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Information Letter no. 24-2017 - Congress Tbilisi

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Dear Member Federation, dear friends,
please find attached the standard information for our
Congress in Tbilisi. The Audit report will be sent in
a separate forwarding method.

Best regards,
Max Geuter

[General Secretariate](#)

[European Fencing Confederation \(EFC\)](#)

[Confédération Européenne d'Esgrime \(CEE\)](#)

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Počet príloh: 6

-  **Agenda Tbilisi Congress 2017.doc**
46K
-  **Agenda Tbilisi Congress Elective 2017.doc**
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-  **DRAFT Minutes Torun Congress 2016.doc**
106K
-  **List of Tbilisi candidates.xls**
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-  **Annual Report COMEX 2017.doc**
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PROXY Tbilisi 2017.doc

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European Fencing Confederation Confédération Européenne d'Esgrime

Groebenzell-Muenchen, 9th May 2017

General Secretariate

Hainbuchenweg 21

D-82194 Groebenzell-Muenchen

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Dear Member Federations,

as indicated in article 1.3 of our Interior Rules, please find herewith the details of the agenda for our **Ordinary Congress** which will be held before the European Senior Championships

in Tbilisi (GEO)

**on Sunday, 11th June 2017
10.00 h in the Hotel Holiday Inn**

AGENDA

1. Welcome address of the President
2. Validation of present federations and proxies
3. Approval of the minutes of the Congress 2016 in Torun
4. Annual Report of the General Secretary
5. Financial Report of the Treasurer
6. Report of the auditors
7. Annual Working Plan for Financial year 2017
8. Budget of 2018
9. Designation of the auditors for 2017
10. Propositions of COMEX and federations
11. Vote on U-23 Championships 2019
12. Candidatures to the 2019 and 2020 European Championship Cities (Cadets, Juniors, and U-23) and vote after presentation of the candidates
13. Dates of the 2018 European championships (Cadets/Juniors, U-23, Seniors)
14. Date of the 2018 Congress
15. Miscellaneous

For the President Stanislav Pozdnyakov
General Secretary
Max W.F. Geuter



European Fencing Confederation Confédération Européenne d'Esgrime


Groebenzell-Muenchen, le 9 mai 2017

Secrétariat Général

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Mesdames, messieurs, chers amis,

Comme prévu dans l'article 1.3 du Règlement Intérieur, je vous prie de trouver ci-joint l'ordre du jour pour le **Congrès Ordinaire**, qui se déroulera avant les Championnats d'Europe Senior

à Tbilisi (GEO)

<p style="text-align: center;">Le Dimanche 11 juin 2017 à 10.00 heures dans l'Hôtel Holiday Inn</p>
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ORDRE DU JOUR

1. Allocution du Président
2. Validation des Fédérations présents et des pouvoirs
3. Approbation du PV du Congrès 2016 à Torun
4. Rapport Moral du Secrétaire Général
5. Rapport du Trésorier
6. Rapport des Commissaires aux Comptes
7. Plan de Travail pour l'année financière 2017
8. Projet du Budget 2018
9. Désignation des Commissaires aux Comptes pour 2017
10. Propositions du Comité Exécutif et des fédérations
11. Votation pour les Championnats U-23 en 2019
12. Candidatures pour les Championnats d'Europe (lieux et dates), 2018 et 2019, pour cadets/juniors et U-23, et votations après présentations des candidates
13. Dates des championnats d'Europe 2018 (Cadet/Junior, U-23, Senior)
14. Date du Congrès 2018
15. Questions diverses

Pour le Président Stanislav Pozdnyakov
Le Secrétaire Général




European Fencing Confederation Confédération Européenne d'Esgrime

Groebenzell-Muenchen, 9th May 2017

General Secretariate

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Dear Member Federations,

as indicated in article 1.3 of our Interior Rules, please find herewith the details of the agenda for our **Elective Congress**

in Tbilisi (GEO)

on Sunday, 11th June 2017
14.00 h in the Hotel Holiday Inn

AGENDA

1. Welcome address of the President
2. Validation of present federations and proxies
3. Formation of the voting office
4. Election of the COMEX
5. Result of the election

