



## **The President**

To the Delegates to the  
2009 Annual General Meeting of the  
International DanceSport Federation (IDSF)  
in Macau, CHINA

Sant Cugat, Barcelona, May 1, 2009

### **President's Report to the 2009 IDSF Annual General Meeting on June 14, 2009 in Macau, CHINA**

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Dear IDSF members,

Once again we have experienced another year with many activities and good results.

During this year, I had the opportunity to attend many important meetings. I am convinced that our image has been improved and our VISION 2012 accepted during all of these exceptional meetings. I will provide further explanations on this and other meetings I attended later on in this report.

I have met many high profile Sports personalities and discussed with them the current circumstances relating to DanceSport and, what we expect for the future. As part of this future, I have expanded on the concept of our VISION 2012. All of them offered their support and confirmed that they believe that we are on the right path.

Given the very positive feedback, I believe that we should continue pushing very hard to quickly achieve the World DanceSport Federation (WDSF). The WDSF needs to be established with all the supporting structures, affiliations and concepts which are behind this very important movement.



I think that the most important achievement this year, is that the Sports Department of the IOC, has agreed that in future, anything related to the DanceSport family of Sports, should be only accepted as part of the future World DanceSport Federation. That is, other forms of DanceSport will never be accepted as independent Sports Federations. Therefore, it suggests that no other DanceSport Federation will be considered in the future by the IOC, unless it is related to us.

## **THANK YOU TO ALL MY COLLEAGUES**

First of all, let me please thank all of my colleagues for the very hard work they have performed during this last year.

I know that, perhaps, I have been pushing everybody too strongly during the last year. However, it is my firm belief that we cannot progress without moving forward. If we are not working in this way, then we will not be able to achieve what we all want and expect to achieve for the future of DanceSport.

Our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, Lukas Hinder, has been very active during this last year, despite the amount of work that he needed to perform for his own profession and the IWGA (Please refer to his Report).

Thank you Lukas. I have valued your excellent support and, I have appreciated your comments, your advice, your logical way of thinking and your very hard and effective work.

I can confirm that our General Secretary, Marco Sietas, is working more than all of us put together. I really don't know how he can manage all his work. Not only is Marco taking care of his work as General Secretary and Chairman of the Membership Commission, but also of a great deal of additional projects which are related to other Presidium Members.

Please accept my personal thanks to you Marco, for your very important and exceptional dedication to DanceSport and our Federation.

Tony Tilenni, our Treasurer, has now taken over definitively the job done by Lukas Hinder, and I know that it was not so easy to manage all of this and have everything running correctly and be able to coordinate all the accounts of IDSF.

Thank you, Tony for your collaboration.

Our Sports Director is traveling every weekend to attend IDSF competitions and Championships in order to be able to stay in contact with our Members. We have made many changes in our Sports Rules and we will be adapting our Sport to current circumstances and to our future VISION 2012. We are converting DanceSport into a complete IOC Recognized Sports Federation.

Thank you, Heinz for your work.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, Natasa Ambroz, has been working very hard on the new Adjudicating System and Criteria. We hope that we can finally adopt our new system very soon and with these changes. It is our goal to meet IOC requirements and expectations to produce a more transparent and objective way of judging. I know that Natasa is working very hard on this and, we expect to have a system ready for implementation in 2010. Thank you again Natasa for your dedication.

Communications have improved very dramatically. The website is now updated very quickly with the most important information and, with our new World DanceSport Magazine, which includes important and interesting interviews and information.

We are more active and you are receiving more important information on time through our website.

Thank you Heidi for your important work and help on that, and I would like also to thank Roland Hilfiker and Piet Rullens for their contributions.

The Academy, is not only an important issue of our VISION 2012, but also important in general and, I expect that this will start working very soon. We hope that our Members can approve this very important project and that we can start officially with the Academy from January 2010. Petr Odstrcil has worked very hard for that, and he has done an extraordinary job, in order to have all details of the Academy prepared and ready to start. Thank you Petr, for your very important collaboration on this project.

I also would like to thank all other Presidium Members who have also worked and made important contributions to ensure that everything is running the right way.

To Keiji Ukai, who must be congratulated on his successes in maintaining good relations with the Olympic Council of Asia and to his job as President of the ADSF.

To Shawn Tay for his work on the IPDSC, for his very important support as Technical Delegate for the next World Games in Kaohsiung and, his continuous contribution to the Membership Commission with his important advice. I know that Shawn has had a very difficult year with the illness of Gladys and we all are happy that she is recovering again and wish her all the best.

