



## V European Short Course Swimming Championships Antwerp (BEL), 13-16 December 2001

Olympic and World Champion **Peter van den Hoogenband** and **Inge de Bruijn** from the Netherlands intend to take part in the European Short Course Swimming Championships in Antwerp (BEL) in December. This is not only good news for European swimming fans but also and especially to all those teams that would like to top the overall medals ranking !

In fact, at the edition of 1999 and 2000 it was the **Swedish** team that came first with 17 medals (10 Gold) and 16 medals (10 Gold) respectively. Now, considering the participation of the Dutch stars that will possibly challenge the European titles to **Therese Alshammer, Anna Kammerling, Stefan Nystrand, Lars Frolander & Co.** over some of the shorter distances and with the relay teams, a confirmation by the Swedes as team "number one" in 2001 will be most difficult, so also opening the doors to other Federations, inclusive of the **Netherlands**.

After most encouraging results at the World Championships in Fukuoka (JPN) this Summer, **Germany** and **Great Britain**, having entered amongst the largest team numbers for the European Short Course Championships, are certainly aiming to top the medals table too. **Italy**, runners up last year in Valencia with 7 individual titles, are expected to travel to Belgium with their best team inclusive of their Olympic and World Champions, and they must be therefore also considered for the final team classification, despite a weak history with the sprint relay teams.

On September 20<sup>th</sup>, a total of **28 nations** confirmed their participation at the Continental tile contests of 2001, and **414 athletes** have been entered on a preliminary basis. "VRT Televisie", the Belgium Member of the EBU, will act as host broadcaster, delivering an international TV signal that will be produced using 12 cameras, inclusive of 2 super slow motions, one camera on rail and 2 under water cameras. **All semi-finals & finals will be broadcast live in Belgium.**

Media that have not yet forwarded their accreditation forms are reminded that the number of media seats at the Wezenberg pool is limited to 75 units. For further information and hotel reservation please contact the Media Director, Mr. Achilles Vandermeulen, at the OC e-mail: [g-straetemans@fregates.be](mailto:g-straetemans@fregates.be)

For information concerning the selection process of the swimmers for the national teams, please liase direct with the Press Officers of the respective National Federations.

LEN Office Rome, 21 September 2001

Attachments: [past medal tables]  
[competition schedule]