

Dear President,

Many things have happened since my last letter and I would like to share them with you.

On July the 1<sup>st</sup> I have attended the ITU Triathlon European Cup in Istanbul. It was a great occasion to meet our Turkish friends who are really trying hard, and with impressive results, to improve the performances of their Federation. The race was good and the efforts provided by Halil Kilicoglu and Hamdi Güneş are increasing our confidence in a successful European Championship next year in Alanya.



One week later most of our executive Board members were in Roth, location of the LD Challenge European Championships; the event was stunning and the LOC, Mister Felix Walchshöfer, showed at his best, the "organizing machine". The foundation for a win-win collaboration are solid, we need now to fine tune important details in order to plan the activities in the year to come, therefore a meeting between ETU and Challenge is planned on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August in Stockholm.



On July 22th I was in Geneva to attend the historical Swiss race. Geneva will host in 2015 our European Championship on the Olympic distance and I met Charly Haymoz, race director, to discuss about their plans to host this future important event. The race conditions on that day were particularly tough due to the strong wind but, never the less, the venue is excellent and the whole organization managed everything at best. All prerequisites are there to have very good Championships.

One week later there was the ITU LD World Championship in Vitoria-Gasteiz (Spain). The race was a huge success with an impressive amount of spectators supporting the athletes all along the beautiful run course winding through the Middle Age streets of the city. The number of NFs present and the quality of the field in the Elite race was proof of the success and increasing popularity of our sport.

Almost immediately after Vitoria we moved to London for the Olympic Games. The venue where our races took place, Hyde Park, was spectacular and on the 4th and the 7th we have had two fantastic occasions to show, to millions of spectators, our beautiful sport. We all came back from the races with different feelings about the performances of our athletes: joy, deception, hope, anger... but for the popularity and the image of Triathlon we have to be all fully satisfied. We all experienced over those two days suspense, drama, excellent athletic performances, all shown with first class images.



London was also the occasion for meetings, discussions and agreements. We had an ETU Board meeting on the 5th and we discussed, among others, three important topics: development, races and the Elective Congress in Auckland.

On development we have discussed, together with the ETU Development Committee chair Bernard Saint-Jean, the results of the questionnaire that has been sent to all of you in order to put all European NFs in 5 different groups to better focus our development activities. I had a following meeting with Libby Burrell, Gergely Markus and Thanos Nikopoulos from ITU and we found a common understanding and an agreement in principle on the way forward.



We also started, in collaboration with development, to work on a strategy on races which will be further discussed with the development Committee and the Technical Committee and fine tuned at our next Executive Board meeting mid September.



On the Elective Congress in Auckland we all felt and agreed that ETU should come out with common and shared Candidates for the new ITU Executive Board and for the several Committees. We have to overcome the "participation" problems as the destination is not easy to reach. ITU has formally communicated that every NF attending at the Congress will receive some economical support for travelling and accommodation. The amount is not fixed yet but, for our ETU's NFs, I expect it will be in the range of 1,500\$. Our Secretary General will contact you all in order to confirm your attendance. When we will be in Auckland we will organize an important Continental Meeting to tune our common strategy with regard to Candidates. ITU is our governing body; the nominees will have a four year mandate. If we will act together we will succeed: it will be an important step to enhance our political importance.

We have signed an agreement with Nirvana. In our view Nirvana is a premium travelling partner and we are satisfied in having their brand linked to ours. We are confident that working together, we will find more common ground on which to create leverage for the future. On the actual contract basis, there are no obligations for the LOCs to use these services: it is our recommended Partner.

We had several discussions, in order to increase our resources, the problems related with sponsorship. We are actually in contact with some important and Premium Brands that are interested in creating synergies with us. We will keep you posted on the future developments.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bertrandi".

Renato Bertrandi,

ETU President