



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES JOURNALISTES ET ECRIVAINS DU TOURISME  
WORLD FEDERATION OF TRAVEL JOURNALISTS AND WRITERS  
FEDERACION MUNDIAL DE PERIODISTAS Y ESCRITORES DE TURISMO

## FIJET NEWSLETTER – July, 2012



The Mena House. FIJET's home while in Cairo for the 54<sup>th</sup> World Congress

*"I have found adventure in flying, in world travel, in business, and even close at hand... Adventure is a state of mind - and spirit."* – **Jacqueline Cochran (1910 - 1980)**

### Important Information

**September 30, 2012** – Deadline for submitting articles and stories from the Board of Directors meeting in the Czech Republic. If you miss this deadline, you will not be allowed to attend the upcoming Congress and you are subject to being expelled from FIJET.

### Contents:

**From the Editor's Desk** – Jim looks at the upcoming FIJET World Congress in Egypt, the Golden Apple to be awarded to the Hamamonu district in Turkey and the FIJET elections.

**FIJET News** – The latest information about the FIJET 2012 World Congress in Egypt; Golden Apple to be presented to the Hamamonu district in Turkey; Details on the procedure for registering for the Congress; List of candidates for the upcoming elections and the list of countries allowed to vote.

**Congress News** – Details about the 54<sup>th</sup> FIJET World Congress in Egypt including a backgrounder by Jim Thompson, details on payments, facts about the country and informations on the fees and payments.

**Congress Schedule** – The tentative schedule of events for the 54<sup>th</sup> FIJET World Congress in Egypt

**News from Around FIJET** – a report by Victor Radulescu on the Europe Prize 2012 in Sighigara, Romania

**Editor:**

Jim Thompson [jim@traveljournos.com](mailto:jim@traveljournos.com)

**Important note:**

The newsletter is open to all members of FIJET. Your news, articles, and other contributions are welcomed and appreciated. Please send all submissions for consideration to the newsletter editors.

**FIJET Website:** <http://www.fijet.net>

NOTE: Previous newsletters can be found on the website.

**Update your Email.** We are doing all that we can to ensure that all members of FIJET receive the newsletter via email each month. However, we are limited in this effort by the email addresses that are provided to us. If you have recently changed your email, or you or someone in your association is not receiving the newsletter, please provide us with the current address. This is the ONLY way to insure that you receive the newsletter in your email box. If you do not have an email address or have not been getting the newsletter, you can access it via the FIJET website.

## **FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK**

### **Congress, Elections and the Pomme d'Or**

As final preparations for the **54<sup>th</sup> FIJET World Congress in Egypt** are being made, it's time to pack your bags and prepare for what our Egyptian hosts say will be a **magnificent event**.

As the oldest tourist destination on earth, Egypt is truly a fitting location for the 54th FIJET World Congress. Our journey will take us from the bright lights and sophistication of **Cairo** to the timeless wonders of **Alexandria**. Along the way, delegates and their companions will visit the **Giza Pyramids** and experience an amazing **Sound & Light show** at the very foot of these ancient structures.



From Cairo, we travel to Alexandria to visit the **Bibliotheca Alexandrina**, one of the great wonders of the ancient world, the **Qaitbey Citadel** and the **Aqua Marina**. We will also travel to **Alamein** and attend a special ceremony at the **Journalists Tourist Village**. On the return to Cairo, we will stop at the **Egyptian Museum** before the **Gala Dinner** and the return home.

Of course, there will also be the Opening Ceremony, the General Assembly and – most importantly – the election for the Executive Committee.

Please see check this newsletter, or the FIJET website, for information on how to register for the Congress and for full details about the schedule of events.



But, before the Congress, FIJET has another major event: presentation of the **Pomme d'Or** (Golden Apple). This highly prized award will be presented to **Hamamönü Municipality** (Greater Ankara/Turkey) on September 3. This unique location was also the winner in 2011 of the EDEN award as a model of sustainable tourism. Our very special thanks goes to Executive Committee member, **Ertan Sandikçioğlu** for arranging and coordinating the ceremony and the press/radio/TV coverage of the event. (See this newsletter for further details about the reason that Hamamönü Municipality was chosen for the honor of receiving the Golden Apple.)

Also looming is the **election for the Executive Committee**. In this newsletter is a list of all of the candidates and the National Associations allowed to vote. I urge everyone to look over the list of candidates carefully since the choices you make will have a **profound affect on the future of FIJET**. It is important that you choose people who will bring new ideas and new energy to our organization.

As some of you have seen from the recent emails that have been exchanged between some members of the Board of Directors, there is a renewed **sense of concern for the future** of our organization. Clearly, passions are running high. It is good to have open dialogue, but we must also not lose sight of the ultimate goal: to make FIJET **stronger, better and more responsive** to the members.

**Jim Thompson**  
**FIJET Executive Committee**  
**Director of FIJET Congresses & Meetings**

## **FIJET NEWS**

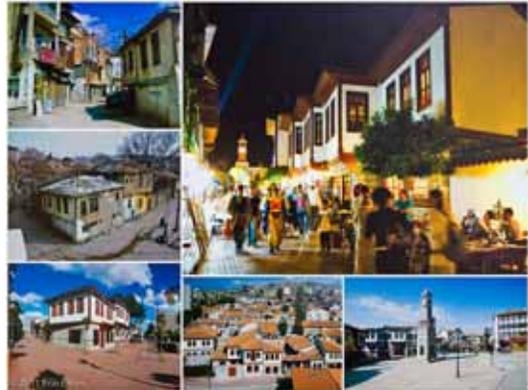
**2012 Congress in Egypt** – As officially announced several weeks ago, the 2012 FIJET World Congress will be in Egypt from September 28 – October 4, 2012. Salah and Mohamed Attia are working hard to make this a marvelous Congress with plenty of interesting surprises.

By now, you should have been contacted by your Association President with the details on registration, fees, etc. the information is also contacted in this newsletter in the CONGRESS NEWS Section. Please take a few moments to read it. Also, please remember that the deadline for registration is be August 15.

