



# TCNews

**BULLETIN OF THE FIP THEMATIC COMMISSION**
**N. 22 – AUGUST 2010**

## Dear Delegates

As usual with such newsletters like TCNews, I opened the last issue (no. 21, 2008) to copy the format for the current bulletin. Of course, I realised that I started the last foreword with the phrase: “Isn’t it a shame that you had to wait for such a long time to receive TCNews no. 21?” Well, these words would have been appropriate for the current number as well, because again there passed another two years with no TCNews in between. Also a glance at our commission website reveals that it was not appropriately fed by news during that period. So, in consequence I must admit that the current chairman of your commission (me) is not very good in written communication ...

Well, this does not mean that the commission bureau wouldn’t have done its work. First of all, we had a lot of thematic exhibitions and seminars being organised and performed by the different bureau members during the past two years. And second, we initiated a number of new discussions within F.I.P. towards future the organisational frame of our hobby, namely as being engaged philatelists participating in international events. Changes on worldwide level need their time, so most of what we initiated is still in progress. The commission bureau of Thematic philately is by far the youngest in F.I.P. (in terms of the average age of its members), so we have the certainly traditional right to be a bit impatient when asking for improvements in matters like the organisation of exhibitions or jury education.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

<b>Foreword</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Commission meeting 2008 (report)</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Commission meeting 2008 (minutes)</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Official activity report 2008 - 2010</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Individual activity reports 2008 - 2010</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Commission meeting Lisbon (agenda)</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Further Commission News</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> European Championship of Thematic Philately - impressions</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> European Championship of Thematic Philately - announcement</b>	<b>9</b>

It is noticeable from the Palmarés booklets that Thematic exhibiting has seen a number of advances over the past two years, both in the top section and in the spread around the globe. Analysing the F.I.P. exhibitions of Bucharest 2008, Luoyang 2009 or London 2010 we recognize a good number of exhibits which now reached the large gold level – more than we ever had before in given time. Next, the proportion of exhibits getting allowance for eight frames (minimum qualification large vermeil) is constantly increasing. And finally, we see a good number of new and well done exhibits from countries which formerly were practically not represented in the Thematic family. All these are positive trends and document that the achievements of the past years (in terms of strengthening the thematic development and the quality/spread of philatelic items) now pays off on broader level.

Certainly there is a trend in parts of the world toward specialised exhibitions, in addition to the general world exhibitions or substituting them. Our commission bureau contributes to this trend by organising specialised exhibitions for Thematic: MEXICO 2009 (organised by David Braun), BIRDPEX 2010 (by Koenraad Bracke), German Championship of Thematic Philately (organised by myself), ECTP 4 (by Bernard Jimenez, who is the F.I.P. director responsible for our commission) are examples.

Seminars remain a key topic of our work. The highlight was certainly the “Malmö summit” organised by Jonas Hällström, offering a joint weekend seminar for thematic philately and postal history in this city of Southern Sweden. The four days exhibitors’ seminar in Luoyang (autumn 2008, in preparation of CHINA 2009) was not less impressive. Bernard Jimenez and I contributed for thematic philately. Further short seminars (2 – 3 hours) were added on occasion of the exhibitions, so the exhibitor’s seminars in México City 2009 (José Ramón Moreno and myself), in Luoyang 2009 (myself), or London 2010 (Jonas Hällström. A seminar for US jurors was offered by Darrell Ertzberger in Washington 2009. This list is certainly far from being complete, and it does not include the many educational activities of the commission members in their home countries. All in all, orientation of exhibitors and jurors, and opportunities for discussion remain a hot topic in the commission’s work.

Whilst little to next publication success can be reported by the commission bureau itself, many national thematic associations issue excellent magazines, impressive by content and by technical standard. Some (like the Romanian magazine issued by Dan Dobrescu) are the fruit of the hard work of one person, others (like the CIFT magazine of the Italians) have a well working organisation in behind. There would be a long list of such magazines, I only mentioned one example each, but this already demonstrated that the success of thematic philately is an achievement based on the shoulders of many enthusiasts.

