

Dear members of European Laser community,

We are delighted and honoured to be the new Chairman and Vice-chairman of the European region.

First of all, we would like to thank our past Chairman Jean-Luc, who has shown commitment and passion for our Laser community over the last 5 years in this position. We would also like to thank Ahmet for his contribution as the Vice-chairman.

The concept of Laser is unique with sailors aged between 10 and 80 years old (and beyond) all over the World, and is one of the real success stories in sailing. Laser is also a double Olympic class and participation numbers are unparalleled. However, there is still much to do to expand the popularity of our class in Europe, and to adapt to the ever changing sporting, social and economic environment.

The European Executive Committee will work hard in 2010, amongst many other things, to:

- get more sailors on the water;
- raise the quality of all championships;
- encourage new countries to become involved; and
- keep you informed of what is going on.

**About Calle:** I was born in Finland but I lived abroad for several years, before moving back to Finland. I am currently living in Espoo, near Helsinki. I have always been involved in sailing and I started working with the Optimist class, where I was involved in many associations and helped to arrange regattas. Over the last 10 years I have been active in the Laser community visiting many World Championships, European Championships, Europa Cups and Grade regattas. At these championships I have had the chance to talk with many sailors and coaches and recently I have been very active promoting the Laser 4.7 as a youth class in Finland. During 2009, I was the Championship Manager for European Laser 4.7 Youth Championship in Helsinki.



I am active sailing at least one Master Laser regatta per year, and hope to see many new master sailors in Nauvo, Finland in July 2010. My wife is a professional coach for Laser Radial, so much of our free time is spent at Laser championships and training camps.

I work as a Senior Executive in a large information technology company with responsibility to develop business in Northern Europe. Due to this, I am very familiar with different European cultures.

**About Laszlo:** I was born in Hungary, but lived and sailed in several parts of the world. Started sailing in Sabot, then after a short spell in double handed classes, continued in Soling. The last 20 years I have been sailing in off-shore classes. My sailing career geographically



spanned over 4 continents (started in Africa, then South America, and continued in Australia and now in Europe). Presently I am the proud owner of an H-boat and I am a qualified yachtmaster. The last few years I have been travelling extensively in Europe with the Hungarian Youth Radial/L4.7 squad, with my club youth team, but also, as ILCA representative at several events. I have been to most of the Europa Cup regattas and many European and World Championships. For three years I have been involved in the class management in Hungary, and also, with ILCA as the national representative.

When I am not sailing, I am a scientist and a university professor in econometrics, and work for an American university based in Europe.

Both of us look forward to seeing you on the water and on shore next year. Please feel free to contact us with any issues or questions you may have.

Calle and Laszlo