Interruption of the session in order to allow the new COMEX to meet and decide for the different positions of vice president, general secretary, treasurer, and presidents of the various commissions

Continuation of the Congress

6. Presentation of the program of the President and the new COMEX

For the President Stanislav Pozdnyakov
General Secretary
Max W.F. Geuter



European Fencing Confederation Confédération Européenne d'Esgrime

Groebenzell-Muenchen, le 9 Mai 2017

Secrétariat Général

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Email mwfgeuter@aol.com

Mesdames, messieurs, chers amis,

Comme prévu dans l'article 1.3 du Règlement Intérieur, je vous prie de trouver ci-joint l'ordre du jour pour le **Congrès Elective**, qui se déroulera après les Congrès Ordinaire

A Tbilisi (GEO)

<p>Le Dimanche 11 juin 2017 à 14.00 heures dans l'Hôtel Holiday Inn</p>
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ORDRE DU JOUR

1. Allocution du Président
2. Validation des Fédérations présents et des pouvoirs
3. Constitution du bureau de vote
4. Election du COMEX
5. Résultat de l'élection

Interruption de séance pour que le nouveau COMEX se réunisse et désigne le vice-président, secrétaire générale, trésorier et les présidents des différentes commissions.

Reprise de la séance

6. Présentation du programme du Président et du nouveau COMEX pour leur mandat.



Draft MINUTES OF EFC / CEE CONGRESS
19 JUNE 2016 at 10.00 h
Torun (POL)

AGENDA

1. Welcome address of the President
2. Validation of present federations and proxies
3. Approval of the minutes of the Ordinary Congress 2015 in Montreux
4. Annual Report of the General Secretary
5. Financial Report of the Treasurer
6. Report of the auditors
7. Budget of 2017
8. Designation of the auditor for 2016
9. Propositions of COMEX and federations
10. Discussion and voting on new statutes
11. Election of EFC President
12. Dates of the European Championships 2017 (Cadets/Juniors, U-23, Seniors)
13. Presentations / News of the European Senior Championships 2017 in Tbilisi (GEO), and Junior/Cadet Championships in Plovdiv (BUL)
14. Candidatures for 2018/2019 and later European Championships – Juniors/Cadets, U-23, Seniors
15. Date of the 2017 Congress in Tbilisi (GEO)
16. Miscellaneous

FEDERATIONS PRESENT OR REPRESENTED

Federation	President	Present	Proxy
ALBANIA	Bardhyl MINXHOZI		ITA – not accepted
ARMENIA	Armen GRIGORYAN	YES	
AUSTRIA	Markus MAREICH		Ursula Hinterseer
AZERBAIJAN	Nazim IBRAHIMOV		Yashar Mammadov
BELARUS	Aliaksandr HAHYEU	YES	
BELGIUM	Louis COOMANS		Jeffrey Delattre
BULGARIA	Velichka HRISTEVA	YES	
CROATIA	Zeljko KVESIC		Reno Marolt
CYPRUS	Yiannis HADJIARAPIS	YES	
CZECH REPUBLIC	Oldrich KUBISTA	YES	
DENMARK	Jan Sylvest JENSEN	YES	
ESTONIA	Margus HANSON	YES	
FINLAND	Terho MUSTONEN	YES	
FRANCE	Isabelle LAMOUR		Catherine Defoligny
GEORGIA	Archil GOGELIA		David Sakhvadze

