Dear Sports Friends,

Up-to-date news on the CSIT - International Workers and Amateurs in Sports Confederation

Thank you Riga - See you in Tortosa

Paldles Rigu par briniskigo laiku! (Thank You Riga for a wonderful time!) and Esperem a Tortosa! (We are looking forward to Tortosa 2019).

Saturday night, June 18th, the 5th CSIT World Sports Games ended with a spectacular closing ceremony in the Palladium Concert Hall in the Latvian capital Riga. Almost 4000 athletes, coaches and supervisors from 36 countries came to Latvia and participated in 15 official CSIT championships and eight demonstration sport activities. The organisers from CSIT member organization LTSA prepared 22 locations in different places all over the city. "The facilities in this city are amazing", said CSIT President Bruno Molea. "Thank You, Riga, for a very warm welcome and for your excitement and enthusiasm for the CSIT movement."

Andris Berzins, former prime minister of Latvia and currently head of the national organization LTSA, expressed his respect to his organizing team and especially to the volunteers who made these games possible. They all were invited to come up on stage during the ceremony. "Thank You all for the great emotions we were able to share during these wonderful days: It was a life time event for so many young people from Latvia", he said. Mr. Berzins distributed souvenirs to the team leaders of all national member organizations of the CSIT. For instance a full collection of stamps with the emblem of the 5th WSG printed on them. "This is a wonderful surprise", Bruno Molea said after receiving this very special present.

In the end the flag was taken down by Andris Berzins and Galina Gorbatenkova who led the Riga team to an outstanding performance. Finally the flag was handed over to Mayor Ferran Bel i Accensi, the representative of Tortosa in Catalonia, where the 6th CSIT World Sports Games will be taking place in 2019. "We will do our best", said Jaume Domingo, President UCEC, the Spanish partner organization of CSIT. "Tortosa and its neighbour communities are ready for 2019 and cannot wait to welcome you all!"

The open end party at the Palladium was preluded by the very special performance of Laima Jansone, the Nr. 1 virtuoso with the Latvian national musical instrument "Kokle".
Fair Play: The Real Winners are...

Varda Mirkin from the Israeli Mamanet team Galili got one of the three Fair Play Awards at the 5th World Sports Games 2017 in Riga. The referee called a ball "out" - Varda called it "in" to her own team's disadvantage. The second award was given to the Austrian judoka Andreas Mruk, who helped an injured opponent by carrying him out of the gymnasium to let him have professional medical care. The third award was given to the Brazilian table tennis team acceptance of the referees’ verdicts and treating referees with respect. CSIT has implemented the Green Card for special merits in the field of Fair Play. Referees can show this card to athletes who deserve it in their opinion.

An Olympic Touch by Rui, Antti and Aleksander

Three famous names in the world of sports have revalued the CSIT World Sports Games 2017 in Riga: Rui Campos from Brazil, Antti Kempas from Finland and Aleksander Tammert from Estonia have one thing in common - of course beside the spirit of CSIT: They all have successfully participated in Olympic Games. Campos, head of the Brazilian delegation in Riga, won the silver medal with the men's volleyball team at the 1984 Los Angeles Games right after winning the Pan American Games in 1983. Kempas, Finnish Athletics Secretary, was a 50 km race walker at the Olympic Games in Beijing 2008 and London 2012. Tammert, head of the Estonian Federation, brought back a bronze medal from Athens in 2004 after he had already participated in the Games of 1996 in Atlanta and 2000 in Sydney.

All three of them have dedicated their life as officials to the motto "Sports for everybody". They all take care for sports women and men, who might never reach the level they once had themselves. "But they all share the same enthusiasm and excitement", says Rui. And Aleksander adds: "And that's what our CSIT spirit is all about!"