## Golden Apple to Awarded to the Hamamonu District in Turkey

In September, FIJET will award the Pomme d'Or (Golden Apple) to the Hamamönü-Altındağ district near Ankara. The Hamamonu district, which is located in the center of the city of Altındağ (meaning 'old Ankara'), shows Turkey as it once was.

Following a recent and remarkable restoration process, the dilapidated buildings and aging streets of Hamamonu has emerged as a place frozen in time and reflecting the traditional styles of both the Ottoman Empire and the Turkish Republic.



The regeneration of the Hamamonu district became a priority for Ankara Cultural Tourism because of its historical interest and central location. In a major civic project, Altındağ Municipality worked hard to restore the original charm of the district. The result was that local inhabitants were lured back and it has become an interesting destination for tourists.

During the restoration and expansion project, buildings in some 250 locations – including masjids and mosques from the Seljuk era – were reconstructed or completely rebuilt.

In all, an area of about 210 hectares was reconstructed and 33 sites were registered with the Cultural and Natural Heritage Preservation Board. Today, Hamamonu is a popular place for locals and tourists alike, its treasures and history unveiled for a new generation to enjoy.

Hamamonu was also the winner of the EDEN Award in 2011. EDEN is the acronym for European Destinations of Excellence, an initiative launched by the European Commission promoting sustainable tourism development models across Europe.



The project is based on national competitions which has taken place each year since 2006 and results in the selection of a “destination of excellence” for each participating country. Through the awarding of destinations, EDEN is dedicated to the goal of drawing attention to the values, diversity and common features of European touristic destinations.

**Procedure for Registering for the 54<sup>th</sup> FIJET World Congress** – In order to avoid delays and confusion, registration for the upcoming FIJET World Congress in Egypt will be done in the SAME MANNER as in the last three years on the FIJET website. This means that registration for the Congress will be done individually on the FIJET website.

Here is the procedure:

1. Members who want to attend the 2012 FIJET World Congress in Egypt should go to the FIJET website (<http://www.fijet.net>). Information about the Congress (fees, schedule, background, payment information, etc.) can be found in the Congress Section. To access

this section, you can click on **CONGRESS** which is in red at the top of the page, click on “Congress” in the upper (gold) menu bar or use the following link:  
[http://www.fijet.net/index.cfm/Congress\\_Information\\_and\\_Background](http://www.fijet.net/index.cfm/Congress_Information_and_Background)

2. From the Congress section, you can browse the various sections by clicking on the menu items on the left side of the page.
3. To register, select “Event Registration” which is the last menu item on the left side of the page. You will need your member number to register. If you forgot it, you can have it sent to your email address (the one you used to register as a member) by clicking on the item marked “If you forgot your Member ID click here.”



Please remember that this is a “Pre-Registration” and just filling out the form DOES NOT guarantee that you will be allowed to attend the Congress.

As in the past, once we have determined that you are a qualified member, your name (and those from your association who have registered for the Congress) will be sent to your Association President. He/she will make the final selection of who is allowed to attend from your Association based on the quota for that country. Qualified FIJET members who are not selected

will be placed on a waiting list. If there are additional spaces, selections will be made from this waiting list.

Please remember that quotas are based on COUNTRY and NOT on Associations. Any member who did not write and publish a story following a previous Congress will NOT be allowed to attend the Congress in accordance with the FIJET Bylaws.

Details about fees, airfare discounts and tours can be found on the FIJET website in the Congress section.

If you have questions, please direct them to **Jacques Campe**, FIJET Secretary General ([jacques.campe@cegetel.net](mailto:jacques.campe@cegetel.net)). Jacques is also responsible for providing you with a letter needed to obtain the discount on Egypt Air (click on “Airline Flights” menu in the Congress section of the FIJET website for details).

I strongly advise that you do not make final travel plans until you have been confirmed as being able to attend the Congress.

Further details about the Congress will be made available on the FIJET website.

**2012 FIJET Elections** – Here is a list of the candidates for election to the FIJET Executive Committee.

**Candidates for President:**

Drago BULC (Slovenia)  
Tijani HADDAD (Tunisia)



**Candidates for the Executive Committee:**

Salah ATTIA (Egypt)  
Antonio BONELLI (Italy)  
Tina CUBRILLO (Croatia)  
Anais DE MELO (Mexico)  
Miguel Angel GONZALEZ SUAREZ (Spain)  
Miroslav NAVARA (Czech Republic)  
Anna Plenzler (Poland)  
Victor RADULESCU (Romania) JPG  
Walter ROGGEMAN (Belgium)  
Bernadette ROUX-BONNETAIN (France)  
Ertan SANDIKCIOGLU (Turkey)  
Eytan SHABI (Israel)  
Marina Petrova SLYESARYEVA (Ukraine)  
Plamen STAREV (Bulgaria)  
Natalya TARASENKO (Russia)  
Jim THOMPSON (USA)  
Georges YOUNES (Lebanon)

**National Associations Allowed to Vote:**

Belgium (BFTP)	Italy	Spain
Bulgaria	Lebanon	Sweden
Croatia	Libya	Switzerland
Czech Republic	Mexico	Tunisia
Egypt	Poland	Turkey
France	Romania	Ukraine
Germany	Russia	USA
Greece	Serbia	
Israel	Slovenia	

The elections will be conducted in Egypt prior to the official start of the Congress according to the rules set forth in the FIJET Bylaws and the FIJET Election Procedures under the guidance of the Elections Sub-Committee.

The Elections Sub-Committee is comprised of: chairperson Marijana Rebic (Croatia), Frans Rombots (Belgium) and Ryker Lomas (USA/Canada).

**NOTE: Please see the candidate statements at the end of this newsletter. All candidates were allowed to enter a statement. All statements were strictly limited to no more than 250 words.**

## **CONGRESS NEWS**

### **FIJET RETURNS TO EGYPT**

*By Jim Thompson*

As the oldest tourist destination on earth, Egypt is a fitting location for the 54th FIJET World Congress. Our journey will take us from the bright lights and sophistication of Cairo to the timeless wonders of Alexandria.

