



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

23.11.2011

Information Letter no. 30-2011

EFC/CEE Congress Sheffield

Dear Member Federations,

Please find attached with this letter the provisional minutes of our Sheffield Congress last July, which also includes the speech of President Frantisek Janda.

The speech of Mr. Vitaly Logvin during the congress, which was difficult for the simultaneous translators to follow, will be sent to all federations by himself.

With regard to various questions about the next European Cadet/Junior championships in Porec, please be advised that you will receive detailed information with our next Information letter after the inspection visit of our Technical Director. Be patient for some more days.

With best regards,
Max W.F. Geuter

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MINUTES OF EFC / CEE CONGRESS
(Provisional version, to be approved by EFC Congress 2012)
16 JULY 2011 at 10.00
SHEFFIELD (GBR)

FEDERATIONS PRESENT OR REPRESENTED

Federation	President	Present	Proxy
ARMENIA	Armen GRIGORYAN		CZE
AUSTRIA	Markus MAREICH	Marco Haderer	
AZERBAIJAN	Nazim IBRAHIMOV	Yashar Mammadov	
BELARUS	Alexander ROMANKOV	YES	
BELGIUM	Louis COOMANS		NED
BULGARIA	Krasimir PETKOV		ROU
CROATIA	Zeljko KVESIC	Reno Marolt	
CYPRUS	Yiannis HADJIARAPIS		POL
CZECH REPUBLIC	Oldrich KUBISTA	YES	
DENMARK	Jan Sylvest JENSEN	YES	
ESTONIA	Tonis KAASIK		FIN
FINLAND	Kimmo PENTIKÄINEN	YES	
FRANCE	Frédéric PIETRUSZKA	YES	
GEORGIA	Archil GOGELIA		UKR
GERMANY	Gordon RAPP	Claus Janka	
GREAT BRITAIN	Keith SMITH	YES	
GREECE	Emmanuel KATSIADAKIS		GER
HUNGARY	János ERÖS	Andras Füleky	
ICELAND	Gudjon GESTSSON	YES	
IRELAND	Tom RAFTER	YES	
ISRAEL	Lydia CZUCKERMANN	Vladimir Shklar	
ITALY	Giorgio SCARSO	YES	
LATVIA	Erika AZE	YES	
LITHUANIA	Rimantas JOGELA	YES	
LUXEMBOURG	Pascal TESCH	YES	
MACEDONIA	Nikola ISAJLOVSKI	YES	
MALTA	Juan FORMOSA		ITA
MOLDAVA	Ion BOLFA		HUN
MONACO	Georges PRAT		FRA
NETHERLANDS	Peter SORBER	Bert v.d. Flier	
NORWAY	Björn FAYE	Judith Molka-D.	
POLAND	Jacek BIERKOWSKI	YES	
PORTUGAL	Frederico VALARINHO		ESP
ROMANIA	Ana PASCU	Octavian Zidaru	
RUSSIA	Alexander MIKHAILOV	YES	

SAN MARINO	Antonio PUTTI	no	
SERBIA	Damir BARALIC	YES	
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	Miroslav BARANIK	Julius Kralik	
SLOVENIA	Savo TATALOVIC	Jure Jeza	
SPAIN	Marco-A. RIOJA PEREZ	YES	
SWEDEN	Lars LILJEGREN	Per Palmström	
SWITZERLAND	Olivier CARRARD	YES	
TURKEY	Müminhan BILGIN	Kenan Gönder	
UKRAINE	Sergiy MISCHENKO	YES	
TOTAL 43 of 44		32	11

1. WELCOME ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT

After opening of the Congress and welcoming the participants by EFC President, Mr. Janda, the representative of host federation and of the organising committee, Mr. Martin Piers, also welcomed the participants of EFC Congress 2011 in Sheffield and expressed thanks to the EFC for bringing the Championships to Sheffield. After that EFC Secretary General, Mr. Max Geuter offered some technical instructions including welcome to newly elected presidents of the national federations: Mrs. Lydia Czuckermann (ISR), Mr. Pascal Tesch (LUX), Mr. Nikola Isajlovski (MKD) and Mr. Peter Sorber (NED).

