



# IDF-Europe

## Newsletter IDF-Europe no.4

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IDF-Europe, Avenue Emile De Mot, 19, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium  
Telephone 32-2-537 1889 Fax 32-2-537 1981 [www.idf-europe.org](http://www.idf-europe.org)

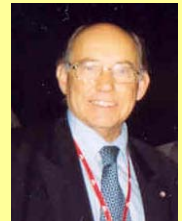
### **Letter from the President of IDF-Europe:**

Greetings from your new President of IDF-Europe. I became President in August at the IDF Congress in Paris, and was very impressed by the Association Village held there. For the first time during an IDF Congress, member associations could exchange their experiences with visitors and, also, with each other. I also want to congratulate the member associations with the result of the elections of the new Board. We have already started with great team spirit.

Of course there were a lot of activities around World Diabetes Day. In Brussels, a successful 'European Diabetes Week' was held at the European Parliament. I was invited to various events around Europe, for example Poland, where I attended a meeting entitled "When you are treated well – you live longer". Frustrating in this respect is the decision of the Polish government to reduce the reimbursement of most insulin by more than 25% as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2003. Pierre Lefèbvre, President of IDF and I have sent a letter on this issue to the Polish Minister of Health. In Italy I was invited to a session, initiated by Massimo Massi Benedetti, of Rotary International on diabetes: "The Worldwide Diabetes Emergency: Which role for Rotary International". Member associations are called upon to initiate activities with national Rotary-organisations. Rotary International will support such activities. Pierre Lefèbvre will write a letter on this with more details to the member associations.

Finally, please give your utmost attention to the questionnaire you have received: "Saint Vincent Declaration: implement your national diabetes programme". Answering this questionnaire is of great importance, because the Board of IDF Europe has prioritised the implementation and revival of the goals of the Saint Vincent Movement for the years to come. On behalf of the Board and the Office I wish you all Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

***Dr Wim Wientjens***  
***Chair IDF Europe***



## EU Affairs

### ➤ EU Diabetes Week



IDF-Europe, in close cooperation with two leading Members of the European Parliament, Ms Mary Banotti and Mr John Bowis (left) organized a successful EU Diabetes Week at the European Parliament in Brussels. During the event, thanks to the help of the 2 Belgian Associations ABD & VDV, people were offered the chance to have their blood glucose level, blood pressure and cholesterol checked. In total, more than 1200 tests were done. Mr Fernand Sauer, Director of DG Health & Consumer Protection strongly supported the event (right). The full press release is available at [www.idf.org/home/index.cfm?node=1090](http://www.idf.org/home/index.cfm?node=1090)



"Lifestyle changes can prevent diabetes epidemic", said European Health Commissioner David Byrne, who gave a speech at the Commission press briefing for WDD on diabetes. The full report is available at: [www.idf.org/home/index.cfm?node=1091](http://www.idf.org/home/index.cfm?node=1091)



➤ **Diabetes from a European Angle**

The European Union has mentioned diabetes in its last "Europa Newsletter" and it has also made the link to the IDF website when mentioning World Diabetes Day. The newsletter can be downloaded at: [http://europa.eu.int/newsletter/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/newsletter/index_en.htm).

➤ **EU Diabetes Working Group 'diabetes and enlargement'**

This meeting took place on 5th November 2003 at the EU Parliament, Brussels. Discussions with the European Diabetes Working Group were one of the highlights of the European Diabetes Week. Co-hosted by Ms. Mary Banotti, MEP as well as IDF-Europe, the meeting included representatives of the "new EU" member countries (Cyprus, Hungary, Slovakia, and Poland). Good presentations from Dr Laszlo Madacsy (Hungarian DA) on the situation of diabetes in central Europe and from Vida Augustinienne (Lithuanian DA) on the Baltic states were given. Mr. Alain Van Vossel, Research Directorate General (RTD) F2 Head of Unit of "Major diseases Research" of the European Commission clarified the position of Diabetes Research within the 6th Framework. He said that in the first year 10 million Euros would be committed to research into diabetes and obesity. The Irish presidency is including a campaign on cardiovascular disease and the link to diabetes as a priority on their agenda.



## IDF-Europe Regional News

➤ **IDF-Europe Website Public Forum**

The public forum is up and running on the IDF-Europe website, and is an excellent resource for people with diabetes over Europe and beyond to contact each other and discuss topical issues. Please put this message on your websites and your magazines. The link is [www.idf.org/home/index.cfm?node=1059](http://www.idf.org/home/index.cfm?node=1059)

➤ **IDF-Europe General Annual/Assembly meeting (GAM)**

The event took place on August 24 2003, and was attended by 120 delegates and participants.

IDF-Europe's Corporate Partners attended the event and received awards in recognition of their support. The leaving board members such as Professor Massimo Massi-Benedetti (President), Yves Tomme (Treasurer) and Zeljko Metelko (VP & Board Member) also received awards in gratitude of their dedication and hard work. To get the full list of new Board Members visit

[www.idf.org/home/index.cfm?node=1012](http://www.idf.org/home/index.cfm?node=1012)



➤ **St Vincent Declaration (SVD) Implement your National Diabetes Programme**

IDF-Europe aims to establish an overall view of the diabetes situation in European countries as of 2003/2004. It is intended that this process will be a revival of the SVD movement and the results will be discussed with you during several meetings in the

future. You should already have received a questionnaire; if not, it is available from the website. Please send your questionnaire to [lex@idf-europe.org](mailto:lex@idf-europe.org) before the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2004.

