

BREST'S ADVANTAGES AND IFREMER'S PROPOSAL TO HOST THE IAMSLIC CONFERENCE 2001

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Introduction

Madame Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Organizing Committee, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I thank you for giving me the opportunity to present the advantages of Brest and the proposals from IFREMER to host your next conference in October 2001.

I also thank you for inviting me to take part in the conference here, and in this way, enabling me to better realize what your expectations are for 2001.

In fact, until now, I was not a member of your Association. I have learned about it from documents, including the **IAMSLIC conference** organizers manual. The objectives stated in this manual are quite ambitious. They require both a professional approach from the organizers and high quality facilities to accommodate the conference. Of course, I have taken note from it, as well as from the programme for the year 2000 conference, to plan the best way of welcoming you in Brest.

You had expressed the wish to be hosted by IFREMER, the French marine research institute and had contacted my predecessor to this end. He had accepted this in principle.

However, this did create a problem, because our documentation service was supposed to be transferred to a new establishment, the **European Documentation Centre for the Sea (CEDM)**, in the year 2001. This new centre is being created from a grouping of the documentation centres of **IFREMER, the University of Western Brittany** and **Research Institute for Development**. And it will only open during the first semester of 2001.

Therefore, I was unable to make a commitment, on behalf of the Director, who will only be appointed in a few months from now.

What is more, my team and I are highly involved in preparing the opening of this new centre, and therefore, we do not have the availability necessary to directly assume the responsibility of all the logistic aspects linked to organizing this conference.

So, we proposed that the Brest Conference centre be contacted, because it is the place where IFREMER and the University hold their own conferences and symposia. This seems to me to be the most appropriate solution. All the more so, in that we have been asked to host the **EURASLIC 2001 conference**, at the same time as **IAMSLIC's conference**.

I "two-thousand and one"

Since our offer has been accepted, at least in theory, by the main members of your Steering committee, I am delighted. And now I would like to give you a broad outline.

I will review, in turn:

- the full hospitality facilities at the Brest conference centre,
- the interest of the tours proposed both at IFREMER and at the CEDM,
- the assets of the city of Brest and its region for tours and outings of a more cultural and gastronomic nature.

The Full Service Facilities of Brest's Conference Centre:

Because of its architectural design resembling quartz crystals, the Conference centre is called "**Le Quartz**". It is located in the heart of the city of Brest, and offers:

- **a large reception hall**, perfect for meeting people and having discussions,
- **auditoriums and lecture halls**, including:
 - an auditorium seating 350, equipped for simultaneous translation,
 - committee meeting rooms,
- **exhibition areas** which can be equipped with stands and any necessary connections for electricity, computers, etc.,
- **catering facilities**.

The centre can provide **qualified staff** (hostesses, technicians) if so requested and can take entire charge of not only the logistic and practical preparation of a conference, but also managing the budget for the event. So, you can see that the amenities and conditions are excellent. We already have a their proposal of services, adapted to our requirements and their estimates. On that basis, we will be able to discuss this with the heads of your association, and decide which parts of the offer to retain. **We could then proceed with reserving the rooms and priority services with the Conference centre.**

The Interest of the Visits and Tours Proposed both at IFREMER and at the CEDM:

Before speaking about IFREMER's centre in Brest, I would like to give you a brief **overview of the institute as regards France:**

- **IFREMER, was created in 1984**, from the merger between the **CNEXO** (national centre for exploitation of the oceans) and the **ISTPM** (scientific institute of maritime fishery techniques). It is a research body under the supervision of the ministries of research, **fisheries and transportation**,
- **as its name indicates, its mission is**
 - to improve our knowledge about the ocean. This means, by developing the means for observation, monitoring, exploitation and use,
 - to keep watch over the protection of the marine environment and sensible use of its resources,
 - to advise public authorities and professionals in the economic sector linked to the sea.
- **IFREMER has the following facilities at its disposal:**
 - 7 research vessels,
 - 2 manned submersibles,
 - remote-controlled means to explore the deep sea.
- **its locations are well distributed, all over France:**
 - Overseas (from Reunion island to New Caledonia),
 - in Metropolitan France, all along the French coastline. The largest centre is located in Brest.

IFREMER's centre in Brest enjoys a staff of 600. It is a multidisciplinary entity, with large-scale experimental facilities, including a test tank. Its major fields of research and development are:

- living resources,
- the coastal environment,
- oceanographic research,
- engineering and technology.

We propose that when you come to Brest, you can visit the main facilities of the Centre, which is, as you can see here, set up at the sea side.

Our department was created nearly 30 years ago. As I have just told you, it will be transferred soon to a new centre being built at the cliff top, in close proximity to the campus of IFREMER and the University.

I'm happy to be able to show you a few views already:

- overall view,
- views from the offices,
- a view of the location with respect to the sea.

You'll be able to discover the interior installations later.

Beyond these tours and visits, the presence of a large scientific community in Brest could provide you with an opportunity to attend high standard conferences. Among the themes of the scientific conferences being planned are, in particular:

- IIFREMER's underwater intervention equipment and facilities,
- development perspectives for operational oceanography in France,
- that of industrial development of biotechnologies linked to hydrothermal sources,
- that of exploiting deep sea oil deposits and new sources of marine energy,
- the state of the art in fisheries research linked to sustainable fishing of stocks,
- response to accidental pollution at sea : follow-up to the Erika shipwreck,
- security of checks for access to information systems: the example of IFREMER's Intranet.

Within our own field of specialization, we should call on experts from various horizons, both French and foreign. Amongst the subjects which could be dealt with, I would like us to focus on the following ones as well:

- methods to take into account the strategic plans of research organizations in drawing up their acquisition policy for documentary information sources,
- the risk that researchers will desert the libraries as a result of the rapid development of electronic documentation,
- the capability of groupings (or consortia) of documentation centres to influence publishers' pricing policy,
- an assessment on the subject of setting up virtual documentation centres: strong points, weak points and recommendations.

It seems to me that our field of activity is undergoing vast changes. It is important that your annual meetings reflect this and help each of us to take the most appropriate strategic orientations.

The Assets of the City of Brest and its Region:

Brest is located at the western tip of Brittany, on the shore of the bay of the same name. The town was largely destroyed during the Second World War, so it doesn't have great architectural character. However, it does have:

- sites for highly interesting visits and tours,
- a coastal and natural heritage environment of exceptional quality.

Among the sites to visit in the town, there are, in particular:

- **Oceanopolis**, a national ranking scientific museum, presenting marine ecosystems from temperate, tropical and polar zones,
- **the botanical Conservatory of Brest**, specialized in protecting endangered species of plants from temperate and tropical areas.

As for the coastal sites, **the region around Brest** provides a wide range of very picturesque landscapes, especially on the **Crozon peninsula**.

Along with this wealth of natural heritage, you'll find an architectural and cultural heritage as well. A few examples:

- Medieval village and city quarter,
- Gothic cathedrals,
- Museums like the strawberry museum, the cider museum,
- Famous earthenware factories (like the Henriot factory in Quimper), etc.

All sorts of outings are possible. They'll provide every opportunity to stop and taste the regional specialities.

Conclusion

To conclude, before showing you an extract of a **video cassette portraying Brest** and its surroundings, **I would like to thank you for choosing Brest for your next conference and promise you that we will give you our warmest welcome.**

