

# Foundation of European Public Sports Association (EVV)

On July 10, 2010 the European Public Sports Association (EVV) was founded in the city of Luxembourg. Founding members of the EVV are 14 European member associations. The aim of the EVV is the promotion of walking and public sports in Europe.

## Origin:

During the past years presidents and other representatives of European IVV member associations met to discuss and coordinate common activities.

In Germany such meetings took place in St. Goar (RP), in Höchberg (FR) and finally in Berlin in October 2009.

Subjects of discussion have been, for instance in St. Goar, the introduction of the Euro and the agreement on equal or similar prices for start cards and valuation books. Later, there were discussions on common and border crossing walks. Subjects of the more recent past were the development of permanent walks and implementation of guided walks.

The need for these common discussions for developing a European partnership increased so that finally all European countries were invited and the wish was expressed to no longer only hold these discussions on an informal basis but officially and with legitimation by the IVV world association. Therewith the idea of a European association, the European Public Sports Association (EVV), was born.

## Legitimation:

On July 9, 2010 the IVV Congress of Delegates in Luxemburg agreed to the foundation of continental associations within the IVV. It was almost a request to build continental organisations.

The initiative came directly from the IVV presidium. The late IVV president Josef Gigl has significantly supported this development.

There remains the strong conviction that the worldwide IVV walking movement establishes better and faster if the work of the IVV is supported by continental efforts.

This message was understood by the member countries.

The member countries in Asia and the Americas are also planning the foundation of continental association, which shall also be formed in 2010.

## Inaugural Meeting:

On July 10, 2010 the inaugural meeting of the European Public Sports Association took place at the Coque sports center in Luxembourg.

The EVV was founded by 14 IVV member associations. Almost all European associations joined the EVV. The the founding countries of the IVV, Germany, Austria and Switzerland/Liechtenstein are part of it and also the meanwhile largest IVV member association Italy, with over 1,000 clubs. The Turkish public sports association, with European and Asian parts in Turkey, decided to join the European Association.

Not each national European IVV association is automatically an EVV member, this needs a separate admission. And not all countries present in Luxembourg have joined. Among others this is the French Public Sports Association (FFSP).

## Elections:

The EVV committee consists of four persons. **Gérard Wohl** from Luxembourg was elected president. **Uwe Kneibert** from Germany and **Alberto Guidi** from Italy were elected vice presidents. **Friedl Ploner** from the South Tyrol Public Sports Association was elected EVV treasurer.

There were two more suggestions for the EVV committee: Emil Dannemark from Belgium and Rudi Bräuml from Austria. Both persons were not ready for candidature.

**Statutes:**

The statutes of the European Public Sports Association were decided on at the founding meeting.

The EVV is a non-profit organization (association) based on Luxembourg legislation. Its seat is in Luxembourg. The EVV Head Office with the administrative secretary Pia Kintziger will be opened in Luxembourg.

The statutes of the European Public Sports Association are largely based on the IVV statutes.