



**TO: ALL LEN AFFILIATED MEMBER FEDERATIONS  
ALL LEN REGISTERED FEDERATIONS  
ALL MEMBERS OF THE LEN BUREAU  
ALL MEMBERS OF THE LEN TECHNICAL COMMITTEES**

**•PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER•**

February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010

Dear Friends,

2010: last year of a decade almost gone or first year of a new ten-year period? While others debate the matter, if they wish, we are happy to continue working for the advancement of European Aquatics and to look forward to new stimulating possibilities for improvement and development.

- Allow me to begin January by just mentioning the first European swimming competitions on the LEN Calendar with the new swimsuit regulations. They took place all over the Continent, in Switzerland, Iceland, Belgium, Slovenia, Denmark, Austria, Luxembourg, Italy, and Serbia. And while our swimmers come to terms with the new situation, we slowly but surely work up an appetite for the great racing to be seen at the year's continental swimming climax in August at Budapest, and at Lake Balaton for open water swimming. Diving and synchro activity is also steadily looking toward the Hungarian capital where everything is following its due course. The general competition program has been announced and hotel reservation procedures are ongoing.
- Speaking of Luxembourg, I was present at the 12<sup>th</sup> Euro Meet 2010 (January 29-31) mentioned above and where I had the opportunity to meet the Minister of Sports in Luxembourg, Mr. Romain Schneider, who confirmed his full support to LEN. The Government's *Département Ministériel des Sports* is contributing to welcoming and helping to set in place the new LEN Office. Meetings, site visits, evaluations and preparations have been made at full speed to try to make the transition as smooth as can be. The office space has already been precontracted: 74, Grand Rue, 1660 Luxembourg. The relocation is scheduled for the week of March 29<sup>th</sup>.
- As you are all surely aware, the FINA Bureau met in Bangkok on January 14-15, and the main decisions approved have been circulated to you all. 4 of the 5 events allocated will be held in Europe, although constant activity takes place worldwide for our 5 aquatic disciplines.
- On the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, the two Men's Water Polo Cup Competitions took the stage with the first match of the LEN Trophy Quarter Finals played in Budapest, Berlin, Brescia, and Kotor. The four teams playing at home won and we'll see (actually today February 3<sup>rd</sup>) if the results can be turned around in Savona, Oradea, Marseille, and Rijeka. The Euro League Preliminary Round's Day 3 also saw exciting games that resulted in 4 unbeaten teams leading their respective groups:

Atlètic Barceloneta (A), Primorac Kotor (B), Partizan Belgrade (C), and Pro Recco (D). Three more matches to go for the eight quarterfinalists to be known.

- Then the Women had their day on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, with both of their Water Polo Cup Competitions. The first game of the LEN Trophy Quarter Finals was played in Mataró, Piraeus, Barcelona, and Moscow. The two Russian and two Greek teams have taken the lead, but there's a whole new match yet to be played. Then in the top Women's Club Competition, the Champions Cup, the 8 quarterfinalists played intense first matches that ended in very tight scores (a draw and three wins by a single goal). The return games and the battle to qualify for the Women's 2010 Final Four will be dazzling.
- A LEN – UNICEF delegation made a very special visit to Togo in West Africa to be witnesses to what the jointly created LEN for UNICEF Programme has achieved and can and will continue to achieve in the near future. LEN General Secretary, Sven Folvik, and Antoine Auer, Key Account Manager of Community (LEN's Marketing Agency) were accompanied by Montserrat Povill of UNICEF, Donna Goodman of the Earthchild Institute, as well as by representatives of UNICEF-Togo, and they all travelled from the capital city of Lomé to the northern town of Dapaong in the Savanes Region. From there they visited villages where water tanks, latrines, hand-washing, and drinkable water spots have been installed thanks to funds collected through LEN's and UNICEF's collaboration. To be more precise, 50.000 euros have been used for four villages, and another 50.000 are ready to equip another four villages. The effects of this help are clear as water. And our General Secretary promised that the collaboration will continue, to help compensate the lack of hygienic conditions in the area. The delegation was welcomed by hundreds of schoolchildren at a heartwarming reception and the local authorities informed of how important this initiative is as an opportunity for disease reduction and to contribute directly and decisively to the improvement of the children's health and educational conditions. This has definitely been a unique and unforgettable 'LEN Event' in Togo, thanks to UNICEF. Please go to [www.len.eu](http://www.len.eu) and click on LEN for Unicef for more information.
- Three Technical Committee Meetings (Synchro, Diving, and Water Polo) were held during the past weekend (in Amsterdam, Helsinki, and Zagreb, respectively). Intense work, and preparation considering the upcoming LEN Bureau Meeting in Oslo in March and the European Championships of this Summer in Budapest and Zagreb. The upcoming LEN Congress and Calendar Conference is also an event that will bring us together in May in the city of Limassol in Cyprus.

So that was January. First month of 2010 and 31 days of hard work. No question about that. No debate there.

Warm regards,



Nory Kruchten  
President