

Urgent letter 6-06

14 March 2006

Death of Mr Emil Beck

## LETTRE URGENTE DE LA FIE

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is with immense sadness that we have learned of the death on Sunday 12 March 2006 in Tauberbischofsheim, of the former chief trainer of the German Federation, Mister Emil Beck, at the age of 70 from consequences of a heart attack.

He leaves behind him, his wife Karin, his two sons René and Frank as well as their families.

Emil Beck started his career in 1952 in Tauberbischofsheim. He gave his first fencing lessons in a cellar of the sporting hall of the city. « I always fought for the development of this sport » he said some years ago.

Close to the former chancellor Helmut Kohl, he was the chief trainer of the German Fencing Federation from 1986 to 2000. The German fencing won thanks to his talents, not less than 163 medals in the Olympic Games, the World Championships and the European Championships altogether. His first success was at the 1973 World Championships in Sweden with a gold medal for his men's epee team.

He obtained his biggest success at the 1998 Olympic Games of Seoul, where the German foil fencers (Anja Fichtel, Sabine Bau and Zita Funkenhauser) won the gold, silver and bronze medals in the individual event as well as the gold medal in the team event.

He retired six years ago – in 2000 but in an interview on the occasion of his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday last year, he said « I wish my work could live after me, that it constitutes a base for the future ».

The International Fencing Federation lost one of his greatest leaders. Emil Beck was a friend of fencing, he was a visionary who wished to make his sport more media friendly in order to perpetuate its place in the Olympic concert. He was the reformist of the German fencing and created in Tauberbischofsheim a model center of the international fencing.

He was a big friend of mine and of our sport ...

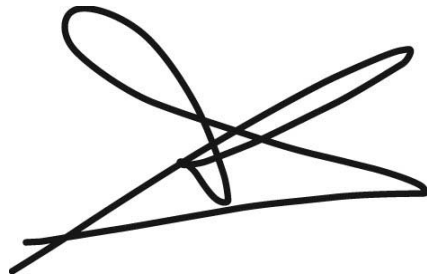
His funeral is scheduled on Friday 17 March in Tauberbischofsheim. The ceremony will be held at 14.00 in the church St. Martin. It will be followed by the burial in the municipal cemetery.

The International Fencing Federation offers Mister Beck's family and the German fencing, its saddened condolences and the tribute of its deepest sympathy for this painful loss.

2005-2006 Calendar

The Algerian Fencing Federation has just informed us that the Youth and Sports Minister did not give its approval for the organisation of the women's and men's sabre competitions scheduled to hold in Algiers from 28 to 30 April 2006. These competitions are therefore cancelled for the 2005-2006 season.

René Roch  
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.