#### **BACKGROUND**



Ancient Greeks and Romans were among the first to travel to this land as tourists and to stand in amazement at the grand scale of the Pyramids and the Colossi of Thebes.

Today, the attraction for tourists is not only the ancient monuments of the Nile Valley and the souks, mosques and madrassas of Islamic Cairo, but Egypt's natural wonders – like the Red Sea, the deserts, dunes and haunting

rockscapes – and its modern shopping areas and exciting nightlife.

The result is a multi-layered culture that blends ancient with modern, grand with humble and secular with spiritual. The people (fellaheen) of the Nile and Bedouin tribes of the desert live much as their ancestors did a thousand years ago. Other communities include the Nubians of the far south, and the Coptic Christians, who trace their ancestry back to the time of the great Pharaohs. They are united by a love of their homeland, extended family ties, dignity, warmth and hospitality towards strangers. Though most visitors are drawn to Egypt by its monuments, the enduring memory is likely to be of its people and their way of life.

The 54th FIJET World Congress begins in the ancient and timeless city of Cairo (see the schedule for full details on the trip).

#### **THE TIMELESS CITY**

Cairo, known officially as al-Qāhirah, is one of the world's largest urban areas and offers many sites for the visitor, including the Great Pyramids at Giza which lie on the far edge of the city. Here you can also visit ancient temples, tombs, Christian churches, magnificent Muslim monuments, and of course, the Egyptian Antiquities Museum.





Cairo itself is an amazing city full of life and movement. Twenty-Four hours a day, it is alive with the noise of honking horns, children playing in the streets and merchants selling their wares and services. At the same time, it offers great culture that includes art galleries and music halls along with some of the grandest accommodations and restaurants in the world.

Visitors to Cairo also find an incredible selection of

shopping, leisure activities and nightlife. Shopping ranges from the famous Khan el-Khalili souk, (or bazaar) largely unchanged since the 14th century, to modern air-conditioned centers displaying the latest fashions. Particularly good buys are spices, perfumes, gold, silver, carpets, brass and copperware, leatherwork, glass and ceramics. Try some of the famous street markets, like Wekala al-Balaq, for fabrics, including Egyptian cotton, the Tentmakers Bazaar for appliqué-work, Mohammed Ali Street for musical instruments and, although you probably won't want to buy, the Camel Market makes a fascinating trip. This is, and has been for over a thousand years, truly a shopper's paradise.

While in Cairo, our base will be the fabulous Mena House. Surrounded by 40 acres of lush gardens, with the breathtaking Great Pyramids of Giza standing proudly as they have for thousands of years, you will enjoy all the comforts of the modern world with the ancient wonders just outside your door.

Step into your room and relax in splendor in the spacious open design, with high ceilings and sliding glass doors letting in abundant natural light. With a rich contemporary style, plush furnishings, and beautiful wood floors, each room is like an elegant home away from home, inviting you to immerse yourself in the beauty of your surroundings. At Mena House Oberoi, explore all that Cairo has to offer, and rest in luxuries pharaohs could only dream of.



In Alexandria our home will be the wonderful HInan Palestine Hotel.

## ALEXANDRIA



Founded by Alexander the Great in 332 BC, Alexandria, also known as “The Pearl of the Mediterranean,” was once one of the most prominent cities of the ancient world, known as the capital of the arts and science at the time. It is home to the Pharos Lighthouse, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, as well as the enormous Library of Alexandria. Branded for its cooling sea breeze and golden-sand beaches, remnants of the City’s greatness can still be found here.

Only 225km from Cairo, Helnan Palestine hotel is approximately a 2.5-hour drive from the capital. The hotel encompasses 200 spacious rooms with balconies, 16 luxuriously appointed suites and a grand penthouse, all of which provide spectacular views of the Mediterranean Sea and the Montazah Royal Gardens. Tastefully furnishes and equipped with a full range of modern amenities, such as; TV, satellite channels & DVD/CD player, direct international telephone line, high speed internet, mini bar, complimentary tea & coffee tray, safety box, hairdryer, in-room safety deposit box, central air-conditioning and 24-hour room service.

## EGYPT FACTS

- The Arab Republic of Egypt covers 1,001,450 square kilometers, of which 96.4 percent is desert; only the Nile Valley, its Delta and some oases are fertile.
- Egypt's population of 75 million is twice that of the next most populous Arab country (Algeria) and a quarter of the population of the Arab world. Its ethnic profile is Eastern Hamitic – Egyptians, Bedouin, Nubians and Berbers account for 99 percent – with tiny minorities of Greeks, Armenians and others. Arabic is universally spoken; Nubian or Siwi locally. Islam is the national religion, with some 96 percent followers; almost all the rest are Coptic Orthodox Christians.
- Tourism is Egypt's largest money-earner, followed by tolls on the Suez Canal, and exports of oil, petroleum products, textiles and natural gas.
- Language – Arabic with an Egyptian dialect, though a significant percentage of the educated population are capable in English, French and/or Italian.
- Currency – Egyptian Pound, as in the rest of Egypt, though US Dollars and Euros are freely exchanged.



Exchange rate: 1 Euro =7.42 Egyptian Pounds / 1 USD = 6.06 Egyptian Pounds

- Country dialing code: 20.
- Religion – 90-94 % Muslim, most of the rest are Coptic Christian. Most Muslims are Sunni, though no specific percentages seem to be available. While Copts make up the largest percentage of Christians, there is a small, declining number of Catholics, and apparently an increasing number of Protestants, mostly Episcopal.
- Time zone – GMT + 2.
- Electricity – 220 volts AC, 50Hz; round two-pin plugs are used.
- Average temperature during the day in October in Alexandria is 27°C (81°F) / 18°C (64°F) at night.
- Average temperature during the day in October in Cairo is 29°C (84°F) / 18°C (64°F) at night.

## FLIGHT INFORMATION

Our friend and colleague, Salah Attia has provided the following information:



"We have signed an agreement with Egypt Air granting the following discounts:

30% discount on any available airfare for the members participating in the Congress.