**Damian Läge, commission chairman**

## **MINUTES BUCHAREST 2008 MEETING**

### **Past Commission meeting in Bucharest, June 27<sup>th</sup> 2008: short report to F.I.P. board and congress**

**by Damian Läge**

Delegates from 38 countries attended the commission meeting. The report of the chairman made clear that the commission has reached two of the major goals for the period 2004 – 2008: continuing jury education (14 seminars, ranging from short seminars at F.I.P. exhibitions to full weekend seminars offering practical training) and the installation of an annual international event of high-class thematic philately (European Championship of Thematic Philately, Essen). Emphasis was put on recognising the parallel process of the improving quality of publications by the national thematic associations and of the increasing scores of thematic exhibits to be noted at the international exhibitions of the past years.

The commission’s website was the main focus of the open discussion. Concrete measures were evaluated to improve content and offerings in a way to better guide collectors and exhibitors by providing practical advice and by offering an open electronic forum for discussion.

The following members were elected for the 2008 – 2012 bureau:

Damian Läge, Germany, chairman (2<sup>nd</sup> term)

José Ramón Moreno, Spain, secretary (second term)

Tan Ngiap Chuan, Singapore, member FIAP (new)

David Braun, México, member FIAF (new)

Jonas Hällström, Sweden, member FEPA (new)

In concordance with the F.I.P. board member in charge for the commission, the chairman will (subject being confirmed by the congress) appoint the following two additional members: Darrell R. Ertzberger, USA, and Koenraad Bracke, Belgium.

Lumir Brendl, outgoing F.I.P. board member in charge for the commission, was thanked by standing ovations for his enormous contribution to the successful work of the commission.

The next commission meeting will take place in conjunction with the F.I.P. congress 2010 in Lisboa.

## **Detailed Minutes of the Commission meeting in Bucharest, June 27<sup>th</sup> 2008**

**by José Ramón Moreno, Secretary**

The Commission's Chairman, Damian Läge, welcomed all Delegates present and thanked the Romanian Federation and the Organising Committee of Efiro'08 for the excellent facilities provided for the Conference.

José Ramón Moreno, Secretary to the Commission, did the Roll Call. 35 members were present or represented by proxy. Three more members arrived later, so a total of 38 Federations were present or represented by proxy.

Dr. Läge welcomed the new Delegate from Uruguay, Ms Brenda Taube. Now the Commission is formed by 65 Delegates.

Lumir Brendl, member of the FIP Board responsible for the Thematic and Open Classes congratulate Dr. Läge and his team for having achieved all main points of its programme. He pointed out the importance of the ECTP, the European Championship of Thematic Philately and the Seminar also in Essen, to still improving the thematic exhibits.

He also mentioned the very interesting seminars celebrated in Romania, Scandinavia and Belgium.

He recognised the work that Gunnar Dahlvig and Jose Ramon Moreno are doing for the Open Class which is experimenting a fast development amongst many countries.

Finally Lumir expressed his hope that a thematic as Bernard Jimenez would be elected as member of the FIP Board.

Honorary President of the Commission, Giancarlo Morolli, remembered that it was the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Thematic Commission. At the beginning there were a lot of differences from thematic and "normal" exhibits. There were exhibited separated and even the medals were different. Furthermore, thematic jurors were not allowed to vote for the grand prix. Now, thematic exhibits are candidates for exhibition's grand prix.

He also congratulated Damian for all what he is doing.

The Agenda and the Minutes of the Malaga Commission Conference were unanimously approved.

### *Report of the Chairman.*

Damian Läge told that the improving of the thematic qualifications is not because jurors are now more generous, but because exhibitors are improving.

Belgica 2006 was the largest ever thematic exhibition with 180 exhibits. This not counting One Frame and Open Class thematic. In all, about 300 thematic exhibits.