2. VALIDATION OF PRESENT FEDERATIONS AND PROXIES

Mr. Max GEUTER announced that 43 Federations out of 44 members were represented either by their President or by proxy.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE CONGRESS 2010 IN LEIPZIG

Mr. Kimmo Pentikainen (FIN) asked for floor and remarked that the agenda of the Congress is not fully complying with EFC Statute, which requires besides others, that the issue of working plan with relevant plan of budget was included. Mr. Geuter acknowledged that it was his mistake and such point will be definitely included in the agenda of next EFC Congresses. Mr. Pentikainen proposed the change of the agenda by the modification of the point 8 of current agenda as follows: *Approval of working plan and budget 2012*. Mr. Cafiero (ITA) supported this proposal. Mr. Geuter said that each federation received suggested agenda and had enough of time for comments or proposal for agenda modification. Such change must be approved by voting of the Congress. Therefore he asked Congress to express the opinion about this issue. Congress accepted to continue running of Congress according to submitted agenda without modifications.

The Minutes of the 2010 Congress held in Leipzig, which were sent to all federations in advance, were **approved unanimously**.

4. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Also this Report was sent to the federations in advance. EFC Secretary asked if there were any comments or objections, as there were not, the Report was accepted unanimously.

Afterwards, he called for one minute silence as a respect to the deceased colleagues mentioned in his Report:

David Turkia (GEO), Moris Sakhvadze (GEO), Klaus-Peter Müller (GER), Alfred (Fred) Grasnek (AUT), Miran Zmauc (SLO) and Paul Kal (NED).

Then he offered the floor to the EFC President, Mr. Frantisek Janda.

5. PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL REPORT (full text to see in attachment)

In his speech he mentioned following points:

- a) New EFC web site giving high satisfaction, where Service portal is working very well including immediate updating of rankings and offering large information about EFC activities
- b) Social part of the Portal is not working as expected and it is regrettable. Mr. Janda reminded once more his say during Leipzig Congress 2010:...social web site is as Christmas tree without decorations – and EFC federations has to “put on” those decorations. It is wished that more news was presented on EFC web site related to successful tournaments of cadets and U23 Circuits. We want to have discussions on EFC web site about the recent issues in fencing. More information about life of federations, pictures etc. should appear there. He also stressed that there are not only fencers who are watching EFC web pages but also representatives of media, journalists and sponsors; therefore it is important the way how the EFC is presented by its web site.
- c) Then he stressed obvious progress of fencing in distant regions of Europe who made their first medals in U23 European Championships (AZE) and Cadets World Championships (GEO).
- d) The organisation of European Championships follows FIE model and standards.
- e) Financial issues – FIE and Foundation for future of fencing supported EFC activities with some hundred thousands of USD.
- f) FIE also helped federations at participation at championships and FIE Congress.
- g) So far, the effort for finding EFC sponsor has been unsuccessful.
- h) EFC board is intensively working on project for helping European federations organising FIE WC by providing for them video refereeing system and TV records publishing on web site.
- i) One of most important goals of the EFC is its self financing ability.

In reaction to presented report, Mr. Logvin, Foundation (FFF) representative, explained that principally FFF is operating by forwarding funds to the FIE, which makes distribution for different projects. There were just exceptions such as request from GBR for assistance at TV transmission from European Championships 2012 or the request for helping Mediterranean Championships by some finances where the FFF upon agreement of the owner Mr. Usmanov acted directly assisting those entities. In 2009 financial situation in the FIE was substantially changed thanks to funds made available by Mr. Usmanov, allowing development of fencing at all federations and on all continents. At that time many federations were in very bad financial situation and not able to develop fencing in their respective national federations. Even more, some of those federations were represented only by one person – their president. In order to change this situation new General development programme of assistance was launched containing following items:

- 1) Programme 100 federations
- 2) Programme for improvement of the level of training, additional training and skills of professional coaches
- 3) Fencing schools, establishment of academies
- 4) Programme for organisation and improvement of training process in small countries and new fencing countries
- 5) Programme 1+1+1 mentioned by Mr. Janda in his speech
- 6) Programme of training before championships
- 7) Programme for presidents of national federations participation at Congress

All programmes except 4) (to be implemented only in 2011-2012) were successfully implemented. Afterwards he gave several examples of materiel assistance of the FIE to national federations especially in the framework of “100 federations” programme, which should continue in coming seasons the way to make that by 2016 all 100 federations will be equipped by basic fencing materiel allowing national and international competitions organising. He also appreciated work done by FIE administration and EFC President Janda, who is promoting good contact between FIE and EFC and thus allowing implementing adopted programme of assistance.

