



# IDF-Europe

## Newsletter IDF-Europe no.6

May 2004

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

During the months of March and April, our member associations organized many activities. Special welcome is given to Latvia as an official new member country of IDF Europe. For many years the Latvia Diabetes Federation (and the Latvian Diabetes Association) have been very active.

I was present at the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cyprus Diabetes Association. We had good discussions about centralizing the activities of the several diabetes organizations in Cyprus. However, after the elections there at the end of April and the difficulties surrounding the political situation, the co-operation will not be easy. Nevertheless, the diabetes organizations there promised me to co-operate as much as possible, since diabetes has no borders.

The meeting of the East European Countries in Baku, Azerbaijan, was a big success. Congratulations to everyone who contributed to this 2nd EEC-meeting. You can read more in this newsletter. We have started to organize meetings in each country that has the presidency of the European Union, to be arranged by the local diabetes member association with the help of IDF Europe. It is a rotating half-yearly EU presidency, and Ireland is president of the EU during the first half of 2004. The Diabetes Federation of Ireland organized a very good meeting in Dublin, in which the Minister of Health of Ireland was present and said stimulating and useful words to all of us.

The Traffic Minister of The Netherlands has now decided that drivers' licences for people with diabetes will be for the same period as for people without diabetes, i.e. ten years as opposed to five years. This is a great step forward against discrimination towards people with diabetes. Of course when people have serious complications along with their diabetes, individual consideration will have to be made.

The two previous issues of the Newsletter were translated into Russian. This has proved very successful, with it being one of the most popular hits on the IDF website during the month of March.

IDF-Europe says thank you and farewell to Pascal Onraed, who leaves us for new adventures at the end of May 2004. His place will be taken by Lex Herrebrugh, our new regional manager"

Last but not least, I can welcome two new corporate partners of IDF Europe: Merck and Servier. I hope we will have a very successful co-operation with these companies.

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



## IDF-Europe Regional News



### ➤ Second EEC meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan, 16-18 April 2004

The second EEC meeting (Eastern European Countries) in Baku, Azerbaijan, was a successful experience for all participants. The participants were delegations from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and some members of the Board of IDF Europe (see picture). The



meeting attracted not only a lot of publicity in Azerbaijan itself (television and radio coverage) but also internationally, from BBC radio.

The program contained topics such as: living with diabetes (by Afa Ibrahimova from Azerbaijan), Diabetes: a Psychological Perspective (by Prof Frank Snoek from the Netherlands), the role of the State in providing adequate diabetes care and preventing stigmatization of people with diabetes (by Anna Bazarova from Kazakhstan and Ms Nataliya Tukalevskaya, President of the Kazakhstan Diabetes Association), the legislative initiatives improving quality of diabetes care (by Valeh Mirzazadeh and Oktay Akhundov from the Azerbaijan Ministry of Health) and the IPA's law about basic medical and social protection of people with diabetes (by Mr Kagramanov, Chair of the IPA Commission and Ms Marina Shipulina).

The program was concluded by a special workshop for the member associations on funding and public relations (led by Victor Galkin of Ukraine) and a workshop for health professionals (with the help of Irina Gurieva from Russia). At the end of the meeting, President-Elect Tony O'Sullivan thanked everyone for their commitment, with special thanks to the Azerbaijan Diabetes Society (ADS) as facilitator, Novo Nordisk as sponsor and local organizers Valentina Ocheretenko, (member of the IDF-Europe board) and Mominat Omarova (President of ADS).

The next meeting of the EEC countries will be hosted by Belarus (Minsk, May 2005).

More information in English and Russian can be obtained from <http://baku2004.prodiabet.net>

## IDF-Europe Association News

◆ **The Associazione Italiana Diabetici (FAND)** recently held a press conference in Milan, Italy to attract attention to the issue of having the insulin 'lantus' for free. FAND collected thousands of signatures to support this initiative. FAND wants this insulin available free in hospitals and also at some pharmacies, like the other available types of insulin. For more information, contact [info@fand.it](mailto:info@fand.it)

◆ **The Cyprus Diabetes Association** will hold its 13<sup>th</sup> international camp for young people with diabetes in Aya Napa, Cyprus in July this year. Activities will include swimming, scuba diving, water sports and trips to archaeological sites. For more information, email [econstan2@cytanet.com.cy](mailto:econstan2@cytanet.com.cy)

◆ **Diabetes UK** have recently supported the British Government's clarification on the fact that some people with type 2 diabetes are being denied or restricted blood glucose testing strips on prescription. In a debate on 3 March, the British Government highlighted the importance of self-monitoring in enabling people with diabetes to manage their condition effectively.