20% discount on any available airfare for the accompanying persons"

In order to obtain the discount, you will need an official letter from FIJET to Egypt Air and a copy of a letter in Arabic that has been provided by Egypt Air. Both of these documents can be

obtained from the FIJET Secretary General Jacques Campe. The letters will be sent to members after they have registered and been approved to attend the Congress.

## FEES & PAYMENTS

The Fees for the 54th FIJET World Congress in Egypt (September 28-October 4, 2012) will be as follows:

**FIJET Members:** 325-Euros

**Companions:** 375-Euros (companions must accompany a member and must stay in the same room as the member. Companions cannot have a separate room)

Single Room Supplement: 50-Euros (only 20 single rooms are available, so some members may be forced to share a room with another member)

Extra days before/after the congress in Cairo: 100-Euros per night

Here is the account information for the FIJET account in France. Please send payment for the Congress to this account.

NOTE: The BIC code for the Lyon Bank is: CMCIFRPP

EURO Account

Identifiant international de compte bancaire

IBAN (International Bank Account Number)

FR76 1009 6180 0200 0539 7850 165

BIC Code: CMCIFRPP

BANK

CICLyonnaise de Banque – Lyon République - 8 rue de la République F. 69001 LYON

Bank Address

LB LYON REPUBLIQUE

8 rue de la République

F. 69001 LYON

Tél. 00 338 20 01 01 02

Titulaire du compte (Account Owner)

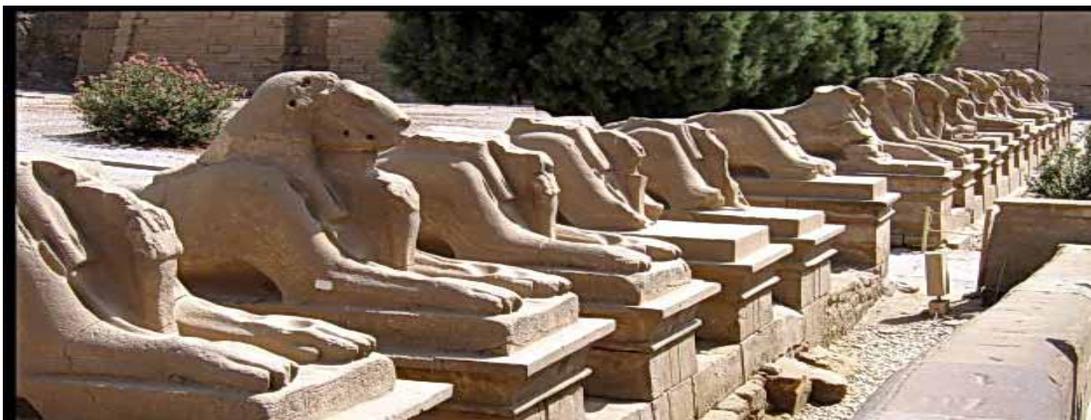
F I J E T

Chez Mme Bernadette ROUX

7 RUE DES GANTRIES

F. 69130 ECULLY

NOTE: If you have any questions, please contact Bernadette (FIJET Treasurer) at [berfr.rouxbonnetain@free.fr](mailto:berfr.rouxbonnetain@free.fr) or via phone at: Tél. 00 33 (0)4 78 33 29 58



## CONGRESS SCHEDULE



### **FIJET World Congress Egypt September 28 - October 4, 2012**

**(NOTE: This is a preliminary program that is subject to change. Work is currently being done on the specific tours and stops during the Congress.)**

#### **Friday, September 28, 2012**

Arrival at Cairo Airport

Hotel Check-in. Mena House Oberoi

<http://www.touregypt.net/egypt-info/magazine-mag07012000-magf2a.htm>

#### **Saturday, September 29, 2012**

8.30 - Breakfast

9.00 - EC meeting

10.00 - Opening ceremony of the Congress

11.00 - Board of Directors and elections

11.00 - Visit to the Giza Pyramids for the rest of the members

13.30 – Lunch

15.00 – Meeting of the new EC

19.00 - Sound & Light show at the Giza Pyramids

20.30 - Dinner



#### **Sunday, September 30, 2012**

7.00 - Breakfast

8.00 - Departure by Buses to Alexandria (210 km - 3 hours from the hotels) for 3 nights

13.00 - Lunch

Hotel Check-in. Hlnan Palestine Hotel

[www.helnan.com/HotelPage.aspx?HID=17&HLID=74](http://www.helnan.com/HotelPage.aspx?HID=17&HLID=74)

16.00 - Visit to Montazah Palace and then to Bibliotheca Alexandrina - Qaitbey Citadel - Aqua Marina

20.00 - Dinner

#### **Monday, October 1, 2012**

8.30 - Breakfast

9.30 - General Assembly

11.00 - Discussion of the theme of the Congress: "Mediterranean Cities One Tourist Destination"

13.00 - The Golden Apple ceremony

14.00 - Lunch

16.00 - Visit to Rosetta

18.00 – Meeting of the Board of Directors

20.30 - Dinner



### **Tuesday, October 2, 2012**

8.00 - Breakfast

9.00 - Departure to Alamein - Visit to Second World War Cemeteries (German - Italian - British)

13.00 - Lunch at one of the famous resorts in the North Coast on the Mediterranean Sea

16.00 - Planting trees ceremony at the Journalists Tourist Village

17.00 - Return to Alexandria

20.00 - Dinner

### **Wednesday, October 3, 2012**

7.00 - Breakfast

8.00 - Back to Cairo by Buses

11.00 - Visit to Egyptian Museum

14.00 - Lunch

Free Afternoon for Shopping

20.30 - Gala Dinner

### **Thursday, October 4, 2012**

Departure



Start of the Post tours. Details of the Post-Congress Tours will be provided in the coming weeks.

