



FLASH INFO...FLASH INFO...FLASH INFO

DECEMBER 2004

50

**Happy New Year !
Happy New Year !**



Tribute to Viorel MORARIU

**GENERAL MEETING AT LA SOCIETE
GENERALE, PARIS LA DEFENSE
3-4 DECEMBER 2004**



Mike MILLER Presentation

**9, rue de Liège v 75009 PARIS v Tél. : 01 53 21 15 22 / Fax : 01 42 81 00 04
E Mail : secretariat@fira-aer-rugby.com / Internet : www.fira-aer-rugby.com
Président : e mail : president@fira-aer-rugby.com**

SENIOR COMPETITIONS: Good communication IRB v FIRA-AER

José Maria Epalza made an update on the RWC qualifiers and highlighted the good relations between the IRB and FIRA-AER. The second phase schedule has been established. For 2005, the 16 eliminated nations shall return to European competitions. Approval was sought and obtained before confirmation and sending a circular.

Playoff of the second round to be played: 15 May and 11 June 2005.

Nations European Cup

Division I v change for Ukraine matches.

12.03.05 Czech Rep v Ukraine in Prague

19.03.05 Rumania v Ukraine in Bucharest

Division III Armenia v Azerbaijan / Bosnia Herzegovina v Finland / Israel v Norway

16.04.05 Bosnia H. v Azerbaijan, in Zenica

30.04.05 Azerbaijan v Bosnia H.

07.05.05 Norway v Finland

11.06.05 Finland v Norway

07.05.05 Israel v Armenia

04.06.05 Armenia v Israel, in Erevan

EUROPEAN REGIONS CUP OF CHAMPION CLUBS?

The current competition has a sporting misbalance from a certain level in the competition. Two projects have been presented:

- One by Switzerland, proposing a competition with regional representative teams but without the major Unions. Qualifiers would be first per sector then final phase would be played. This project also provides for a search of local or regional sponsors.
- Another one presented by Sweden proposes a competition with champions clubs (i.e. champions of the national domestic leagues). First there would be matches per sector and then final phases. A kind of European champions cup.

Luc Baatard will be responsible for a consultation in order to have all views on the two projects.

U20 – EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Group A 20-29/05/2005 in Valladolid (Spain)

Romania / Georgia / Russia / Spain / Portugal / Ukraine / Poland / Moldavia

Group B 25.09-02.10.05 in Heidelberg (Germany)

**Belgium / Lithuania / Czech Rep / Netherlands / Germany / Switzerland / Serbia
Montenegro / Hungary**

Qualifications 4-8/05/05 in Denmark

Denmark - Croatia - Bosnia Herzegovina.

U18 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Richard Gradel, Chiarman of Comité des Flandres, the organiser of the next U20 championship with Belgium and **Jean-Pierre Juanchich** have finalised the project. The 24 nations (with the arrival of Serbia Montenegro) went back home with the whole file. Referees are already appointed. For security, one hopes to equal Treviso record with the lowest number of injuries (pitch in excellent conditions, better players preparation). Wales applied to host next year's event. Spain replaces Portugal in Group A. Parents authorisation is compulsory for the U18. The event in 2006 will be held in Italy and Poland applied for 2007.

Competitions 2004.2005 – 18-26 March 2005 – **Nord Pas de Calais - Picardie - Belgium**

Group A QF20.03	Group B QF19.03	Group C QF19.03
France v Spain England v Romania Italy v Georgia Scotland v Russia	Portugal v Croatia Germany v Czech Rep Belgium v Netherlands Ukraine v Poland	Lithuania v Serbia Montenegro Switzerland v Israel Latvia v Bulgaria Denmark v Sweden
SF 23.03 F 26.03	SF 22.03 F 25.03	SF 22.03 F 25.03

Qualifications - Groups D1 and D2

23-26 March in Luxembourg: Norway - Austria- Luxembourg
6-8 May in Hungary : Hungary - Bosnia Herzegovina - Slovenia - Moldavia

FEMININES

Consultation with VI Nations and IRB

Before **Pierre Villepreux** and **Carole Isherwood**, for VI Nations dealt with it in details, **Jean-Claude Baqué** clearly introduced how important women's rugby development is for FIRA AER, whether XV or Sevens, with the Six Nations: « Vital development factor, essential element through its virtues and ethics, rugby must be approachable and greatly open for women. We must use their competence to manage, coach, train, referee, in shorter words to train based on the positive image women have in the world. For this, we need to have coherent competitions that allow a participation reducing the playing gap between the major Unions and the other ones in development, with the support and participation of the Six Nations and the assistance from the IRB with a coherent project". XV and sevens competitions in Europe (use for promotion and relegation) and in the world have been mentioned by Villepreux and Isherwood. A project shall be submitted to the Board on a world level and two European tournaments (East and West) shall be put in place. For the cherry on the cake, women's events shall be coupled with the men's for a better media coverage and with Sevens Women's coaches courses.

RugbyXV

Women's European Championship - Group A 7-11/04/05 in Hamburg (Germany) :

Italy - Sweden - Netherlands - Germany

Women's European Championship - Group B 19-24/04/05 in Zenica (Bosnia Herzegovina)

Norway - Lithuania - Russia - Belgium - Bulgaria - Bosnia Herzegovina

Rugby VII

Tournament A 25-26 June in Languedoc (France)	Tournament B 14-15 May in Prague (Czech Rep)
England - Italy - France - Spain - Switzerland - Sweden - Croatia - Portugal - Belgium - Netherlands	Lithuania - Poland - Czech Rep - Norway - Bulgaria - Bosnia H - Germany - Russia - Malta - Austria - Hungary - Israel

EUROPEAN SEVENS FINAL TOURNAMENT IN MOSCOW

Michel Arpaillage worked very hard for the 30 participating unions to have an established schedule: 6 qualifying tournaments in May, June and early July while the final tournament is to be in Moscow on 16-17 July.