➤ **The 3<sup>rd</sup> IDF-Europe Central European Countries (CEC) Sub-regional Meeting** was held Satu-Mare, Romania on 16 November. The participants of this meeting were representatives of the Hungarian Diabetes Association and of the Romanian Federation of Diabetes, Nutrition and



Metabolic Disease. The Slovakian Diabetes Association attended for the first time. The screening of metabolic syndrome and the implementation of the Epidemics of Diabetes programme were discussed. The next meeting will be held in June 2004 at Kosice, Slovakia. The report is available at

[www.idf.org/webdata/docs/IDF%203rd%20CEC%20Meeting%20Satu%20Mare%20Nov2003.doc](http://www.idf.org/webdata/docs/IDF%203rd%20CEC%20Meeting%20Satu%20Mare%20Nov2003.doc)



#### ➤ **International Symposium on Diabetology**

On the 50th Anniversary of the Israel Diabetes Association, an International Symposium on Diabetology was held in Jerusalem on 20 and 21 October 2003. The main topics of diabetes research were dealt with in plenary and concurrent sessions. In the picture from left to right: Wim Wientjens (President IDF Europe), Shimon Peres (Former Prime Minister and Chairperson Israel Labour Party), Itamar Raz (Country Representative IDF Europe and organizer of the Symposium).

#### ➤ **IDF-Europe Triennial Report 2004-2006**

The IDF-Europe board has produced its triennium plan for 2004-2006. It will focus on communication and training, association development in the various areas of our region, EU affairs, the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the CIS countries, on alliances & networking, on meetings, and on operations. Yearly priorities will be established and the plan will be adapted according to the existing finances. The full report can be downloaded from the IDF-Europe website at [www.idf.org/home/index.cfm?node=398](http://www.idf.org/home/index.cfm?node=398)

#### ➤ **IDF Position Statements** are available at [www.idf.org/home/index.cfm?node=1074](http://www.idf.org/home/index.cfm?node=1074)

They reflect IDF's official position on a number of topics related to diabetes. At the moment, there are position statements on diabetes and kidney disease, diabetes and smoking, as well as diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

#### ➤ **Next IDF- Europe Annual Meeting 2004**

Following the invitation from the Slovenian Diabetes Association, IDF-Europe has decided to consider organising its next annual meeting: General Assembly Meeting (GAM) and the Together We Are Stronger conference (TWAS) next 22-24 October 2004 in Slovenia. More information will follow.

## **IDF-Europe Association News**

◆ **The Associazione Italiana Diabetici (FAND)** is addressing a petition to the Ministry of Health in order to have the insulin 'Lantus' free all over Italy. At present you must pay for it; only some hospitals provide it free to people. All the branches of FAND have collected thousands of signatures to obtain this insulin for a better quality of life for everybody. For more information, contact [info@fand.it](mailto:info@fand.it)

◆ **The Association of Diabetic Patients of Slovakia** has started cooperation with the diabetes societies of Belgium and Canada, and still continues its successful cooperation with the Iranian Diabetes Society, the Union of Diabetic Patients of the Czech Republic, and the Polskie Stowarzyszenie Diabetyków. For more information contact [aopp@aopp.sk](mailto:aopp@aopp.sk)

◆ **The Danish Diabetes Association** hosted a successful seminar on diabetes care economics during the IDF Congress in Paris. Leading economic experts spoke about both the economic aspects of diabetes care and how to use the information when dealing with the authorities. For more information and presentation reports in Danish and English, visit [www.diabetes.dk/wm4608](http://www.diabetes.dk/wm4608)



◆ **The Diabetes Association of the Republic of Kazakhstan** has conducted charitable actions entitled "Check Yourself on Diabetes" to celebrate World Diabetes Day. More than 1300 people could have their blood glucose levels checked free of charge, receive consultation from endocrinologists, participate in different competitions and lotteries. Regional diabetes societies all over Kazakhstan also organized similar events. For more information contact [diab@dark.almaty.kz](mailto:diab@dark.almaty.kz)

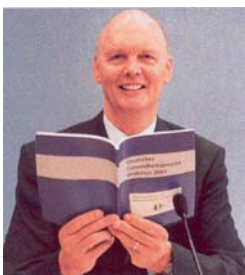
◆ **The Diabetes Centre of St Petersburg** (part of the Russian Diabetes Federation) organised canoe trips for young people with diabetes along the Dubna River in August. This event was part of a concerted programme to hold diabetes camps with an English teaching programme for young people with diabetes aged between 13 and 25 years. For more information contact [diacentr@mail.wplus.net](mailto:diacentr@mail.wplus.net)

