

# IPA Newsletter June 2022

# **IPA flying High**



A wonderful action shot by Eran Israel taken at the 2<sup>nd</sup> IPA Folklore Festival in Cyprus

#### WORD OF INTRODUCTION

Dear Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to draw a parallel between the early days of the IPA and the present situation. When the idea of launching our international association germinated in the mind of our founder Arthur Troop, the world was at the end of World War II, torn and bruised. Arthur's dream - in addition to all the material and economic reconstruction that would need to be undertaken - was to reanimate the relationships and contacts between police officers worldwide, and to weave a "web of goodness", through the values of service and friendship, where each member would spread the same values. It did not take long for his idea to succeed, and the IPA experienced growth, success and popularity.

Today, at the end of two years of Covid, which paralysed the entire planet and all its systems, we now have the opportunity and perhaps the duty, to go back to the drawing board and rekindle the flame of our association. The two years without events and international meetings (apart from video-conferences), without the DNA that defines the IPA, have been long and difficult.

It is worth mentioning that during the pandemic, as the borders were closing, a great surge of solidarity developed within our association, and all sections were keen to help and multiply their actions. This extraordinary commitment also enabled the IPA to emerge from Covid alive, and not too badly damaged. We are able to look forward to the near future in the same way as before, or we can envisage an even better time ahead of us.

This development can be seen by the resurgence of recent events that once again mark the international life of the IPA, such as the IPA Games that took place in Montenegro (masterfully organised - bravo to IPA Montenegro) or the IPA Folklore Festival in Cyprus (a colourful event - bravo to IPA Cyprus as well), to name but a few of the events that have been organised recently: anniversaries, conferences, friendship gatherings, and many more.

It is beautiful and reassuring to feel this IPA wind blowing freely throughout the world again, and I thank all sections and regions of our association for this awakening.

We need to see each other, to exchange, to laugh and to build together. Our friendship thrives on our members meeting in person.

Servo per Amikeco

Pierre-Martin Moulin, IPA President

#### AROUND THE WORLD

## Festive Inauguration of Portugal's IPA Madeira House

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2022, the Portuguese Section inaugurated the IPA Madeira house. Several local entities were present at this act: His Excellency the Regional Secretary for Education, Science and Technology, Dr. Jorge Carvalho, represented his Excellency the President of the Regional Government of Madeira, and presided over the ceremonies, knowing that his representation was a source of satisfaction and pride for us, and showed the support and consideration of the Regional Government for the work of the police professionals who on a daily basis and without reservation, fulfil their mission in the autonomous region of Madeira.





The presence of Councillors Bruno Pereira, from the Municipality of Funchal and Dr. Rómulo Coelho, President of the Parish Council of S. Martinho, was for us an unmistakable sign of the recognition and support they have always given us and shows how important it is to share mutual help between the IPA and local civil entities. All police forces that are part of this association were represented by their Regional Commanders:

- Regional Commander of Madeira, of the Public Security Police, Chief Superintendent Luís Filipe Sousa,
- Replacing the Commander of the Territorial Command of Madeira, of the National Republican Guard, Ensign João Xavier,
- Coordinator of the Madeira Judicial Police, Dr. Ricardo Tecedeiro,
- On behalf of the Commander of the Maritime Police of Madeira, Deputy Chief Paulo Semedo of the Maritime Police of Funchal,
- Director of the Funchal Prison Establishment, Dr. Fernando Santos,
- Reg. Insp. of the Reg. Authority for Economic Activities, Dr. Luis Miguel Rosa.





For IPA Portugal, the presence of all representatives of the Security Forces means a sign of appreciation, friendship, consideration and esteem for this association. They are the leaders of women and men, our effective and potential associates, who on a daily basis contribute with their work to the safety of the citizens of this Atlantic paradise and, without reservation, dignify the image and prestige of the Police, in the most diverse strands.





The dream of this project, a great objective of this mandate and showing the effort of all who selflessly invested their time, took shape and will allow the Madeira region much more than having its own headquarters to meet and promote its region. It is intended to be a place of union and healthy living among the members of this archipelago, open to IPA members from all over the world.

The Madeira region was created in January 1984, and despite all efforts, had been without its own space for the development of its support activities to associates.

It is due to the perseverance in realising an old desire of the current President of the Region of Madeira, Ricardo Fernandes, that the inauguration of the IPA Madeira House could take place.

