' has been the buzzword at the EAA since Christian Milz took up his post as Director General at the beginning of September.

A framework for change, with the objective of working together with the IAAF to ensure a successful future for European Athletics, has been adopted by the EAA Council and was presented at the recent European Athletics Congress in Reykjavik.

Milz is part of a five person Steering Group which has been set up to drive the framework for change forward and firmly believes that the EAA should not act in isolation.

"It is very important that change takes place in cooperation with the IAAF. We do not want to go our own way without the world governing body and for that reason we want to set up a joint working group immediately. The group should involve key decision makers from both organisations and should meet regularly.

"The EAA should be a strong leader of European Athletics, but with the active support of our Member Federations. The EAA needs to match the expectations and the needs of the federations and their constituent clubs. We are really counting on the federations to work with us as we won't succeed without them.

"It is the role of the Steering Group to oversee the different projects relating to the 'need for change' project. We will assess the benefit and value of each project, the cost, how it can be financed, and then make decisions about which are the right ones to move forward with. We must ensure that each project is led by the right person as the leader will be crucial to its success. Some of these projects will happen quickly, some might take three years, five years or more to show results."

There are some key areas in which it is clear that action needs to be taken and indeed in some of these areas work has already begun, as Milz explains:

"Firstly, we need to find new ways of promoting European Athletics and our events. The world of marketing is changing and we need to ensure we match the needs and expectations of the corporate sector with the values of European Athletics. We have therefore contracted a unique expert in the field of sports marketing, Patrick Nally, to work with the EAA to develop new and innovative marketing strategies.

"Secondly, we need to rethink the competition programme and ensure that it is understandable to the public. The athletics season needs to have a logical progression. Athletics is not a complex sport in itself but it needs to be presented more clearly.

"Last but not least, we need to increase the interest and appeal of athletics to the general public, in particular young people. Athletics needs heroes and stars that people can connect with. Our events must be exciting and create emotion and empathy. The standard of TV production must be high level and consistent. The entire city should embrace the event, it should be a 'championship city' and not a 'city with a championship'. The Championships City Festival which will take place in Gothenburg during next year's European Athletics Championships is an excellent example of what can be done.

"To boost the interest of young people, athletics must be taught in a fun and attractive way in schools and it needs to again become an integral part of the physical education curriculum. The stamina, speed and movement coordination that children learn through athletics is a basic requirement for good health."

And is Milz optimistic about the future?

"Yes, of course! It is important to stress that European Athletics is not in crisis, some federations are performing very well. We just realise that we need to change to ensure a successful future. In fact some areas of the sport, such as road running, jogging and fun runs, are very popular and we need to take advantage of that and create a common brand across all athletic activities, an 'umbrella concept'.

"It was very positive that the main recommendations from a recent meeting of European athletics experts to brainstorm ideas about how the image and appeal of athletics can be improved reflected the framework for change adopted by the EAA Council. It shows that we are all thinking in the same way. Now the EAA needs to take the lead and make things happen. It is a big challenge but one that, in cooperation with the IAAF and with the support of our member federations, we are ready to embrace."

More information about the 'European Athletics – the need for change' project is available on www.european-athletics.org



European Athletics needs to build on the success of events such as the 2005 European Athletics Indoor Championships in Madrid

EAA signs agreement with coaches association

The 28th European Athletics Coaches Association (EACA) Congress, held in Sofia, Bulgaria, on 4-6 November 2005, featured the signing of a formal cooperation agreement between the EACA and the EAA.

The Memorandum of Understanding, signed by President Hansjörg Wirz and Vice President Agoston Schulek on behalf of the EAA and President Frank Dick on behalf of the EACA, provides for the EAA to continue both its financial support for the operation of the EACA and the granting of scholarships for coaches from EAA Member Federations to attend the annual EACA Congress.

In return, the head coaches of all EAA Member Federations will receive membership of the EACA, including access to the EACA's password protected website of coaching information.

