



**European Fencing Confederation  
Confédération Européenne d'Esgrime**

14.06.2016

**Information Letter no. 25-2016**

Dear Member Federations,

please find attached the Annual Report of the Executive Committee which normally is read during the Congress.

As we will have many items on our agenda for Torun which consume a lot of time I offer that you read this report before you come to Torun so I do not have to read this again in front of the Congress. You will get this report also in your documents in Torun when you register.

Of course I will ask the Congress when we come to point 4 of the agenda for approval of this request.

With best regards,

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## **Annual Report of the Executive Committee of the EFC/CEE for the 2016 Congress in Torun**

Since the EFC/CEE Congress in Montreux in June 2015, again with the usual participation of 43 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. But a deep shadow got into the EFC when we lost our President Frantisek Janda.

**Serguei Charikov (RUS)** died on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2015 in Moscow in a car accident, shortly before he could celebrate his 41<sup>st</sup> birthday. A three time Olympian with two Olympic gold medals, one of the best sabre fencers in the world, started fencing at the age of 12. His brilliant record in our sport he started as junior in 1994 when he won his first title in Mexico City. With the Russian team he won the gold medal at senior world championships 2001 in Nîmes, 2002 in Lissabon, and 2003 in Havana. Many gold and silver medals he added at European Championships, Universiade and the Maccabiah Games.

**Herbert Polzhuber (AUT)**, one of Austria's best former epee fencers, died on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at the age of 77 in Vienna. Together with his team mates Losert, Trost, Battig, Müller and Birnbaum he earned honours at world championships, and military fencing championships. From 1964 until 1976 he participated at four Olympic Games. Besides fencing he was also a successful modern pentathlete.

**Ildikó Tordasi (HUN)** passed away on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at the age of 63 in Budapest. She was the gold medal winner at the 1976 Olympic Games Montreal in ladies foil. Besides this she earned 15 Olympic and World Championship medals during her career as athlete, indicating her as one of the best Hungarian female foil fencers.

**Frantisek Janda (CZE)**, President of the European Fencing Confederation, died on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015 at the age of 48 years on his way to Japan, where he was supposed to be the FIE supervisor at the Takamado foil world cup. Besides being many years the president of his Czech Federation, he was well known as

FIE epee referee. After his profession as soldier, where he received honours in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Czech Republic, he started as film producer and was the General Manager of a film company. In 2005 he resigned from this position and decided to devote his life to sport and fencing. Member and President of the FIE PR and Promotion Commission until 2012, he was elected in 2009 as the 5<sup>th</sup> president of the European Confederation, following Alisher Usmanov in this position. In 2013 he was re-elected for another term which he, unfortunately, can not fulfil.

**Csaba Fenyvesi (HUN)**, who died also on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015 at the age of 72 in Budapest after a short but severe period of illness. Well known as Olympic champion with his team in 1968 in Mexico City, he also won the gold medal in 1972 in Munich in the individual and team event. Additional results as three gold medals, two silver and three bronze medals at world championships showed his talent in this weapon. In his profession he worked at top level as plastic surgeon and also achieved significant results in tumor surgery, both in Hungary and in the USA.

**Zsolt Kaposvári (HUN)** passed away on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at the age of 48 years in Wuxi (CHN), where he was assigned as FIE referee for the Asian Olympic Qualifying Competition and Asian Senior championships.

Besides his own fencing career which he started in 1977 at his club Honvéd Budapest, he became national sabre champion and fenced on Junior World championships, world cups and national championships from 1988 to 1993. Licensed in all 3 weapons he started the career as referee, especially in his favourite sabre domain. Working at the Olympic Games in 2008 and 2012, he could not end his career as nominated referee for the Rio Olympic Games. He worked at many European Championships as preferably sabre referee.

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The Executive Committee of the EFC/CEE met in the past season in Novi Sad, where a first version of the restructured statutes was one of the topics, and will meet again in Torun. Due to the death of Frantisek Janda, the EFC Bureau met in Munich, Novi Sad and in Prag, here during the Olympic Qualification competition, to discuss details about the upcoming congress in Torun.

