SAN SEBASTIAN 18 March 2013

Angela COPSON (GBR) laudation/presentation

It is a real honour and a great pleasure for me to present you the first awarded best European athlete of the year 2012: Angela COPSON.

Who is Angela? She is a British athlete and a pleasant person. Despite the fact that she started running late in 2006, she quickly reached the top level on the track, on the road as well as in Cross-Country events. I was told that she likes to say: “since I have been a runner, it has turned my life”. Her field is very large from the 400 m up to the marathon. Since 2008 she has won numerous titles and set many records in her country. But, and this is for what she is awarded today, the year 2012 was very successful for her. Competing in age group W65, she has brought the World Record in 1500 m, as well as European Records in 3000 m and 5000 m. She competed at the European Championships in Zittau where she won on the 1500m with a margin to the second woman of 25 seconds, she also won the 5000 m with the impressive margin to the second woman of 1 minute 15 seconds. But Angela also has a team spirit: on the last day of competition she took part in the 4x4 British relay in the younger age group W60. This relay won the gold medal and set a new European Record.

Finally I would like to say that Angela is well known in Great-Britain and in Europe too for her always cordial behaviour with the athletes, the officials and the judges as well. She has NOT had a doping conviction. That way she is in total respect with our EVAA logo “For clean sport and fair play”

Angela, I wish you all the best for the future. Please accept our congratulations. It is a great pleasure for me to award you on behalf of the EVAA and to give you this trophy which is representing the Nike victory statue.

Jean Thomas EVAA’s council member