

## **Welcome Message of UIPM President – U19 World Championships**

Dear athletes, coaches, officials, guests and spectators,

It is my pleasure to welcome the youth of the world to Caldas da Rainha, Portugal where the Portuguese Modern Pentathlon Federation will provide excellent organization and wonderful hospitality.

Youth development is a very important pillar for our Modern Pentathlon movement and this UIPM Under 19 World Championships gives our best teenage athletes another opportunity to qualify for the 2018 Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires.

Caldas da Rainha has already organized UIPM's Junior World Championships and other international competitions to a high standard. It is a pleasure to be back in a sport-friendly city with a great host, and this week will be a celebration of Portuguese hospitality and sport.

Through the exhibition *Pentathlon and the Baron Pierre de Coubertin*, young athletes are learning more about the heritage of our Olympic movement and the founder of Modern Pentathlon. These educational and other cultural activities will be open to the public.

My thanks go to the national federation, national and local Government, the National Olympic Committee and volunteers, as well as the sponsors and suppliers for all their financial and logistical support.

Let us enjoy these exciting days in a spirit of fair play, respect, friendship and harmony. Let us support the legacy of Pierre de Coubertin and our grass roots – the youth.

Dr Klaus Schormann