**The 28<sup>th</sup> European Senior Championships 2015** in Montreux (SUI) from 5<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> June will enter in our history as one of the well organised – but very expensive – championships. Results you will find as usual in our documentation. Despite the financial FIE support for all federations, 6 federations did not take advantage of this help to send at least one fencer to this zonal event. And the EFC also invited again 14 federations and helped them with a special financial support for one individual fencer and one team, in case they participated. This

special support we also offered to 17 federations for the Torun championships, and they all accepted this help for registration and referees fees.

With the negative experience from Strasbourg this time wheelchair fencing was not included in this championship and we have to find a better way in the future in case they will be added again to our tournament. An invitation to all federations to participate at the 101<sup>st</sup> year celebration of Swiss Fencing was one of the highlights of these days. And the prize money for the medal winners was another welcomed detail by all the successful sportsmen.

We can proudly add here that also in Torun the medal winners, both individual and teams, will receive prize money.

Following our senior championships, shortly later we participated in Baku (AZE) at the **1<sup>st</sup> European Games** from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> June, well organised in a splendid surrounding. As this tournament was a new event, not only for fencing, we have to consider certain aspects of these games as a task for future games of this sort. The main question for us was the discussion with the EOC whether to take these games as a qualifying event for the Rio Olympic Games which we did not agree on. But for future games we have to discuss in time how to proceed and again demanding the 12 medals like we insisted for in 2015. Baku total results are attached. Prior to these Games we had a qualifying tournament on 20 and 21 in Budapest, where the last 4 places per weapon were distributed to arrive at a total of 36 fencers in each weapon, and only in men's and women's epee one place each was not taken by qualified fencers.

**The 10<sup>th</sup> European Cadet and 24<sup>th</sup> European Junior Championships 2016** in Novi Sad (SRB) from 29<sup>th</sup> February to 9<sup>th</sup> March, once more organised by a small federation, brought a new unexpected record both on the cadets side and the junior events. With 38 federations participating, a new record of 539 cadets was a well accepted thank you to the organising team. All relevant results of this championship are in attached documentation. At this event we had for the first time 7 female referees besides a female referee delegate.

It is also to mention that Serbia tried to organise a non-stop-fencing event to enter the Guinness Book of Records, but had to reduce this plan to a smaller but well accepted event alongside the championships, continuous fencing from the morning to the evening. Hopefully this idea has the result which the organisers were hoping for to increase the interest in fencing in Serbia.

**The 9<sup>th</sup> European U-23 Championships 2016** in Plovdiv (BUL) also had a brilliant record participation, which is a valuable proof that this category has found its strong place in our calendar and withdraws all kind of critics from some opponents. 34 federations participated, 336 individual fencers and 73 teams enjoyed this championship. We are very positive that we will have a similar participation next season in Minsk (BLR).

At the **19<sup>th</sup> Veterans World Championships** in Limoges (FRA) the European fencers repeated the good results from the previous year in Debrecen with 68 medals out of 90 (only one less than 2014). The team events established their seat in the program and became very well accepted by all veterans.

The **Coupe d'Europe** in all weapons were secured again in the past season, in some weapons with slightly increasing participation. Despite our request to inform us about your national champions, only few federations followed this appeal. It would help organisers of this kind of competition to invite the national champions directly and inform them about the conditions and offers. We would appreciate if all European federations would send us the results of their national team championships without reminding them again in the 2016/2017 season. The dates are nearly complete for the coming season, and you can find them on our website in the calendar section.

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All European federations were regularly informed by Information Letters, a total of 39 in 2015, and so far 24 in 2016. I must repeat that I 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 2015/2016**, even better than a year ago. A total of 8147 fencers in all weapons from 60 federations, 38 from Europe and 22 from all other continents, confirmed that this development from our confederation is accepted all over the world. And the winners of the circuit, which includes also the European Championships, received traditionally their compliment letter with a prize coupon to buy for € 300 fencing material. Likewise we did for the **U-23 Circuit**. Now some more federations have realized the target of this event by sending more fencers to our championships. The new record participation in this category confirms the need of this kind of competition. And another project is on its way to become maybe another success: the **U-14 Circuit**, certainly well explained and discussed at this congress in Torun. Europe wants to be again a leader in this category, and as normal, other continents will then follow.

