



December 2020

Statement of the FISA President

2020, actually this was a very nice date, and we all had a lot of hope that this year would also bring a lot of good, but then came alarming news in the winter about an insidious virus, which spread in truly distant China - and at first did not bother us at all, until the time when it was simply HERE, HERE AMONG US!

And from then on, 2020 was very different from what we had hoped for, very different from what we imagined, very different from what we thought was possible.

The philatelic life with trade meetings, exhibitions, fairs and bourses, public auctions was more or less over from one moment to the other - there were only a few exceptions, for example the stamp exhibition in Gmunden/Austria in the summer in which I could participate.

But a real philatelist does not let such difficulties spoil his hobby. Thank God, almost all of us have a computer and can communicate at least virtually with the whole world and get to know many new interesting websites and also friends and thus continue our hobby - and buying and selling on the Internet has also become more popular.

Stefan Bruylants has not let a minute go by this year without making sure that the FISA homepage was kept up to date and also revised again and again. This is more or less the only thing we could do this year and for this Stefan deserves all our thanks.

Even though I am looking positively into the future and I am sure that we will succeed in defeating the pandemic in 2021, I am worried about the future of FISA. We have a congress coming up this year and due to Corona we have not been able to make any concrete plans yet. Thus, the time and place have not yet been determined. Since I believe that such an event should NOT be held on a virtual basis it could happen that the congress has to be postponed for one year. Please inform your members accordingly.

I wish you and all club members including families a blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year 2021.

Wolfgang H. Porges
FISA President
Berlin, December 21, 2020