It is very important to organise seminars. As examples at international level, those of : Bucharest in 2005 given by Jose Ramon Moreno to numerous attendants, under the organisation of the Romanian Federation. Afterwards Dan Dobrescu made an excellent publication about the seminar; Stockholm in 2005, given by Jonas Hällstrom during two

full days that included social events. Helsinki 2006 by Dr. Läge where all the assistants were offered with a CD containing the projections. In Malmö we will have a new seminar organised by Jonas Hällstrom along 3 days in August 2009 for the more advanced.

All levels of seminars are important: for jurors (Essen), for advanced collectors (Stockholm and Helsinki) and for all levels (Bucharest and Aviles, North of Spain).

Damian encouraged to do meetings at every country even if they are just 5 persons.

Dr. Läge informed about the annual seminar organised in Austria for both jurors and exhibitors, in German language, open to people from other countries.

#### *Report of commission members.*

Bernard Jimenez was pleased to inform that in May 2008, 30 people attended the seminar he gave in Tel Aviv.

Giancarlo Morolli said that people in Italy do not know how to improve and solve its problems to get higher qualifications. It is necessary to socialize thematics. To spread the very good thematic magazines published in Italy and South America.

Giancarlo Morolli informed about the recent printing of a very good book of Italian Postal Stationery. The book can be received for a price of € 20 + postage.

Giancarlo also informed that has been elected Vice-president of the Italian Journalists Association.

Christine Earle wanted to emphasize the quality of the Spanish thematic magazine "TF – Temas Filatelicos" bilingual English and Spanish, which is plenty of interesting articles.

Dr. Otero informed that Mr. Santarelli is preparing a book for start collecting thematics.

#### *Website project.*

Damian Läge explained that the works on the Thematic Commission Website started three years ago but it is not yet as it should be.

Were collected ideas. For the next two years the objective is to improve the information offered, to keep up to dated the list of Delegates, so everybody could contact each other. Communication is essential.

Dr. Läge proposed one idea: The Exhibit of the Month, open to the people to see it and make comments.

Vojtech Jankovič from Slovakia said that in the previous Conference of the Commission in Malaga, many things were talked but not much has been done. FIP is old style. Necessary to get a responsible to be the contact point. We ha have to improve the communication. Web site is much cheaper and broad than any other media. In Slovaquia they have a web with the exhibition rules. Now they will put exhibits on it. A good example is Exponet in Czech Republic. He proposed to link the exhibits which are already on the net. They got an international section and a special interest in Sports and Olympics.

Damian said that the Board would contact him and that it is important to be open for discussions.

Peter Suhadolç said that it is easy to put the CD from seminars into the Web.

Roman Babut mentioned the importance of the sports collectors. It is a pity the problems with Olymphilex. In Bratislava was recently celebrated Slovolymphila 2008 an European Sports exhibition. The specialised groups are very helpful, and there are not only about sports, but for example the Masary in Italy for music, the Birdpex, Scouts etc. Now there is an exhibit about opera that started as a beginner at the Masari price and now is a good exhibit.

## *Elections.*

Were celebrated elections for the 5 elected members. For the posts of President and Secretary, were reelected Damian Läge (Germany) and Jose Ramon Moreno (Spain) respectively, being the only candidates for those positions. As the Board member representing America were two candidates: David Braun (Mexico) and Darrell Ertzberger (USA), being elected David Braun.

As Board member representing Asia was elected Tan Ngiap Chuan (Singapore), unique candidate.

As the Board member representing Europe were three candidates: Jonas Hällstrom (Sweden), Koenraad Bracke (Belgium) and Alfred Kunz (Austria), being elected Jonas Hällstrom.

The President, Damian Läge decided to co-opt Koenraad Bracke and Darrel Ertzberger as member of the Commission's Board.

This Commission Board will serve for the period 2008-2012.

The next Conference will be hold in Lisbon in October 2010.