GERMANY	Dieter LAMMER	YES	
GREAT BRITAIN	Hilary PHILBIN	YES	
GREECE	Emmanuel KATSIADAKIS	YES	
HUNGARY	Zsolt CSAMPA	YES	
ICELAND	Nikolay MATEEV	YES	
IRELAND	Phillipp LEE		Nuala McGarrity
ISRAEL	Uri HARLAP		Charlie Aufleger
ITALY	Giorgio SCARSO	YES	
LATVIA	Erika AZE	YES	
LITHUANIA	Vytautas POLUJANSKAS	YES	
LUXEMBOURG	Pascal TESCH	YES	
FYROM	Zoran STOJANOVICH		SRB
MALTA	Juan FORMOSA		ITA
MOLDAVA	Olga COJOCARI	YES	
MONACO	Georges PRAT		FRA
NETHERLANDS	Wiebe MOKKEN		Etienne Van Cann
NORWAY	Eric STORELV	YES	
POLAND	Adam KONOPKA		Tadeusz Tomaszewski
PORTUGAL	Frederico VALARINHO		Etienne Van Cann
ROMANIA	Mihai COVALIU		Marius Florea
RUSSIA	Alexander MIKHAILOV	YES	
SAN MARINO	Antonio PUTTI		ESP
SERBIA	Damir BARALIC	YES	
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	Miroslav BARANIK	YES	
SLOVENIA	Tomaz PÖRS	YES	
SPAIN	Marco-A. RIOJA PEREZ	YES	
SWEDEN	Lars LILJEGREN	YES	
SWITZERLAND	Olivier CARRARD		LUX
TURKEY	Murat ATALI	YES	
UKRAINE	Pavel HAIDAI		Vadim Gutsayt
TOTAL 44 of 45		26	18

1. WELCOME ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT

Executive President of the EFC, Vladimir Shklar, welcomed all participants of the Congress, expressed his satisfaction that 44 out of 45 members are present or represented by proxy and thanked Polish Fencing Federation and city of Torun for organising Congress and Championships in Torun. He also mentioned his effort for ensuring continuation of tasks drawn by Frantisek Janda to whom he promised his support. In a view that elections will give to the EFC new President he declared that he withdraw from his candidacy to that function, that he believes in competence of candidates to whom he is wishing good luck. Then he asked participants of the Congress for one minute silence for former president of the EFC and other persons mentioned in annual report of EFC Executive Committee.

Then the Vice Mayor of the city of Torun addressed his welcome to the Congress. After him also the president of the Polish Fencing Federation addressed welcome to all officials and participants of Championships in Torun.

Finally, Jacek Bierkowski took the floor on behalf of FIE President Alisher Usmanov, wishing good election of a new president and pleasant stay in Torun.

Max Geuter welcomed at the Congress FIE Vice Presidents Mrs. Ana Pascu and Mr. Giorgio Scarso, the President of the Panamerican Confederation, Mr. Vitaly Logvin, and Mrs. Nathalie Rodriguez, CEO of the FIE. Then he cited and welcomed newly elected president of some national federations.

2. Validation of present federations and proxies

M. Geuter stated that 44 of 45 federations are present or represented.

3. Approval of the minutes of the Ordinary Congress 2015 in Montreux

Minutes from Congress 2015 in Montreux were unanimously approved.

4. Annual Report of the General Secretary

The Annual report was sent in advance to all federations; therefore M. Geuter suggested not reading it here but just taking the floor if something should be commented. SWE asked if the project U-14 will be discussed as it was promised in the Minutes. J. Kralik proposed to follow agenda of the Congress and open discussion to that point during point dedicated to discussion of the Congress.

5. Financial Report of the Treasurer

Nuala McGarrity commented submitted financial reports related to budgetary state of the budget of the EFC. Reports are in attachment.

6. Report of the auditors

Report is in attachment.

7. Budget of 2017

Giuseppe Cafiero asked if amounts cited in draft project for 2017 from FIE are confirmed. Nathalie Rodriguez (FIE) confirmed granting from FIE also for 2017. Draft project of budget 2017 is in attachment.

8. Designation of the auditor for 2016

Maurizio Annitto (ITA) was approved as auditor for 2016 audit.

9. Propositions of COMEX and federations

No propositions for the Congress 2016 were presented.

