



WACS NORTHERN Europe Continental  
Director's Report  
for the European meeting in Bratislava from  
March 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> 2007



Azerbaijan



Belarus



Estonia



Denmark



Finland



England



Iceland



Ireland



Latvia



Lithuania



Norway



Russia



Scotland



Sweden



Ukraine



Wales

Prepared in March 2007

By Gissur Gudmundsson

March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007

Dear **František Janata**, President of the Slovakian Union of Chefs and Confectioners, fellow board members, Srecko and Reinhold, friends and colleagues of Europe.

The beautiful city of Bratislava is a great place to meet old and new friends from all over Europe and it is a great opportunity to experience food and culture from this part of Europe.

First, I would like to thank Chef Reinhold Metz for organizing this meeting but at the same time I must mention that there were many worries expressed that this meeting is maybe too close to the last one. Only 5 months ago, another European meeting was held in Helsinki and Estonia. I think it is important for us to look at the costs for everyone to travel and participate in a meeting like this and consider trying to make these costs less by trying not to make the meetings so close together in the future.

The preparation for the first Northern European Global Chefs Semifinal is going well. My friends from Estonia are working hard planning the event and soon you will be getting information about accommodations and the programs they put together. Twelve (12) countries have registered for the competition and the names of the candidates will be announced when I have received all of them.

16 countries make up the Northern European area and this makes it the biggest Continental area within WACS. I am extremely happy with the communication going on within our area. I am in contact with almost every country and they are giving me regular updates on their activities.

Within Northern Europe, a lot of things have been happening: We have had competitions, congresses and other events and I think most of the countries are doing very well.

Since the last meeting, I have been in Denmark where I had a meeting with the Danish chefs; in Sweden, the Nordic Countries had their board meeting; in Lyon, I had the pleasure to meet with Bill Gallagher and many friends from around the world but my main purpose there was to support my team in the Bocuse d'Or Competition; in Istanbul, I took part in judging the Istanbul Gastronomy Festival and at the same time I had the opportunity to have meetings with the Turkish Chefs to work on an agreement between the different associations to form a federation. I also met with the Ukraine, Serbia and Azerbaijan in Istanbul. For both the meetings with Serbia and Turkey, I have sent a report to Srecko on results of the meetings.

I then went to Dubai for 5 days to judge Ice carving and butchery in the Salon Culinaire of the Gulfoods show, but I also went to take a look at the congress location and I am happy to say that from what I have seen, it looks like we will have a very successful and exciting congress next year.

I just arrived yesterday from Johannesburg where I was able to observe the first Continental Global Chefs Challenge. I will give you an update on this later in this meeting.

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**IMPORTANT DATES:**

- **Semi final in Northern Europe for GLOBAL CHEFS COMPETITION will be held in Tallinn, Estonia from the 31<sup>st</sup> of October to the 4<sup>th</sup> of November 2007.**
- **The Kremlin Cup will be held in October, in Moscow, Russia**
- **12<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of May, 2008 is the WACS Congress in Dubai**
- **Olympics in Erfurt 2008**
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- **News from Northern European Continental Area**



The Azerbaijan National Culinary Association

I had a good meeting with Tahir Amiraslanov, president of the Azerbaijan National Culinary Association in February where I got the opportunity to go through the details of the Global Chefs Challenge with him and discuss the possibility to get to know Azerbaijan better. Tahir would have liked to come but it was unfortunately very hard and would have taken too long for him to get a visa to come here, as well as some other countries we have had meetings in. He has asked that I pass on to you that he wishes that we would investigate next time to make sure that all member countries have the possibility to come to a meeting.



Belarusian Culinary Association

Belarus is a new member of WACS and has been active in their first year of involvement. Just recently, they competed for the first time in Luxembourg and they have been coming to other events and competitions around the world. I believe that they will be even more present in the future.

Viktor sends his regards, wishes you all a good meeting, but is sorry that he could not participate in today's meeting.



Estonian Chefs Association / Eesti Peakokkade Ühendus

website [www.chef.ee](http://www.chef.ee)

The Estonian Chefs are an active group. I speak with Ene from Estonia regularly because she is the main organizer for the Global Chefs Challenge Semifinal in Northern Europe. She will not rest before she gets all the information she needs to make this competition a successful one.



Danish Chefs Association / Kokkencheffernes Forening

website [www.kfdk.dk](http://www.kfdk.dk)

My friends from Denmark just had their general meeting a few weeks ago. Gert Sørensen has been reelected as president for the next 4 years. The chefs in Denmark have been active in competitions and have also held many competitions this winter.

