

EHFA Members Approve Strong Plans For Growth

The European Health & Fitness Association's Annual General Assembly was held in Essen, on 23 April 2010. Approval was given to all seven Resolutions proposed by the EHFA Board of Directors; four new board members were elected; two appointed for a second term of two years.

The members overwhelmingly gave support to the proposed "**EHFA Vision 2016**", a five year plan of activities backed by a funding scheme which will create the long term foundation for the continued development of the Association.

The General Assembly heard how **EHFA's membership** had expanded over the past three years to **16 national associations**, and **over 9 000 health and fitness facilities in 23 countries**. Since the last General Assembly in April 2008, the EHFA membership has grown by 80%.

Members were also informed of the strengthening of relationships with the European Commission and the launch of the project "[Becoming the Hub – the Health and Fitness Sector and the Future of Health Enhancing Physical Activity](#)" under the Commission's first ever funding stream for sport.

The General Assembly also approved the [revised European Qualifications Framework levels 3 & 4 EHFA Standards](#) for Fitness Instructors and Personal Trainers. The new standards reflect a greater need for emphasis on soft skills and work place competencies, as opposed to exclusive focus on issues of technical knowledge. EHFA will continue revising the old and developing new Standards in line with the European Qualifications Framework. This will make national referencing for vocational education training and higher education providers easier, and will aid the mobility of exercise professionals for employment and learning. The new Standards will support the development of the European Register for Exercise Professionals (**EREPS**) which operates under the umbrella of EHFA.

A special award was given to the member of the EHFA Standards Council, **Xavier Martin Dias of Les Mills International**, for his outstanding support, dedication and commitment to the development of these new job purpose driven Standards.

Other General Assembly Resolutions gave a full approval for the financial reports of 2009 and for the Budget 2010, and for the election of four new EHFA Board Members:

- **Joanna DASE, Vice-President, Curves International, UK**
- **Paul EIGENMANN, CEO, Premium Certification Solutions, Switzerland**
- **Birgit SCHWARZE, President, DSSV, Germany**
- **David STALKER, Executive Director, Fitness Industry Association, UK**

Two EHFA Board members were re-elected for another term of two years:

- **Paul KIENSTRA, CEO, High Five Health Promotion & Intenz, the Netherlands**
- **Rosi PRESCOTT, CEO, Central YMCA, United Kingdom**

The six newly elected Board members joined the current EHFA Board, who are:

- **Franck GUEGUEN, CEO, Club Med Gym, France**
- **Armando MOREIRA, Board Secretary, AGAP, Portugal**
- **Frank VAN DE VEN, Vice-President EMEA, Life Fitness BV, the Netherlands**

The new EHFA Board is well balanced in terms of representation of the sector and includes members coming from employers organisations, training providers, national associations, fitness equipment suppliers, accreditation and certification organisations.

Speaking on the conclusion of the General Assembly, **President Harm Tegelaars** thanked all EHFA members and said:

"We will further develop the fundamental infrastructure for the industry Europe wide, and drive it together towards increased professionalism and credibility. With the growing support of existing and new members, we will continue to go from strength to strength and deliver on the agenda decided by the members."

To put words into practice, **EHFA will host its 3rd European Fitness Forum in Madrid on 10 & 11 May 2010**. Sponsored by **Reebok**, and the European University of Madrid, the Fitness Forum will gather approximately 100 health and fitness professionals who will benefit from a unique two-day get together with world class presenters to exchange views on issues related to fitness and professionalization of the sector.

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Note:

The European health and fitness sector generates €22 billion in revenue, employs 370,000 people and serves 40 million members in public and private health & fitness facilities across Europe.

Based in Brussels, EHFA, with its origins in 1996 as a not-for-profit organisation, represents the interests of the European health & fitness sector at the EU level. Its objective is "More People, More Active, More Often". EHFA is also a standards setting body and promotes best practices in instruction and training to help combat the inactivity and obesity challenges spreading across Europe. EHFA represents more than 9,000 facilities across Europe, as well as national associations, operators, suppliers, training providers and other stakeholders.

More about EHFA www.ehfa.eu

More about the EHFA 3rd European Fitness Forum www.ehfa.eu/157.html