To Pavel Dorokhov, who has taken over the Chair of the European Commission. We expect that under Pavel's leadership this important project can start working under VISION 2012 as we have decided at our January Presidium Meeting.



I will not forget Jim Fraser who, as Legal Adviser, has worked very hard helping everybody as well as performing his own work and, supporting the Anti-Doping Commission and also myself. Jim has also performed great work for the Membership Commission and we can always rely on him for help on a diverse range of Legal matters. I want members to know that Jim has had a very difficult year with two deaths in his family and, we also wish that Trish will recover completely and very quickly.

I would also like to thank Richard Bunn for his important support and advice regarding our new Media Partner, IEC, and everything related to the Eurovision Dance Contest.

To Ko de Mooy for his exceptional work in the Anti-Doping Commission and thanks to him, we continue to be in compliance with the WADA Anti-Doping Code.

In the future, it is also very important that most of our International Athletes are in the ADAMS system.

To Piet Rullens for his support and help on the ever increasing work on our web presence and development which he is able to manage in a very professional manner.

Last but not least, I pass on my sincere thanks to our important Secretary Txus Pedrazo. As IDSF's first full time employee, Txus performs exceptional work and is incredibly dedicated. Without her in the office, we would be lost amongst all the work which we have to do for our Members and for DanceSport.

Let me confirm again, in the same way we did it last year, that our Presidium is working as a Team. I am certain that all our Presidium Members are proud to be part of our Team that they all support VISION 2012 and, they support the work we have to perform to be able to achieve it on time.

## **1. VISION 2012**

As you all know, and as you will be able to see from our Presentation on Saturday, the most important issue for IDSF and our future, is VISION 2012.

On Saturday, we will make a detailed Presentation of VISION 2012. I really hope that we all can be convinced as to the need to constructively adopt the philosophy and objectives behind VISION 2012 for the future.



During this last year, I have been able to speak to all the Federations which indicated an interest in joining us as partners in our World DanceSport Federation. I have also spoken to the Sports Department of the IOC and to the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) as well as many others institutions.

Everybody is convinced that this is the right path to follow because we need to unify DanceSport and not separate it as unfortunately some other Federations are doing.

As I have mentioned in my Report in Moscow, this is now the third year that we are speaking and working on VISION 2012. With the support of our members, we now need to be able to convert all of these independent DanceSport Federations, into disciplines inside the future World DanceSport Federation. But each of these disciplines should be managed and independently controlled by a Technical Committee.

During this year, we have been able to finalize the following Agreements with our future WDSF's partners:

IPC: As you all know, in October 2008 we signed an Agreement and IPC are 100% supportive of VISION 2012. The discipline which we will include into the WDSF, will be called "Paradance". Paradance will include wheelchair, blind and deaf dancers.

Line Dance: An Agreement has been signed in December 2008 and this DanceSport Federation (UCWDC), is also 100% supportive of VISION 2012.

There is only one Federation, the ICU (International Cheer Union), which we expect in principle could be part of our future, which has still not signed an Agreement. However, after our last meeting in March in Denver, I expect that we will receive some positive answers very soon.

As I also mentioned last year, many of the future departments which will support the structure of the World DanceSport Federation, will be able to give support to all the different disciplines. In principle, this will not only be a great advantage for all of them, but it will also be a cost saving structure.

Let me remind you all of these different Departments:

- Finances: with independent accounts for each discipline (Bookkeeping)
- Auditor
- Marketing
- Media/TV, etc
- Membership and Sport Development (to Promote DanceSport).



- Disciplinary
- Appeals
- Anti-Doping
- Medical
- Academy, with independent formation for each discipline through each discipline.

It is very important to understand that the World DanceSport Federation, which should be elected by all Member Federations, will only be ready when we have been able to establish in each or, practically most or, all of our Member Bodies, the same structure we expect for the WDSF.

Meanwhile, this process has to continue under the leadership of IDSF.

Let me now make some comments on the Academy which is part of the future WDSF.

## **2. ACADEMY**

We have been able to hear from the Presentation, what we expect should be the future formation centre of the WDSF for Judges, Trainers, Chairmen, etc, and it will be composed by the following:

Education Center  
Promotion Center  
Technical Center  
Administrative Center  
Technical Rules Department

You all will receive separate information from the Chair of this future Academy, Petr Odstrcil, and I hope that we can agree and be sure that this will be the right way for the future of the WDSF.