10. Discussion and voting on new statutes

V. Shklar introduced discussion about new Statutes. He mentioned that some months ago the draft version was sent to federations for comments. SWE, LUX, GEO, RUS submitted some proposals. Besides those, EFC Comex agreed on proposal allowing federations to prepare possible adjustments for expert working group, which would present definitive version of EFC Statutes for date of Tbilisi Congress, in order to fully comply to requirements set for by the FIE. After that, he invited P. Jacobs to offer some comments about work group of experts who assisted confederations at elaboration of new Statutes in line with requirements of the FIE.

Y. Hadjirapis asked about to which country's legislation submitted text complies. P. Tesch answered that it is Luxembourg law and actually expert working group will consider the text from that aspect.

L. Liljegren mentioned that SWE addressed its position regarding election of President in the context of new Statutes and thus he was asking if their proposal will be handled at this point of Agenda. V. Shklar answered that the EFC separated discussion about new Statutes from questions related to election of President at this Congress, therefore proposal of SWE will be considered at elections.

Then he proposed to treat proposal of GEO, understanding that RUS withdraw its proposal.

H. Philbin remarked that with standard organisation of EFC Congress to be held at European Championships risks that the election of President could not run after Olympic Games, which are usually at later dates.

D. Sakhvadze explained that proposal of GEO foresaw that in Olympic year EFC elective Congress would not be held at European Championships but after OG.

G. Cafiero proposed to modify the text of Statutes as follows: “Elective Congress EFC is organised after Olympic Games and before FIE Congress, possibly at European Championships”, what would allow having EFC President elected before FIE Congress and also to respect possible economic aspect joining those two events.

P. Tesch reminded that considering proposals of H. Philbin and G. Cafiero would lead to postpone elections in the EFC for one year later with effect + one year what is not possible.

S. Pozdniakov raised possible problem of text with “2 months” in case OG would be held in October and FIE Congress as usual in November. Therefore RUS federation propose to add “principally”.

V. Shklar stated that proposals of GEO and RUS are very close because main issue is to hold elections in Olympic year, thus including “in principle” would solve the problem that elections would not be held in year after OG.

Then 33 votes were for modified text of Statute according to previous comments.

D. Sakhvadze commented second proposal of GEO concerning increasing number of members of EFC commissions from 6 to 8: 24 votes (30 requested) in favour - proposal was rejected.

Proposal of SWE: Swedish federation wished to discuss terms of presidency at the EFC; V. Shklar answered that it will be done at election of President.

Then V. Shklar invited participants to vote about sentence proposed by Sweden: “The term of the person thus elected will be until the next elective congress” – adopted by 33 votes.

Proposal of LUX: P. Tesch explained opinion of LUX federation concerning state of play at new Statute, where they think that available text is not fully ready, therefore they propose to adopt text, which comply with requirements of the FIE and continue work for one year and in Tbilisi 2017 adopt complementary modifications ending with ideal text of new Statutes. That proposal was adopted by big majority of votes.

After break, P. Tesch introduced proposal of EFC Comex from previous day dealing with completion of Statutes by Tbilisi Congress. P. Jacobs clarified that besides adopted modifications in new Statute, there are needed some other modifications not requested by FIE but are necessary for final good version of Statutes. However, there is to be adopted decision about transition period till 2017 Congress (for example election of athlete’s commission members, which will be held in 2017).

Then discussion started about SWE proposal for electing President for one year only and electing President and all members of the Board next year together.

Several congressists expressed opinion supporting **election of President for 4 years**. Also V. Shklar stated that his personal opinion as well as that of EFC Comex is different and is in favour of election for 4 years. He proposed to vote first about SWE proposal, afterwards vote new Statutes. Votes: 40 for 4 years, 4 against – it was decided to elect EFC President for 4 years.

Voting about **transitional period**: P. Jacobs explained that the vote will be about decision that in 2017 will be elected all positions except President, other decision will be about that all positions except President will be elected for 3 years. It was adopted unanimously.

Voting about **new Statutes**: 44 votes in favour. New Statutes were adopted.