Mr. Geuter noted the speech was much longer than 2 minutes and difficult for translators therefore he proposed to get the speech of Mr. Logvin in order to distribute it to all federations. Mr. Logvin answered that it is possible and that this document “he will sent to all federations”.

Mr. Cafiero (he said as a fencer and EFC Comex member) commented listened speech of Mr. Logvin: as a fencer he would be very happy by what was said because everything done for small federations is very worthy. However, if all activities for federations will be carried out by other entities directly to EFC member federations the role of elected EFC board members seems disappear and actually would become limited just to transmit the addresses to Foundation. He is of the opinion that the EFC should fulfil the role balancing offered financial resources among federations accordingly to the situation and needs of federations joined in the EFC as well as to execute some control of any spent penny despite the money would be made available by other party.

Mr. Paramonov took floor and said that it is questionable why to create the Zonal Confederations if they are not used by FIE. He personally is not always happy with the fact that FIE has a direct contact with national federations and “skips confederations”. It could sound strange that people are not happy despite their federations received money. This makes to think that the funds were not fairly distributed. On the other hand, it is questionable whether the individual national federations ask independently for the support from FIE or Foundation, it could indicate that the federations are not happy with the work of the Confederation. He invited all present people to reconsider how to handle this issue. If the federations are happy with the work of EFC, they should address their requests for various assistance through the Confederation. It is the task of the Confederation to decide which projects should be supported and which not. This is the answer to Mr. Cafiero. This is the example of right to do decision-making by the Confederation.

Mr. Scarso expressed following opinion: First of all we should say merci to Mr. Usmanov for his financial assistance for fencing. This is important to say because we don't want to underestimate the fact how important is his financial contribution for fencing. But we should not create the world of people depending like from drugs, from the money of Mr. Usmanov. Mr. Scarso is of the opinion that the confederations have the right and the duty to work within their territory with available funds from Mr. Usmanov. Without own finances, the confederation would become empty and will not manage the activities of fencing movement. This is not an attack to anybody but a call to zonal confederations. Thus, we have to say thanks to Mr. Usmanov for his generosity.

Mr. Paramonov commented speech of Mr. Scarso saying that he really shares that position of active approach and FIE appreciate such national federations like Italy, which cooperates on the development of fencing in the World.

Mr. Janda reminded in this context his speech where he mentioned that it is important goal to define European common goals and at the same time to define what is under the authority of national federations.

6. 7. FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER/AUDITORS' REPORT

Mr. Bierkowski and Mr. Burcklé (auditor) were invited to present financial report. Mr. Bierkowski presented the report covering the period from August 2010 to July 2011. Details and figures of the report were distributed to the participants of the Congress in Sheffield.

Mr. Pentikainen, as a member of EFC Promotion commission asked if there were some spending of this commission, which had no meeting for last three years.

Mr. Janda answered that expenses of the Commission were:

- New flags of Confederation distributed to federations organizing European tournaments
- Expenses on EFC web site and Facebook publicity

There were no meetings in order to save some EFC money on one hand, on the other hand several members of this commission are at the same time members of FIE Promotion commission and thus some issues could be handled at the FIE meetings and thus to spare some funds from EFC budget. Details about expenses will be available in a report presented by assistant of Mr. Bierkowski, Mr. Adamczyk.

Then Mr. Janda invite EFC auditor, Mr. Burcklé, to present his report of auditor, which was distributed to all participants in written form. Mr. Burcklé mentioned several important points. The audit had covers year 2010 (from January to December). Accounting report was approved by EFC Comex and audit confirmed it. In that context he stated: In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of assets and liabilities and about the financial situation of the Confederation as of December 31, 2010. Accounting statements are in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in France and Luxemburg. The accounting of 2010 was balanced with the savings of cca 2.000 EUR but the total is a loss of cca 10.000 EUR because some expenses were not uncounted in 2009 and had to be entered now.

