



## Welcome message



### *Tore Fyrand*

ITA General Secretary

Chairman WTC Organizing Committee

On behalf of the staff of the Norwegian Trotting Association I have the pleasure of welcoming you all – delegates, observers and accompanying persons – to Oslo for the 2009 World Trotting Conference. We hope that you will find the program of this conference both stimulating and interesting. Further on we hope that your stay here in Oslo these days will inspire you to more and even harder work for our great trotting sport.

One of the challenges in building up a program for a conference like this, is first to decide the main topics and then to find good and interesting speakers.

We hope that the program you will be presented here in Oslo will fulfill your expectations. And just to remind all of us of the five objectives which have been put up for these conferences, we will repeat them here:

- Stimulate public and government interest in trotting.
- Share information from an administration and racing viewpoint.
- Improve the understanding of racing issues internationally.
- Determine and encourage the uniform use of policies and rules.
- Determine strategies for the promotion and enchantment of trotting globally.

Personally I will here take the opportunity to thank all persons involved in the planning of this conference. Our administration in the Norwegian Trotting Association is rather small, and I feel proud now to present to you the result of a long planning and preparation period.

At the same time we have the World Trotting Conference here in Oslo, the World Driving Championship 2009 will take place on the following tracks:

Bergen Travpark Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>, Biri Friday 15<sup>th</sup>, Jarlsberg Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>, Sørlandet 18<sup>th</sup> and the final races will take place at Bjerke Racetrack in Oslo Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> of May. There are ten of the best drivers in the world fighting for the championship. For the Norwegian Trotting Association and Norwegian trotting fans, it is a great honor for Norway that the winner-trophy is now named after our famous and outstanding driver: Ulf Thoresen.

Once again welcome to all of you, and we hope that your stay here in Oslo will strengthen the ties of friendship between all of you in the "Trotting Family".