"We recognise the value of coaches and the key role they play in our sport," said Wirz. "This agreement enhances the long standing partnership we have enjoyed with the EACA and demonstrates the EAA's commitment to cooperating closely with them to develop coaches."

"As we move forward with the 'European Athletics – the need for change' project, it is important that all groups in the sport work together to achieve our common goals," he added.

"This is an historic moment for coaches," said Dick, "and we are aware that we are privileged to be working together with the EAA for the good of European Athletics. With the EAA's support, the EACA will be able to increase the value of the service it provides to the coaching profession."

131 coaches from 30 countries participated in the Congress, which was entitled "The Winning Difference." In addition to five keynote speakers, the programme featured five international expert led workshop groups, each of which met for five 45 minute sessions over the three-day congress. One of the main themes running through the various activities was the planning of training programmes to achieve consistent, high-quality performances under the conditions of the changing athletics calendar.



EAA Vice President Agoston Schulek (left) and EACA President Frank Dick sign the Memorandum of Understanding

The EAA provided scholarships covering the congress fee, food and accommodation for coaches from 22 of its Member Federations to attend.

To access the EACA membership for their head coach (or other representative), EAA Member Federations should contact EACA Membership Manager Lorna Boothe on lorna@wa4c.com. Federations may also contact EAA Member Services Manager Bill Glad on bill.glad@european-athletics.org for information.

Bubka receives honorary doctorate



Former world and Olympic pole vault champion Sergiy Bubka (UKR) has been made a Doctor Honoris Causa by the National Sports Academy Vasil Levski in Sofia, Bulgaria. The award was conferred by the Rector of the NSA Prof. Lachezar Dimitrov during opening ceremony of the EACA Congress.

In his acceptance address, Bubka, who is now a Member of the IOC and an IAAF Council member, described his athletics career from his introduction to the sport as a school boy through to his greatest victories.

Bubka still holds the men's pole vault world record at 6.14m (6.15m indoors). He was the first vaulter in the world to clear six metres in 1988 and he set a total of 35 world records (18 indoors and 17 outdoors) during his career. He was world champion six times from 1983 to 1997 and won Olympic Gold in 1988.

EAA office staff: a guide



There have been a number of changes in the EAA staff over the last year or so. We hope that the guide below will help to explain who does what at the head office in Lausanne.

The leader of the office team of 12 is Director General **Christian Milz** who took up his post at the beginning of September. Christian's responsibilities include leading the EAA's operational activities, promoting the EAA and European Athletics and fostering good relations with EAA Member Federations, the IAAF and other partners.

Event Manager **Ivan Khodabakhsh** is responsible for the overall coordination of EAA events and liaison with event partners. He is currently supported by two Event Coordinators, **Bernadette Brun Brenger** and **Weronika Maslowska**, with a third to be recruited in the near future. The Event Coordinators are allocated specific events to oversee and also have their own areas of expertise. Bernadette is responsible for EAA branding, hospitality and sponsor liaison, Weronika for logistics including the Guest Management System and the new coordinator will have responsibility for matters relating to television.

Competition Manager **Célia Mendes** and Competition Coordinator **Marcel Wakim** are responsible for managing the EAA competition system, including official rules and regulations, anti-doping, records and statistics as well as the coordination of the EAA's non-Top events. They also coordinate the Competition related Committee, Commissions and Working Groups.

The responsibilities of Corporate Services Manager **Christiane Maillard** and Corporate Services Coordinator **Christelle Thonney** include the organisation of the European Athletics Congress, Calendar Conference and EAA Council meetings as well as general office and financial administration. They also take care of the EAA office and protocol during events.

Member Services Manager **Bill Glad's** role is to look after the needs of the EAA's Member Federations, including the management of the EAA's development programme. He also coordinates the Development Committee and the related Commission and Working Groups.

