



UKRFA/CIOR/PRESIDENT100

1 Apr 19

Dear CIOR Colleagues

CIOR IBM 4 APRIL AND SUMMER CONGRESS 2020

I want to start this letter to you all by saying that I very much hope that you are staying well and taking the various precautionary measures on which we have all been advised by our respective Governments to protect ourselves, our families, communities and indeed the whole world from the awful scourge of Corona Virus 19. I know you would also want me to send our collective support and good wishes to all those who are working on the front line within their civilian or military capabilities.

All our nations face this crisis, and we as your Presidency have been keeping a close watch on the unfolding events over the last weeks to see how we can reshape and continue the future events of our Confederation and take forward our work. I would like to pay tribute to the Secretary General, Colonel Adrian Walton for the support and wise advice he has given me, to the Permanent Representative Lieutenant Colonel Ben Jonckers for being the front line in dealing with the Belgian MoD and the Belgian Organisers of the Summer Congress, and the other members of the Presidency Team who have supported me.

It would be easy at this time to merely close down CIOR until times improve, but as your President I am most reluctant to do that as adapting, replanning and delivering to the best of our ability are all good lessons to learn as military officers. I hope you will understand therefore that it has been necessary for me to take swift decisions in this fast-changing situation to which normally I would seek the agreement of Council in advance. There really has not been time to do this. I can now tell you what we as a Presidency propose which, I believe, will deliver the best possible solution:

1. After discussion by the Permanent Representative with the Organisers of the Summer Congress 2020 and with the support of the Director of Belgian National Reserves it is agreed that the Summer Congress which we had been planning would be held in Liege in August 2020 is now cancelled due to the crisis.
2. We will now work to reprogramme a Congress (more autumn than summer!) in the period last week of September to third week October 2020 at a different location yet to be determined. This Congress will be run by the Presidency, and we hope that we can deliver as complete a Congress as possible, although it might be that the casualty will be MILCOMP as we are unlikely to be able to find a venue for this in such a short timescale. However, if any nation would like to host either the Congress or the MILCOMP in that timeframe please do let me know.



3. You will recall from the Mid Winter Meeting that Greece has been confirmed as the host of the 2021 Congress in Athens. I have therefore invited the Belgian MoD to make a new proposal to host the Summer Congress in 2022, again in Liege, but this is not yet confirmed.

4. In order to provide more time for us to prepare and to have a more informed discussion we are proposing to delay the IBM scheduled for 20 - 23 April until 29 June to 2 July and further details, very similar to those you have already received for April will be issued in due course. It will still be a virtual meeting. Given that most of us are presumably working from home now, and might still be then or alternatively this will be sufficient notice, then this date change should not be unduly difficult.

This note is intended to give you the very earliest possible notice of our intentions. I am also consulting with the Presidencies of CIOMR and CISOR (who as you know were going to join us in Liege) and with the German Presidency for 2020 – 2022. Please do let me have any comments or thoughts you might have.

With very best wishes at this most difficult time to every one of you, and to your families, and especially to those working on the front line in the crisis.

Chris

CL ARGENT
Colonel (R)
President