

## **Proposal to the IECU meeting in Brest**

### **From the Europe Class Association, Norway**

1. Increase the maximum age for the participation in Jr. European Championship to the year the sailor turns 19.

Motivation :

- a) In Scandinavia, the Europe dinghy is now primarily a youth recruitment class. For this group of sailors, the participation in large international regattas like the youth European championship is a primary motivator. Today, the World Championship is the only large international regatta available to 19-year olds and only a handful can qualify from each country. We believe increasing the age to 19 will help motivate more sailors to stay in the class.
  - b) Other classes like the Zoom8 are competing with the Europe in the 15-17 years segment. For sailors that are motivated to leave the smaller Zoom8 class, it is very hard to qualify to the international championship the first year. Extending the youth championship one year can help motivate these sailors to change class.
  - c) Harmonization with the definition of "youth" in the Laser class.
2. Work toward making the Europe a one-design class in all technical aspects other than the mast and the sail. This effort will be organized by a technical committee that will work with the boat builders to arrive at a single definition of the hull, boom, rudder, and centerboard. Results will be presented to the IECU Annual meeting in 2010 and presented for a vote.

Motivation: The flexibility of the boat has been of great benefit to the development of the class but today it is a major distraction. Parents are scared off because of the seemingly complex technical decisions they have to make when acquiring a boat. Also, it would be beneficial to avoid the everlasting discussion about the effect of the equipment choices on the results. Please note that the standardization would not include the mast and the sail, whose flexible design is a big part of the class appeal to sailors of a wide range of physical sizes.