

Federation of European Philatelic Associations

Jørgen Jørgensen, President

E-mail: jrgen@jrgensen.dk

Phone: +45 2123 0283

Address: Ganløseparken 18, DK 3660 Stenløse

Website: www.fepanews.com



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FEPA Congress 2010

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Annual Report to the Congress

First of all I would like to thank all of you for the many positive and encouraging comments I have received since the Congress in Essen last year. The year 2009 has been an busy year with no less than three European exhibitions: IBRA 2009, BULGARIA 2009 and ITALIA 2009 –this is really a fantastic possibility to promote our hobby – Philately, and for the philatelists, it is an opportunity to meet with old friends and to make new friendships. I feel convinced that the future of philately will benefit from the investments in these exhibitions.

For me personally it has been an opportunity to meet many of you and to discuss yours and our common challenges that we fronts.

FEPA 20th Anniversary 28th of May 2009

During BULGARIA 2009 the organizing committee hosted a 20 years anniversary reception for FEPA with more than 100 guests present. This was one of my very first tasks as newly elected president of FEPA. My thanks goes to the Organizing Committee and to Spas Panchev, president of the Bulgarian Federation for their hospitality and generosity during BULGARIA 2009.

The new board and our visions for the future

Europe is – viewed through a philatelists glasses - in good shape, our 42 member- federations are of different size and have in this moment different needs, but we all do have our focus directed toward the future of philately and struggle to identify the magic tools that specifically can attract the youth and in general attract new collectors.

The old saying:

Nobody can do everything
everybody can do something
together we can do everything

will be our guiding star for the coming four years.

The board has decided to create a communication platform for sharing information between the European federations and collectors – information concerning best practice, news and general information on what happens around in Europe.

The main components are:

- fepanews.com – our website. The website will be updated frequently with news received from our Member- federations
- Quarterly newsletter – a quarterly informal communication of information relevant for all Member-federations.
- FEPA NEWS our printed magazine that will be distributed twice a year, with reports from major events, information about new philatelic literature, about coming events etc.
- Annual philatelic meetings - a forum for sharing best practice
- Annual Congress.

After the Congress in Antwerp we have been through a whole sequence – the board will then evaluate and implement whatever adjustments that are needed.

The main goal will be to create a real united FEPA a real united Philatelic Europe.

I look forward to have Your comments and suggestions at the Congress.

fepanews.com – our new website

The new website that was introduced first time in Newsletter no 2 – October 2009 has been well received. In January 2010, 409 visitors were on the website and they visited in average 4,62 pages. My short term goal is to have more than 1.000 visitors each month.

The website will be updated frequently with relevant “nice to have” and “need to have” information’s.

The website will communicate to all philatelists with a focus on what happens in Europe – first of all I will ask you to make sure that the National Federations website links to fepanews.com. And secondly I will ask you to send me all relevant information to be published on the fepanews.com – information to be shared with those interesting in European philately.

FEPA NEWS no 16 and 17

The board has decided to continue issuing FEPA NEWS half-yearly, that will enable us to preserve the FEPA story well documented in a hardcopy version.

FEPA NEWS no 16 was distributed shortly before Christmas 2009 and the **deadline for your contribution to FN 17 is 15 April.**

FN 17 is expected to be ready for distribution mid May – it will include reports from Antverpia 2010 and the FEPA Congress in Antwerp.

I would like to refer you to vice president Moreno’s report and to comply with his invitation to send your contribution to FEPA NEWS as soon as possible not waiting for the deadline to arrive.

Annual Philatelic Meeting

The introduction of an annual philatelic meeting – is not an initiative to reinvent the wheel but a try to introduce the “Lisse” meetings again. I have listen to so many good memories from friends having had the opportunity to attend those meetings. The target is to re-establish a marketplace or forum for exchange of knowledge, best practice and a possibility for creating new friendships. The Federations are free to invite collectors interested in attending these meetings – the number of attendants are only limited of the number of seats.

Please make sure that your Country will be represented at the Philatelic meeting in Antwerp that takes place Monday 12 April 10.00 am.

I refer you to director Morolli’s report that gives an outline of the program for this meeting.

FIP, FIAP and FIAF

During the last 4 years we have spent many resources in discussions of potential changes of FIP Statues and GREX. After a discussion in the board we have decided to wait for an initiative from FIP board, and to try and motivate FIP Board to present those changes they estimates able to get the needed majority to pass the congress.

In my view the best solution will be one governed by FIP in consensus with the three Continental Federations.

Bernard Jimenez (BJ) - Member of FIP Board and responsible for the relations with FEPA - attended in our last board meeting during our discussions of potential changes in FIP Statues and GREX. We had a fruitful discussion in a friendly atmosphere with BJ that promised to bring our views back to the FIP board for further discussion.

Disciplinary Rules

At the last FEPA Congress in Essen it was discussed to introduce a set of disciplinary rules. The discussion was closed without any conclusion but the National Federations were asked to send

their views to the Board. The Board has not received any comments from the Member-federations – at our board meeting in Madrid in November we discussed this topic once again.

Based on the fact that only one conflict has occurred in the first 20 years of FEPA life - The FEPA Board decided not to present a set of Disciplinary rules.

FEPA members they are national federations or association not individuals. If a conflict arises in the future, it will be the congress that will be the judging body.

FIP/FEPA Jurors

FEPA board has a strong focus on rotation among the jurors at the FEPA exhibitions. When forming the teams of three – one must be accredited FIP Team leader (when the exhibition has FIP recognition) the optimum will be reached when the second and third seat in a team can be occupied with an experienced and a less experienced juror. But this goal can only be reached if the national federations keeps focus on this and nominate as many less experienced jurors as experienced jurors – If we all try harder and nominate the less experienced jurors frequently we will be able to make our target into reality.

At the three FEPA exhibitions in 2009: IBRA – BULGARIA and ITALIA, 7 apprentices served successfully and they are now FEPA qualified jurors.

Congratulations to: Mehmet Akan, Turkey – Boncho Bonev, Bulgaria – Reino Heino, Finland – Giorgio Khouzam, Italy – Alfred Kunz, Austria – Peter Osusky, Slovakia – Hany Salam, Egypt.

FEPA Awards and Certificate of Appreciation

Once again it has been a pleasure for me to read the nominations receive with candidates for the FEPA Awards:

- FEPA Medal for exceptional service to organized philately
- FEPA medal for exceptional philatelic study and research
- FEPA Certificate of Appreciation

The content of the nominations received reflects that our hobby is driven by an army of volunteers with a lot of energy and new ideas.

In director Morolli's report You will find a presentation of the 2009 award winners.

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Finally at the end of my report, I wants' to express my thanks and gratitude to my colleagues in the board for excellent work done and for the open and friendly collaboration that has been the guiding star in our work in favour of the European Philately.

6 February

Jørgen Jørgensen