

8th July 2004

**Let's go East and West –
New Opportunities in the Global Market.**

Dear All.

With many positive thoughts I look back on a week of activities and experiences in Vilnius and the following tour through the Baltic countries. Last years efforts have been very fruitful, we have made a big step ahead in IFES. We have found the right balance again and communication with our members, the IFES delegates and our board of Directors are positive and constructive. - However, we must not stop here; we have to continue to work in this direction and together endeavour to reach the goals we have decided for in the nearest future.

A big thanks to LIPSTA for the invitation, President Arvydas Surblys, Petras Naprusis, Egle Uzusienyte, Vilius Lunevicius and the whole team in Vilnius for a well organised and god arrangement. We have all felt very welcome in Lithuania.

Also thank you to our IFES Management Office they have contributed to this success.

I think that we should also thank our sponsors once more; they have contributed to a willing support, and the international guests for their participation they have also contributed that this IFES Convention got a volume and was realisable in Vilnius.

High quality of professional people have given us very interesting information and we have gained insight through there lectures: *Vereins and Westbank AG Director Mr. W. Seemann, *Ministry of economy of Lithuania Mr. Gediminas Miskinis, *Deputy General Director of ROSINEX, Russia, *Mr. Natalya Khimakova, *Deputy General Director of Minskexpo, Belarus Mr. Vladimir Svechenko, *and Dr. Hermann Kresse Representative of UFI and General Director of Auma. Also Messe Düsseldorf, Project Manager Mrs. Susanne Weller, has contributed with interesting information from the Euroshop 2005.

On exquisite restaurants in Vilnius, with a historical past, all guests enjoyed the evenings delicious dinners with a marvellous choice of wines. An incredible good spirit in an international atmosphere to end the day with songs and cosiness.

The invitation from IDW international Display with a visit in the company Saturday the 26th June was a highlight. A fantastic experience with a view behind the curtains how perfectly human bodies were created. Huge thanks to General Director Remigijus Milasius and Managing Director Jörg Döring for the invitation and to Mr. Jörg Hölter who was the initiator for this visit. We all enjoyed the delicious buffet with exquisite delicacies. But also the rest of the sightseeing tour on Saturday in Vilnius Old Town, Trakai Castle and the restaurant Akmeninė Užeiga in the evening was a fantastic experience.

A small group of 7 persons participated in the Baltic Tour from the 27th – 30th June. An exiting tour through Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. We experienced a huge number of highlights through the different cultures and historic, a beautiful and changing nature, and we felt welcome and at ease among the hospitable and smiling population. The tour was well prepared from the beginning to the end, we had a good driver and guide they were well prepared. A wonderful tour and a harmonious group, - those of you who did not participate really missed something!

Many thanks to all of you who supported me through out my period as president. Once more congratulation to our new IFES president Larry Kulchawik, USA and José Maria Perez, Spain hereafter the new IFES incoming president. I am convinced that the responsibility is placed in the right hands.

I hope for us all, that we together with our coming new secretariat in Brussels will have and exiting and lucrative co-operation to give IFES the necessary growth in the future.

I wish for all of us a very good summer and a well deserved summer holiday.



Yours truly,
Holger Nicolaysen
IFES past president