#### **NOTES:**

- EgyptAir is offering a discount of 30% to the members and 20% to the accompanied persons. Specific arrangements for obtaining the discount will be made available by Salah Attia.
- Single room supplement will be 50-Euros for each person.
- Extra nights' rates before or after the Congress are available at a cost of 100-Euros per night.
- We are planning to plant a tree from every country at the Journalists Tourist Village near Alamein. we need a wooden plaque written on it the name of the tree and your country name.
- A special ceremony will be arranged to celebrate the awarding of the Golden Apple to Alexandria during our visit



## NEWS FROM AROUND FIJET

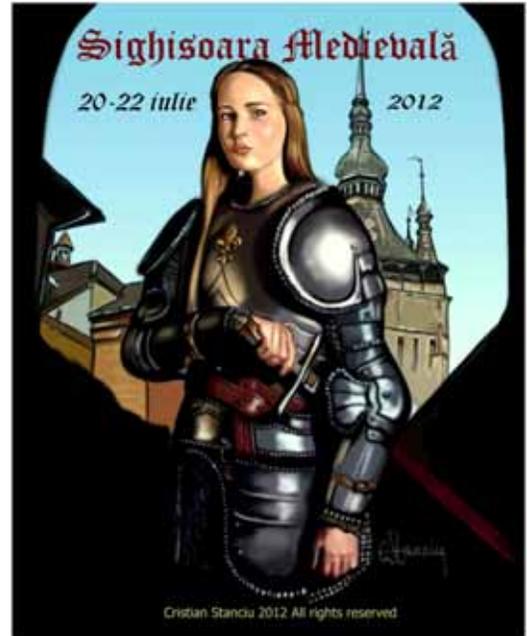
### Sighisoara – Europe Prize 2012

*A pleasant memory for our colleagues who visited last year the beautiful Citadel of Sighisoara, an UNESCO World Heritage monument, built in sec. XII.*

By Victor Radulescu

From July 20-22, the twentieth edition of Sighisoara Medieval Festival was held in this picturesque town. As usual, the thousands of tourists who came from all over the World were able to watch the Knights engage in contests and fighting, listen to medieval music and enjoy cuisine prepared just as it was 500 years ago.

The most important moment was "Wolf King", a show of medieval music composed by "Lupus Dacus" and played by "Lupus Rex" Philharmonic from Timisoara. Medieval scenes were recreated by "Wolf Knights Order" and "Scene Theater", under the leadership of the Great Wolf, the director Liviu Pancu.



The theme of this show is the Genesis of "Wolf Knights Order", an artistic order which also includes seven travel journalists and FIJET members, and even the famous Hollywood actor Harvey Keitel, who was in Sighisoara during the time of FIJET World Congress.

During the festival, the Chairman of the Sub-Committee Prize of Europe of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), Sir Alan Meal, together with the Mayor of the German city Hünfeld, Dr. Eberhard Fennel, awarded on July 21, Sighisoara City Hall in a ceremony, with "Europe Prize 2012".



"Europe Prize" is the highest honor given to local communities by the highest European forum and Sighisoara is the first city in Romania which won this award. Sighisoara shares the "Europe Prize" 2012 with the Italian city of Corciano with who it has been mentioned in Europe Award Subcommittee Report, written on March 29 this year in Berlin.

Europe Prize consists in a trophy with a bronze plaque with allegorical figures and an inscription in Latin. Plaque of Honor is a brass relief representing Europa being abducted, the 12 stars of Europe, having in the middle the award year of the plaque, and at the bottom, a map of Europe with the name of the winner city.

Sighisoara received in the previous years the Plaque of Honor (2003), the Council of Europe Flag of Honor (1999) and the European Diploma (1997).



## CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

**Note:** Unfortunately, at the time the newsletter was printed, we did not have photos of all of the candidates. In order not to provide any advantage to any of the candidates, the photos will be added as soon as they are received. The exception are those of the candidates for president since we have both of the needed photos.

Statements are displayed in alphabetical order.

### CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT

#### **Drago Bulc (Slovenia)**

“IMPOSSIBLE IS POSSIBLE”

I've believe that I am the best candidate for the President of FIJET because of:

- Forty years long career as travel journalist and editor at national radio and TV and contributor to several national and international media
- My knowledge of global travel and tourism gained through presence at all the most important international tourism events as well as travelling and reporting from all continents
- I have enough energy and will to make FIJET a true global professional federation of travel journalists and writers and I have the vision to bring in FIJET members from all continents and specially from all tourist countries
- My ideas how to improve financing of FIJET by national and global sponsors



Additionally, I was the successful organization of the jubilee 50th FIJET World Congress, three Academies for Young Travel Journalists, two meetings of travel journalists of Alps-Adria region (Austria, Croatia, Hungary and Slovenia), ceremony of Golden Apple in Kobarid, first World Travel Press Wine, bringing to FIJET four new countries (Switzerland, the Netherland, Slovakia and Hungary). Additionally, I served as the active President of FIJET Slovenija, member of the FIJET Executive Committee, Deputy Treasurer and Executive Director of FIJET for Europe and implement in practice the slogan: “DON'T ASK WHAT FIJET CAN DO FOR YOU, ASK WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR FIJET”

In my private life and in my professional career, my slogan is the “IMPOSSIBLE IS POSSIBLE” and I shall use it also if I should be elected to the office of FIJET President.

## **Tijani Haddad (Tunisia)**

Being an international organization, FIJET should have a leadership capable of preserving its unity, its cohesion and its image as a member of the international community. My ambition is to enhance the credibility and professionalism of FIJET which should be a strong and influential partner in promoting tourism sector all over the world.

My objective is to inject new blood into our ranks by recruiting and providing specialized tourism training to our young journalists. They are, undoubtedly, FIJET future and should be professionally ready to take over the FIJET Torch.

My wish is to strengthen the role of FIJET national associations. We should encourage bilateral and multilateral activities between them and provide them with necessary financial support.

We should promote the internationalisation of our organisation : FIJET should be widely represented in the five continents, mainly in every Tourism destination in the world. I hope the next EC team would consist of homogeneous and sufficiently experienced members capable to carry the heavy responsibility of leading an international organization.

One of my plans consists of remodeling our website which should be our efficient and up to date means of production and communication.

Last but not least, FIJET should contribute to preserving the world heritage, and promoting durable Tourism in the frame of an environmental strategy using renewable energies and saving natural, animal and cultural diversities.