The audience approved presented audit **unanimously**.

Then the meeting was interrupted for coffee break.

8. BUDGET OF 2012

Mr. Bierkowski, EFC Treasurer, presented current state of the EFC budget. On the account 100.000 USD came in the past, 30-35.000 EURO are expected to come from the FIE, membership fee is at the present at 100 EURO/federation. If total of 44 national federations were paying their fees it would make 4.400 EURO as income from them what is very few.

Mr. Cafiero presented proposal from EFC Comex meeting to increase the memberships for federations to 200 EURO.

Mr. Scarso (ITA) – in a view of more independence and autonomy he proposed to increase the fee to 300 EURO.

Mr. Pentikainen (FIN) – he supported ITA proposals. Then he came back to the issue of budget 2012. As only expected income was presented by the treasury he made following proposal of expenses plan:

Administration – 60.000 EURO

President funds – 10.000 EURO

Technical Director – 15.000 EURO

Commissions – 30.000 EURO

TOTAL: 115.000 EURO.

If some other income came to EFC budget from FIE and/or Foundation it could be used for federations assistance.

Mr. Tesch (LUX) – he was asking if the Congress approve increased membership to 300 EURO for what purpose and how would be used that money. Mr. Janda answered that this money will just improve difficult financial situation of the EFC at the administration of EFC activities.

Mr. Van de Flier (NED) – he supported proposal of ITA to increase to 300 EURO membership fee.

The voting of the Congress approved increasing EFC membership fee to 300 EURO.

Mr. Cafiero believes that the proposal of Mr. Pentikainen about the structure of the budget should be considered only as guiding lines not as binding budget line.

Mr. Pentikainen asked the floor in order to complete the point 8 of agenda upon special report of the President, by some comments about EFC working plan 2012. He suggested undertaking some thoughts about financial independence of the EFC without taking any decision at the present time. He also pointed out that in 2012 the main activities will be the organisation of high level competitions where cooperation between EFC and support of the FIE should taken into consideration. Finally he expressed some concerns about strong place for marketing area in the EFC because according his opinion this should be rather field of operation of national federations and that of the FIE.

Mr. Janda welcomed his remarks to the EFC working plan 2012.

9. DESIGNATION OF THE AUDITORS FOR 2011

EFC President, Mr. Janda, asked Mr. Philippe Burcklé if he is willing to continue his cooperation with the EFC.

Mr. Burcklé agreed to continue as auditor for next period.

The Congress appreciated this decision with the applause.

10. DISCUSSION ABOUT THE WEB PORTAL

Mr. Janda strongly invited all member federations to participate actively at the development of EFC web site. National federations and tournaments organizers must deliver reports, results, pictures from competitions organised in their countries.

Mr. Tesch (LUX) – he expressed the opinion that as it was mentioned some big fencing countries such as ITA, FRA or GER are having excellent web sites with lot of information and news. If they should also send their contribution to the EFC web masters it makes them to make the same job twice what is not good. Therefore he suggested considering the possibility of automatic workflow of information from those federations site to EFC web site.

11. PROPOSITIONS OF COMEX AND FEDERATIONS

No proposals came from federations. The only proposal was initiated by EFC Executive Committee about increasing membership fee dealt with at other place of these Minutes.

12. PRESENTATION AND VOTE ON U-23 CHAMPIONSHIPS 2012 IN BRATISLAVA (SVK)

Julius Kralik, Vice President of Slovak Fencing Federation presented orally the project of EF U23 Championships 2012 in Bratislava. The event will be organised in the same venue where FIE JWC tournament is regularly organised since several years completed by the option of neighbouring sport hall with the possibility of the coloured and podium pistes. Principally two hotels will be proposed: one with lower comfort and good price with ca. 40 EUR/double room and proximity of the venue not requiring a transport whilst the second hotel is Park Inn hotel Bratislava (5* hotel) situated in the centre of the city with expected price of 70 EUR for double bed room (including breakfast, parking and Internet connection).

