



**Dear members of ESSDA and NASSPDA,
and other interested persons and organisations!**

Re: Conversations towards a World Federation

On Friday, August 6th, 2010, representatives from ESSDA and NASSPDA met at 5:00 PM at the Hotel Maritim in Cologne, Germany, with interested members of the public at large to discuss the results of a survey conducted during the preceding 4 days of dance competitions at the Gay Games in Cologne.

This survey asked individuals to answer yes or no to five questions. The survey was placed outside the dancers' practice and changing room, a location easily accessible to all interested parties. Its purpose and further information about it was announced throughout the days of competitions, and a sign was affixed to the wall indicating prompting participation in this survey, thus providing ample time and opportunity for everyone's views to be collected.

63 people of the following countries answered the survey: Netherlands (5), USA (11), UK (19), Denmark (1), Switzerland (2), Canada (3), Germany (13), Greece (1), Australia (7) and Luxemburg (1). Some people abstained from answering certain questions.

These were the five questions in the Survey:

1. Should the Gay Games be considered the "World Championship of Same-Sex Danceport?"
32 people answered "yes," and 27 people answered "no."
2. Should the Outgames (World, not Continental) be considered the "World Championships of Same-Sex Dancesport?"
25 people answered "yes," and 34 people answered "no."
3. Should the "World Championships of Same-Sex Dancesport" be a separately organised annual event?
24 people answered "yes," and 37 people answered "no."
4. Once the Gay Games and Outgames are a combined event, should that event that year and every consecutive year be considered the "World Championship of Same-Sex Danceport?"
47 people answered "yes," and 12 people answered "no."
5. Is it time to form a "World Federation of Same-Sex Danceport?"
52 people answered "yes," and 8 people answered "no."

The eleven people present at the meeting considered the results above. There was agreement that from the survey what emerged was that firstly, the dancing community feels it is time for some sort of world federation to come into operation; and secondly, that there should be some competitions capable of conferring the title of “world champion.”

The attendants at the meeting considered the results of the survey and concluded further that an annual “world championship” was not clearly supported.

On the basis that the dancing community has expressed the will for there to be some sort of world organisation and a world championship, both ESSDA and NASSPDA have decided on a timeframe to start the process of conversation on these two topics.

The deadlines agreed are the following:

1. ESSDA and NASSPDA to appoint one representative each to a Joint working committee by August 20th, 2010,
2. ESSDA to contact key Australian and New Zealand individuals within their respective dancesport communities to join the Committee by August 20th, 2010,
3. Joint Committee to write a draft declaration of intent by October 31st, 2010,
4. Feedback from ESSDA, NASSPDA, etc. by November 30th, 2010.
5. Final draft of the declaration by December 31st, 2010.
6. Publication of the declaration by January 1st, 2011.

This letter officially starts a period of public consultation, in which ESSDA and NASSPDA members as well as interested individuals may put their views to their relevant organisation. The period of consultation will assist all in making informed decisions. ESSDA members please send your comments to ESSDA’s Secretary: angelo@essda.eu; and NASSPDA members to NASSPDA’s Secretary: bsoencksen@nasspda.org. Your views will be considered by the new joint committee charged with the task of drafting a declaration of intent. Comments and feedback are welcomed until **October 31st, 2010**.

We thank you in advance for supporting the goals of NASSPDA and ESSDA, and for your comments and contribution to the improvement and expansion of Same-Sex Dancesport across the World.

Angelo Berbotto
ESSDA’s Secretary

Benjamin Soencksen
NASSPDA’s Secretary