

IFDS Development Committee

Committee Members

I was lucky with several of the committee members because we implemented very useful tasks.

I was also lucky with the help of Wilfred Klein, Executive Committee Vice president, responsible for the Development Committee, and I thank him for being always so kind and helpful.

The additions submitted to the IFDS Executive Committee Action Plan for 2012 were approved.

Focus on the development and Training of the following Regions:

1. **Arab Region.** We planned a Seminar.

We started discussions with Qatar, in order to organise a Seminar for the whole Region and also proposed that they play a leading role among the Arab Gulf States. They seemed to be very much interested in Disabled Sailing. They consulted us concerning new boats and started looking for the most convenient dates for the Seminar.

Wilfred Klein and John Twomey, Executive Committee Vice-Presidents, were invited to visit Qatar during the "Sail Qatar Regatta". We made plans for the seminar but then the President informed me that it was too early for them and they will come back to us when they have the equipment and infrastructure in place. And finalised his letter as follows: "We will for sure come be back to you for this wonderful offer and seminar, clinics and courses will be requested".

Recent information is that Qatar is planning to start his programme from 1-6 October 2013.

2. **Central and South America.**

Discussions with Brazil started in Port Charlotte by Linda Merkle and Costas Tsantilis.

Discussions will be continued in Ireland during the IFDS AGM.

3. **Asia-Pacific Region.**

China has offered the Qingdao venue for a Seminar. Our plan is to organise a Seminar in Qingdao, where we need to include representatives from the ISAF Group J and K (possibly Group H), willing to further develop sailing for the disabled youth of their countries. Less than half of the countries are members of IFDS. This could be combined with the ISAF Wold Cup Series in 2013.

4. **Bulgaria and Romania** have been contacted and they are planning to work for IFDS. Further **Turkey** has been contacted and is planning to be reactivated.

5. Questionnaire. A short questionnaire was created and sent to all RNA's and/or MNA's in order to have a fast feedback and a clearer view of what is happening today, to know what works best in each country, so that we can advocate best practice when we offer help to nations new to our sport. Few countries have returned their feedback.

We believe that developing **a database of disabled sailing characteristics** within our member nations can only improve the quality of the support we provide, both to established member nations and to newcomers to the IFDS community. I must thank very much our members Brian McCandless for this excellent job with Debbie's Blachford contribution.

5. Development Network to be created

We are trying to create a world network with persons willing to help in developing disabled sailing in their countries and/or Regions. Persons who have been contacted already and accepted to help are very deeply involved in Sailing, in national and international level, they are good managers, creative and can be a very good link for IFDS and the Development Committee.

I recently had some positive contacts in Weymouth and India.

I also want to thank very much Emma Little for her valuable presence and support.

Caterina Gouleliou-Tsantilis

Chair, IFDS Development Committee