Denmark had a National Team for the first time in a long time in Luxembourg and they did very well. At the Bocuse d'Or, their candidate Rasmus Kofoed received the 'Bocuse d'Argent' as he came in second, a very great accomplishment for all chefs in Denmark. Rasmus had also won the Bronze Bocuse in 2005.

Gert Sørensen could not come to this meeting. He also sends his regards.



Finnish Chef Association / Suomen Keittiomestarit  
website [www.chefs.fi](http://www.chefs.fi)

The Finnish Chef Association is also very active and, as most of you have seen after the last meeting in Helsinki, they are well organized and hard working chefs. It is worth mentioning that you can find a good profile on Sirka Lisa Rukkonin, a woman Finnish chef on the WACS website under the Women in WACS heading. She is definitely a good ambassador for Finland. The Finnish chefs are now preparing for the Nordic Congress that will be held in Turku, Finland in May during which the Nordic Chef of the Year competition will take place as well as Finland's selection for the Global Chef Challenge candidate. About 300 chefs from all of the 5 Nordic countries will attend. Many of you may not know, but the Nordic Chef Association is only 10 years younger than WACS. It was formed in 1939 and has been an active and strong association working for the Nordic countries.

Many of you had the opportunity to have the dinner in Helsinki last October hosted by the Finnish National Team. I would just like to share that they got the Gold medal for this menu in Luxembourg. Great work guys!



Chefs and Cooks Circle  
website [www.chefsandcookscircle.co.uk](http://www.chefsandcookscircle.co.uk)

I have had the pleasure to spend time with some of our friends from the UK in February at the Istanbul Gastronomic Festival. They have been very dynamic in helping Turkey with their competitions and have put a lot of their time and energy in this event to make it a more successful one every year. It made me proud to see Ken Fraser and his team work over there.

Luxembourg



Icelandic Chefs Association / Klúbbur Matreiðslumeistara  
website [www.chef.is](http://www.chef.is)

In my home country many things have been happening in the past year. We have been growing and growing and the interest of chefs in our profession has never been like it is now. It feels good to know that the work our Chefs are doing is making a difference in our country within the governments and business world and that others are also showing interest in what we do.

I am extremely proud of my colleagues in Iceland. We are only just over 100 members but we compete in all major competitions in the world, take part in different meetings and events and yes, it definitely costs a lot of money, but we look at it as a great investment for our country.

The President of the Icelandic Chefs Association, Bjarki Hilmarsson could unfortunately not attend this meeting due to his busy schedule.



Panel of Chefs of Ireland

I received news from Brendan O'Neill, President for the Panel of Chefs of Ireland and he let me know that they have chosen their candidate for the Global Chefs Challenge. They will be letting us know later in this meeting.


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 Latvian Cooks Association LPKA  
website [www.latviancooks.lv](http://www.latviancooks.lv)

I haven't heard much from the Latvian Cooks Association, but the other chef associations in Latvia have been keeping good contact. I am not worried about this too much, but I would like to note that when you have two associations in the country, it is important to work together. Forming a federation or just joining both associations might be a good idea.

President Aldis Mūrnieks of the LPKA could not attend the meeting.


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 Association of Lithuanian Restaurant Chefs and Confectioners website [www.lrvvk.lt](http://www.lrvvk.lt)

Lithuania is one of the new countries in WACS and I have had much to do with chefs from Lithuania for the last months because I am opening a seafood restaurant in Vilnius at the end of April and for the last months I have had the future Executive Chef working and training in my kitchen in Reykjavik.

President Valius Cepanonis sends his regards and is sorry he could not attend.

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 Norwegian Chefs Association/ Norges Kokkemesteres Landsforening  
website [www.nkl.no](http://www.nkl.no)

Norway has been doing very well in competitions around the world and they are also doing very well at home. Just recently, Haakon Reigstad was re-elected as president of the association. The Norwegian National Team took part in Luxembourg where they came out as the overall winners and they did well at the Bocuse d'Or again this year, where their candidate took the 'Best Fish' prize.