## **ACTIVITY REPORTS**

### **Official activity report July 2008 – June 2010 to F.I.P.**

In its 2008 meeting in Bucharest, the commission elected the current bureau: Damian Läge (Germany) as chairman, José Ramón Moreno (Spain) as secretary, plus Jonas Hällström (Sweden), David Braun (Mexico) and Tan Ngiap Chuan (Singapore) as members representing the three continental federations. Koenraad Bracke (Belgium) and Darrell Ertzberger (USA) were appointed

additional bureau members by the chairman; Giancarlo Morolli (Italy) serves as honorary bureau member.

Continuing jury education, practical advise for exhibitors, and the spread of thematic philately to new countries form three out of the four major goals of the 2008 – 2012 term. The fourth goal is the installation of international events of high-class thematic philately.

The implementation of the European Championship for Thematic Philately (ECTP) served this purpose of a constant international event devoted to thematic philately. After finding a special agreement with FEPA and the German philatelic federation (BDPh), the first such exhibitions had been held in conjunction with the international stamp fair in Essen (2006, 2007, and 2008). This tradition was now continued with an ECTP in Paris (Planete du Timbre, June 2010), and the next ECTP is scheduled for May 2011 in Essen (along with another weekend jury seminar). 2009 saw an international thematic exhibition for Latin American countries in Mexico City, organised by David Braun and supported by a strong Spanish participation arranged by José Ramón Moreno. In April 2010, Koenraad Bracke organised BIRDPEX, a world exhibition for bird related themes which is held every four years (this time in Antwerp, Belgium, in combination with a FEPA exhibition).

International seminars were held in 2009 for both, jurors and exhibitors. It was the aim of the commission to serve as many regions of the world as possible, so there was a general seminar on occasion of CHINA 2009 in Luoyang (organised by Tan Ngiap Chuan), an exhibitors seminar and special jury training on occasion of the international thematic exhibition in Mexico City (March 2009, organised by David Braun), a thematic jury seminar on occasion of NAPEX 2009 in Washington (June 2009, organised by Darrell Ertzberger), and a weekend seminar joint for thematic philately and postal history in Malmö, Sweden (August 2009, organised by Jonas Hällström). Further jury training and

exhibitors orientation on national level was also supported by different members of the bureau.

All but one of the seminars mentioned above were very well attended by both of the target groups, jurors and commissioners. (Only the NAPEX seminar did not attract the audience.) Thematic philately is now a growing discipline in terms of new high level exhibits in East Asia, Central America, South East Europe and Eastern Europe, and some other parts of Europe. Regions of solid tradition in thematic philately, however, have to try hard keeping the number of thematic exhibits stable. It is noticeable that one generation, having built up our modern thematic philately on high level, is retiring from the scene due to age. Namely the long-term leaders of thematic study circles have serious problems in finding successors. This is one problem to be addressed in the next few years. Another is the failure of those countries not having specialised thematic jurors to build up a solid stock of reasonable thematic exhibits which could make it onto international level.

Open Class exhibiting is to a large degree inspired by principles of thematic philately. After implementing this new discipline on F.I.P. level, it is important to attract the right people to the right exhibition class without disguising the peculiar difference in choice of material. Despite of the efforts already spent on F.I.P. and continental levels, it remains a task for the future developing such a clear concept for Open Class exhibiting like it has been implemented successfully for Thematic Philately.

*Paris, June 20<sup>th</sup> 2010,  
Damian Läge, commission chairman*

## **Report from David Braun**

The International Thematic Exhibition in Mexico City held in March 2009. The first international in the recent years in the American Continent. The participant countries

were Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Spain and Mexico. The jury was FIAF and FIP: Fernando Aranaz (Spain), Damian Laege (Germany), José Ramón Moreno (Spain), Luis Fernando Diaz (Costa Rica) and Luiz Paulo Rodrigues Cunha (Brazil).

At the same time FIP Thematic Seminar was given by Damian Laege and José Ramón Moreno, president and secretary of the FIP Thematic Commission.

