



## EUROPEAN ATHLETICS COACHES ASSOCIATION

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### **European Athletics Coaches Association**

The Rome Olympics in 1960 was a major turning point in athletics history. Europe moved out of the USA shadow. In 1956, USA had 16 Golds, Europe 11. In 1960, USA had 12, Europe 19. And this in a new age of performance excellence where in the 34 events, 30 Olympic records were set – eight of them world records with a world best in the marathon.

One major influence in these changes and improvements was focus on coaching and the then emerging world of the performance sciences. Europe was leading the way in this and intended to continue doing so.

So a visionary group of leading European coaches met in Vincennes, Paris. They included Calvessi (Italy), Bobin (France), Korobkov (USSR), Kurelic (Yugoslavia), Nett (Federal Republic of Germany) and Dyson (UK). They agreed to create the European Athletics Coaches Association for the development of athletics coaching and to support coach education. At this time in Western Europe, only Germany (FRG) had a robust formal coach education and certification program, while in the Warsaw Pact Nations coach education was formalized as university courses and sports sciences were already in place.

Vincennes, then, was the first EACA Conference, which has been hosted in more than 20 cities across Europe. The 35<sup>th</sup> conference is in Glasgow, 26-28 October 2012, now rebranded as the International Festival of Athletics Coaching (IFAC). The change of title is to more accurately reflect the overall learning opportunity and the excitement of building and sharing knowledge alliances and networks of participating coaches and nations.

The product and service offering of EACA is primarily IFAC and a website which links IFAC, EACA, European Athletics (EA) and the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF).

EACA is the official coaching arm of EA by memorandum of understanding. EACA and EA work together on such initiatives as the Coaches Role of Honour.

EACA was the first IAAF Area Coaches Association and its constitution served as basis for forming the North American, Central America and Caribbean Track and Field Coaches Association (NACATFCA) in 1986. By 2002 all six IAAF areas had coaches associations (Asia, Oceania, Africa, South America, Europe, NACATFCA).

These six areas are represented on the IAAF Coaches Commission founded in 2004. IAAFCC reports through its chair, to IAAF Council. So there is a conduit for coaches being involved in and influencing the decision making body of the sport.

Traditionally membership has been individual, but currently the EACA Council is promoting the idea of establishing a National Athletics Coaches Association in all EA member countries and then connecting these associations in an European Alliance of Coaches Associations.

EACA endorses the Coaches Charter.

EACA will support the Global Coaches House in London and has requested that all other IAAF ACAs do so. EACA would also support initiative to bring together other sports' European Coaches Associations at the GCH to promote a greater alliance of European Coaches Associations.

EACA is pleased to be partner in the Coachnet Project.

EACA Council

Frank Dick - President (UK)

Peter Bonov - Vice President (Bulg)

Dane Korica - Vice President (Serb)

Lorna Booth - Secretary (UK)

Conrad Milton - Treasurer (UK)

Yitka Vindoskova (Czech)

Elio Locatelli (Ita)

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Bill Glad (EA Representative)

Ref: FD/EACA/ICCE/EACA synopsis