11. Election of EFC President

M. Geuter introduced the 4 candidates for the position of President of the EFC. V. Shklar (ISR) announced that he withdrew from candidacy and M. Rioja (ESP) did the same. Then the order of presentation was drawn and C. Defoligny started, followed by S. Pozdniakov. Both candidates presented their ideas how to work as EFC President in the future. Prior to the start of secret voting 3 neutral controllers were nominated and accepted their designation: Bert v.d. Flier, Peter Jacobs, and Yiannis Hadjarapis.

The following procedure of secret voting resulted as hereafter:

Stanislav Pozdniakov: 27 votes

Catherine Defoligny: 17 votes

S. Pozdniakov became new EFC President, he made short speech thanking for awarded votes.

According EFC Statutes each member of the Comex must come from different federations. In a view that S. Pozdniakov (RUS) was elected President, E. Tshouklo (RUS) had to withdraw from his

position in Comex. Then candidates from Zagreb 2013 elections with same amount of votes (14), who remained as 2 possible candidates, should pass election in order to complete EFC Comex until Tbilisi. E. Tshouklo confirmed his withdrawal from Comex and election of additional member of Comex went on. Candidates for Comex:

Etienne Van Cann (NED): 19 votes

Nikolay Mateev (ISL): 24 votes

Nikolay Mateev became new EFC Comex member.

12. Dates of the European Championships 2017 (Cadets/Juniors, U-23, Seniors)

Cadets Championships Plovdiv (BUL): 28.02. – 04.03.2017

Juniors Championships Plovdiv (BUL): 05.03. – 09.03.2017

U-23 Championships Minsk (BLR): 21. – 25.04.2017

Seniors Championships Tbilisi (GEO): 12. – 17.06.2017

13. Presentations / News of the European Senior Championships 2017 in Tbilisi (GEO), Junior/Cadet Championships in Plovdiv (BUL), and U-23 in Minsk (BLR)

D. Sakhvadze informed about the preparation of Championships, which will be accelerated after Olympic Games 2016 in Rio with support of the Government and Olympic Committee of Georgia. The programme will be composed of 2 days of individuals followed by one day of teams, then remaining individual competitions and finally two days of teams.

V. Hristeva explained that everybody knows Plovdiv; therefore she does not think some more details are needed at this stage.

Delegation of Minsk presented video followed by general information about location of the venue and accommodation in Minsk.

14. Candidatures for 2018/2019 and later European Championships – Juniors/Cadets, U-23, and Seniors

2018 – Cadets and juniors candidate Bratislava (SVK)

2018 – U-23 two candidates: Yerevan (ARM) and Eilat (ISR)

2018 – Seniors two candidates: Minsk (BLR) and Novi Sad (SRB)

J. Kralik shortly informed about planned logistic, which is known from FIE JWC and EFC cadets tournaments in Bratislava where venue and 6 hotels in proximity at walking distance offer comfort for delegations completed by airport Vienna offering every 30 minutes bus connection with Bratislava.

Ch. Aufleger informed about situation and conditions in Eilat candidate for the Championships U-23. He also offered arguments why they are interested for 2018.

A. Grigorian presented candidature of Yerevan, candidate city for U-23 Championships, where is suitable sport infrastructure and good conditions for hosting fencing.

Voting results:

Eilat: 10

Yerevan: 33

V. Dumitrov presented candidature of Novi Sad for organising senior Championships in similar conditions as they provided recently at cadets and juniors Championships in the same city.

Voting results:

Minsk: 21

Novi Sad: 21

Due to tie after double check of votes, there was a draw for assigning the winner: Novi Sad

P. Tesch presented candidature for 2019 seniors Championships – venue, “La Cocq”, used for FIE World cup, is planned to be used for indicated event with professional approach. Distance of any hotel would not exceed 15 minutes by transport. There is available flying connection with all major airports in Europe.

As LUX was the only candidate for seniors Championships 2019 and nobody was against its candidature – Luxembourg will organise these Championships.

15. Date of the 2017 Congress in Tbilisi (GEO)

The Congress in Tbilisi will be held on 11 June 2017.

