

## THE NOTE OF THE PRESIDENT

***N°1 - Lausanne (SUI), UEG office, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015.***



Dear Friends,

You are currently holding the first edition of the Presidential *Note*, which I intend to address you on a regular basis.

In my eyes, it is indeed imperative that the entire European gymnastics community sustains a flow of communication with its President. It is my duty to share projects, visions but also preoccupations and interrogations with you.

From now on, this will be the role of this first and of the following *Notes*. I wish you good receipt.

I am convinced that the year which just came to a close leaves in our minds a feeling of an impending renewal. We all express legitimate expectations. As a matter of fact, the year 2014 was an exercise of profound reflection on the essence itself of our sport, its positioning in this international sports microcosm in the midst of a revolution.

Yes - revolution, as it is indeed about revolution!

Just remember, after the London OG, the entire international gymnastics community congratulated itself that gymnastics was promoted and joined athletics and swimming in the first category of the Olympic disciplines. Figures as proof, gymnastics, but only artistic gymnastics, *succeeded brilliantly* at the Games. This fact is contested by no one. And some are very pleased with the additional income granted by the IOC, the UEG in the first place, and to benefit from this wealth redistributed by the FIG.

This was in London, in 2012.

In Sofia in 2014, the tribunes remained desperately empty during the entire duration of the European Championship, even though it was an artistic gymnastics event. The public was very discreet, even restricted at the European Rhythmic and Trampoline Championships. It was also simply absent at the Aerobics and Acrobatics events. It is obvious that our gymnastics, except during the OG, does no longer find its public.

In several years only, the planet « Sport » and its satellites changed radically. Today, the public, media and sponsors *sign* for dynamic sports, spectacular competitions. All want emotions, a dramaturgy, a history and its heroes. And gymnastics didn't follow.

**Tomorrow and the day after tomorrow.**



This situation could not continue. Consequently, the UEG has assumed its responsibilities by asking the members of its Executive to propose dynamic solutions, susceptible to meet the new expectations and to turn the situation around.

The first European Games in Baku in 2015 will be a first illustration. In this respect, I would like to express my gratitude to my colleagues of the Executive for their work, their support and trust.

Sofia 2014, was before. Before the UEG becomes aware of all its extraordinary potential referring to audience and seduction. We are reminded of this fact from people coming from all directions and backgrounds. *“Your gymnastics is made for Television. Show it. Express it!”* Other experts add: *« Your sport is one of the few possessing the most precious capital which other disciplines are jealous of: its youth! »*

These remarks sound as a reminder to gather all our energies so that in 2015 European gymnastics illuminates the entire continent and marks a renewal, a return to the summit of sports hierarchy.

2015 will also be a year of consolidation. The world changes. We have to change and accept to review our assets. The wait-and-see attitude, the hesitations are over.

Today, we draw gymnastics for tomorrow, for the day after tomorrow. Generations of young gymnastics, coaches, judges and directors count on us and our courage.

Do not let us deceive them.

I wish you and your families and good and happy year 2015.

With my compliments

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Georges Guelzec', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Georges GUELZEC, UEG President**