

## **IPTTC European Representative Report**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This similar group met the last time in 2001 in Frankfurt. I am really happy that there are more official representatives of individual NPC this time. For your information the official mandate had only 11 delegates.

Allow me to remind you what happened in both European and other Regionals during the last two years. One of our most visible activities is the IPTTC tournament.

In 2001 they were organized in 18 countries around the world, with 12 of them in Europe.

2002 – in view of the WC in Taipei, turnout was low at tournaments, but 9 of 13 tournaments were again in Europe.

This year there were 31 applications for tournaments. This number, of course, included Regional Championships. After several of them dropped out, we still have 25, of which 17 are in Europe.

European players had and have a wide selection for gaining points for WRL. Because of this, they have certain advantages over players from other Regions. They don't have far to travel and their travel expenses are lower.

This is certainly the positive part of my report. Other European specifications belong to it:

- Many TTs in a relatively small space
- Many good organizers of ITTC tournaments
- A very solid background of players
- Improving communications between IPTTC and individual NPC

For all these reasons I do not see, as the IPTTC European Representative, the necessity to build another assisting European structure for IPTTC. In a short while, however, I will speak about these problems, which many players and their countries must resolve. For this reason I will be very happy to hear your opinions about these problems. If your proposals are realistic, I will try to use them.

As I mentioned a short while ago – even Europe is not without problems and it would be bad to close our eyes to them. We still have many countries here whose table tennis players have only a minimum chance to participate at IPTTC tournaments. The reasons are many:

- First and foremost, most don't have enough money

- Often there is also only little interest in NPC for table tennis events
- The language barrier is also a big problem

These problems certainly affect several countries from various parts of Europe, but the biggest problem is in the eastern and southeastern parts of our Region. This is a pity for us all, because we are losing many talented players for the future as a region.

IPTTC is not able to solve the financial problems of individual countries. We can, however, try to improve the communication between individual NPCs and us. We would be happy to have closer cooperation with their table tennis commissions. That should help even for contacts with the organizers of tournaments, thereby making the connection of players from these countries to our activities easier.

In Frankfurt we spoke about whether it would help to translate the new IPTTC Rules into Russian and publish them on our website. At present their official version is being prepared. After it is finished we will be able to prepare the promised translation and publish it in cooperation with IPC HQ. Please, be patient, even I didn't know beforehand how difficult it would be to carry out the translation. I believe that its publication will help overcome the language barrier a little.

If you have any ideas how to improve table tennis in our Region in any way, let me know, I will be happy to listen and discuss it with you. If you come up with something realistic, I will try to implement your proposal. I am here until the end of the EC and if you would prefer to write to me, my email address is on the web.

Thank you for your support.

Jiri Danek  
European Representative of IPTTC

In Zagreb, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2003