The **Referees Project 2016**, a long time dream of the EFC, now in cooperation with the FIE Referees Commission and financed by the FIE, was evaluated by our Referees Commission after the two last seasons 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. Also a FIE working group on this subject met



in Paris earlier this year and the FIE referees commission will soon propose the additional formalities for this category in order to allow 30% of them to referee on future continental junior/cadet championships together with A- or B-referees. We will continue this project, and the commission has already nominated the delegates for the next CC season.

We are also proud that the FIE has nominated the following 10 European referees (out of 16) as Elite referees: Florin Gheorge (ROU), Marco Pistacchi (ITA), Natalia Zhuravleva (RUS), Bodo Vogel (GER), all in foil; André Piatko (FRA) and Giuliano Ranza (ITA) in épée; Vasil Milenchev (BUL), Marius Florea (ROU), Luigi Martilotti (ITA), and Vladislav Shamis (RUS) in sabre.

Gheorge, Pistacchi, Ranza, Milenchev and Florea were also proposed as best referees of the season, accompanied by Michail Paghiev (MDA). Congratulations to all of them!

We also tried again with the help of an expert to get funds from the Brussels **ERASMUS+** programme – and again we did not succeed. However, our “Youth Programme Development Manger”, Edward Dudetsky, will try again this year to get the funds for a Youth Programme.

The **Restructured EFC Statutes** will be one of the main subjects at our Congress in Torun. The FIE has since last year demanded that all Confederations bring their statutes in harmonisation with the FIE statutes. For Europe the direction was for June 2016 to elect a new president following the passing of Frantisek Janda, and to adopt new statutes; for June 2017 general elections according to the new statutes for 3 years; and for June-September 2020 general elections according to the new statutes for 4 years. You all received with our Information Letter no. 14-2016 of 24.03.2016 a draft of the proposed statutes and with Information Letter no. 19-2016 of 17.05.2016 together with all other documents for the congress another version for your information and study of these statutes. The reactions resulted in comments with additional demands and proposals for alterations and changes. These will be points on our agenda to be discussed in Torun and hopefully we come to acceptable results.

The **Olympic Qualification in Prag** for the 2016 Rio Olympic Games were held on two days, organised by the Czech Fencing Federation, and respecting the rules set by the FIE for this tournament. 35 federations in total participated in Prag with 123 fencers. The matches in men’s sabre and women’s foil (weapons which have no team event in Rio), where 4 fencers had the chance to qualify for Rio, went quite smooth, contrary to those weapons, where only 1 fencer had the possibility to reach this goal. Good refereeing was confirmed by accompanying coaches and team captains. We hope that some of these qualified fencers can also perform well in Rio this August.

**25 years UEE – EFC/CEE** – this October we can celebrate an anniversary, and today at the Congress are a few persons present who were among the founders of this organisation, which started on 26<sup>th</sup> October 1991 in Vienna. The development in these 25 years from the “Union Européenne d’Escrime” and later renamed to “European Fencing Confederation” is enormous! Our history of these 25 years will be put in a little booklet and hopefully ready for a planned event in autumn.

Unfortunately we did not succeed yet to increase the number of federations in Europe. Some of you might remember that we had invited for the Legnano Congress in 2012 a representative from Bosnia and Herzegovina, who until today suffer because of strict regulations of their Olympic Committee. Also Kosovo and Montenegro are potential candidates for the future – but they would need big help to get started.

One last item again to all of you: please help to make our **website** more attractive. Send regularly information from your federation to our webmaster Julian Seidl. [www.eurofencing.info](http://www.eurofencing.info) is our platform – so please use it and give us as much news from you as possible. Our official photographer, Augusto Bizzi, supplies from all our championships an enormous amount of wonderful photos which can be used free of charge by our federations, just with the little remark that these photos are coming from him. Take advantage of this offer.

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