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ASSOCIATION EUROPÉENNE RUGBY

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EDITO



2010 u20 gr D Ukraine team

INTERNATIONALIZATION: ANOTHER STEP FORWARD

Procrastination is not in the fabric of FIRA-AER. All means are used to go forward both on and off the field. Jean-Claude BAQUÉ is the driving force starting the momentum and the rest quickly follows. His relations at VI Nations level ensured the British have joined the U18 European championship. And, as the cherry on the cake, he brought back from London the decision to host a meeting of the VI Nations Committee in Tarbes, during the next competition in Armagnac Bigorre. This is a real political step forward... which may lead to a future hosting of this tournament in the United Kingdom.

European Rugby is doing well. Both for the women's (2nd place for England and fourth place for France in the recent WRWC) and the men's. The qualification of the Lithuania-Switzerland-Hungary-Ukraine quartet for the U20 final tournament to be held in November is another proof of their hard work. Another important event: the U19 European championship, from October 23 to 31 in Belgium, will determine the union (the winner) to participate in the world competition.

With regards to administrative matters the Executive Committee met in Helsinki and took note of the new team composed by Gilles BIZOT, General Manager, and the Sports and Communications Assistant, Amandine GUICHARD. This team has the advantage of speaking four languages (English, Spanish, French, Russian), which is a significant positive in our international context. We are also all pleased with the result of the long-term work by the High Level Committee which will lead to a greater visibility for European Rugby and will develop our competitions. In particular for our four great men's tournaments and the two women's events in relation to world competition and Olympic Sevens.

The decision by the Paris Court of Appeal condemning Catalonia is also a proof of the legitimacy of the European Association in its management of the international sector; as is the status quo for the Grants in spite of the difficult economic situation, a sign of recognition for the training and development work carried out. We must also take note of the requested participation in the wide-ranging debate over Regulations 8 and 17 (worldwide sanctions harmonisation) and of the Commissioners training course is foreseen.

Finally we could not conclude this message without expressing, in the name of our great European family, our most sincere condolences to our friends HOURQUET and ROBIN and send our deepest sympathy during this most difficult time.

HENRI GATINEAU



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NEWS