Mr. Cafiero noted that at the date of Championships (25 to 29 of May 2012) also some national championships will be held because the date is the only free date between different FIE World cups and therefore possible coordination of disciplines with those championships would be wished. EFC Technical Director will enter into contact with concerned federations prior to proposed detailed programme of U23 Championships.

Upon voting procedure the Congress approved the organisation of U-23 European Championships for the city of Bratislava.

13. – DATES OF THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2012 / CADETS, JUNIORS, U-23 IN 2012

In 2012 Porec (CRO) will host cadets and junior European Championships from 29 February to 9 March 2012. U23 Championships dates are 25 to 29 May 2012 in Bratislava with some modification of the schedule accordingly to negotiation of EFC TD with ITA and possibly FRA. Senior Championships will be held in Legnano (ITA) in June 2012 from 15 to 20.

Then in April, 21-22 qualification tournaments for OG 2012 will be held in Bratislava (SVK) and on 14-15 of April 2012 World Team Championships in weapons, which will be absent in London, i.e. men's epee teams and women's sabre teams will be held in Kiev (UKR).

14 – PRESENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2012 / CADETS, JUNIORS, SENIORS IN 2012

Mr. Marolt (CRO) made presentation of preparation of Championships in Porec stressing the issue of accommodation of big majority of athletes in one hotel allowing better control and also variety of distractions in the evenings, where expected price for daily stay with half board should not exceed 45 EURO.

15. CANDIDATES OF CHAMPIONSHIPS (CADETS, JUNIORS, U-23, SENIORS)

Mr. Max Geuter informed that there was a new proposal from Israel who presented the organisation of 2014 European cadets and juniors Championships.

Switzerland wished to organise senior championships in 2015 in Montreux. The reason is because there is put in place new system of organisation of high level events in Switzerland requiring by the State longer preparation period and also in 2015 the Swiss Fencing Federation will celebrate its 100 years anniversary. The proposal was accompanied by power point presentation and was **accepted unanimously** by the Congress.

ITA planned to organise European cadets and juniors Championships in 2014 but in order to give a chance for Israel, their candidacy goes for 2015.

Mr. Scarso (ITA) criticized the fact the ECh in Sheffield has no TV coverage. Mr. Janda answered that there is TV transmission from ECh and it is even transmitted by other TV station (RTV). Mr. Scarso was surprised and said that Italian TV RAI informed him that there is no TV coverage.

Further Mr. Scarso presented opinion about the date of World Championships, which should move back to the period between mid July to mid August. If that proposal was supported by majority of European federation ITA would present this proposal at FIE Congress.

Mr. Smith further added that live streaming transmissions are on the Internet every day.

Mr. Paramonov came back to the issue of TV transmission, he joined Mr. Scarso about his concerns related to potential absence of Italian RAI TV broadcasting and asked Mr. Janda to make all possible for ensuring that transmission.

Mr. Pietruszka (FRA) presented the candidature for organising European Senior Championships in 2014 in one of 3 candidate cities: Strassbourg, Nantes, Nimes.

Mr. Yashar Mammadov (AZE) also presented the candidature for organising European Senior Championships in Baku in 2014.

16. DATE OF THE 2012 CONGRESS IN LEGNANO (ITA)

Mr. Geuter made proposal of the Congress for 14 June 2012, one day before the Championships will start. It was **approved unanimously**.

17. MISCELLANEOUS

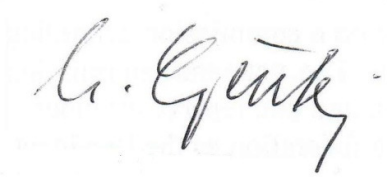
Mr. Van de Flier (NED) suggested a meeting in Philadelphia. Mr. Geuter promised to distribute an Information Letter to federations in this regard.

Upon initiative of Russian federation President Mr. Mikhailov, it was unanimously approved the purchase of one set of video refereeing system, which EFC will own.


As there were no other issues, the meeting was terminated by EFC President, Mr. Janda.



Elaborated by: Julius Kralik
EFC Technical Director
(with assistance of voice recorder)



Approved by: Max Geuter
EFC Secretary General



Frantisek Janda
EFC President

Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

This was special welcome speech in Russian for the FIE President and from now on I will use the universal European language – English. Or better said I will try to speak in English.

