

FITA President's Message to the EMAU Congress

*Dear President, Dear EMAU Council Members, Dear Presidents,
Dear Friends*

As the President of FITA, I would like to welcome all participants to the EMAU Congress. Unfortunately I cannot be with you today since I have another meeting in Turkey. However I will be with you in a few days to meet and discuss the cooperation between EMAU, its members and FITA.

Europe has a leading role in the world of Archery and has an important Archery tradition. This is the first time I am not in the EMAU Congress for many years since I stepped down as your president after my election in FITA. EMAU is very close to my heart and I wish you all great success.

As you know FITA starts a new and very important project "World Cup" this year and two key events will be held in Europe. This project is important not only for our Member Associations and archers but also for the sponsors. We have to arrange some well organized events and some new opportunities because this is a win and win meeting with FITA, organizers, member associations and our sponsors.

I am very proud that for the first time in FITA history we now have a very important sponsorship program and every month some new sponsors join us. As I declared in my presidential program we arranged a good sponsoring programme, very well based archery development programme and a good strategic TV programme.

Shortly speaking, we have to be more active, we have to be ready for the future. FITA is also preparing a new Strategic Plan for the next 6 years and as you know we arranged two Think Tank meetings with some very experienced people from all around the world. Some of you have already participated in these meetings and a full update will be given to you at the European Outdoor Championships in Athens later this year. I believe that Archery will be among the strongest disciplines in the Olympic programme.

I have some good news for our European members and that is that the Olympic Qualification System as now approved by the IOC will give a better chance of qualifying for the European countries. The additional qualifying tournament for all countries that have not yet obtained a place, will give more possibilities for more countries to have a place in the Olympics. We have to underline the importance of the Olympics for the funding of our Member Associations and we cannot forget what just occurred with Softball and Baseball. The message from the IOC Session in Torino was very clear. Once you are out, it is finished. There is no return.

Most of you will have seen the new dynamism in FITA since June and many of the points in my program are under development or have already been realised.

I have just last week signed in Lausanne the foundation document of the FITA Archery Development Fund which will give additional resources to our member associations for development activities. More news on this will follow on our new website that is now being finalised.

I wish you a successful congress and hope that FITA and EMAU will continue to work well together.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Ugur Erdener
FITA President