

Urgent letter 08-05  
3 June 2005

Letters of invitation

**LETTRE URGENTE DE LA FIE**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

A number of federations have complained to the FIE about the difficulties, sometimes insurmountable, they had to face in respect of letters of invitation necessary for visa's purposes.

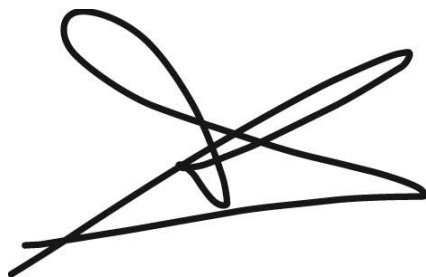
Actually, the federations could either not obtain letters of invitation or obtained them belatedly, which in both cases resulted in the impossibility to obtain a visa. In consequence, they had to renounce to participate in some of the competitions.

I kindly remind you that the participation of national federations in official FIE events is a right and administrative formalities should in no case be an « obstacle course ». I also remind you of the article below, chapter 9, of the FIE Administrative Rules :

« Open World Championships, Junior/Cadet World Championships and other official FIE events are only assigned to National Member Federations who ensure free access to competitors and officials and whose Organizing Committees commit to send invitations to all the Federations having the right to take part, and who do everything in their power to obtain the visas needed. Should these arrangements be contravened, the FIE Bureau is required to alert the FIE Federation Members immediately and must study the possibility of transferring the responsibility of organising these events to another country. »

Hopefully, these situations, which are against sportsmanship, will not occur again.

René Roch  
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'X' shape with a horizontal line extending to the right.