At the Museo de la Filatelia (MUFI) in Oaxaca, Mexico two thematic exhibits were shown in the principal hall. Between september 2009 and march 2010, "Librando Obstáculos Puentes" (Overcoming obstacles: Bridges) and from may 2010 the exhibit "El instrumento Perfecto" (The Perfect Instrument). This museum is one of the nicest about philately in Latin America and has supported the new exhibitors. A book will be edited of each of the exhibits.

One of the most important thematic philatelists in Mexico, Maria Cristina Hernández, passed away last October. She was a leader and a teacher for a generation of young philatelists.

**David Braun (México), bureau member**

## **Report from Koenraad Bracke**

**BIRDPEX 6** took place in Antwerp (April 2010). BIRDPEX 6 was integrated in another big philatelic event – three exhibitions in one in the four halls of Antwerp Expo. The national exhibition ANTVERPIA showed 27 thematic exhibits and the FEPA exhibition ANTVERPIA was represented by 61 thematic exhibits (with José Ramón Moreno as secretary of the jury) . Last but not least BIRDPEX 6 gave us 70 exhibits “birds” from all over the world (not only from Europe, but also from Canada, India and New Zealand) in several philatelic classes. Top of the bill was the honor class with the highest rewarded

exhibit "Australasian birdlife" (in 10 frames as shown on Monacophil) of Damian Läge, also president of the BIRDPEX jury. The next BIRDPEX will take place in France (2014).

**EUROTHEMA** started 2001 in Wetteren (Belgium): a challenge trophy of 7 European countries. Each country participates with some thematic exhibits (also one frame) and sends one (inter)national judge of thematic philately (who is also the commissioner). After Belgium (2001), the Netherlands (2002), France (2005), Great Britain (2007) the 5th edition (November 2009) took place in Denmark, organized by Jørgen Jørgensen in the historical city of Roskilde. All exhibits taking part in this exhibition have not participated yet in an international FEPA or FIP exhibition, so this is a first try with a thematic exhibit on the international scene, but judged on national level.

To attract not only philatelists, but also other visitors some thematic exhibitions were organised at special locations:

- Exhibition of thematic exhibits "medicine", Museum of Medicine of the University of Ghent, in the "Pand", an old Dominican monastery in the historical centre of Ghent (March 2009) – here you could compare all medical instruments on stamps in the history of medicine with the real thing in the museum
- Special Belgian stamp issue "mountain of arts" with exhibition of thematic exhibits "arts & history", in the new buildings on the Kunstberg / Mont des Arts in the artistic centre of Brussels (September 2009)

**Koenraad Bracke (Belgium),  
bureau member**

## **International Thematic Seminar in Spain - SPREADING IT OUT**

**by José Ramón Moreno**

On the 26th of June 2010, Jose Ramon Moreno gave a Seminar in Aviles ,Spain, within the

frame of the International Thematic Exhibition "AVILES 2010" . The exhibition, took place at the Sports Complex of the Quirinal, from the 19th to June 26th 2010, organized by the Philatelic Group Avilesino, sponsored by the Spanish Post, the Spanish Federation of Philatelic Societies (FESOFI) and the City Council of Avilés, with the collaboration of the International Cultural Center Oscar Niemeyer. The event came over the twinning of the town of Avilés, with Saint Nazaire (France) and Cardenas (Cuba). The 500 frames presented many of the best thematic collections of Spain, France, Cuba and Brazil. The Exhibition Grand Prix was for Jose Angel Gandara for "Colon towards the Indies".

The title of the Seminar was "Current situation of Exhibiting Thematic Philately". Its aims was to spread the main thematic areas developed by Dr. Damian Läge at the fantastic 1st International Philatelic Summit organized in August 2009 in Malmoe by Jonas Hällstrom.

Starting with the present criteria of evaluation , was analyzed the development of the evaluation criteria through the time, special focus on the Philatelic Knowledge and the main challenges when judging :Non-postal aspects of items, Rarity of unimportant material, Plan ,Development and Thematic Knowledge, Innovation and Consistency in scoring.