16. Miscellaneous

J. Kralik informed about pilot operation of new project for U-14 aged fencers. He stressed main characteristics of the project:

- regional - not European level of competitions
- entries by clubs directly to organisers
- possible rankings only regional
- no EFC licenses required
- the role of the EFC only as technical support, offering in the future possibility for the organisers using for entries and other functionalities connected with those competitions, their access to Service portal of the EFC

L. Liljegren – opposed the project, he was missing discussion in Montreux about project before it started. He also confessed not to read original EFC information letter after Montreux but he declared that Swedish federation is not willing to work for entries of fencers, managing referees and not invest finances for competitions of that category.

G. Cafiero – declared that it is confusing entering intermediate bodies (clubs) between EFC and national federation, he also stressed that for so young fencers is stressing already when they participate at national competitions and thus international competitions would increase it.

V. Dumitrov – expressed not in agreement with G. Cafiero because small federation with small number of fencers could not compete against big federations as ITA if they had only small national competitions, therefore Serbia consider the project as very useful and important for small federations.

T. Strefflova – declared that Czech federation is not happy with the project and have same opinion as ITA considering as not necessary organising more competitions for young fencers

Ch. Aufleger – expressed the idea of development in other sports leading to entry of children in sport clubs very early and if fencing is not following that development there won't be children for fencing in the future.

P. Tesch – he considered two aspects: travelling to neighbouring countries for small countries is the same as if kids are travelling across Italy for national competitions. On the other hand if we would make mandatory participation at this kind of circuit that would not be acceptable, therefore he opposed the idea of Charlie Aufleger.

Before closing the Congress, V. Shklar invited the new EFC President Stanislav Pozdnyakov to take the floor. S. Pozdnyakov thanked the Congress for big work and valuable outputs of this event.

No other matters remaining, Vladimir Shklar thanked the participants of the Congress for their contributions and closed the meeting.

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Max W.F. Geuter
EFC General Secretary

.....
Stanislav Pozdnyakov
EFC President



European Fencing Confederation Confédération Européenne d'Esgrime

Annual Report of the Executive Committee of the EFC/CEE for the 2017 Congress in Tbilisi (GEO)

Since the EFC/CEE Congress in Torun in June 2016, with the surprising participation of 44 of our 45 federations, the European Fencing Federations reported about the passing away of some well known personalities. Most of them we honoured already in our regular Information Letters.

Lutz Schirmacher (GER) passed away on 25th November 2016 at the age of 73 years in Garmisch after a short period of illness, soon after his last assignment as FIE observer for the junior sabre world cup in Sochi.

Besides being a successful fencer since he started our sport in 1960 in Leipzig – he won several national titles in his favourite weapon sabre – he became a well-known A-category referee, followed by nominations to numerous international competitions, world championships and Olympic Games. The EFC selected him from 2001 to 2009 for its Referees Commission. In 2004 he became a member of the FIE Rules commission and was the German candidate for the Executive Committee at the 2016 elective congress.

Besides fencing his other passions were ice hockey and mountain climbing and he knew nearly all peaks around Garmisch and the close Austria.

Ryszard Parulski (POL) died on 10th January 2017 at the age of 79 years in Warsaw. In his active fencing career as all-round-fencer he became junior world champion already in 1959 in sabre; later won with his foil team 1961 a gold medal at world championships, 1963 gold with the Polish epee team in Gdansk, and again in foil at the Olympics 1964 silver in Tokyo and bronze 1968 in Mexico City. He was also from 1989 – 1992 the President of the Polish Fencing Federation, and a Vice President of the Polish Olympic Committee since 2005.

The professional attorney also founded – and presided – the Polish Olympians Association.