President Haakon unfortunately could not make it to the meeting. He sends regards and the following letter:

***Best regards and news from the Norwegian Chef Association***

*On behalf on our president Mr Håkon Reigstad, we are sorry to announce that Norway will not be able to participate on the European WACS meeting next week. We wish you the best of luck with the meeting.*

***News from our country.***


*This weekend the we had our congress in Norwegian Chef Association, and Mr. Håkon Reigstad, was re-elected as the president for the next period: 2007 - 2009. All members were giving the board full applause when they announced that Mr Einar Øverås is candidate for being the next president in the Nordic Chef Association. The election is the 19. May in Turku, Finland.*

*From the 20- 23 of March all chefs in Norway are involved in two big activities: Norwegian championship for chef and waiters student, and chef of the year competition. The competition for student involves over 300 students, and the excitement is of course big under the final 23. of march, where only 6 teams (2 persons) is competing, and the winning team will represent Norway in the Nordic student competition I Finland in April.*

*Best regards*  
***Norwegian Chef Association***

*Ragnhild K. Espeland*  
*Manager*


*Haakon Reigstad*  
*President*

 Russian Interregional Culinary Association  
website [www.culina.ru](http://www.culina.ru)

I know Russia is a big country and they have a lot of things to take care of, and I have only heard a few words for the past years but I know that more than one Chef Association is doing good things over there. One of the events that are coming up is the Kremlin Cup and having been a judge there in October of last year, I can say that they are doing professional things. I was also in Russia a few years ago, invited to take part in an event in Kazan. What I learned from this trip is that Russia has great things to offer the world and many exciting things in their food. The Russian chefs are good people and really like what they are doing and I urge anyone that can support them in some way to do so. I look forward to meeting some of my colleagues from Russia here at the Congress and discuss the future of their association with WACS further. President Natalia Nomofilovoj has retired.

Present here at the Congress are Elena who is the main organizer of the Kremlin Cup and is on the board of the Russian Association. She is here with a few others from her team.

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 Federation of Chefs of Scotland.  
website [www.scottishchefs.com](http://www.scottishchefs.com)

My friends in Scotland have worked hard on the ScotHot Competition. Juniors from 9 countries came to ScotHot to compete and the overall winner was Canada, USA was second and I am proud to say that Iceland came in third place. At the same time the selection for the Global Chefs Semi-final was held and their candidate chosen.

A report was sent by Neil Thomsen on 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2007.

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 Swedish Cook Association / Sveriges Kokers Forening  
website [www.swedishchefs.se](http://www.swedishchefs.se)


Sweden has, as the other Nordic countries done very well at competitions around the world. Many in the Nordic countries look-up to the work that they do and in many ways they are a role-model for us. They have been a great inspiration for new techniques and styles in cuisine. Late last year, Gert Klötske was selected by the WACS President to be in the Culinary Committee and we look forward to the work he will put into it.

The Nordic Chefs just recently had their meeting in Göteborg where they were hosted by the Swedish Chefs. The meeting went very well and everyone was happy with the hospitality we received from our friends.

Sweden also did well at the Bocuse d'Or taking the 'Best Meat' prize and came in second in Luxembourg.

Peter Wilbose is participating in this congress.

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 Association of Culinary Workers of Ukraine

I just had a meeting with President Mikhailo Peresichnyi in February during the Istanbul Gastronomy Festival and got the opportunity to learn more about what they are doing. Here is the news he has sent me:

*Dear Continental Director of North Europe, Gissur Gudmundson I was pleased to get acquainted with you in Turkey. I want to give you more information about our Association of Culinary Workers of Ukraine.*

WACS European Continental Director Gissur Gudmundsson

*Association of Culinary Workers of Ukraine was created in 1997. We took part in different international competitions, in 2001 we had bronze in Malta. In 2003 we got silver and bronze in Malta; In 2005 in Istanbul we got merit, silver and bronze. And in 2006 we were in Crete, where we got gold, silver and bronze. On February 2007 we were in Istanbul, Turkey, where we got 1 gold, 2 silver and 12 bronze.*

*Best Regards,*

*President of Culinary Workers of Ukraine Mykhailo Peresichniy*



The Welsh Culinary Association  
website [www.welshculinaryassociation.com](http://www.welshculinaryassociation.com)

Wales is probably the most active country sending in news to the WACS website and so anything new is posted on there. It is nice to get this news because it lets us know more about this small association. We should all try to do the same and use this technology to our advantage as much as possible.

President Peter Jackson is sorry he could not attend.

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This is all the news I have from my area. Again I would like to remind everyone how important it is to keep communicating to get each association on the map!

Chefs regards,

## Gissur Gudmundsson

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