EAA Treasurer: new contact details

Karel Pilny's new office address is:

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Havlickova 15
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Emily Lewis is Communication Manager and her responsibilities include overseeing the media services at EAA events, ensuring that there is regular communication about the EAA's events and activities to the European Athletics family, the media and the public and coordinating the content on the EAA website.

The newest member of the team is Sales and Marketing Manager **Lars Kaiser** who started work at the EAA at the beginning of December.



Before joining the EAA, Lars, who is German, worked as Marketing Director at men's clothing firm Dressmann and prior to that at Kappa Germany. He speaks German, English, French and Norwegian and also knows some Spanish and Chinese.

Lars is responsible for sales and marketing on behalf of the EAA, with his priority to sell the EAA's commercial rights and oversee the delivery of rights for existing partners.

Lars will also work on the creation of new marketing concepts with sports marketing expert **Patrick Nally**, who has recently been contracted by the EAA to assist with the development of a new and innovative marketing plan for European Athletics. The EAA's Marketing Consultant **Tony Webb** will also work closely with Lars on knowledge transfer over the coming months. In addition, Tony will retain a role in monitoring the organisation of EAA major events up until the 2006 European Athletics Championships in Gothenburg.

Serge Vittoz has been carrying out an internship at the EAA since May 2005 and has worked on a number of different projects, mainly related to Competition.

The EAA also works closely with Nick Russi's company **Mediasprint**, who provide web services including the EAA website and the Guest Management and Online Entry System. Nick also fulfils the role of technology coordinator at EAA events, overseeing the EAA's Technical Partners.

And of course everyone at the EAA would like to wish former General Secretary Till Lufft all the best in his retirement.

EAA Permit Meetings 2006

Indoor Meetings

25 Jan	Elite Pedro's Cup	Bydgoszcz/POL
4 Feb	Gubernator Cup	Samara/RUS
4-5 Feb	Reval Hotels Cup 2006	Tallinn/EST
18 Feb	Zepter-Pole Vault Stars	Donetsk/UKR
26 Feb	Eduard Grigoryan Memorial (Juniors)	Moscow/RUS

Walking Meetings

25 March	Dudinska 50-ka	Dudince/SVK
08 April	Podebrady 2006	Podebrady/CZE
17 June	7th Royal Leamington Spa G.P. Walking	Leamington/GBR

Premium Meetings

1 June	VI European Athletic Festival	Bydgoszcz/POL
3 June	Meeting Atletismo Huelva 2006	Huelva/ESP
5 June	Memorial Josefa Odlozila	Prague/CZE
6 June	Memorial Primo Nebiolo	Torino/ITA
10 June	Meeting Lille-Métropole	Lille/FRA
13 (or 27) June	Luzern Spitzenleichtathletik	Luzern/SUI
18 June	52 Memorial Janusz Kusocinski	Warsaw/POL
20 June	Gran premio "Gobierno de Aragon"	Zaragoza/ESP
24 June	Memorial Znamensky	Kazan/RUS
01 July	55th Bupa Ireland Cork City Sports	Cork/IRL
21 July	Vardinoyannia	Rethymno/GRE
22 July	KBC Nighth of Athletics	Heusden/BEL
24 July	Olympic Meeting Thessaloniki 2006	Thessaloniki/GRE
28 July	Tallinn 2006	Tallinn/EST
22 Aug	Intersport Gugl-Meeting	Linz/AUT
30 Aug	42° Palio Citta della Quercia	Rovereto/ITA

Outdoor Meetings

26 May	Anhalt 2006	Dessau/GER
27 May	Riga Cup 2006	Riga/LAT
27-28 May	International Combined Events Meeting	Maribor/SLO
3 June	Papaflessia	Kalamata/GRE
3 June	61st Cezmi Or Memorial	Istanbul/TUR
4 June	23. International U23 Olympic Meeting	Schwechat/AUT
23 June	11th International Athletic Meeting	Velenje/SLO
25 June	12th International Meeting of Madeira	Funchal/POR
01 July	Kaunas 2006	Kaunas/LTU
02 July	Meeting Città di Padova	Padova/ITA
05 July	34th Gran Premio Diputación de Salamanca	Salamanca/ESP
13 July	Karelia Games	Lappeenranta/FIN
16 July	Savo Games	Lapinlathi/FIN
17 July	Venzelia	Chania/GRE
27 Aug	Athletic Bridge – Banská Bystrica	Banska Bystrica/SVK
29 Aug	Athletic Bridge – Dubnica nad Váhom	Dubnica/SVK