This Department will work to co-ordinate the formation of all future judges, trainers, etc and be able to issue WDSF Licenses in the future.

Let me now inform you about some important issues.

## **3. IOC**

As you know, we have not been successful in getting DanceSport into the Short List for the IOC Games in 2016. After my meeting last year with the IOC Sports Department, we know that one of the most important issues brought to our attention were the problems surrounding our current Judging System.



This is one of the reasons why we are working so hard on our new Judging Criteria and system. We need to make important changes, in order to assist us in reaching one of our main objectives, inclusion in the IOC Games.

Please see the detailed Report from Natasa Ambroz. I believe that you will realize that we are preparing a very important change in Adjudication compared to what we are doing today.

As I mentioned in my introduction, it is important to know that the IOC is providing 100% support for the implementation of VISION 2012, which will unify all DanceSports into the WDSF. The IOC accepts that this future Federation should be the only one which can include other Federations related to DanceSport. No one will be accepted in the future as an independent DanceSport Federation into the IOC.

I also point out that the IOC has provided 100% support for our decisions regarding the banning of events not accepted by our Members and, a range of other problems which have happened during the year where we were required to make some significant decisions.

We received a copy of a letter in which the IOC says very clearly that it is the responsibility and right of IDSF and our National Member Bodies to decide whether our Athletes can take part in an event or not.

I think that it is very important to know that the IOC Sports Department supports IDSF in the actions we are taking.

#### **4. NEW ADJUDICATION SYSTEM**

Let me give here short explanation about why we must consider adopting a new Adjudication system.

We all know that, unfortunately, it may be possible for results to be influenced by the personal interests of trainers, coaches, countries, and others.

If we want one day to be included in the Olympic Games as a medal sport, then we need to change our Judging System.

It will never be possible to make it 100% objective, but at least we have to try to make it much less subjective.

We are clearly following the recommendations of the IOC, and also of Mr. Samaranch. We are also acting like other IOC Federations which previously had a bad reputation with regards to subjective judging but, who have reformed their judging systems. These Federations and these sports are now considered to have systems and procedures which are sufficiently objective to legitimize their judging methods. See, for example, Ice Skating or Gymnastics.



I am asking for your approval to change our Judging System. I believe that if we really want to realize one of our main objectives and dreams of being included as a medal sport in the Olympic Games, we have no choice. Therefore, I believe that we have to change our judging system and I'm sure that our new Criteria will receive your overwhelming approval, even if it is revolutionary and completely different from what is currently used.

## **5. JUAN ANTONIO SAMARANCH**

During my meetings with our Ambassador at Large, Mr. Samaranch, he has always supported our policies 100% and, he continues to provide us with important advice and guidance on what we should do in order to bring DanceSport closer to IOC requirements.

I would like to thank Mr Samaranch very much for all the support we are receiving from him.

## **6. STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING**

Please let me refer to the new Strategic Planning Meetings, which are very important for our future and where we take decisions not for day to day business but, for what we expect has to be DanceSport in the future.

During these meetings, we are working very hard on the following aspects, which are essential for the future WDSF:

- Vision 2012. structure of the federation
- New formats for championships
- New Judging systems and criteria
- Contacts with other Sports federations
- New communication strategy
- Sponsorships
- Insurances
- New teaching tools
- And some others

Please refer to the Report from our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President where additional details are provided.



## **7. YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES**

In Denver, we have spoken about these Games with many Institutions and, of course, with the responsible person for these Games in Singapore, Sergey Bubka.

All of them, including the IOC, agree that it has been prepared very quickly and the decision that only Sports Federations included in the Olympic Games can be part of these Games, was not the best one. We all agreed that we have to think about the next 2014 Youth Olympic Games. I advise that a decision about what kind of Sports should be included in the future will probably be made after Singapore.

## **8. INTERNATIONAL PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE**

We have started a very close cooperation with IPC, and in Denver, I have again spoken with the Chief Executive Officer of IPC as well as the Sports Director and the person Responsible for International Federation Relations. I can confirm that we all are extremely happy with the Agreement signed some months ago and, that from now on we should push as much as possible all our Member bodies to promote and develop "Paradance" inside their Federations. That is, we need to have such events included into DanceSport events.

It has also been the suggestion of our Italian Member and some other Member Federations that we should also include not only Wheelchair dancing, but also deaf and blind dancers.