IPA Madeira is to be congratulated and from now on will be able to welcome associates from all over the world and meet in its own headquarters.



But the most important is to focus on what I truly consider the greatest value of any organisation. In other words, the people, our Associates.

We will continue tirelessly in the pursuit of our goals, and we will do our best for our associates, honouring this institution of ours.

The IPA Madeira House is a heritage acquired by the members of IPA Portugal. Without them, this dream

would not have become possible. Therefore, I urge everyone to make the best use of these facilities, so that everybody, associates and family members, can enjoy the comfort the IPA House Madeira will certainly provide.

A thank you to all – Servo per Amikeco

Paula Borralho, President IPA Portugal





The IPA Madeira house has 5 bedrooms:

2 double bedrooms with a shared bathroom, 1 double bedroom with a private bathroom and adapted to people with reduced mobility, 2 double bedrooms with a private bathroom, kitchen and living area.

All rooms are equipped with television.

Welcome to Madeira!













# IPA GAMES 2022 2<sup>nd</sup> Games in Montenegro a huge Success

The 2<sup>nd</sup> IPA Games took place from 8-13 May 2022 in the wonderful seaside resort of Bar, in Montenegro.



The event was attended by more than 500 athletes plus over 700 visitors from 26 countries! A global celebration of Police sports and friendship! The sports competitions involved: indoor football, beach volleyball, 3x3 basketball, shooting, table tennis, as well as running (5,000 m) for both men and women, and by age categories. The performance level of the

athletes was high, and they gave us all a unique spectacle!

IPA Montenegro section did its best, leaving everyone with fantastic impressions! Flawless facilities, perfect hotels, a meticulous organisation, and plenty of surprises! During the opening ceremony, the flag of Montenegro and the flag of the Games were dropped from the sky with two paratroopers, and the programme also included a demonstration of firefighting on a ship, and a rescue by helicopter!

The message shared was: no to Covid, no to war, but yes to friendship and solidarity!

As Chairperson of the IPA Socio-Cultural Commission, I feel completely justified. The hard work of 3 years, both of the commission and of the organising section, brought the desired result and much more!





I congratulate and thank all athletes and coaches, the organisers, the volunteers, plus also the Police and the Local Authorities who wholeheartedly supported the IPA Games.

The Delegates will decide at the IPA World Congress in Spain in October where the next Games will be held in 2024. Montenegro raised the bar very high!

**HVALA IPA MONTENEGRO!** 

Servo per Amikeco,

Kyriakos Karkalis, IPA Vice President & Chairperson Socio-Cult. Commission



**IPA GAMES 2022 MONTENEGRO** 



# IPA GAMES 2022 IPA Lower Silesia Members represent Poland

From 8 to 13 May 2022, the 2<sup>nd</sup> IPA Games for female and male police officers from countries affiliated to the International Police Association, took place in the town of Bar in Montenegro. The competition was attended by over 500 athletes from 26 countries around the world.



IPA sports competitions are held regularly in different countries around the world, after granting the right to organise them. IPA Region Wrocław, operating within the premises of the Wrocław Provincial Police Headquarters, put up a 20-person delegation, which took part in the of beach volleyball, 3x3 basketball, futsal soccer, runnina 5000m and the shooting competitions. The Lower Silesia Police team consisted of officers from the Provincial Police Headquarters in Wrocław

and the Police Headquarters in Wałbrzych and Wrocław, as well as the Polkowice District Police Headquarters. Retired police officers were also included in the team.

The participants of the trip, who are all IPA members, are sports enthusiasts who have represented the Polish Police and the IPA in the international and national arena for many years. Among them, Olympic laurels were won by retired police officer, officer-in-charge Joanna Woźniak-Cieślar, who won a bronze medal in the open category and a silver medal in her age category in the 5000m race of the IPA Games.





Apart from the sporting dimension of the event, the Games also had a social aspect. The meeting of officers from various parts of the world served to exchange experiences and create bonds of friendship and professional camaraderie in accordance with the motto of the International Police Association, "Servo per Amikeco - Service through Friendship". The participants representing the Lower Silesian Police also observed the organisation of the event with a view to organising the IPA Games in 2026 in Wrocław.