FIJET should be a vector of tolerance, peace and dialogue between civilizations, cultures and religions.

Thank you, dear colleagues, for your confidence



## **CANDIDATES FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

### **Salah Attia (Egypt)**

The strength of the Federation comes first of all from the media materials that are produced by its members, who are the main source of its power. These materials are the proof of credibility of both members and Federation. No influence for both without these materials. No respect to the Federations without this influence.

For these reasons, it is a must to purify our membership record. It is a must that we organize our membership categories, to face the loud voices that we always hear when we organize a meeting. These voices harm the reputation of our Federation, when they say, "They are not journalists".

In my experience in many local and international congresses and meetings, I discovered, among many delegation, members who are not journalists. Some of these were, for example, owners of factories!!

We have to find the right way to get back our fame as a Federation of journalists and travel writers. We have to regain the confidence in our credibility.

We have to re-organize our membership. Only journalists in all media branches have to be active members. Other categories of membership could be associate members. Those associate members include tourism's lecturers and travel industry workers only. No membership for non-journalists or travel industry workers or tourism lecturers.

To regain the credibility, we have to purify our members' records, to re-organize the membership categories, to spread our Federation in all parts of the world. We have to work for a strong and effective FIJET.

### **Antonio Bonelli (Italy – CIST)**

Being a journalist (member of the Italian professional Order of Journalist), expert in national and international tourism, present at the most important world trade fairs with own stands, in Italy and abroad, with a prestigious operating office in Rome (see attached credits), as a new member of the Executive Committee of Fijet, with a long experience from international work, I would carry out a specific role to promote and support the activities of FIJET on both an innovative as a preserving institutional basis.

With my large network of international tourism media contacts, as a member of the Executive Committee of FIJET, I will also be a perfect reference for international journalists; offering the possibility to publish articles in the magazine "ITP Events", media of my group Bonelli Consulting Ltd. since 1954. I have already participated as a member of the FIJET's Executive Committee.

My nomination will be useful considering the actual world situation with increasing integration, creating new challenges for FIJET organization, introducing a sustainable international tourism which respects nature and native cultures. One of my aims would be to promote and maintain an active and fruitful exchange of ideas through international tourism, increasing international relations for a more democratic world.

From my point of view, FIJET's most powerful force, our strongest resource, is all our members. My election would permit me to work from this angle, bringing enthusiasm and new ideas to all our members and use them as feedback for new inspiration for the future!

### **Tina Cubrilo (Croatia)**

Proposals for improving FIJET activities:

I apply for re-election at FIJET Executive Board because I think I can contribute to its work and promotion. I have proven it by my work and engagement not only in my country but also at international level contributing to FIJET reputation.

- Compose FIJET book (shortly about us, our mission, what do we do) and send it across the world – in ministries of tourism, national tourism organizations, professional media and tourism associations – to promote FIJET’s mission more strongly
- Enforce the cooperation with UNWTO and SKAL organizations
- Enforce the cooperation with branches and among members
- Make FIJET more visible across the globe
- Enforce the cooperation with colleagues from neighboring countries
- Enforce the cooperation with partners and sponsors
- Bid at FIJET projects in promotion and new products to obtain finances for our activities
- Contribution in organizing the next congress on board cruise;

### **Anais de Melo (Mexico)**

I’ve been in FIJET for about 10 years and have always been of service in any way. I speak 5 languages fluently, have lots of international connections that could be very helpful.

I think FIJET is a great Federation that needs strong people who like to work and believe that things can get done, no matter how hard or how far.

I am the President of FIJET/MEXICO, an Association that I started from scratch a year ago. Today, exactly a year after I founded it, it is the strongest Press Tourism Association in Mexico; we are Mexico’s most powerful Travel Writers Association thanks to my hard work and perseverance.

I like to think “out of the box” and I think that FIJET has come to a point that it needs people with “guts” and positive energy. I am not afraid to speak my mind. In FIJET we cannot procrastinate anymore. It needs hard working people, smart people, and “go getters”.

I hope you will vote for the best candidate, not because he or she is your friend, but because you truly believe that it is the best person for the job. The change has to start with YOU “the voter”.

I’m your best choice.

### **Miroslav Navara (Czech Republic)**

From “Golden sixties” of the last century, when I started my employment in tourism, all my life is connected with FIJET. First years as a Federal Secretary of the Czech Club of FIJET, later on as a member of Board of Directors – as a president of the Czech Association, after Congress in Argentina as FIJET Treasurer (responsibility taken after René van Hoof, started with zero, finishing after nine years with more than 30 thousand USD). Finally as a member of EC as the second FIJET Vice-president.

With FIJET we had opportunities to travel to many interesting and nice foreign destinations and to inform thousands of our readers and listeners about the travel possibilities through our publications. Now I am feeling as member of FIJET family and I think as my duty to return as much as possible back to FIJET members.

That’s why I prepared several meetings of EC and BoD in the Czech Republic, together with Petr Kulhanek FIJET Congress in Karlovy Vary, and why I am organizing this year again EC +

BoD in Prague and South Bohemia – one of the nicest part of the Czech Republic. That's why I prepared - together with GS - 50 years anniversary brochure of FIJET members, and I am ensuring ID cards and every year stamps for all FIJET members. I am in a very good form – so I want to continue with maximum effort for FIJET as a member of EC. That is my motivation...

### **Anna Plenzler (Poland)**

I have been involved in work with FIJET since 1988. My main activities were in the 1990s, when I was a member of the EC and for one term the vice president of FIJET. I have been working for FIJET as good as I could. During this time I also organized one seminar for young journalists and three meetings of the Executive Committee in Poland (which were free of charge, including flight tickets).

I am a journalist and writer. I published some books about history and tourism as well as small guide books. I have been also giving lectures on tourism at University School of Physical Education in Poznan.

As situation in Poland Association is clear, I would like to come back to my former international activity.

FIJET needs new members, especially in Asia and South America, and the new Executive Committee should focus its activity on making the organization bigger and stronger. It is also very important to bring back some associations in Europe because we lost some members.

The situation of FIJET has changed last years and I would like to have an opportunity to work in crating the new image of this organization and in developing it.

