At the previous plenary session, a Handy working group was created with the aim of achieving many objectives. The reality was more pragmatic than the enthusiasm of the members of the working group. Very little or no feedback from the field on the questions raised, such as the integration of handy teams into existing competitions, but also a certain mistrust in what could be an obstacle: integration with authorised competitors.

Indeed, a Handy category implies a classification of pathologies that would allow us to determine which type of competition for which type of Handicap. This is a classification that can only be made by the medical and specialized community and not by the sporting community alone.

It is therefore advisable to set up this classification, and it would be desirable to define it on the basis of this classification of which type of competition that the IPC could propose. And obviously write the associated competition rules. We are not there yet, the European challenge is the starting point for what could become future competitions, if we are able to meet this demand.

2nd Handy European Challenge

From Wednesday 13 to Sunday 17 September 2017, the 2nd HandiFly Euro Challenge was held in Minsk, Belarus. Organized by the Belarusian Relief Fund for Disabled Sportsmen Association in partnership with the Belarusian Ministry of Sports and Tourism, and other associations, this was the second international skydiving competition dedicated to people with disabilities, coupled with an Armchair Dance competition.

21 Teams
1 round
7 countries (Belarus, Russia, France, Azerbaijan, Macedonia, Ukraine, Monaco)

The weather conditions were disastrous and unfortunately made it possible to hold just one round, and only thanks to the use of helicopters in addition to the AN2 on the Borovaya aerodrome.

All the winners' on the podium were Russian.

The venue of the third HandiFly, for 2018 was still under discussion before this agenda, with talks taking place with Russian officials. Fortunately, prior the plenary Russia has officially announced to be the next destination for disabled athletes in 2018. Details will be given at the open meeting.

Thanks for my colleague:

Elisabeth Mikaelsson – Gillian Rayner – Aliya Ananina – Manuel Almeida – Anton Bystrov – Alister Hodqson

Patrice Girardin