



## **Welcome Note**

**Welcome you all to the 11<sup>th</sup> Engineering Challenge Cup. Its amazing how fast the last 11 year passed. A few of us will remember such days in the Saronion Gulf south of Athens in April 1993 where the idea was born to initiate a sailing event in the Mediterranean during spring time where people of engineering companies might have a relaxed and sporting week determined by daily sailing races, socialising parties and the unavoidable talks around business. One of the strong desires was that the weather should be warm and the wind blowing moderate till strong.**

**The overall rules of the ECC are dominated by the two following aspects. The first was that this should not become a professional sailing event - means it should remain a fun and sun event where safety comes first and the individual sailing skills of each crew will be contributed. The second priority was that every employee of our companies should be able to participate irrespective of her/his function and position within the company- means the overall budget was limited to 1000 Euro per week in total.**

**The first target could be met even accepting that the spinnakers are not allowed to be used and the challenging night sail had to be avoided. We often remember such ECC's where beside the daily races some extraordinary skills like swimming, running, rowing, history questionnaires were asked in-between such days.**

**It was more difficult to meet our second target and this finally let to the separation of some sailing fellows in 2000, which are nowadays sailing under the ECCO flag which means Engineering Challenge Cup Overseas across the waters of the Caribbean, Australia, New Zealand shores and islands. We wish them good luck and a good sailing.**

**In May 2003 we met at Palma de Majorca, where the event started originally in 1993 with 4 yachts and 27 participants, with nowadays 46 crews and 314 fellow sailors in total. We enjoyed a fantastic week with sportive races, plenty of sunshine, blue skies and always sufficient wind and few protests only. The organisation was perfectly done by Carlos Moreno and his crew from Intecsa Uhde, Madrid.**

**The organisation of the ECC becomes more difficult year by year because of in first instance the steadily increasing number of boats and secondly the continuous higher organisation bench marks left by the former organisation committee and finally our unwritten rule that the overall winner of the ECC has to organise the next years event.**

**Facing the first aspect it was easy for us to decide that the number of participating crews should be limited to 50 yachts in total as this demand is under discussion since years. Analysing the second aspect the slogan for the next years event was borne as being “ Back to the Roots “. This means that the organisation committee had committed to reduce the organisation input and efforts in conjunction with the sponsoring goods and input back to a ordinary level which allows us to keep the cost for everyone under**



control without waiving any sailing, socializing and fun aspect. The organisation committee believe that these measures were necessary to keep the spirit of the event alive and to keep the third aspect unchanged. The winner should still have the burden to organise the next ECC and not drop the anchor in order to avoid winning the race.

The Engineering Challenge Cups were held at the following places

1994	Majorca / Spain	4 Yachts
1995	Kos / Greece	6 Yachts
1996	Kusadasi / Turkey	10 Yachts
1997	Athens / Greece	19 Yachts
1998	Marmaris / Turkey	22 Yachts
1999	Majorca / Spain	22 Yachts
2000	Elba / Italy	24 Yachts
2001	Pula / Croatia	30 Yachts
2002	Athens / Greece	36 Yachts
2003	Majorca / Spain	46 Yachts
2004	Split / Croatia	53 Yachts

But the most important factor of the ECC are the participating crews themselves - its you all. Without you all there would be no ECC. Its all of you who keep the ECC alive and worth to spent the money for. Everybody of us should not only enjoy the daily atmosphere on board in an superb environment at sea and at the harbours but also are invited to improve the social aspects of this event. Looking through my ECC reports of the past eleven years I counted participants coming from 19 different countries and representing more than 50 different engineering and contracting companies. That means the ECC is going to be a global event and we are all part of it. Therefore lets take the opportunity and improve the networking, the communication and welcome the world of engineers and contractors at Split / Croatia in the period 8<sup>th</sup> till 16<sup>th</sup> May 2004.

Last but not least on behalf of the ECC organising committee and all the participants I like to thank very much all our sponsors which are highlighted in our ECC-logbook and our webpage <ecc-sailing.com> as well as on the ECC goodies. Without the financial support of all these sponsors it would not be possible to keep the starting fees at moderate levels and spending all the ECC goodies.

I wish you all a splendid week at the Dalmatian coast and let us all make the 11<sup>th</sup> ECC an unforgettable event which we would like to remember all days long. Hopefully the wind will blow and the sun will shine and everybody shows up with a good mode. And please remember - Safety first.

Best regards to you all

**Arno Hemm**