Amongst the many attendants were present the National Delegates of Brasil and Cuba at the FIP Thematic Commission, Luiz Paulo Rodriguez Cunha and José Raul Lorenzo Sanchez, who actively collaborated with Jose Ramon Moreno in the presentation of the Seminar. Were present many collectors and 12 National and FIAFJurors, as well as the FIP Jurors Miguel Angel Garcia Fernandez (Spain) and Michel Menchon (France). It is likely that they will follow spreading the ideas into their countries and so reach consistency amongst all Delegates of the Commission and jurors at all levels.

# COMMISSION NEWS

## Commission meeting in Lisbon - Agenda

Delegates are invited to attend the Conference of the Commission that will take place **in Lisbon on Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, from 10.30 to 12.30, exhibition center, auditorium 3**, with the following Agenda:

1. Roll call of Delegates
2. Approval of the agenda
3. Approval of the minutes of the Bucharest Commission meeting
4. Report of the Chairman
5. The website project
6. Future regional exhibitions and seminars with a focus on thematic philately
7. Open Class
8. Additional subjects
9. Date and venue of the next Conference
10. Short seminar

## New national delegates

We welcome the following new delegates to our commission:

Eliseo Otero, Argentina

George Antoniou, Cyprus

Majed Jaber Ali, United Arab Emirates

Brenda Taube, Uruguay

Eliseo Otero replaces *Nestor Ferré* whom I would like to specially thank for his valuable contributions during the many, many years of representing Argentina.

64 national federations are represented in the Thematic Commission. The current list can be found on the commission's website.

## Delegates' addresses

TCNews is primarily distributed by e-mail and is available on our website. Those delegates who have not reported an e-mail address have been asked in written to provide the Chairman with an electronic address (but not one single response was received).

Further, all delegates' e-mail addresses are mentioned on our website so that collectors can contact the delegate in their country that way. However, if you as a national delegate should have an e-mail address which has changed or which is not mentioned in the address list, please be so kind to send me an e-mail so that I can add your address to the lists. From different attempts to contact delegates via e-mail, I estimate up to ten of the addresses are no longer current. Also postal addresses seem to have changed without informing F.I.P. or the commission chairman. It would be a pity if TCNews would not reach you. So please be so kind to let me know of all modifications.

## **4<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP OF THEMATIC PHILATELY (Paris, June 12 – 20, 2010)**

From 12 to 20 June, in the charming frame of the Parc Floral de Paris, the « Planète Timbres 2010 » show, organized by [Phil@poste](mailto:Phil@poste) and the Fédération Française des Associations Philatéliques (FFAP), presented on more than 20.000m<sup>2</sup> :

- a lot of activities of initiation into the world of stamp collection and the "universe of paper and letter writing" with workshops of calligraphy, mail art,...
- a commercial space with foreign mail administrations and 120 dealers,



▪ the French championship of philately and an European philatelic competition with the classes aerophilately, postal stationery, modern traditional philately and, last but not least the 2010 European Championship for Thematic Philately, for the first time out of Germany.

Damian Läge was the jury secretary for the whole European competition but he also led the thematic jury group composed by Jorgen Jorgensen (FEPA President), Giancarlo Morolli and Bernard Jimenez. The expert team was composed by Jean François Brun and James Van der Linden.

43 exhibits coming from 18 countries were distributed in the 8 sub-classes with a great participation in the “Sport and leisure” sub-class (9 exhibits) and only 2 and 3 exhibits in the “agriculture and pets” and “Man and Everyday Life” sub-classes. In the 5 other sub-classes we had between 5 and 7 exhibits.

Felix Albe, with “Hymne au Soleil” had been the winner of the Championship class.

