Report of President Dieter Massin

1. Council Work

1.1 Reform of EVAA

1.1.1 Period 2008 to 2012
The General Assembly agreed in Ljubljana (SLO) with the proposal to install the “Technical Board of Managers” (“TBM”), as ‘key group’ of the EVAA movement. This body is independent and has every opportunity to initiate new processes to guide the movement of veterans. In addition, all European veterans’ organisations are always welcome to present successful models from their own ranks and by their own experiences to the TBM in order also to keep on this path, the movement progressive and innovative.

In the period of 2008 to 2012 the (reform) projects were realised; the next period must and will show - after a term of consolidation - whether the projects meet the intent and purpose of the association or whether they need to be modified or even bettered.

A detailed analysis will be necessary and will be the subject of future Council work.

1.1.2 Council decisions
• The Work Programme and the Master Development Programme (MDP) as well have been maintained and updated, after editing and revision by the Council. (in the meantime the new MDP is published on the EVAA website)
• According to the Indoor Championships in Gent, the Council has drawn conclusions and added another day to maintain the coming EVACI, following the recommendation of the TBM
• The search for suitable candidates (stadia, indoor, non-stadia, mountain) is worrying. The interest is initially large, but the economic risks and the current financial situation can not be a long-term planning
• EVAA Council has started a winning campaign (for bidders) as well as a supporting campaign via internet. The very near future will show how this campaign was fruit- und helpful.
• After the resignation of the Technical Director Esa Kaihlijärvi the Council -following the constitution - has appointed the Indoor Manager Nicola Maggio as “acting” Technical Director. He led the TBM meeting in Riga in 2011, in agreement with the decision of the General Assembly of Ljubljana.

1.2 Contacts and Information via Internet

• Again it is to note that the change of the web-office was a fortunate decision. The enormous increase in daily visits and the participation and input from many European organisations were motivating for the webmaster and web-coordinator Jerzy Krauze and Hans-Peter Skala.
• The EVAA website takes more and more communicative functions and helps the national associations in the transmission of news and current changes.
• In addition, the work of the EVAA is made transparent; place information on the statistics in a cooperative exchange and make it possible for just the record statistics by Ivar Söderlind has a highly respected status around the world.
• Furthermore, the information on anti-doping will always be done in direct communication with the WMA, and this information management has contributed to such TUE applications, so that Europe is leading by far in the world.
• Following a recommendation from one LOC EVAA provides (for two years) a current service to the next respective championship, which starts at reporting dates (registration as well as TUE) and ends with references to transportation.
• In EVAA Council it is noted that this service is the best way of communication and is building up an enormous (new) network for the benefit of the athletes.
• Despite these advantages and opportunities EVAA Council does not overlook the fact that the level of communication will be leaving soon, when addresses of the associations or of contact persons are missing or incorrect. Here a constant exchange with the associations is essential.
• A new service was launched by the Council with the publication of national championships (indoor and stadium). The response to this service is impressive. Again Jerzy Krauze and Hans-Peter Skala make a valuable contribution to the communication.
1.3 Other Activities of the Council

1.3.1 EVA Academy
In 2007 (in Helsinki) the idea for the Academy was born and since this time many federations have used this institution for seminars, education matters and general information. After activities in Marathon (GRE), Arad (ROU), Riga (LAT) - Safety Officer - a seminar in Basel (SUI) has focused again the importance of these officers during a championship and has clarified the understanding. In Zittau EVA Academy will present a seminar to the European Year of Active Ageing, thanks to the visions and ideas of Kurt Kaschke as EVAA-Academy-Manager, who spent this time for activities beside his time-consuming and successful work as Secretary.

1.3.2 European Best Veteran and Fair Play Award
In 2011 the two ceremonies (European Best Veteran – EBV - and Torsten-Carlius-Fair-Play Award – TCFPA) were combined. Because of the political situation in Greece it was the tribute to move from Athens to Rome – a laid thanks to the Italian Federation FIDAL - this honour was also a resounding success. In addition, the best Italian Masters were also honoured this weekend, in making the national honour upgraded. The EBV of 2011 have been Erika Sauer (GER) and Stig Bäcklund (FIN), while Ludwig Niestelberger (AUT) got the TCFP-Award.

1.3.3 “European Year of Volunteering”
The European Parliament (EP) has declared the year 2011 as “European Year of Volunteering, with the aim to focus the interest to the activities of volunteers in the society. EVAA took part in the EP-programme and presented month per month one volunteer, coming from different countries of Europe, on the EVAA website. This publication started in January 2011 and ended in December 2011.

1.3.4 Financial Situation
Thanks to a consistent, responsible and prudent financial policy, it was possible that in the last four years the budget was in the black. The Treasurer Jean Thomas was again able to positively shape the budget without losing sight of the new activities. In particular, the EAA Academy could benefit from what is paid out positively in the final analysis at the championships and the athletes.
The care and professionalism of the Treasurer Jean Thomas is to pay special tribute to, moreover in a period when the financial crisis stops many activities and ideas.

1.3.5 Record Service
Again Ivar Söderlind has done his work in a perfect and correct way like the last years before in EVAA Council (since 1988).

Ivar Söderlind, in co-operation with many European Veteran Statisticians from the Member Federations, is working very hard in order to give a permanent up-date to the athletes, because results and records are the most interesting items on the EVAA website. The layout of the record-list and the relevant data base are on pre-testing phase and will be published soon on EVAA web-site.

1.3.6 EVAC Volunteer Pool
During the 2011 EVACI and 2010-2012 EVACS once again the EVAC volunteer pool is active. In the meantime this pool is working in world championships, too, likewise in Kamloops and in Jyväskylä (WMACI) and in Sacramento (WMACS).

1.3.7 Antidoping
The motto of EVAA “Clean Sport and Fair Play” is also still valid and will determine the future work with the EVAA. The new possibilities of cooperations to IAAF, EAA and WMA on this sector offer more ways to give assistance to veterans and to initiate educational processes that will meet this EVAA motto.

1.4 Co-operation to EAA

The co-operation to the European Athletics Association (EAA) is going to a very close partnership. Meetings with the EAA President Hansjörg Wirz and the EAA Vicepresident Jean Gracia took place and prepared new steps.

In 2012 my term as President ends, I have started my activities in Cesenatico (ITA) in 1998 (Vicepresident for four years) and I have continued my activities in Potsdam (GER) in 2002 as President.

During these 14 years I have had the opportunity to cooperate with competent, helpful and cooperative persons. In the EVAA Council as well as during
the championships and other opportunities (like seminars, regional championships). It was a strenuous and time-consuming work, but also an interesting and productive use for a worldwide wonderful thing: the veterans’ sport.

I thank all who have helped me in these past 14 years, who have shown understanding for my actions and my activities and who have advised me constructively.

The veterans’ movement in Europe is on a very good track. Congratulations, thanks and compliments to all federations, to all delegates and team-leaders and their athletes for their commitments and contributions.

Good luck for the future! Thanks a lot for the past!

Dieter Massin