◆ **Diabetes UK** Cymru and the University of Wales, Swansea organised an awareness raising event at the Welsh Assembly Government in Cardiff on 12 November. The recent launch of the implementation strategy for the Diabetes National Service Framework in Wales and the Assembly's role in this made this a particularly opportune time for such an event. For more information contact [info@diabetes.org.uk](mailto:info@diabetes.org.uk)



◆ **The Dutch Diabetes Association (DVA)** has recently started screening sessions during which people have the chance to have their blood glucose levels checked. One of the celebrities interested in his health and well-being was the Dutch Santa Claus, Sinterklaas. Being a real sweet tooth he was happy to find out that his blood glucose level was perfectly fine! During these events, 273 people were checked, and 24 of them were advised to visit their doctor based on their results. For more information contact [dvn@diabeteshuis.nl](mailto:dvn@diabeteshuis.nl)

◆ **The Georgian Diabetes Centre** has helped set up a Diabetes Lobbying Group to improve diabetes care in Georgia. The Centre also organised free diabetes screening at churches for World Diabetes Day, as well as press conferences, television programmes and free counselling. In addition, a round table workshop for physicians was also held. The second issue of the Diabetic Magazine (Diabeti da Janmrteloba -Diabetes and health, see picture) is out. For more information contact [diabet@access.sanet.ge](mailto:diabet@access.sanet.ge)



◆ **The German Diabetes Union (DDU)** held a press conference at the Federal Parliament in Berlin where they presented their report "German Health Report Diabetes 2003". The event was well acknowledged by the Ministry of Health. The photo shows IDF Vice-President Prof Eberhard Standl, who gave a speech at the conference. Further information on this report can be found by contacting [info@diabetes-union.de](mailto:info@diabetes-union.de) or visiting the website at: [www.diabetes-union.de](http://www.diabetes-union.de)

◆ **The Hellenic Diabetes Federation (HDF)**, following the lead from the World Diabetes Day activities organized at the European Parliament in Brussels, held a press conference at the Greek office of the European Parliament in Athens on November 13. The MEP Ms. Minerva Malliori, who is active in health issues and the EU Diabetes Working Group, co-organised the event. For more information, contact [mlioulia@rae.gr](mailto:mlioulia@rae.gr)





◆ **The Maltese Diabetes Association** organised a joint press conference which was followed by a free blood glucose monitoring service at four main shopping locations in Malta. The event, organised by the Association with the collaboration of three leading pharmaceutical companies in Malta and the Health Department, was a success. For more information, contact [cdelicata@gasanmamo.com](mailto:cdelicata@gasanmamo.com)

◆ **The Portuguese Diabetes Association** celebrated World Diabetes Day by distributing flyers about diabetes at roadside tolls, and also organised meetings with people with diabetes about diabetes and kidney disease. In addition, a new diabetic unit was set up. The official ceremony was held at O'Porto with a representative from the Ministry of Health, the President of The Portuguese Diabetology Society and the Clinical Director of The Portuguese Diabetic Association. For more information, contact [diabetes@apdp.pt](mailto:diabetes@apdp.pt)

◆ **The Romanian Federation of Diabetes, Nutrition and Metabolic Disease** held a 'Living a Better Life with Diabetes' symposium on 14 November at Satu-Mare, during its second scientific congress. The scientific programme of the congress included a plenary session specifically dedicated to diabetic nephropathy. Other campaigns to raise awareness of diabetes and its complications were held all over Romania. For more information contact [diabet@insin.hearticj.ro](mailto:diabet@insin.hearticj.ro)



◆ **The Slovenian Diabetes Association (SLODA)** along with the Association of Radio Amateurs of Slovenia transmitted diabetes awareness programmes worldwide on World Diabetes Day. The broadcasts were transmitted on all radioamateurs KV bands and UKV bands. They made over 2000 contacts with 82 countries. They also organised a big national celebration in Slovenj Gradec. Quizzes about diabetes, workshops and talks were held. You can read the full article on [http://www.diabetes-zveza.si/06\\_front\\_page/RadioAmaterji/radioamaterji.htm](http://www.diabetes-zveza.si/06_front_page/RadioAmaterji/radioamaterji.htm). For more information contact [sloda@siol.net](mailto:sloda@siol.net)

◆ **The Turkish Diabetes Foundation** celebrated World Diabetes Day in 17 cities in Turkey. Meetings on diabetes, free blood glucose screening, distribution of informative materials, radio and TV programmes were organised, and articles about diabetes appeared in newspapers. In addition, on 14 November a panel on the 'Rights of people with diabetes and the social struggle against diabetes in Turkey' was organised in Istanbul. More than 750 people attended this panel, including members of the Turkish Parliament, the Health Commission, the Ministry of Health and people with diabetes. For more information, contact [zskaradeniz@yahoo.com](mailto:zskaradeniz@yahoo.com)



**If you have any diabetes related news that you would like to share with the rest of IDF-Europe, please send us the information either by e-mail to [info@idf-europe.org](mailto:info@idf-europe.org) or fax + 32 2 537 1981 and we shall be pleased to include it in our next newsletters.**

Managing Director: Pascal Onraed

Newsletter Editor: Victoria Rugg