SOPOT (Poland) 28/29/05	CROATIA 18/19/06	FRANCE 25/26/06	GEORGIA 2/3/07	ANDORRA 2/3/07	UKRAINE 25/26/06
France Lithuania Czech Rep Poland Germany Latvia Denmark Switzerland Norway Hungary	Italy Portugal Lithuania Czech Rep Croatia Luxembourg Bosnia H Switzerland Hungary Monaco	Italy France Spain Netherlands Romania Andorra Belgium Luxembourg Armenia Monaco	Georgia Russia Ukraine Moldavia Netherlands Romania Israel Bulgaria Azerbaijan Armenia	Portugal Spain Germany Croatia Belgium Andorra Denmark Norway Bosnia H Slovakia	Georgia Russia Ukraine Moldavia Poland Latvia Israel Bulgaria Azerbaijan Slovakia

STAGES

U17

New project : 15 stages - 780 players - 210 educators v 150 referees

15 stages organised grouping 2 or 3 nations based on geography and playing level.

During these meetings, each nation shall have 26 players, 7 trainers and 5 referees under the responsibility of the Trainer (educator and referee).

The objective is to train in the same time players, educators and referees. The knowledge of the game is to be taught with a pedagogical teaching approach.

Finland - Norway 29/6-3/7/05 Denmark - Sweden 29/6-3/7/05 Austria - Hungary 12-16/5/05 Czech Rep - Switzerland 17-21/5/05 Netherlands - Belgium - Germany 4-8/5/05	Romania - Moldavia (late June) Latvia - Lithuania 29/6- 3/7/05 Poland - Ukraine 3-7/5/05 Georgia - Russia Croatia - Slovenia - Bosnia H (late March)	Serbia Montenegro - Bulgaria Spain - Portugal 18-23/3/05 Monaco -Andorra- Luxembourg (July 2005) Azerbaijan - Armenia (en Georgia) Israel - Malta 26-30/10/05
---	---	---

*** Stage to be held in the first nation mentioned.**

VARIOUS STAGES

- Stage Level 3 – for Women’s coaches r- 12-16/10/05 in Croatia.
- Stage Experts (coaches and referees) – main theme Sevens – 21-25/05/05 in Languedoc (France).
- Stage General Secretaries in November 2005 in Prague
- Stage Commissioners – 2-04/09/05 in Sweden.

REFEREES
Creation of a 4-level Panel

René Hourquet's motto : « Designations – Training – Assessment ». Thirty nations have provided referees for the competitions' 63 matches. The creation of a 4 level panel was announced: A (8) - B (12) - C (9) - D (15). Each nation is requested to indicate the name of their best 3 referees. The IRB has published the Laws of the Game in 3 languages (English, French and Spanish) and a Russian version has been requested.

A	B	C	D
TUMA (Czech Rep) GABBEI (Germany) MEERSMAN (Belgium) MALLON (Netherlands) STANCU (Romania) CORTABARRIA (Spain) BARROS (Portugal) JUEGA (Spain)	JOERGENSEN (Denmark) GUSTAFSSON (Sweden) MOURINHA (Portugal) PETRESCU (Romania) PIOTROWICZ (Poland) LEJAVA (Georgia) MORGAN (Austria) VILLEGAS (Spain) SCHAUDER (Israel) BROCHARD (Monaco) VIVES (Andorra) DE SOUSA (Portugal)	BARGAUNAS (Romania) KOSCIELNIAK (Poland) FORSYTH (Netherlands) WUCHERPFENNIG (Germany) VERHOEST (Belgium) JONES (Austria) WAITE (Netherlands) TIETGE (Germany) MICHALIK (Poland)	DUDCO (Moldavia) BERZIN (Russia) PIKHOVKIN (Russia) TYAMUSHKIV (Ukraine) SAMOYLENKO (Ukraine) JASELSKI (Lithuania) GAVEZ (Croatia) OBERG (Sweden) YANEV (Bulgaria) LAUNIS (Finland) SLAVEC (Slovenia) ZELIMIR (Croatia) NARIMANIDZE (Georgia) PRISKIN (Hungary) VORONINS (Latvia)

CONTROLES ANTI DOPAGE ACCENTUES

Doctor **Jacques MOMBET** clarified the use of prohibited substances and testing (2 positive cases, one of which was recognised as for medical use, which cancelled the sanction).

The testing management is the responsibility of the nations for their domestic competitions and the IRB at international level.

Jean-Claude Baqué indicated there would be an augmentation in the number of tests in FIRA AER senior tournaments and matches.

COMMUNICATION
New Look for the Internet Site

Beside the « flash info », the other two means of communication are the « news letter » and the site.

Unions are kindly requested to provide us with the contacts of newspapers, magazines, radios, TV's to extend our distribution/ The Site is enhanced with the live results (in real time) and is to have a new look soon.

SLOVAKIA, before MACEDONIA and GREECE

SLOVAKIA participated in the Paris GM. Macedonia is expected for 2005. Greece, soon to be confirmed, advised it will participate in Porto meeting. Byelorussia has started a development action through rugby schools. Turkey is considering a membership application.

IN BRIEF... IN BRIEF... IN BRIEF...

- **Alfonso Mandado** was re-elected Chairman of the Spanish RU.
- 26-28 November 2004: Level 2 stage for coaches was held in DUISBURG. 27 participants attended this course under the authority of **Peter Ianusevici, Philippe Rouzières and Philippe Filiatre.**
- **Last Minute: Provence won the European Regions Cup after beating Bourgogne 24-18 (after extra time). The score at full time was 15-15.**



General Secretary stage in Heidelberg.