Servo per Amikeco,

Roman Wieczorek (text) & Mariusz Łęcki (photos), IPA Region Wroclaw, Poland



# 2<sup>nd</sup> IPA International Festival of Folklore and Songs Thank you from the Hosts

Between 4-8 May 2022, IPA Cyprus organised the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Festival of Folklore and Songs in Paralimni and Ayia Napa in the Famagusta area.

The opening ceremony was held in Protaras Paralimni, and the festival part in Ayia Napa with hundreds of spectators. The memories of the event will stay with all participants for a for long time. The festival was attended by members from IPA Cyprus, Greece, Bulgaria, Israel, Romania, North Macedonia and Ireland. They all gave the



event a special flavour and a unique taste from their cultures and traditions. The participation and performance of the traditional group Viglatores from Chania, Crete was a special honour. The hosts IPA Cyprus were represented by the traditional group IPA Larnaka.

During their stay on the island, our friends from different Sections had the opportunity to appreciate Cypriot hospitality, to see the beautiful sights of the area and to savour our traditional delicacies. They also enjoyed the lovely seaside and beaches, and went on a wonderful cruise on the pirate ship. The festival ended with a glamorous party where everyone had a lot of fun.

We had a very good time with all our guests. We would like to thank all of them for their participation under the motto of Servo per Amikeco and the friendship binding IPA members.





Our gratitude goes to the municipalities of Ayia Napa and Paralimni, and to the Kapetanios Bay Hotel at Protaras for their valuable support and hospitality.

Last, but not least, IPA Cyprus wishes to express its special thanks to the IPA region Famagusta, to its President George Demetriou, and all those members who worked hard to provide the great organisation of the event.

Servo per Amikeco,

Kyriakos Pericleous, Secretary General IPA Cyprus Demetris Demetriou, President IPA Cyprus



# 2<sup>nd</sup> IPA International Festival of Folklore and Songs A Colourful Celebration















# 2<sup>nd</sup> IPA International Festival of Folklore and Songs First-Hand Impressions



After a break due to the Corona pandemic, the tradition of holding a Folklore Festival, which had started in Bulgaria, was renewed with IPA Cyprus organising the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of this event in May 2022, with 6 IPA sections bringing together 200 singers and dancers.

The opening of the festival in the city of Protaras began with a march on the main street, with the municipal orchestra, flags, music and great joy, including audience participation.

The event was attended by the Minister of Culture of Cyprus; the President of IPA Cyprus, who is also the Deputy Chief of Police; the Mayor; the Commander of the UN Multinational Force, and many others.



To the great delight of the audience and the participants, the event also included a presentation of traditional refreshments by the delegations.

The main festival took place in Ayia Napa, featuring a ceremonial march with the police orchestra and a large crowd on the main street. The IPA anthem was performed by the police orchestra, and the Jerusalem District Police Band from Israel were the first performers. The event continued with dancers and musicians from IPA Romania performing dances that swept the entire audience. Next, dancers from the IPA Bulgarian section performed, followed by a large group of Cretan dancers from Greece and Cyprus. All performances received roaring applause from the audience, who joined in to dance until late at night.



The festival ended on Saturday night with an 80's disco party conducted by IPA Famagusta President George Demetriou. A colourful and exciting event, befitting a large, happy, and impressive gathering.

The Folklore Festival is part of the initiatives of the IPA Socio-Cultural Commission, and started with adv. Gal Sharon as Chairperson, and is now chaired by Kyriakos Karkalis.

A big thank-you to IPA Cyprus for hosting and organising this great festival, and thank you also to the friends who managed the event: Kikis Pericleous, Secretary General of the section, George Demetriou, President of the Famagusta branch and to the President of the section, Demetris Demetriou.

Dr Eran Israel, Secretary General IPA Israel

#### 38° Aniversario de la Sección Peruana

En el marco del 38° Aniversario de La International Police Association Sección Peruana, el 10 de mayo del 2022, se presentó el libro "Amenazas y Desafíos a la Política de Seguridad del Siglo XXI", redactado por el asociado Javier Raúl Gamero Kinosita.

La presentación del libro se realizó durante el desarrollo del "Coloquio Internacional" que contó con la participación de asociados de La International Police Association Sección Peruana, representantes del cuerpo diplomático acreditados en el Perú, miembros de la Policía Nacional del Perú, de la sociedad civil y connotados empresarios vinculados al rubro de seguridad.