Marcus Leyrer (AUT/SUI) died on 22nd February 2017 at the age of 87 after suffering a long period of illness in Bern. As a well-known former Austrian epee fencer he moved for his profession as insurance specialist to Switzerland and was for many years the responsible person for junior fencing in this federation. As co-founder together with Georges Moser of the junior world cup competitions in Küsnacht am Rigi he supported this initiative of former FIE President Pierre Ferri. As team captain of the Swiss juniors he was for a long time the organiser of all their participations at world championships – and

enjoyed their successes. His other hobby was to collect fencing stamps and was proud to have nearly a complete collection of all ever distributed stamps with our sport.

Of course also some good news has to be reported about the life in our confederation. Our newly in Torun elected president Stanislav Pozdnyakov was elected as the first Vice President of the Russian Olympic Committee; Mihai Covaliu was elected as President of the Romanian Olympic Committee; and lately also Krisztián Kulcsár was elected as the new president of the Hungarian Olympic Committee.

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The Executive Committee of the EFC/CEE met in the past season in Prague to pay a last tribute in an informal ceremony to former president Frantisek Janda, and later in Plovdiv (BUL) at the Cadet/Junior championships and in Minsk (BLR) during the U-23 championships. Topics were during these meetings nominations of DT members and delegates for our European championships, discussions about the updating of our restructured statutes and the tender for a new EFC website. Also a working group, requested by the Torun Congress, to update certain chapters of our new statutes, was nominated with the following persons: Pascal Tesch (LUX), Olivier Carrard (SUI), Marco Rioja (ESP), Peter Jacobs (GBR), and Max Geuter (EFC). During a meeting in Luxembourg with the cooperation of the LUX Olympic Committee, necessary details were proposed and will be presented to this congress for a final edition. And the last meeting of the present COMEX will be held just the day before our Congress in Tbilisi in order to discuss latest issues and prepare the Congress.

The 29th European Senior Championships 2016 in Torun (POL) from 20th to 25th June received an excellent report from the members of the DT, and also participants expressed their gratitude to this well organised event. Full results you will find as usual in our documentation. However, we did not reach a new anticipated record of participation, but with 40 federations in Torun we reached the same figure as 2010 in Leipzig and 2012 in Legnano.

Besides the financial FIE support for all participating federations, 5 federations as usual did not take advantage of this help to send at least one fencer to this zonal event. And the EFC also invited again 17 federations and helped them with a special financial support for one individual fencer (registration and referee fee) and one team (registration fee), in case they participated. This special support the President also offered to 14 federations for the Tbilisi championships, and they all accepted this help.

The “Foundation for the Future of Fencing” paid again to all medal winners prize money, for individual and team medallists.

Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro

About these games everywhere was written a lot and the pictures from Rio via TV an Internet were phantastic so there is no need to write more about this outstanding event. Still we should remember that the European fencers won 21 medals from the distributed 30 and left only 4 to Asia, 4 to USA, and 1 to Africa.

The 11th European Cadet and 25th European Junior Championships 2017 in Plovdiv (BUL) from 28th February to 9th March, organised again by a federation who had volunteered for this event and with lots of experience from past events managed also this championships in the well-known premises of the Plovdiv Fair. With a new record of 40 participating federations in the cadet category, most in the epee events, this championship justified its place in our calendar since its start in 2007; all relevant results of this championship are in attached documentation. The junior event with 472 participants from 37 federations was in the same range as years before but could not top last year's record of Novi Sad. And the hired "Novi Sad Team" played a significant role with some novelties in accreditation, weapon control, media and referees information, receiving thankful recognition from many participants and officials. We do not forget to mention that 5 female referees, plus a female referee delegate, completed the team of 32 referees who did an outstanding job in these 10 tough fencing days. A silver medal for a female Bulgarian sabre cadet was the thank you for this federation's big efforts.

Shortly after our European championships in Plovdiv this city was the organiser of the **World Cadet and Junior Championships**, and also there our European young hopefuls dominated the events with 44 medals. Follow up was America with 15 medals and Asia with 10 medals. Africa and Oceania without medals.