As usual, we had, in front of the public, during the Palmes dinner, the vote of the whole jury (including those not “specialized” in thematics) for the ECTP 2010 Grand Prix. Finally, after an incredible suspense, Jonas Hällström, with the exhibit “the history of the square-rigged vessels” was the winner with 69 points, Felix Albe with “Hymne au soleil” obtaining 68 points and Lutz König with “the pigeons”, 55 points. Congratulations Jonas.

Thanks a lot to the collectors for their participation and to the commissioners for collecting and transporting the exhibits.

“Planète Timbres 2010” with the ECTP competition was a great success as more than 80.000 visitors visited the exhibition!

**Bernard Jimenez, jury president**

## **5<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP OF THEMATIC PHILATELY (Essen, May 5 - 7, 2011)**

### **1. General idea and location**

The European Championship for Thematic Philately (ECTP) shall join the best thematic exhibits in Europe in one single show, promoting the competitive aspect in high quality exhibiting, securing or even increasing the high standard of thematic exhibits in a long term perspective.

ECTP is recognized by The European Federation of Philatelic Associations (FEPA) as official European Championship for Thematic Philately and was held for the first time in 2006.

ECTP will be arranged in conjunction with the International Stamp Fair in Essen dated May 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> 2011. The stamp fair in the fairgrounds of the Messe Essen is organized in a professional manner and ranks amongst the most successful philatelic fairs in Europe.

The exhibition itself will be realized by the German Philatelic Federation BDPH, namely by its regional federation of Nordrhein-Westfalen.

### **2. The concept of the championship competition**

**Champions' Class.** All champions of ECTP 2006 to 2010 can show their exhibits in the Champions' Class, the number of frames ranging between 7 and 11 (choice of the exhibitor). The jury will choose the best exhibit of this class as additional candidate for the Grand Prix ECTP (see below). An exhibit which has already won the Grand Prix ECTP in a previous year is not eligible for candidate.

Participation in the Champions' Class is the prerequisite for future participation of this exhibit in one of the competitive classes. Those champions who have shown their exhibit in the champions' class 2010, may remain in that class or may return into one of the eight competitive classes.

**Competitive Classes.** The exhibition will comprise 8 different classes grouping the thematic range of exhibits as follows:

- Class 1: Arts and Culture
- Class 2: History and Organizations
- Class 3: Man and Everyday Life
- Class 4: Sport and Leisure
- Class 5: Transport and Technology
- Class 6: Medicine and Science
- Class 7: Animals and Plants
- Class 8: Agriculture and Pets

Up to ten exhibits from ten different FEPA countries can be shown in each class. An exhibit comprises 7 – 11 frames of 12 pages each (German standard frames, 100 x 100 cm, contain space for 3 rows of four A4 pages each).

**Awards.** In each class, one gold medallist (“European Champion”) will be elected from the exhibits shown. Further on, one silver and one bronze medal will be awarded to the runner-ups. This makes 24 medallists at each ECTP. From the eight gold medallists and the best exhibit in the champions’ class, the jury votes for the winner of the Grand Prix ECTP.

The ranking of exhibits within each class follows the order of points awarded by the jury according to GREV and SREV for thematic exhibits. The Grand Prix ECTP will be voted in public during the award ceremony with every juror contributing his own ranking of the very best exhibits.

**Participants.** Every thematic exhibit which has been shown at least once on FIP or FEPA exhibitions can apply for participation (unless it has been European Champion in one of the classes in a previous year. In this case, an exhibit has to be shown in the Champions’ Class before being able to return into one of the competitive classes.).

It is in the decision of the exhibitor which of the eight classes is the most appropriate. (However, he can be overruled by the selection committee in cases of obvious inconsistencies). The exhibitor is free to

choose the number of frames ranging from a minimum of 7 up to a maximum of 11.

**Applications.** All entry forms are gathered by the national delegates for the FIP commission for Thematic Philately. They submit the entries for their countries and make sure that the best exhibits are nominated for competition. Names and addresses of all national delegates can be found on the internet site of the FIP commission for Thematic Philately (<http://www.fipthematicphilately.org>).