Javier, aborda en el contenido del libro con profundo conocimiento académico, los actuales desafíos geopolíticos, desafíos ecológicos, desafíos tecnológicos y desafíos demográficos que afectan a la seguridad en general, poniendo énfasis en la seguridad ciudadana en la región latinoamericana.

En el ámbito de los desafíos geopolíticos examina los factores de estrés del mañana, los trastornos y dislocaciones geopolíticas en el nuevo orden global, las crisis y conflictos sociales actuales, las amenazas globales emergentes del siglo XXI, las guerras inminentes del futuro, la sociedad de riesgo, la sociedad post 11 de setiembre, la sociedad de 24 horas, la complejidad e incertidumbre en el mundo híbrido del siglo XXI y la política de seguridad en la era de la postglobalización.

Dentro de los desafíos tecnológicos trata sobre el ciberespacio y la ciberseguridad y el cambio de paradigmas de la seguridad, las sociedades de vigilancia y las nuevas dictaduras digitales.

Dentro de los desafíos ecológicos, analiza los conflictos sociales debido al cambio climático, el estrés eco-demográfico, los conflictos violentos, el ecoterrorismo, la narcodeforestación, la paz ambiental y la criminología ecoglobal.

Dentro de los desafíos demográficos examina la relación entre migración, derechos humanos y criminalidad en las sociedades contemporáneas.



Además, aborda el tema de la seguridad ciudadana, examinado el rol de la seguridad ciudadana en el estado de derecho moderno en América Latina, la situación actual de la seguridad ciudadana en la región, la policía de proximidad ciudadana como filosofía para el fortalecimiento de la seguridad humana, el orden público y la seguridad democrática en la región y la seguridad en la era potspandemia, proponiendo los

elementos esenciales para una nueva arquitectura de seguridad acorde con los estándares internacionales de las sociedades democráticas modernas del siglo XXI.

Durante el desarrollo del "Coloquio Internacional" el señor Coronel de la Policía Nacional de Colombia Luis Hernando Benavides Guancha, agregado policial acreditado en el Perú, trató el tema relacionado a la nueva ley de seguridad ciudadana de Colombia, que tiene por objeto el fortalecimiento de la seguridad ciudadana, por medio de la inclusión de reformas al código penal, al código de procedimiento penal, al código nacional de seguridad y convivencia ciudadana, al código de extinción de dominio, al igual que se regula las armas, elementos y dispositivos menos letales, y la sostenibilidad del registro nacional de identificación balística, y otras disposiciones orientadas a mejorar las condiciones de seguridad humana en la República de Colombia.

El "Coloquio Internacional" se transmitió vía Zoom y se desarrolló en idioma español, traducido simultáneamente al idioma inglés.

En la mesa de honor estuvieron presentes, la señora María Julia Visalot Castrillón, Directora del Grupo Empresarial Swiss Perú, el Presidente de International Police Association La Peruana Alejandro Sección Manuel Ísmodes Mezzano, el Pastpresidente de



La International Police Association Sección Peruana Carlos Fernando Velasquez Salazar y el Magister Javier Raúl Gamero Kinosita, quienes realizaron comentarios a las exposiciones realizadas e interactuaron con los invitados sobre los temas analizados, generando interesantes conclusiones que serán materia de difusión nacional e internacional.

#### Carlos Fernando Velasquez, Past President IPA Peru

# IPA Germany presents itself at the European Police Congress

"Change – Risk or Opportunity? Europe, Society, Climate, Technology" was the leading theme of this year's 25<sup>th</sup> European Police Congress in Berlin.

The European Police Congress is the largest conference for internal security in the European Union. Each year, the conference is a meeting place for experts from more than 20 countries. Representatives from politics, border protection, secret services as well as governments, parliaments and industries attend the conference.



The German IPA Section regularly takes part in this important congress as a reliable partner and flew the flag again in May 2022 by using the many opportunities available to get in touch with network partners.

Together with Schloss Gimborn, the regional IPA group Berlin and the Child Protection Alliance "Kinderschutzallianz", President Oliver Hoffmann and Secretary General Jürgen Glaub held many interesting discussions at the IPA stand. One of the highlights was when an IPA member from Japan visited the booth of IPA Germany.

