

Annual Report of the Technical Director FISTC / MD & LT

Dear Mr. President and dear delegates,

Monday before the European Championship started, it was already snowing during the arrival at the airport of Bologna. The closer we go to Fanano, the heavier was the snow. The trails and distances seemed already on the maps very interesting and we had good hopes for the race. It snowed continuously until Friday morning, in total more than 1 ½ meters.

With the arrival of Mario Azzalini (Trail-Boss of the European Championship 2007th in Pian Cansiglio) we started preparing the trails. We had to realize soon enough that the masses of new snow were not manageable.

1° decision: No start on Friday !

The local organizers and all Italian Musers (FIMSS & CIS) had worked together and tried to open the way between the Passo de la Riva and Lago Scaffaiolo. At the end of the day we had bad news, due to so much fresh snow it was impossible to open the way, we could not get through ... The whole race is depending on this single point. We needed to find quickly a solution!

2° decision: a shortened trail implementation !

We had not only to shorten the trail, but let the mushers go back and force and do the same trail twice a day. In addition: contraflow on the whole trail! Big discussions amongst the mushers: "We never did on one day such a distance twice per day, and we never had contraflow on the trail over such a long distance." Several mushers said, that they would not start under this circumstance. But this was the only solution, otherwise we would not have conducted the EC! At the end only one musher did not start.

After the first 2 runs on the first day all starters were very satisfied, it was a great experience, all overhaul-manoeuvres – even with contraflow – were safe and run without problems. I myself saw with great relief and satisfaction: to see solidarity and fair play among competitors and a greater trust of mushers to their own dogs.

Facit: EC reduced to two days but with 4 runnings and a lot of news, no protest and good atmosphere.

Many thanks to the local organizers, the President Massimo Bassan and his FIMSS team, to Mario for his experience and skills, and especially to Nicoletta and Mauro for their hospitality and excellent cuisine, and ultimately to Franco Mannato (we were at the expense of reason, only 2 Board members present) and also to Chantal Gaudimus (delegation head of the French team) for all their help and support. See you at the next EC / FISTC / MD & LT 2012th.

Thank you for your attention.

Jáchymov (CZ), June, 18th 2011

Olivier Favre, resp. FISTC / MD & LT