European Champion Clubs Cup for Juniors



Margus Hunt

The European Champion Clubs Cup for Juniors matches took place on 17 September in Belgrade (SCG) and Tuzla (BIH) for Groups A and B and on 24 September in Frauenfeld (SUI) for Group C. Russian clubs were the winners of both the men's and women's competitions in Group A – SCA Moscow for the men and SC Viktorya Lipetsk for the women. However, it was in the Group C match that an ECCCJ record was broken when European Junior champion Margus Hunt (EST) threw 60.92m in the discus.

CEO Conference 2006

The next European Athletics Chief Executive Officers Conference will be staged from 5-7 April 2006.

The Conference theme will be "Opportunities for Athletics" and a number of high profile speakers will be invited to address the participants about practical ways in which federations can strengthen their positions and develop the sport.

"We conducted a survey of more than one third of the EAA Member Federations to get an idea of the most appropriate theme and the elements, such as the discussion workshops, they would like to see included in the conference," says EAA Council Member Jonas Egilsson, who is leading a project group developing the Conference programme. "Our aim is to build on the success of the previous editions in Nymburk, Czech Republic (2001) and Budapest, Hungary (2003)."

The operational leader from each Member Federation will be invited by the EAA to take part in the conference. Federations may send additional participants at their own expense.

Details of the venue and programme for the Conference will be available on www.european-athletics.org after official invitations are sent out in early 2006.



IMPRESSUM

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Association Européenne d'Athlétisme**

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EAA International Partners



“I want to help athletics be more popular again”

German freelance journalist Ursula Kaiser talks to Golden League jackpot winner Tatyana Lebedeva (RUS)

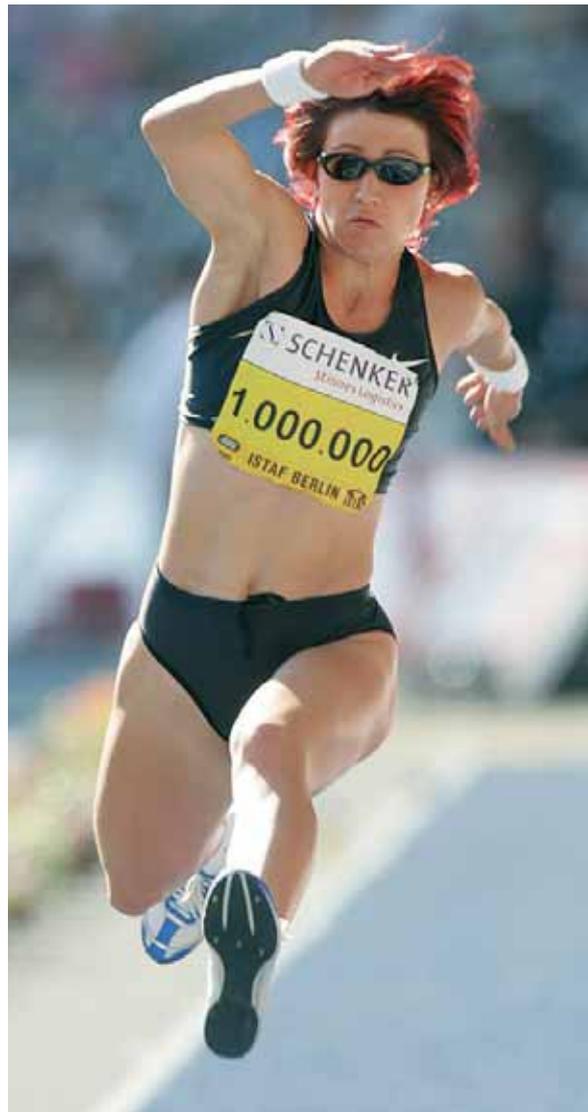
The moment Tatyana Lebedeva posed in Berlin for the photographers was like a symbol: she was sitting in the triple jump pit, letting the sand gush through her fingers and laughing. The Russian athlete from Volgograd was the only one who won at each of the six Golden League meetings and earned a 1 million US Dollar jackpot.