Oliver Hoffmann moderated the expert forum "Police Equipment: Robust and Safe". The national chairman of the German police union, Rainer Wendt, and David Müller from Panasonic were speakers on the panel.

Hubert Vitt, Vice President IPA Germany

# IPA Brazil celebrate the Section's 60th Anniversary

The Brazilian Section of the International Police Association - IPA Brazil - celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IPA in Brazil in April 2022 with a gala dinner.

The commemorative event also celebrated the Brazilian National Women's Day (30<sup>th</sup> April), and prominent women from Brazil were honoured with the Trophy of "Brazilian Female Protagonism", and in addition revived a historical tradition that originated during World War II, the Ceremonial of Candles.





The section's 60th anniversary event also saw the official launch of the "Green Amazon Project" - a partnership between IPA Brazil and Amazon Bank, with the objective of supporting forest conservation initiatives, involving the participation of 26 indigenous groups and local communities, providing them with the tools, training and financing necessary for the management of their land and support for the general conservation of the Amazon, in the form of an initiative that will benefit more than 68,000 people.

Enjoy the event at: IPA Brazil 60th Anniversary I and IPA Brazil 60th Anniversary II



Joel Zarpellon Mazo, President IPA Brazil

# IPA Croatia: 8th Precise Shooting Tournament 'Sveti Dujam'

The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the International IPA Splitsko-Dalmatinska shooting tournament, entitled IPA Split Shooting Cup 2022 was held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022 in Stobreč, Croatia, involving 56 competitors and 18 teams.



Members of four IPA sections took part in the competition: IPA Montenegro; IPA Germany (Stuttgart), IPA Bosnia and Herzegovina with representatives of six clubs: IPA West Herzegovina County (Grude), IPA Herzeg-Bosnia County (Livno), IPA Zenica, IPA Bihać, and IPA Banja Luka. The Croatian side was represented by the members of the clubs IPA Šibensko-Kninska, IPA Brodsko-Posavska and, of course, the hosts, IPA Splitsko-Dalmatinska.

In addition to the IPA teams, representatives of the Livno Ministry of the Interior, the Mostar Ministry of the Interior, the Bosnian and Herzegovina Border Police and the Splitsko-Dalmatinska Police Administration took part in the competition.

#### Results: Individual - Women

1. Marija Šego IPA West Herzegovina County, Bosnia and Herzegovina

2. Klaudija Borojević IPA Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina

3. Silva Vržina IPA Split W, Croatia

#### Results: Individual - Men

Srđa Miranović IPA Montenegro
 Josip Mišković IPA Split I, Croatia
 Dražen Vukadinovic IPA Montenegro







Results: Teams - Women

1. IPA Zenica, Bosnia & Herzegovina

2. IPA Split, Croatia

Results: Teams - Men

1. IPA Montenegro

2. IPA Split 1

3. Border Police, Bosnia & Herzegovina



After the tournament, a traditional reception banquet was held, and the Head of the Splitsko-Dalmatinska Police Administration, Mr. Slobodan Marendić, as well as the President of the Club IPA Splitsko-Dalmatinska, Mr. Marko Doljanin, awarded medals and trophies to the best competitors.

The Vice President of IPA Section Croatia, Mr. Jure Ražov, also joined the ceremony.











Marko Doljanin, President Regional Club IPA Splitsko-Dalmatinska, IPA Croatia

## IPA Peru welcome IPA France President Thierry Larrouy

In April of this year, Mr. Thierry Larrouy, President of the French Section of the International Police Association, visited Peru with his son, and was welcomed by Mr. Alejandro Ismodes, President of IPA Peru, as well as a delegation of the Specialised Tourism Police of the Peruvian National Police.



By order of the General Commander of the Peruvian National Police, Police General Vicente Tiburcio Orbezo, Thierry was given the corresponding attention during his visit to the cities of Lima, Ica, Nazca, Arequipa and Cusco.

He was received and accompanied by the delegations of the Tourist Police of the Peruvian police, providing him with updated information and security.

Thanks to the friendship of the Peruvian police, Thierry and his son enjoyed their stay in the true manner of our universal motto "Servo per Amikeco".

Police officers from anywhere in the world will always be welcome in Peru.









Thank you, Thierry, for your visit!

