



**FISM**<sup>TM</sup>

Fédération Internationale des Sociétés Magiques  
International Federation of Magic Societies

# FISM Newsletter

**Nr. 19 – October 2013**

**To all Presidents of the FISM member-societies,  
and Delegates in the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the FISM**

Dear Mr. President, Dear Friend in Magic,

In this first Newsletter after the summer break I'm glad to inform you of the latest developments.

## **EDUCATION**

Good news!

As of October 19<sup>th</sup>, the Spanish university "Centro Universitario Escorial – María Cristina" in Madrid, Spain (founded in 1892), will offer a full 'Illusionism' course. The thematic program is spread over nine trimesters and can count on the expertise of no less than 30 teachers, most of whom are well-known to the magic fraternity.

For all information or to sign up you can visit [www.rcumariacristina.com](http://www.rcumariacristina.com), or contact [ilusionismo@rcumariacristina.com](mailto:ilusionismo@rcumariacristina.com).

The initiative has the approval and support of FISM, which will officially recognize it as soon as the Board of Directors has had a closer look at the details and the interpretation of the program.

## **FISM 2018**



It's also my pleasure to announce that, after South Korea announced its candidacy some time ago, there now is a second official candidate to make a bid for the organization of the 2018 FISM World Championships of Magic. Helsinki, Finland, after sending us its application, already invited the BoD for the site inspection as laid down in the statutes.

As a supplement to this Newsletter I'm sending you the complete inspection report.

Kind Regards,

Domenico Dante  
International President

## Site Inspection Report

### Helsinki, Finland, Sept. 1-4, 2013

Inspectors: FISM Board of Directors: **Domenico Dante**, International President and **Gerrit Brengman** and **Peter Din**, International Vice-Presidents.

Purpose: Inspection of the feasibility of Finland as host country for the 2018 FISM World Championships of Magic.

At the request of: **Mr. Kim Wist**, President of the Finnish Magic Circle, Suomen Taikurit Ry and the Helsinki Convention Bureau.

Hosts: During our stay we were hosted by **Ms. Vappu Mänty**, Marketing Manager of the Helsinki Convention Bureau, **Mr. Kim Wist**, President of the Finnish Society of Magicians, Suomen Taikiri Ry, and **Mr. Christian Engblom**, representing the Magic Circle of Finland, Suomen Taikapiiri Ry.

They were also joined by:

- **Ms. Susanne Massingberd-Roinila**, Congress Manager, Helsinki Exhibition & Convention Centre
- **Ms. Minna Koskela**, Helsinki Exhibition & Convention Centre
- **Mr. Henrik Eriksson**, Helsinki Exhibition & Convention Centre
- **Mr. Jussi Saari**, Managing Director Blue and White Conferences/Congrex
- **Ms. Mervi Toivonen**; Congress Manager, Blue and White Conferences/ Congrex
- **Mr. Jarkko Kivikoski**, Account Director, Woltti Group
- **Ms. Leena Sipilä**, Convention Director, Finland Convention Bureau

The site inspection was very well organized and all places we visited were prepared for our arrival and had made the proper arrangements to give us a clear view of the possibilities.

**HELSINKI**, the capital and largest city of Finland, is located in southern Finland on the shore of the Gulf of Finland, an arm of the Baltic Sea. It is situated some 80 km. north of the Estonian capital Tallinn, 400 km. east of Stockholm, Sweden and 300 km. west of Saint Petersburg, Russia. Of a total population of 5,4 million, about 1,3 million live in the metropolitan area.

Helsinki airport, ranked as one of the best in the world, is located approximately 19 km. north of the city. It offers a frequent service to various destinations in Europe and many cities on other continents. There are direct flights from 120 destinations executed by 40 airlines. It is also an important gateway to Asia.

Helsinki enjoys long days in summer, close to 19 hours around the Summer solstice. The average temperature from June to August is around 19 to 23 °C (66 to 73 °F). The local time in summer is GMT+3.

Finnish and Swedish are the official languages, but we were pleased to discover that almost everyone speaks English.

The currency is the Euro.

The excellent public transportation system consists of tram, commuter rail, subway, bus lines and two ferry lines. A popular Helsinki Card, which we could try out, offers unlimited travel on public transport in the city. We got the promise that, if Helsinki wins the bid, all conventioners will receive this card free of charge.

**THE HELSINKI EXHIBITION & CONVENTION CENTRE** is the planned main venue for the 2018 FISM World Championships of Magic.

It offers all premises necessary to accommodate the activities needed for a successful FISM Convention.

The way in which the building was recently refurbished is a credit to Finland's unique design culture and Helsinki's reputation as World Design Capital.

Whereas an authentic theatre is to be preferred to one specially built for the event in a big exposition hall, the management could easily convince us that they can meet all our requirements. A system of tiered seats coming down from the ceiling (as we had in Stockholm) is available and guarantees a perfect view of the stage from all angles.

One of the halls is very well suited for a seated gala dinner, accommodating all conventioners and special attention would also be given to the space reserved for the magic dealers: a CCTV system should make it possible to follow the competitions in this room while having a drink or a snack.

Well aware of the fact that in the past the close-up performances were sometimes treated in a stepmotherly way, Mr. Christian Engblom, a reputed close-up performer himself, assured us that he'll personally see to it that the theatre for the close-up competition and shows, offers facilities that can satisfy even the most demanding of spectators and performers.

There are several restaurants, a brasserie and a cafeteria inside the building.

**HOTEL CAPACITY** in all price categories is readily available and there are several possibilities for the accommodation of budget-conscious youngsters.

**The Holiday Inn Pasila**, adjacent to the Convention Centre offers 244 convenient rooms.

Although most of the other hotels are situated in the centre of the town, this proved not to be a disadvantage. E.g. from the **Radisson Blu Plaza hotel** it's a short walk to the railway station. There, using the Helsinki Card, you can hop on any train because they all pass by the Convention Centre and stop there. The trip takes exactly 4 minutes.

From Hotels farther away from the station, as e.g. the luxurious **Hotel Haven** (77 rooms), the card can be used on a tram which will take you to the Convention Centre in about 25 minutes.

The **Scandic Paasi Hotel** (170 rooms) has a story-like interior design depicting celebrated circus artists of the past, as well as sportsmen and musicians. As in several other hotels, some of the rooms have a private Sauna.

We were shown a meeting room where magicians could have a nightcap while watching bar- or late night magic after the end of the activities in the Convention Centre.

The Convention organizers promised to make arrangements with a number of hotels to obtain special room rates for the duration of the convention.



## **MUNICIPAL SUPPORT**

A meeting with the Lord Mayor of Helsinki, Mr. Jussi Pajunen, proved beyond all doubt that the magic fraternity will be most welcome in his town. He assured us that he's looking forward to attending one of the shows.

## **Conclusion**

After having evaluated the pros and possible cons of the venue, the FISM Board of Directors has come to the conclusion that Helsinki can keep pace with any other applicant organizer for FISM WCM2018.

We were impressed by the close collaboration offered by the Helsinki Exhibition & Convention Centre because it's unprecedented that a Convention Centre offers to share the risks with the organizers of a FISM Convention.

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*The newsletter is available in four FISM language*