

Dear Presidents,

I would like to wish you, your partners and athletes a Happy New Year!

Another challenging season is about to start and it is the first of a new cycle leading us to the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro in 2016.

All National Federations are in the planning phase after the lessons learnt in London where our European Athletes performed exceptionally well. I wish you all the best and I hope we are able to improve the excellent results obtained recently.

Last year was a very important year for the ETU; we were able to turnaround our financial situation and we are now in the position to be able to concentrate our efforts on **development**.

Our goal is to reduce the differences and create a good standard between all NFs, to help as many NFs as possible to qualify athletes for the next Olympic Games.

You have recently received two letters from the ETU, one with a questionnaire and the second with our scholarship programme.

I strongly invite you to reply to these letters by the due date, as this is the first step needed to request help for development; the second step will be the discussions to be held during the Presidents' Meeting, in Warsaw in mid February.

In order to help the NFs in the 1+, 2 and 3, categories to attend the Presidents Meeting, we will invest part of the 2012 savings, and offer 300€ per NF.

We are proud that we have been able to provide economic assistance to help support the costs of racing for 3 Junior men and woman, who have excelled in the 2012 season and who are members of a NF in category 2 or 3.

During the same weekend as the Presidents' Conference, an Extraordinary Congress will take place, with a new **Constitution** on the agenda. You all received the discussion behind the changes in December for review purposes and some NFs have been very helpful in providing responses. The Board thanks you very much. It is an important milestone for our future activities so I strongly recommend that you attend the Extraordinary Congress and support the proposals. We need to have a majority of NFs present and 2/3rds of the votes in favour in order to move forward with the new articles.

Our 2013 **race calendar** is complete. We continue our partnership with IPA and Challenge and it will be the first year for the new TNatura Cross Triathlon Series.

IPA: There will be an exciting weekend of races in Horst and it will be the qualification event for the duathlon in the World Games in Cali. At the same event, the European Team title will be awarded (the sum of the best 3 elite athletes in both genders).

Challenge: As in 2012, in 2013 we will have a partnership with Challenge, the Long Distance Championships over the mid and full distances in Barcelona and Vichy. The first team will also be awarded the European Team Title in these races.

TNatura cross Triathlon Series: this will be a start up season and the circuit will be fully operative in 2014.

The 3 Chief Executive Officers of these companies are invited to participate in our meeting in Warsaw and will also participate in the **LOC's Seminar**. This will give you the opportunity to listen to their presentations and to pose any questions.

This is a first short summary of work in progress. In my next letter, I will provide you with more details from the ETU Board meeting that took place in Zurich in December.

With best wishes for a great 2013.

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

Renato Bertrandi

ETU President