
THE NOTE OF THE PRESIDENT!

N°6 - Lausanne (SUI), UEG office, May 7th, 2015.



... AND IF WE WERE RIGHT?

Dear Friends,

For various reasons, all attentive observers of international gymnastics, media in the lead, waited with interest and a certain impatience for the results of the *European Championships* in Montpellier and their new format, based on presenting alternately *men and women*.

They were not disappointed. Admittedly, everything is not yet perfect, but the comments gathered after the competition promises a good future for this format. Montpellier has also revealed other lessons, which we will have to give our entire attention.

First of all the framework. In the future, the UEG must take care that its events are held in an environment adapted to the expectations of its public, its economic partners, the media. The *Park & Suites Arena* in Montpellier fulfils these conditions marvellously. The hosting federation knew very well how to attract a large public. Each day, tens of thousands of fans have created in their own way the event and made it known by millions of *tweets* on the social networks.

In a former *Note* I wrote that the success of a good play depends on the quality of the scenario, of the actors, the scene on which it is played. In Montpellier, the media and the public embraced it and applauded heartily.

Therefore I am grateful to the gymnasts, the organisers and the wonderful volunteers, to my judges' colleagues, technicians and UEG staff for their contribution to the success.

The above remarks also count for Minsk and the Belarussian Gymnastics Association, who has perfectly organised their European Rhythmic Gymnastics Championships. There, as well, all ingredients for success were united: a magnificent *Minsk Arena*, the best gymnasts of the planet and a huge and very active crowd. In the end, a fantastic show captured entirely by the cameras of Eurovision and followed by many.

Let's now look ahead!

In Mid-May, the FIG Council will meet in Melbourne (AUS). Two strategic objects figure on its agenda: the selection modus for the Olympic Games and the *consolidated* calendar of world's gymnastics. These two points will have a direct influence on our everyday life, not only for the UEG but also for our respective national federations.

As a matter of fact, if the participation in the Games remains for every gymnast the absolute dream, the way to make this happen is most important. During the 2014 Council in Kuwait I had already underlined that the calendar must remain the centre of our considerations. On



the one hand it conditions the frequency of our events, their geographical repartition and on the other hand it defines the path leading to the Olympic Games.

I encourage my colleagues from all the continents to follow me in a double reflection considering not only the contents but also the calendar of our sport. First of all the contents: we must have the courage to modernise, to mix our formats even if this idea might irritate certain conservatives. Then the calendar: we must, for strategic media reasons, win the loyalty of our international public and offer them regular, periodic but spectacular events during the entire season, as the Grand Slam of the ITF or the GP in Formula 1.

We need to dare to change.

With my compliments.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'G. Guelzec', is positioned below the text 'With my compliments.'.

Georges GUELZEC, President of the UEG