All collectors who want to participate at ECTP 2011 have to submit their application, including a photocopy of the plan page and the exhibit description, to the national delegate of their country not later than November 15th 2010. The national delegate will forward the applications to the

Exhibition manager of ECTP  
Josef Vinken,  
Neufelder Str. 17,  
D-47906 Kempen (Germany)

not later than November 25th 2010. Delegates and exhibitor are informed about the acceptance of the exhibit before Christmas.

Every FEPA country can only submit one exhibit per class. Only if less than 10 applications are received for one specific class, the selection committee may nominate further exhibits from countries which are represented in this class already to reach the maximum of 10 exhibits.

The selection committee of ECTP will select those 10 exhibits for each class having the highest awards at previous FIP or FEPA exhibitions. In any case, however, the two exhibits of each FEPA country having the highest qualifications will be accepted so that each FEPA country can be represented by at least two exhibits.

The exhibition fee for both, the Champions’ Class and the Competitive Classes is € 25 per frame and payable after notification of acceptance of the exhibit. This fee includes the participation in the Palamares with subsequent buffet. In exceptional cases the fee may be paid before setup of the exhibit.

**Transport of exhibits.** Each exhibit shall be brought and collected by the exhibitor himself or by his authorized agent. In the special case of a championship, the exhibitors are in general requested to be present during the exhibition and the award ceremony. For this reason, no national commissioners are appointed for this purpose (as usual with general exhibitions on FEPA level). However, exhibits can also be sent in by mail or of course be carried by jury members from the respective country.

Exhibitors or their agent have to mount / dismount the exhibit (if not sent in by mail). The mounting of frames shall take place on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> of May, from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m., the dismounting on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> of May, from 5 p.m. onwards.

To forward an exhibit by the posts shall only be possible in exceptional cases which have to be announced beforehand. These exhibits must reach the exhibition-manager not later than 20<sup>th</sup> April under the following address:

Exhibition manager of ECTP  
Josef Vinken,  
Neufelder Str. 17,  
D-47906 Kempen (Germany)

A storage of the exhibits after the exhibition took place or a reposting of the exhibits shall generally not be possible.

**General regulations.** ECTP orientates on the regulations for exhibitions arranged by FEPA and BDPH. The transport and insurance of exhibits is in the responsibility of the exhibitor. Every exhibitor may insure the exhibit at her/his own expense.

The exhibition-manager shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the security of the exhibit from arrival till return thereof. However, the exhibition-manager and the organizing team shall not bear any liability for loss or damage that might occur during transportation, mounting, dismounting or while the exhibition.

### 3. Jury

The ECTP jury will represent a wide range of FEPA countries. Each member is a qualified thematic juror on FIP or FEPA level. The jury work consists of evaluating every exhibit according to GREV and SREV for thematic exhibits, ranking all exhibits in each of the eight classes, voting for the Grand Prix amongst the eight gold medallists and the candidate from the Champions' Class, and suggesting modifications to the exhibitors during a jury critique on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 10 - 12.30.

### 4. FEPA Jury Seminar of May 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 2011

The special time frame of the Stamp Fair in Essen (Thursday to Saturday) allows for a FEPA seminar for thematic jurors in conjunction with ECTP, starting Saturday afternoon and ending Sunday noon. All FIP and FEPA jurors are free to join the seminar, and future candidates for FEPA apprenticeship shall also get the opportunity to participate. The participation is free of charge. Jurors who would like to attend are kindly requested to contact the organisation committee not later than January 31<sup>st</sup> 2008. Thematic jurors on national level can be admitted if free seats are available.

**TCNews** is published by the **FIP Thematic Commission**

Chairman: Prof. Dr. Damian Läge

Buchzelgstrasse 21, 8053 Zürich, Switzerland; d.laenge@psychologie.uzh.ch

Secretary: José Ramón Moreno

commission's website <http://www.fipthematicphilately.org>