

Christmas & New Year's Message of the International President Michael Odysseos



Now that the year is drawing to its end I should like to convey to you and your families my very best wishes and those of the Members of the Permanent Executive Bureau for the New Year.

At first I should like to thank you all for your loyalty to the IPA. As far as you are active members of IPA I feel obliged to convey to you my particular thanks, because without the effective assistance of many IPA friends, who on all levels are always ready to give their support to the IPA, our work could not be accomplished. Our motto "Servo Per Amikeco" comes very close to the Christian Commandment of "Love Your Fellow Man". Particularly these days we should bear this in mind and we should not forget that this kind of serving must always be based on reciprocity.

Therefore, it is satisfactory to notice that the basic ideals about friendship between police officers in all countries, as it was introduced in 1950 by the Founder of the Association, Arthur Troop, are still very much alive within the IPA. Our Association has had an incredible development during the past 57 years, something that is still going on to-day. The fact that this positive development has been achieved not by loud advertising, but through personal contacts between police officers in many countries, proves the strength in our ideas. It seems that despite all dissension between people and states there is still place for friendship across the borders. Today we experience a situation where we can notice an increasing interest in our Association. We, therefore, have an opportunity not only to increase our membership figures, but also the number of Sections in all Continents.

The highlight of the year was the 34th IEC Conference in Balaton, Hungary. 55 Delegates, plus the observers of four Sections in Foundation, attended the meeting. I am convinced that everyone who was able to participate agrees that it was a very good conference and I take this opportunity to compliment

the Hungarian Section for all arrangements and the excellent organization.

At this conference the Sections in Foundation Andorra, Botswana and Serbia were unanimously affiliated. The three new Sections were congratulated. They are welcomed to our Worldwide IPA Family.

Another event highlighted is the special programme, which was run parallel with the IEC Conference. The 18 youths from 7 Sections, who attended the programme, were given the opportunity to follow the works of the Conference and the presentation of the Theme "Police Tasks Regarding Tourism".

The PEB endeavoured in 2007 to intensify the contacts with National Sections and the members of the PEB visited various Sections in all Continents. Last but not least I am grateful to the National Executive Councils of the Member Sections, which submitted suggestions, new ideas and wishes to the PEB and thus made valuable contribution to a closer co-operation.

Concluding, I wish the IPA members in all five Continents and their families, health, happiness, prosperity and contentment in the years to come. May the year 2008 be a year of peace and friendship for all. For those who celebrate Christmas, I wish you all and your families a very Merry Christmas.

Happy New Year.

Servo Per Amikeco

Michael Odysseos
International President