

**Dear IVV National Federations Presidents**

**Dear IVV Delegates**

**Dear entire IVV Presidium**

**Dear IVV Honorary President, Mr. Host Wolkmer**

With great regret, I must inform you that, due to the CoVID-19 infection spread in most of the world and mainly in Europe, the IVV Presidium has unanimously decided to move the current date of the Congress of Delegates of Ostend to next autumn, precisely 9-10 October, and as previously in Ostende (Belgium).

The reasons for this move are manifold:

- ❖ The spread of CoVID-19, according to certified epidemiological studies (in particular those carried out on the spread of SARS 2002, H5N1 AVIARIA 2005, H1N1 2012), is booming and will affect all of Europe in its acute phase in the next two months;
- ❖ The Congress of Delegates is scheduled for 9-10 May, the date that is expected to coincide with the period of maximum expansion of the CoVID-19 infection in Europe;
- ❖ Many Federations will be unable to participate at the Congress of Delegates due to the infectious situation in their own countries and to the limitation of flights;
- ❖ Yesterday the WHO declared the world pandemic state;
  
- ❖ The Congress itself could become a possible vehicle for the transmission of CoVID-19 among the Delegates themselves.

We apologize for the inconvenience, but we made this choice in the interest of all, and for our physical health. The Congress of Delegates is a peaceful meeting between the IVV National Federations and we cannot think of attending it, instead, with the concern of possible infection or disease.

The IVV Presidium takes this opportunity to thank the entire Belgian Federation for their great collaboration shown so far, and their great sense of hospitality.

Best wishes to you all,

**Dr. Giuseppe Colantonio IVV President and IVV Presidium**

Altotting 12.03.2020