The 29-year-old jumper didn't start at the IAAF World Championships in Helsinki, even though she was the big favourite as she suffered an Achilles tendon injury at the Golden League meeting in Oslo. "So I had to decide, I was afraid that both things were not possible," she explained. Her choice was the best one for her and she could fill up her family's bank account in a great way. But she also thinks of other people and other projects. "I want to give ten percent of the money to the kindergarten and the school I was a pupil at," she said. "Maybe I can help to bring some children to my sport."

Lebedeva has already earned a lot of money in the past, but she can't compare that with her success in this year. However she is not only happy about it, she is also afraid. "There exists a lot of corruption and a lot of jealous friends in my home country and I am very afraid about raids and attacks on my family," she said.

Her apartment in Volgograd has been burgled in the past and now she wants to take precautions. She wants to install a monitoring camera and if it is necessary she will get a bodyguard for her three-year-old daughter, Anastasia. "If someone robs me, I can run away, but I want to protect my family," she said. These are the shady sides of the success. But Lebedeva knows a lot about this hard life and is used to it. "I just have to deal with these problems," she added.

Lebedeva learnt during her childhood to fight, to defend herself and not to give up. Born in the provincial town of Sterlitamak in Western Russia, she grew up with her elder brother, but without her father. "It was a difficult, but good childhood," she



says today. Her mother, a former gymnast, wanted her daughter to become a gymnast too, but she wasn't very enthusiastic about this sport.

She was a child with a lot of energy. "I was arguing with the boys all the time and if my brother couldn't help me I ran away. This is maybe was the reason why I became so fast," she laughs. She went to a sports school and quickly attracted attention because she could jump very well and very far. Long and triple jump started to become her passion. "Today I prefer triple jump. It is more interesting and a bigger challenge than the long jump," says the young mother.

Her first competition was in 1991 when she was 14 - her best attempt was 12.91m. In 1993 she participated in a training camp on the Black Sea and decided to move to Volgograd to train. In 1998 she was selected for the Russian national team for the first time. In the same year she won her first prize money – about 800 US Dollars. "The feeling was incredible. I was so excited, I even couldn't sleep the whole night. It was great to earn money from jumping."

But at the beginning of her career not everything was great. The young lady got "airs and graces" because she noticed very fast that she could travel a lot and earn a lot of money. But her coaches brought her down to earth very fast and she worked hard until she won the Olympic title in Athens – but not in the triple jump (here she was third), she won the long jump!

In Volgograd she often trains with pole vault world record holder Yelena Isinbayeva and the Olympic high jump champion Yelena Slesarenko. The three women had planned to build three houses side by side, the land and buildings were promised by the leaders of the city. "But at this time they had an election campaign and after that nobody was talking about it anymore," said Lebedeva. Now she is able to finance her building herself!

Lebedeva also loves to travel. She wants to see Asia, Africa and Latin America. And she likes parties and celebrations. At the end of the season she visited the Caribbean – to relax – because now she has started to prepare to defend her title at the IAAF World Indoor Championships in Moscow.

"I want to help athletics be more popular again in Russia," she says. Tatyana Lebedeva will fight for her sport. She knows what it is to fight since she was a child and it seems the Olympic champion is still a little rebel. And obviously it is not the worst thing for her.