### **Victor Radulescu (Romania)**

I organized the 53th FIJET World Congress in Romania. The result – which brought many beautiful moments in FIJET's life – was due to my strength and organizing.. I am honored that so many colleagues, in their articles, considered it as one of the most beautiful of FIJET Congresses. If you liked Romania, be sure I can do it anywhere, anytime and I will never disappoint.

In 2009, I organized a meeting of the Board of Directors, a meeting of the Executive Committee and an impressive Golden Apple Ceremony (in the presence of thousands people and the Minister of Tourism) in Romania.

In 2010, I organized the Gala Awards for FIJET-Romania (considered the most beautiful event of the Romanian Tourism).

People, facts, events. We can't pass over them. In my view, we should carve a path to the future while increasing the credibility of FIJET around the world. This will take dedication, hard work and skills from experienced people like me.

I propose that we begin a program to exchange ideas between the National Associations and that we improve our advertising, bilateral visits, the member directory and the FIJET website. I have already begun discussions with several large airlines to support and underwrite our travel in the exchange for reports.

Further, it is important to establish a connection with Tourism Ministries around the world in order to increase the credibility and profile of FIJET.

The word "FIJET" should become universally known, so everyone will say:

**"Sorry to be perfect!"**

### **Walter Roggeman (Belgium – UBJET)**

Some time ago there was a very popular song "I'm proud to be a Belgian". And so am I, even more so today: July 21, our national holiday.

But, apart from this, I feel myself even more as a world citizen and that's why I feel good in an international institution like FIJET where friendship exists between colleagues from all over the world..

Since 20 years now, I am the President of UBJET, the Belgian Association of Travel Journalists and Writers which, together with the French association, founded FIJET in 1954. We are still very proud of that.

I have also been a loyal member of FIJET's Board of Directors for many years now and I feel the time has come to do more and offer my experience as a multilingual journalist, author and publisher to our dear Association. Together with the other members of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors I will pursue our common goal to enhance further FIJET's presence in the world.

### **Bernadette Roux-Bonnetain (France)**

I certainly do not need to remind you of the very close relationship and friendship which have linked in the past the two associations FIJET and AFJET and still do so today. Since the creation of FIJET in 1954 the same aim remains: to create a world-wide network of travel journalists and writers and to help mutual understanding.

I hereby submit my candidacy for the Executive Committee of the FIJET.

I am convinced that with my experience as a president of AFJET since 2009 as well as a treasurer of FIJET I can contribute to the further development of our Association in offering my professional competence, dynamism and rigour as well as my generosity to the benefit of all members.

If I was to be elected, I will spare no effort in helping the FIJET to strengthen its position as an International key player in the world of tourism journalism.

### **Ertan Sandikçioğlu (Turkey)**

From the first day I became a member of ATURJET and FIJET, I learned the importance and the problems of working with an international group. Over time, this has resulted in many good things for both organizations.

Clearly, the work that I did was appreciated by the current Executive Committee as proven by their unforgettable gesture of appointing me to replace my brother, Özcan, following his unfortunate passing.

There are many issues that must be addressed by the Executive Committee and I believe that I can be an important part of making a difference for all of the members, just as my brother did during his many years of service.

It has been suggested that the activities that have made FIJET strong, like the Young Journalists Academy, the free exchange of ideas and assistance among Associations may disappear unless we re-dedicate our efforts to preserving and improving our work, our activities and our ideas.

I want to be a part of this improvement of FIJET for the sake of all the members. I know there is a lot to be done, but I also know that I owe a lot to FIJET. I will repay my debt by dedicating myself to working as hard as I can to make FIJET stronger and to ensure that it continues to grow.

My priority is to make it clear that FIJET is not a travel agency, but a truly international association for Travel Journalists and writers. I ask for your vote.

### **Miguel Ángel González Suárez (Spain – FIJETESPANA)**

I would like to stand for election to member of Executive Committee FIJET. The main reason is that FIJET ESPAÑA should continue taking the importance it deserves as Spain is at the top of the tourism industry.

The current FIJET Vice President and also FIJET España President has decided to resign as he would like to give way to new generations. In this case and for this reason, I am very pleased to present my candidacy.

I am from Canary Islands. As you know, these islands are one of the most important tourist destination in the World. I have been involved in tourist matters all my large career. I am also the General Manager of CIT Radio.

I would like to belong to the Executive Committee of the Federation of journalists. I believe, that my large experience in tourism and journalism make me a good candidate to contribute to FIJET government. If I am elected, for sure, I will give my best to help to the development to this federation if possible.

I love to work together with International colleagues, who I met a few years ago and with whom, every year, I meet and interchange good experiences from our countries and jobs.

I have been attending the Board of Directors, FIJET Congress and others, as member of FIJET España. At those events, I have had the opportunity to give and receive from all my colleagues great friendship and fellowship.

### **Eytan Shabi (Israel)**

My name is Eytan Shabi, from ISRAEL. I have been a member of FIJET since 1970,

I established its Israeli chapter - ISJET and have been a proud member of FIJET E.C. Board for some years now.

I am a seasoned travel journalist, editor, and have also had the pleasure of hosting two very successful FIJET congresses in Israel (1966 and 1978).

Its hard to imagine a more close relationship, or one that I am more proud of - than the one I have enjoyed with FIJET and with so many of you. I therefore know you'd appreciate the fact I opted to keep my statement short of its 250 allocated words.

2012 is the year of our 54<sup>th</sup> world congress – to be held in Egypt. FIJET is young compared to this ancient location, but over the years we have grown it together and managed to build a grand organization. I plan to use my vast experience and my ability to learn and replicate our past successes - in building our future. I believe that looking after our roots enables us to grow new leaves.

I would like to be able to continuously contribute to FIJET long tern success - nourish and grow this organization of ours. Therefore I am re-applying this year and humbly ask for your vote.

### **Natalia Tarasenko (Russia)**

Russia has been the member of FIJET since 1968, throughout it has been an active member of the organization. Representatives of former Soviet Union were repeatedly elected to FIJET's EC.