Please, let me give you summary report about the work of the European Fencing Confederation and its management during the past season. Also I will try to phrase our goals for the upcoming season.

I will use the same structure as I used on our last Congress in Leipzig.

EFC Web site. Information and service portals work perfectly. All our competitions are fully electronically managed, including the transfer of results and the rankings update. Any problems are indicated and solved immediately. This makes the work of organizers much easier. The proof is that we still have not solved any official protest. Our information portal became the integrated information point and all competent persons know where they can find any needed information. Also EFC Executive Committee and EFC Bureau publish their decisions and distribute information through this portal. It is great.

However, the social portal is not working so well. And it is a pity. We still face the disinterest from the Federations. I want to repeat what I said in Leipzig. Social web is like the Christmas tree without decoration. And we all have to put the decoration on! We want from you more information about the life of the Federations. We want to show the world our successful cadet and U-23 tournaments! We want more journalism and we want to use this portal for discussions in the same way as we discuss here together. For example about the problems with the foil, about the changes of rules and about everything what could help to improve our image in media. I want to stress that this web is not only for us, but it is also visited by the people from TV stations and broadcasting companies. The presentation of our achievements on the Internet is one of the ranking criteria given by these companies to fencing. Only we can change this!

In this context, please let me say big thank you to the representatives of Russian, Italian and French Federations for all the effort during the preparations of their World Championships. These Federations led by Mr. Usmanov made significant steps on the way that also fencing would enter the normal advertising and marketing environment. And they do this work in favour of us.

The competitions of Cadet Circuit and U-23 Circuit.

In Cadet Circuit, there were 6131 fencers from 38 European and 6 non-European countries. The European ranking registers 3061 cadets in all weapons. This is great result!

In U-23 Circuit, the number of participants was 1588 fencers from 33 European and 14 non-European countries. The European U-23 ranking has 957 fencers.

We still want to support the development the international comparison in these age categories, and especially to support the increase of the number of participants from the countries of Middle East and North Africa. The fencers and coaches from these countries especially need, except the material assistance, the practical comparison directly on the

piste. I want to thank the Italian Federation which develops the activities of the “Mediterranean countries”. We are convinced that EFC has many possibilities how to contribute to the development of fencing even on European borders.

The organization of both Circuits is the example of handing our competences to the assembly of the organizers and coaches. This assembly is fully independent in their decisions. This is the example of the consensual collective decision-making of the competent persons, who organize fencing in practice.

The creation of the calendar is not a market, but has other goals. For example the development of fencing in the distant regions of Europe. Here I want publicly congratulate to countries, whose fencers won the historically first European or world medals during this season. These are Azerbaijan and Georgia. (applause) Azerbaijan in sabre women's team U23 in Kazan and Georgia in men's cadet sabre in Jordan. This is the proof that the fencing has again started to develop in this region.

The assembly has assigned the sabre tournament U-23 to Tbilisi so that the fencers from region of Iran, Lebanon or Egypt could participate on this tournament.

The European Championships. Overall, I can say that level of the organization of the European Championships follows the FIE trends. Honestly, Lobnya, Klagenfurt and Kazan set the new levels for the organization of the Championships. They all were excellent Championships. Big thanks to Russian and Austrian Fencing Federations and all organizers.

Financial issues and cash flow analysis

The practice shows that some of our financial ambitions were too daring, or unrealistic. It does not matter if the finances come to the Federations through EFC, FIE or Fencing For Future Foundation. In any case there are hundreds thousand dollars invested directly into Europe during the last season. Here I would like to thank to Mr. Maxim Paramonov and Mr. Vitaliy Logvin. We are happy that they respect EFC knowledge and proposals.

FIE invests in 1 + 1 + 1 programme – (one fencer on the World Championship, one fencer on the Junior World Championship and one fencer on the Senior European Championship). FIE also directly supports the organizers of the World Cup and Grand Prix competitions (85% of them are in Europe), and pays all expenses for FIE Congress. There is no European country, which cannot participate on FIE Congress. This is unique situation even compared with much bigger and more important sports. I well remember times when only Federations paid to FIE – for licences, tournaments and flags, and FIE did not give us anything.

