



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

15.11.2012

Information Letter no. 38-2012

Dear Member Federations,

In the view of the upcoming FIE Elective Congress in Moscow, President Frantisek Janda sends you his letter and we kindly ask you to forward this letter to the immediate attention of your president who will go to Moscow.

We also wish you a nice weekend.

Best regards,

Max W.F. Geuter
General Secretary

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President of the European Fencing Confederation

Prague, November 15th, 2012

To: The **Presidents of the European Fencing Federations.**

Dear colleagues,

I want to approach all Heads of the EFC member Federations and I would like to ask you to kindly understand this letter as the beginning of the discussions before our meeting in Moscow.

You all received the materials about the FIE Electoral Congress, which were officially published. I really would like to ask you to carefully think about them. The elections, in general, are very sensitive and discreet topic in Europe and they fully fall within the exclusive authority of the National Federations. I would like to turn your attention to the nominations for the function of the FIE President. The Presidents of other continents sent the unanimous nomination letters for whole continents, where they nominated Mr. A. B. Usmanov.

Together with you, I am fully convinced that neither me, nor elected COMEX EFC have such mandate and considering the high concentration of the most important Federations in Europe, this issue is up to your independent decisions. According the FIE Statutes, I am, as the EFC President, automatically excluded from any candidacy within FIE and this gives me a chance to try to mediate our common decision.

Considering the situation that Alisher Usmanov does not have the rival candidate and because there is the general verbal desire of Europe for his continuation in this function, I consider your support as fully obvious.

However, the elections for COMEX FIE and the individual Commissions will be the most important ones.

Please, let me offer you short analysis for your further thinking. Europe concentrates the most developed fencing Federations, which are at the same time the biggest rivals. This is why it is very difficult to satisfy all personal ambitions and at the same time to achieve the result, which will be advantageous for all.

The essential principles:

The principle of **ADVANTAGEOUSNESS**. In past three years, EFC strictly develops only those programmes, which are the common goals for all, and thus they are **advantageous** for Europe. We unanimously agree only on things, which are **advantageous** for all member Federations. And we all will benefit from them. There are 45 of us in Europe and as the bloc we are endowed with very decent power.



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Three most important Federations in all aspects are in Europe. These include France, Italy and Russia. At the same time, they are also the biggest rivals. This is why I am convinced that it is **advantageous** for Europe to support the candidates of these three Federations for COMEX FIE and all commissions. For COMEX FIE, the candidates are: **Mr. Frédéric Pietruszka, Mr. Giorgio Scarso and Mr. Stanislav Pozdniakov**. If three biggest rivals would agree on something, even against the unqualified majority, we have to take it very seriously. For Europe, it is **advantageous** to offer the united support for these candidates, because if they would accept it, they also accept the responsibility toward EFC. They will not only be the representatives of their Federations, but especially the representatives of the European interests.

The principle of **PROFESSIONALISM**. These Federations guarantee EFC that they nominated the professionals for these positions. This means the persons, whom we all know, who are consensual and within their positions they will professionally work solely for fencing. The position of the COMEX FIE member, and I know it from my own experience, requires the continuous everyday work contact. And this is big added value of these candidates.

There is very important task ahead of FIE – to finish the process of the professionalizing of our sport and its integration within the common world marketing market. This is very important task and it includes the reforms in practically all areas of FIE operations. For Europe, it would be **advantageous** if the initiators of these reforms would be the representatives of these three European Federations. It is great that the fencing develops around whole world and that the new Federations arises. However, hand in hand with this, we also have to carefully watch the situation in the Federations with long tradition and fully developed fencing infrastructure, but their countries have serious economic problems. It is our common goal to help these countries out of solidarity, so their development would not stop. I am fully convinced that the mentioned persons are able to do this within FIE.

The practice of last four years showed that it is very **advantageous** for Europe when the FIE General Secretary was European. **Mr. Maxim Paramonov** fully showed his abilities to hold this position. And I, as the EFC President, want to express my full support, especially due to the fact that it is **advantageous** for our whole continent. Me and our COMEX EFC, we are responsible for flawless communication with FIE Headquarters. Thus, it is **advantageous** also for us that we can offer full and flawless service to our Federations.

During last few years, the veteran movement shows huge development around whole world, and especially in Europe. Beautiful tournaments, where the hundreds of former professional fencers meet, are organized. FIE must purposefully develop, support and use this base of the friends of fencing for the promotion of our sport. The FIE President established special and very generously financed fund. This is why I



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believe that the head of our European veteran movement and the EFC General Secretary, **Mr. Max Geuter (M.H.)**, is the best person, who should do this work within COMEX FIE. If we agree on the significance of the veteran movement, we will agree that this will be very **advantageous** for the European veteran movement.

Rapid development of the new technologies in fencing is great, but fencing as sport and at the same time art remains basically conservative. This is why it is necessary that any technical changes should be carried out after careful thinking, without any political or economical interests. I would like to tell you that currently the COMEX FIE is not satisfactory technically capable to assess these changes, and factually it is dependent on the opinion of FIE SEMI Commission. Because of the adequate protection against the imprudent or anyhow influenced changes, and at the same time in order to maximize the safety rules, it is **advantageous** for Europe that **Mr. Jacek Bierkowski**, the President of EFC SEMI Commission, would be elected to COMEX FIE with our general support. I think I do not have to persuade you about the quality of his work.

The European Federations nominated altogether 17 candidates for COMEX FIE. Thus, it is absolutely clear that not all candidates have arranged the general support. It is everybody's right to be nominated and pertinently also elected. I want to remind that due to the validity of quotas, the candidacies of our ladies are in "separate female competition". This is why it is necessary to carefully choose the candidates for all positions and give them the general support.

Thus, I want to invite you to start the general discussion about our common European list of candidates. I would like to ask you to prepare and release your opinions and continue with the topics I proposed. It is necessary to discuss these topics together. And we will finish our discussion during our meeting, which will be held in the evening before the Congress.

I am convinced that by using the principle of advantageousness, we will be able to nominate and enforce great candidates, who will work for the benefit of fencing, especially on our continent.

I am waiting for your reactions.

Kind regards,

František Janda

President of the European Fencing Confederation