It is important that we help each other and that with our help, we quickly bring "Paradance", into the Paralympic Games.

## **9. MEDITERRANEAN GAMES**

Another important issue has been the meeting with the President of the International Committee of Mediterranean Games, Mr. Amar Addadi. I believe that it is now time for IDSF to be part of these Games. Therefore, we should start to actively promote this concept to our members in order to participate in the 2013 Games in Greece or, no later than the 2017 Games in Spain.

Based on advice from Mr. Amar Addadi, our inclusion should be possible within these timeframes. However, we will need to fulfill some requirements and I believe that we will be able to do so very soon.



## **10. MEMBERSHIP**

This Commission has been very active this year. This has created a great deal of work for our General Secretary. Marco has worked very hard in assisting to solve some problems which have happened in a few countries. The problems regarding our Sport seem to revolve around a lack of adequate understanding of our Rules and Regulations by some of our Member Federations.

Marco will make a separate Report about all these issues, but I think that we have been able to solve most of them in a very positive way.

## **11. SPORTS**

This is again, a very important issue. It is one of my personal goals, that all of these changes can be done quickly, as we convert DanceSport and IDSF into a full and complete International Sports Federation which fulfills all its duties and obligations.

During the AGM, we are presenting some changes to our Rules in order to include new disciplines. We are also presenting some changes in order to make our Sport, more acceptable to IOC requirements, including Adjudicators Dress Regulations, Positioning of Judges on the floor, and similar requirements.

A new Rule Book is currently in preparation and we hope that it will be ready by January 2010. In this new Rule Book, we are working to include rules so that any requested information can be found very easily and so that everything can be made very clear.

Our competitors licensing system will definitely commence in January 2010, and we hope that on that by this time everybody will be prepared to be part of this system.

The new bidding process for future events is being prepared by Lukas Hinder and Richard Bunn and is part of the work of the Strategic Planning meetings. We expect that this process will be fully implemented by the end of this year and, that it will help all organizers to better understand their rights and obligations in organizing IDSF Championships. This will be a very important document for the future.

We have also prepared a new Protocol for the Awards Ceremony. The PDA system is now part of our Requirements for Championships in addition to some other improvements.



We have also conducted elections for our Athletes Commission because the original two elected athletes converted to Professionals. We hope that this Commission will start working very close with our Presidium.

As you can also see from the Report of our Sports Director, Heinz Spaeker, it has been a very active year on Sports matters.

## **12. COMMUNICATION**

As I have also mentioned at the beginning of this report, I believe that communication with our Member Bodies has improved in a very important way. We will do our best to continue working in order that members can be informed about everything through our website or through our Magazine and, always on time.

## **13. IEC/EDC**

We are continuing to work with our new partners in television marketing, production and distribution with Richard Bunn helping us to co-ordinate all this work. I also refer to the Report from our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, Lukas Hinder on this matter.

## **14. IPDSC**

Here I would like to refer the Report of Shawn Tay, who is the responsible person inside IDSF for these Relations. We hope that this Professional partner will continue working very hard in the future.

## **15. EUROPEAN AFFAIRS**

Let me also refer to the Report of our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President in relation to this matter. However, I would like to add only one point to his Report. I highlight that ARISF sent out a letter some time ago, with a recommendation not to support the so called European Games. This was also a personal recommendation of the President of the IOC to ARISF. I think that there is no doubt that we must accept the advice of ARISF and the IOC.

As mentioned at the beginning of this report and in our last Presidium Meeting's minutes, the Presidium has nothing against the formation of a European Federation, as long as it is done inside VISION 2012.



## **16. WORLD GAMES**

An enormous amount of work has been done by the Technical Delegate, Shawn Tay for the next World Games. Meanwhile, we have been able to prepare the list of participants for the Games and we hope that again, this year, it will be a great success for IDSF with, for sure, the maximum audience of all the Sports in the Games.

We can assure you that most of the tickets for DanceSport have been sold two months in advance of the Games.

## **17. INSURANCES FOR ATHLETES AND JUDGES**

We are working on a possible insurance cover for all our Athletes, taking into consideration the start of the licensing system, at the beginning of the next year. We will soon present to members a proposal on how we can manage this and what we think needs to be spent, in order to have athletes correctly and adequately insured.

Thank you for taking the time to read this Report and, I hope that it will receive your approval during the AGM.

Yours faithfully,

**International DanceSport Federation (IDSF)**

Carlos Freitag  
IDSF President