Carlos Fernando Velasquez, Past President IPA Peru

#### ON THE TABLE OF THE IEB

# IPA Internal Auditors Meeting 2022 in Dublin

Auditing the IPA accounts and ensuring they are sound and safe is a vital annual task, completed in a joint effort by the IPA International Treasurers and the two elected Internal Auditors. After two years of auditing the accounts remotely, finally this year it became possible to meet in person for the occasion: the International Treasurer Michael Walsh had arranged for an Internal Auditors Meeting in Dublin, Ireland.

Due to the ongoing Covid Restrictions in Canada, my fellow Internal Auditor Nicole Grandmont was unable to join us in person, but it was arranged she would join us via Zoom.

I travelled down to Dublin on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May and met up with Michael at the IPA Section Ireland house in Dublin around teatime, before we went for dinner. A local hostelry of Fagan's was chosen, which was a very short walk from the dwelling, and an enjoyable evening was



had by us both, including a platter for starters and the obligatory sampling of the local Black stuff. A special local gentleman was also present in the premises, and after introductions were made, the usual photographs were taken of him, namely the former Irish Taoiseach (Prime Minister) 1997-2008, Bertie Ahern, Michael and me. Of course another sample of the Black Stuff was shared.

After moving on to meet the IPA Treasurer Social Affairs, Martin Hoffman, who had just flown in from Austria, we eventually retired back to our accommodation for a good night's rest.



Saturday morning started early with Mick driving us to the centre of Dublin to attend the ceremony at Dublin Castle for the occasion of 100 years of An Garda Síochána. We first had the opportunity to get a guided tour of Dublin Castle itself, which proved very interesting, showing the history of the castle over many centuries.

Our attendance at the ceremony was not official, but it was a privilege to view it

from the sidelines. We also had the opportunity to meet with our good friend Conor O'Higgins, President of Section Ireland, who was officially presenting the IPA.

After the ceremony, we took part in a tour of the local Roads Policing offices and the museum in the grounds of Dublin Castle. To our surprise, there was even a life-size statue of our very own Treasurer Mick in Dublin Castle, showing his time in the Roads

Policing. In addition, the actual motorcycle he rode was on display ... surely a sign that you are really getting old, when you end up in a museum! ... It was then time to head to work at the IPA Dublin House.

Mick had kindly arranged for a light lunch to be available for us prior to our meeting. Unfortunately, Nicole was unable to join us for the working session, as a large tornado in her hometown in Canada had knocked out the electricity Therefore, the obligatory supply! inspection of the accounts, financial statements, receipts and queries were carried out by me, and Nicole and I will have a follow-up online meeting to examine further electronic records to



enable us to sign off the Internal Auditors' report.

After a few hours, it was time for another visit in Dublin, to the Guinness Storehouse. An excellent tour of the venue was taken by Mick, Martin and me, and of course a free pint (or maybe two) was available following the tour.

Dinner had been arranged in a local restaurant for late that evening, which I must say was excellent: food, refreshments and most of all the company. Sunday morning came early, with Martin leaving first, followed by Mick and myself.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the International Treasurers Mick and Martin for organising this event, including the business side and the social part. I was treated very well, and I had an excellent weekend.



Until we meet again!

Yours in Friendship,

Fred Boyd, Internal Treasurer

#### **LAST WORD**

While writing these few lines, I am also in the middle of last-minute preparations for attending the IEB meeting in Albania. Travelling, for pleasure or for work, still feels a bit like a novelty after the various Covid lockdowns, especially with only one face-to-face work meeting in the past two years.

Last time I travelled for the IPA, to an IEB meeting in Switzerland in October 2021, the obstacles seemed nearly insurmountable: passenger locator forms for both countries, Covid apps which might or might not be accepted, tests to pre-arrange, and to top it all, a petrol shortage in the UK just before my departure date, which meant I only had just enough petrol to get to the airport and had to hope the crisis would be over on my return!



Easier this time, although somehow there still seems a lot to get nervous about: at the time of writing, chaotic scenes are reported from UK airports, with thousands of passengers missing their flights due to cancellations and staff shortages. To make things more complicated, it is a holiday week in the UK, or to be more precise, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, which makes the travel situation even more challenging.

Whatever happens, my suitcase is nearly packed, so I will simply keep my fingers crossed on 1 June that all goes well ... and I am looking forward to a relaxing drink once I get to Albania, before the IPA work begins.

Wish me good luck 😊

Elke



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