One hundred and seventy Diabetes UK members took part in the London marathon on 18 April this year. Their efforts produced over £200,000 for the charity. For more information go to [www.diabetes.org.uk](http://www.diabetes.org.uk)



◆ **The Danish Diabetes Association** started an annual fundraising initiative for children with diabetes on April 15 2004. The campaign began with an event at Copenhagen City Hall, where His Royal Highness Prince Joachim attended. The money from the campaign is used to hold twelve courses for parents of children with diabetes. The courses are one week long during the summer and are free of charge for the participants. (The photo shows from left to right: Managing Director, Flemming Kjersgaard Johansen, His Royal Highness Prince Joachim, and Max Ørnskov Hansen, Vice Chairman of the Danish Diabetes Association). For more information, contact [JAA@diabetesforeningen.dk](mailto:JAA@diabetesforeningen.dk)



◆ **The Diabetes Association of Serbia and Montenegro** has been involved in blood glucose testing at the Serbian parliament in April. All the members of Parliament were present, and more than 250 tests were made. Three people were diagnosed with diabetes, and ten more were told that they had elevated blood glucose levels. This attracted a lot of media interest, with coverage on television and in the newspapers. For more information, contact Teodora Beljic at [beljic@bitsyu.net](mailto:beljic@bitsyu.net)

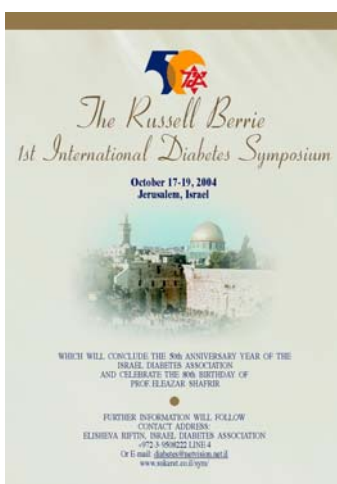
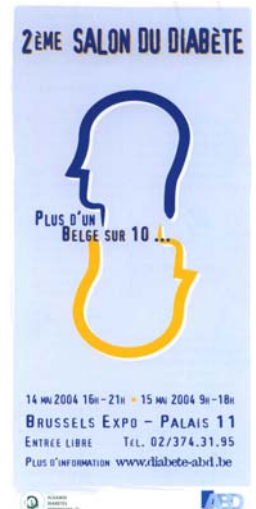


◆ **The Dutch Diabetes Association (DVN)** will initiate 'Diabetesline' at the beginning of May. All people with diabetes can email [info@dvn.nl](mailto:info@dvn.nl) or call (033) 4630566 concerning information and questions about diabetes twenty-four hours, seven days a week. Diabetes related questions will be answered by expert volunteers. The service will also give information about the products and services of the DVN.

For people with diabetes, the rules for some types of driver's licences in the Netherlands are becoming less restrictive. People with diabetes who require insulin to control their diabetes can now ask for a driver's licence (A,B and B+E) for a period of ten years. Previously, the maximum validity of this licence was five years. To qualify for the licence, drivers with diabetes must be free of complications and be able to identify the warning signs of hypoglycaemia and take appropriate action. They should also provide eye examination results and see a diabetes nurse regularly. For more information, contact [lex@idf-europe.org](mailto:lex@idf-europe.org)

◆ **The Flemish Diabetes Organization (De Vlaamse Diabetes Vereniging vzw)**, in cooperation with the **Belgian Diabetes Association (Association Belge du Diabète)**, will hold a diabetes exhibition on May 14-15 in Brussels, Belgium. The aim of the event is to raise awareness of diabetes. There will be an exhibition as well as workshops and lectures all concerning diabetes, its prevention, complications and care. For more information, visit [www.diabetes-vdv.be](http://www.diabetes-vdv.be) and/or [www.diabete-abd.be](http://www.diabete-abd.be)

◆ **The Georgian Diabetes Centre** has recently produced the 5<sup>th</sup> issue of their diabetes magazine. The issue deals with complex therapy with insulin in people with type 2 diabetes. The IDF publication, *Diabetes and Kidney Disease: Time to Act* has also been translated and a book for healthcare professionals on diabetes and depression was published in April. A series of workshops on diabetes and obesity is planned for the next few months in accordance with the theme of this year's World Diabetes Day. For more information, contact Elena Shelestova on [diabet@access.sanet.ge](mailto:diabet@access.sanet.ge)



◆ **The Israel Diabetes Association** is involved in the forthcoming 'Russell Berrie 1<sup>st</sup> International Diabetes Symposium' which will take place on October 17-19, 2004 in Jerusalem, Israel. The symposium will cover recent advances in diabetes research and treatment and will have several sessions (some in parallel). Nearly 20 invited speakers from Israel and 40 from Europe, Australia and the USA have confirmed their participation. The symposium will also include celebrations of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Israel Diabetes Association. For further information, contact Elisheva Riftin at [diabetes@netvision.net.il](mailto:diabetes@netvision.net.il) or visit <http://www.sukeret.co.il/sym/>