During last year, Fencing For Future Foundation distributed the direct material help for 11 European countries (pistes and registration apparatuses). This help went to the countries, which really need it! (Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Belarus, Moldova, Iceland, Armenia, Georgia, Serbia, Croatia, FYROM)

The Foundation distributed more than one hundred thousand US dollars as direct financial assistance for countries as Austria, Cyprus, Finland, Great Britain, Ireland, Norway, Bulgaria,

Spain, Holland, Portugal, and others. To avoid the conflict of interests, countries of EFC Bureau members (+TD) are not included in this assistance.

I want to stress very important information. These big sources also mean bigger general responsibility in handling these finances. It will be illusion to think that nobody can control how these finances were spent. We can and we will! Europe must be the positive example in using every dollar or Euro effectively, economically and with the multiplication effect. The fact of equal access to these financial sources is also extremely important.

We are still not successful in finding common European sponsor. I know this looks like my own incompetence, but in fencing, the "normal" sponsor environment still does not exist. I want to assure you that we are dealing with the representatives of various European companies; we are also dealing with the European Commission and its bodies, which take care of the redistribution of the financial sources for sport. The fact that some Federations, e.g. Italian one, are successful in this process is amazing.

We work on the European project of equipping all Federations organizing the World Cup and Grand Prix competitions with their own equipment for video-arbitrage and by this also creating the European internet television. The pilot project in Leipzig was very successful and we want to continue in the development of this success.

Only thanks to the influence and help from Mr. Usmanov, we have signed the sponsorship contract of 100, 000 USD, which are used for financing the EFC administration, social programme and international training camps.

What are our main goals for the next year.

We will try to continue in the development of the level and quality of the European competitions and we will prepare the written codification of the rules for organizing these competitions. First draft version of these rules will be given for the discussion until 2011, so it could be approved by COMEX EFC and consequently also approved on the next Congress.

The preparation of the Handbook for the European Championships of all categories will be also finished. The complex proposal will be submitted for the discussion until2011.

We want to prepare the complex re-codification of the EFC Statutes and EFC Interior Rules. This goal is key for the next Congress. The everyday practice, the pressure on the effectivity of the management and transferred responsibilities show that EFC needs modern, systematic and functioning system of the decision-making and management.

At present, EFC has 61 officials, members of commissions and councils and additional 14 positions. However, the work of many commissions is totally inefficient, even pitiful. Many regulations are in contradiction with others and especially with the practice, many regulations are still missing. We especially miss the definition of what are the main common goals of EFC and what is already the exclusive authority of the National Federations.

We want to anchor the procedures, which already exist in practice, but have no support in the official documents.

There is one separate issue, which must be solved. If we want functioning and effective European organization, it must be self-financing organization. For this, we want to use the system of licenses, in several aspects similar to the FIE system.

We must, however, realize that if we want national federations to accept financial burden and responsibility for EFC financing, consequently, the major contributors should have effective tools to influence decision-making process in executive bodies of the EFC with major financial impact on the EFC. Like, for example, in the executive bodies of the EU, the largest members and contributors should have reasonable powers, however, respecting opinions of others.

We urgently need to do the registration of all active fencers in all European countries. We also must do the complete register of all training centres in Europe.

We really need these relevant numbers in order to real entrance on the marketing marketplace. We must show that in Europe are tens thousand people who are actively fence. We must show that we have hundreds clubs and each season thousands competitions of all levels. This is our goal – to show that fencing deserves marketing attention.

The relationship to the former fencing stars or persons, who created modern fencing in Europe, is one of the basic marketing rules in sport. The empty rule about the designation of the Honorary Presidents is affixed to Statutes and that is all. No. We really need and we want to establish “European Fencing Hall of Fame” where the fencing legends of the past century will be introduced. There are many possibilities to do it – for example during the World or European Championships in ceremonial way with the proper marketing impact. We really need these, who were the faces of the European fencing in the past, to help us create the face of 21st century.

In the end of my speech, please let me say my personal confession. Many of you know how openly and directly can FIE President A. B. Usmanov express his indignation and how energetic his criticism can be. It is good way as it motivates us to more intensive work.

Thank you for your attention.

Speech of EFC President, Mr. Frantisek Janda