The 10th European U-23 Championships 2017 in Minsk (BLR), from 21st to 25th April 2017, with 32 participating federations and 333 athletes, was a starter for this federation to think about further events. Many remembered the last big event in this city, the 1970 Junior World Championships, and were impressed by the organisation of a federation who is proud about many Olympic heroes. And also this federation won a medal, bronze, in their favourite weapon sabre, an incentive for future activities of these young fencers. The medal winners were excited about the beauty of their medals, including their personal trainers who received the trainer award.

At the **20th Veterans World Championships** in Stralsund (GER), from 16th to 21st October 2016, with a new participation record of 743 fencers, the European veterans repeated the good results from the previous year in Limoges with 64 medals out of 90 (this time 4 less than 2016). Only the USA, JPN, and AUS were able to win the other medals. The team events with 57 teams justified their demand to be part of this championship and will remain in the program.

The **Coupe d'Europe** tournaments in all weapons were secured again in the past season, in some weapons with slightly increasing participation. We kindly ask all our federations again to inform us about their team national champions to help organisers of these competitions to invite the national champions directly and inform them about the conditions and certain offers.

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All European federations were regularly informed by Information Letters, a total of 43 in 2016, and so far 24 in 2017. I must repeat again and strongly suggest that it is necessary sometimes to react quite fast to those letters when answers are needed. Thus reminders will not be necessary and make our cooperation much easier. Given deadlines are not mentioned just for fun, they are a consequence of other deadlines.

Positive news are coming again from our **Cadet Circuit 2016/2017**, even better than a year ago. A total of 8185 fencers in all weapons from 62 federations, 40 from Europe and 22 from all other continents, confirmed that this development from our confederation is accepted all over the world. And the European winners of the circuit, which includes also the European Championships, received traditionally their compliment letter with a prize coupon to buy fencing material for € 300. A complete report of this circuit you can find on our website. Likewise we did for the **U-23 Circuit 2016/2107**. Now some more federations have realized the target and value of this event by sending more fencers to the competitions and to our championships. The new record participation in this category confirms the need of this kind of competition despite former negative remarks. And another project is on its way to become maybe another success: the **U-14 Circuit**, well explained by our Technical Director at the last congress in Torun and further discussed during our championships. Europe wants to be again a leader in this category, and as normal, other continents will then follow or have already successfully started.

The **Referees C-category Project 2016**, the long-time dream of the EFC, in cooperation with the FIE Referees Commission and co-financed by the FIE, was evaluated by our Referees Commission after the two seasons of 2015/2016 and 44 referees (12 in sabre, 15 in foil, 17 in épée) were awarded with the C-category. This category should allow federations in the future to send those selected ones to the FIE examinations for the B-category. The EFC referees commission will meet later in May to further discuss this project and award some more young referees this category and also propose rules to the COMEX for the future of this project. There are urgent needs for new qualified referees taking into account the increasing number of competitions.

As already mentioned above the last congress had approved the new **Restructured EFC Statutes** and also agreed to update these statutes to bring them in line with the FIE requirements and those of the laws of Luxembourg. Therefor the COMEX had nominated a working group which worked for this task and presents the result to the Tbilisi congress for a final decision.

In the last years we complained quite often about the EFC website and certain persons complained a not very user-friendly version. A nominated group by the COMEX, consisting of Pascal Tesch, Etienne van Cann, and Ana Valero, launched a tender for a new EFC website. 5 companies responded to this request with different approaches to our sport, and after careful evaluating the offers one company was selected, and possibly you will be informed at our congress. Until a general change our www.eurofencing.info will of course still exist – and we hope you will visit this site as often as possible. You are again invited to send us your federation's information and news – our webmaster will post it.

Allow me a personal word as you know that I will not be again a candidate for the COMEX. It has been an honour for me to spend so many years with you and working for and with Presidents like Jenö Kamuti, Alisher Usmanov, Frantisek Janda and finally with Stanislav Pozdnyakov for the European Confederation. I will certainly stay in contact with all of you – and it goes without saying that I am always available when my help is needed.

Last but not least:

We can be proud on our Olympic sport – a clean sport without doping!

Let us all continue this way.

Max W.F. Geuter
General Secretary