◆ **The 'Maison du Diabète' from Luxembourg** is supporting one of its members, Patrick Hoss, a forty-year-old man with type 1 diabetes, who is taking part in 'DIABETE 8000'. The project involves climbing three mountains, Mt McKinley in Alaska, Aconcagua in Argentina, and Mount Cho Oyu in Tibet. The first two mountains have already been climbed, and it hoped that the expedition will be finished at the end of May. For more information, visit [www.ald.lu](http://www.ald.lu)



◆ **The 6<sup>th</sup> Portuguese Congress of Diabetes** took place on March 17-20 in Porto, in the north of Portugal. This bi-annual meeting is the most important of its kind in Portugal and gathered over 1,300 clinicians. The main topics included therapeutic education, the diabetic foot, insulin resistance and the genetics of diabetes. Several internationally renowned speakers took part in the event, including Professor Bernat Soria and Stefen Haffner. For more information, contact [j-m.boavida@apdp.pt](mailto:j-m.boavida@apdp.pt)

◆ **The Russian Diabetes Federation** took part in the 'Life without diabetes' international exhibition which was held in Moscow in April. MDA (Moscow Diabetes Association) took an active part in the exhibition. The aim of the exhibition was to improve the quality of life of people with diabetes and to inform them about diabetes and ways to treat it.

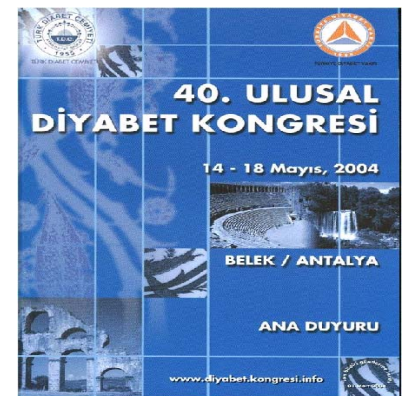


Within the framework of the exhibition, a concert was held. Children from Naro-Forminsk came to perform music for the assembled audience. (The photo above shows from left to right: Ms Smirnova, editor-in-chief of the newspaper 'DiaNovosty', Ms Gustova, President of the MDA, and a member of the MDA. The photo on the left shows an 'angel voice' young singer that took part in the event)



◆ **The Slovenian Diabetes Association** is going to hold their ninth 'Sport and recreation meeting' for people with diabetes, their families and friends on May 29. The event has grown in popularity every year; last year over 1,500 people take part. The main purpose of the meeting is to promote a healthy lifestyle, and will be attended by the Slovenian Minister of Health.

◆ **The Turkish Diabetes Association** is organizing lots of social activities over the next few months. These will include summer camps for children with diabetes training workshops for physicians and people with diabetes. They are also involved in the 40<sup>th</sup> National Diabetes and 3<sup>rd</sup> National Obesity Congress, which is taking place in Antalya, Turkey on May 14-20. For more information, visit [www.diyabet.kongresi.info](http://www.diyabet.kongresi.info)



◆ **The Turkish Diabetes Foundation** recently benefited from an 'EBRU' exhibition in Istanbul. Danilo Giannoni, an Italian artist exhibited more than 90 'ebru' works with the proceeds of the exhibition going to the Foundation. 'Ebru' is a traditional Islamic way of producing paintings, creating a marbled effect. The photos shows the artist with members of the Turkish Diabetes Foundation (from left to right: Ms Aysin Akbatur, Assoc Prof Sehnaz Karadeniz, Prof Temel Yilmaz, President of the Foundation, Ms Betul Sumer, Mr Danilo Giannoni). For more information, contact [info@turdiab.com](mailto:info@turdiab.com)



## Other News

➤ **First President of IDF Europe honored with Royal medal**

The first President of IDF Europe, Professor Michiel Krans who was President from 1991-1994, has recently been honored in the Netherlands with a Royal medal. Michiel Krans was intensively involved in the development of IDF Europe and because of his commitment and achievements, became an Honorary Member in 2000. It goes without saying that he thoroughly deserves this recognition. Congratulations from IDF Europe!

➤ **The European Heart Network study on children and obesity** was launched in Dublin in April. IDF Europe is proud to be a principal partner in this important project which aims to tackle the obesity epidemic among children and adolescents and the associated avoidable diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease. The study will span twenty countries and take three years, and will look at the impact of food marketing towards children and consider the policy options aimed at addressing obesity in the young. For more information, contact [ehhi@skynet.be](mailto:ehhi@skynet.be)

➤ **The 10<sup>th</sup> International Nahariya Update Meeting on Emergency, Circulatory, Metabolic and Renal Disorders** is taking place on May 10 in Israel. Items include sessions on acute renal failure, the aging kidney-clinical consequences, new approaches in the treatment of diabetic kidney disease and global issues in nephrology. For more information, please contact [diabetes@netvision.net.il](mailto:diabetes@netvision.net.il)

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

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

**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 [newsletter@idf-europe.org](mailto:newsletter@idf-europe.org) or fax + 32 2 537 1981 and we shall be pleased to include it in our next newsletters.**

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