UJETRus was registered in February 2001.

Now organization combine about 100 real journalists from Ekaterinburg, St.-Peterburg, Novosibirsk and other towns of Russia. Over past four years the organization has increase more than twice. The Russian Federation is the largest country of the world. It's Asian part extends from the Urals to the Pacific Ocean. In our plans - to attract more Journalists from Asian part of Russia. FIJET needs new young journalists.

However, there have been no Russian representative on the FIJET EC in the past twenty years.

In May of 2002 we offered hospitality in Moscow for the EC of FIJET, including the complete accommodation and flights.

We promote FIJET via Russian Union of Journalists and Russian mass media. UJETRus members made hundreds publications in the popular Russian press about FIJET. We always paid our fees in time.

In 1988 in Susdal was 31th Congress of FIJET. Grate changes has taken place in our country since that. Now Russia is a country with one of the most rapidly developing tourism industry in Eastern Europe. In Russia will be Summit APEC in 2012, the Olympic Games in 2014, International World Cup in 2018.

UJETRus hopes that in the coming years Russia will host the journalists of FIJET.

I am a member of Russian Union of Journalist more than twenty years.

## **Plamen Starev (Bulgaria)**

My first congress was in USA (1992). USD 275 fee, including one-week post-congress tour. Air tickets: USD 200 (Europe – USA – destination-by-choice – Europe). 464 participants. It was “Old FIJET”.

In 1994 in a FIJET brochure is written 2,300 members in 50 associations were publishing articles in 7,250 media to an audience of 500,000,000.

Is there any progress in “New FIJET”?

Therefore I am putting forward my candidature.

Because I do not like the standstill FIJET has come to.

What has to be done?

The federation must restore its éclat.

We have to return times when the name FIJET commanded respect.

FIJET has a membership of 900 journalists from 35 countries. This is an enormous wealth. FIJET must be a profit-making organization! Not to make money from membership fees only.

Fijet.net has to become a bestseller because it represents hundreds of brilliant people of the pen, it can become a priceless archive of authors, publications, contacts... Fijet.net must generate revenue.

The practice of pay to write is humiliating. Prominent journalists receive dozens of invitations for free for visits. We are paying more and more for the right to write an article.

We must write! To restore the fame of FIJET, to choose the venues of our congresses according benefits, to stop the increase of the congress fees...

I rely on all of you to complete the list and to revive former high stature in the world of FIJET and its members – skilled pros.

## **Marina Slesareva (Ukraine)**

Marina was one of the founders of FIJET department in Ukraine and more than 15 years as the first deputy minister of Crimean tourism and resorts. She has provided comprehensive assistance for strengthening and development of FIJET in Ukraine.

Hundreds of articles and books, in which are promoted not only Crimean tourism, but the tourism of the countries that visited the Crimean journalists (Tunisia, Morocco, Slovenia, Egypt, Czech Republic, Romania, China, Turkey, etc.), were written by the Crimean journalists-members of FIJET.

A lot of events were held, the main aim of which was to promote FIJET in Crimea.

Under her control, a FIJET Congress was held in Crimea (1999) and a meeting of the Executive Committee in 2009.

Marina has valuable experience in the field of tourism. She received several government awards. She also received the title of "The Honored Worker of Crimean Tourism and Resorts", Marina is the laureate of the Crimean prize for peacekeeping activity.

She established and operated several community organizations such as the Association of Hospitality, Association of amateurs of active tourism, Association of small hotels and hotels in Crimea, with which the Crimean branch of FIJET cooperates.

At the present time, as adviser to the vice-premier of Crimea under the tourism questions, Marina works to strengthen the international relations between Crimea and other countries. She cooperates with several journalistic publishers, such as: newspaper "Terra Tavnica", "Crimskaya Pravda", magazines "Vkrym", "Hospitality", TV channels such as, "Neapol", radio "Leader", publisher "Tavnica".

### **Jim Thompson (USA)**

During the time I have had the privilege to serve on the Executive Committee, I have initiated or assisted with many important programs that have helped to make FIJET stronger and create a vision for the future of FIJET.

These tasks included:

- Writing new Bylaws -- a project that gave structure to the running of FIJET and a new vision for its future
- Revitalizing, restructuring and reformatting of the FIJET newsletter and website over the past eight years. These two important tools have provided a vital line of communication for the membership and an important link to the fellow journalists and the international travel industry.
- As Director of FIJET Congresses & Events, I created presentation materials for potential Congress hosts and directed Congresses in China, Turkey and Romania.

In addition to my proven record of working for FIJET, I bring more than 40 years of experience as a journalist, editor and broadcaster.

If re-elected, my principle concerns will include expanding our membership by attracting both journalists and affiliate members, formalizing the procedures for selecting Congresses, re-establishing our affiliation with other journalist and tourism organizations and expanding FIJET into new countries.

Above all, I will continue to be open and responsive to the needs and concerns of all of the members.

I ask for your vote. I promise to be your voice on the Executive Committee and to continue to work on the behalf of all of the members of our great organization.

## Georges Younes (Lebanon)

Tourism industry is considered among principal pillars of the Nation's Economy that has witnesses an outstanding expansion during the last century,, strengthened by the globalization, which hit the countries all over the world and make traveling smooth and systematic.

One of the major goals of the FIJET association is to spread touristic education.

Being devoted to the tourism and having acquired deep experience during my long career life in this economic sector that I would like to invest for the benefit of the association.

Therefore, I am presenting my candidature for the Executive Committee membership; knowing that my only concern is to exert extra efforts to enhance the role of the association in extending peace and sustainable tourism.

## Our hosts & partners during the Golden Apple presentation in Hamamonu, Turkey



<http://www.tafonicaveboutique.com>



<http://www.ottomanhotelimperial.com>



[http://www.barcelo.com/BarceloHotels/en\\_GB/hotels/Turkey/Ankara/hotel/hotel-barcelo-ankara-aitinel/general-description.aspx](http://www.barcelo.com/BarceloHotels/en_GB/hotels/Turkey/Ankara/hotel/hotel-barcelo-ankara-aitinel/general-description.aspx)



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