

The 2012 season has come to an end.

It has been an intense racing season, full of highlights for our Triathlon world reaching a climax in London with an outstanding event. European athletes performed at their best: 3 Olympic podiums in the men race and 2 in the women. At the World championship rankings after Auckland European athletes had all 3 podium position for the men and 1 podium for the women: Congratulations for these great achievements.

One of the most encouraging outcomes of this season is the number of ETU NFs present at the London Olympics 21: compared to Sydney with 17 Athens 18 and then Beijing 22. It is an impressive number compared to the other Confederations and show we have a lot of potential and we can certainly do more.

Our ITU President Marisol Casado is working hard within the IOC to secure another medal for our sport in the mixed relay event in the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, to increase the number of athletes taking part and hence to increase the number of NFs present on the pontoon for the mixed relay.

We have had our ITU contribution for Development doubled. The EB has finely tuned a Development Program with a focus on helping all NFs. Priority is given to those National Federations situating in Category 2 and 3 to help them to achieve Olympic Qualification status.

It is a medium to long term program and a letter was sent to those NF last week. To be effective everybody's collaboration is required and I invite those NFs to answer the questionnaire that is attached to the letter by mid January. This will allow us time to elaborate the data received and to address this subject face to face with the NFs willing to join the development program during the Presidents Conference on the 15-17 February (an official invitation with all the details will be sent out shortly).

Our goal is to have almost all programs approved by the end of February 2013. We will be offering a small financial help to cover some of the travelling costs for the NFs in categories 1+, 2, 3, according to the document presented in Auckland.