



European Fencing Confederation Confédération Européenne d'Esgrime

07.05.2013

Information Letter no. 16-2013

Dear Member Federations,

Please find attached some files with regard to the Zagreb Congress on 15th June 2013.

1. Agendas in French and English
2. Draft Minutes of the Legnano Congress 2012
3. Proxy form (**only valid when personally signed by the federation's president and stamped with the federation's seal!**)

Please inform us a.s.a.p. whether you will attend the congress. We want to update our documentation in good time.

If the President of your federation will not attend the congress, please send us a copy of your proxy, either by email (scanned) or by fax. The person who receives the proxy has to present this document **before** the opening of the Congress.

More documents you will receive when available, also by email. They are also available on our website.

Best regards,

Max Genter

General Secretariate
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European Fencing Confederation Confédération Européenne d'Esgrime

Groebenzell-Muenchen, le 7 mai 2013

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 Zagreb (CRO)

<p style="text-align: center;">Le Samedi 15 juin 2013 à 09.00 heures dans l'Hôtel Four Points Panorama Zagreb</p>

ORDRE DU JOUR

1. Allocution du Président
2. Validation des Fédérations présents et des pouvoirs
3. Approbation du PV du Congrès 2012 à Legnano
4. Rapport Moral du Secrétaire Général
5. Rapport du Trésorier
6. Rapport des Commissaires aux Comptes
7. Plan de Travail pour l'année financière 2014
8. Projet du Budget 2014
9. Désignation des Commissaires aux Comptes pour 2013
10. Propositions du Comité Exécutif et des fédérations
11. Votation pour les Championnats U-23 en 2014
12. Candidatures pour les Championnats d'Europe (lieux et dates), 2014 et 2015, pour cadets/juniors et U-23, et votations après présentations des candidates
13. Dates des championnats d'Europe 2014 (Cadet/Junior, U-23, Senior)
14. Date du Congrès 2014
15. Questions diverses

Pour le Président FRANTISEK JANDA
Le Secrétaire Général
Max W.F. GEUTER



European Fencing Confederation Confédération Européenne d'Esgrime

Groebenzell-Muenchen, 7th May 2013

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 **Ordinary Congress** which will be held before the European Senior Championships

in Zagreb (CRO)

<p>on Sunday, 15th June 2013 09.00 h in the Hotel Four Points Panorama Zagreb</p>
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AGENDA

1. Welcome address of the President
2. Validation of present federations and proxies
3. Approval of the minutes of the Congress 2012 in Legnano
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 2014
8. Budget of 2014
9. Designation of the auditors for 2013
10. Propositions of COMEX and federations
11. Vote on U-23 Championships 2014
12. Candidatures to the 2014 and 2015 European Championship Cities (Cadets, Juniors, and U-23) and vote after presentation of the candidates
13. Dates of the 2014 championships (Cadets/Juniors, U-23, Seniors)
14. Date of the 2014 Congress
15. Miscellaneous

For the President FRANTISEK JANDA
General Secretary
Max W.F. GEUTER



PROXY – POUVOIR

I, President of the Fencing Federation of

am giving herewith the proxy to represent me
and vote in my name at the EFC/CEE Congress,
which will be held in **Zagreb**, Croatia, on Saturday, June 15th 2013
to

(another member of my federation)

or, failing that, to

(Federation)

or, failing that, to

(Federation)

Place and date of issue: _____

Good for proxy

Signature of President and Federation's Seal



MINUTES OF EFC / CEE CONGRESS
(Provisional version, to be approved by EFC Congress 2013)
14 JUNE 2012 at 10.00
LEGNANO (ITA)

FEDERATIONS PRESENT OR REPRESENTED

Federation	President	Present	Proxy
ALBANIA	Bardhyl Minxhozi	NO	
ARMENIA	Armen GRIGORYAN		GEO
AUSTRIA	Markus MAREICH		GER
AZERBAIJAN	Nazim IBRAHIMOV		SVK
BELARUS	Alexander ROMANKOV	YES	
BELGIUM	Louis COOMANS		ESP
BULGARIA	Velichka HRISTEVA	YES	
CROATIA	Zeljko KVESIC		Reno Marolt
CYPRUS	Yiannis HADJIARAPIS	NO	
CZECH REPUBLIC	Oldrich KUBISTA		POL
DENMARK	Jan Sylvest JENSEN	YES	
ESTONIA	Tonis KAASIK		Jüri Salm
FINLAND	Kalle LAINE		Lena Tallroth
FRANCE	Frédéric PIETRUSZKA	YES	
GEORGIA	Archil GOGELIA	YES	
GERMANY	Gordon RAPP		Manfred Kaspar
GREAT BRITAIN	Keith SMITH		David King
GREECE	Emmanuel KATSIADAKIS	YES	
HUNGARY	János ERÖS		K. Kulcsár
ICELAND	Gudjon GESTSSON	YES	
IRELAND	Tom RAFTER		N. McGarrity
ISRAEL	Lydia CZUCKERMANN		Vladimir Shklar
ITALY	Giorgio SCARSO	YES	
LATVIA	Erika AZE	YES	
LITHUANIA	Rimantas JOGELA		LAT
LUXEMBOURG	Pascal TESCH	YES	
FYROM	Nikola ISAJLOVSKI	NO	
MALTA	Juan FORMOSA		ITA
MOLDAVA	Ion BOLFA		Mihail Paghiev
MONACO	Georges PRAT		FRA
NETHERLANDS	Peter SORBER		Etienne v. Cann
NORWAY	Junjie CAO	YES	
POLAND	Jacek BIERKOWSKI	YES	
PORTUGAL	Frederico VALARINHO	YES	
ROMANIA	Ana PASCU		Octavian Zidaru

RUSSIA	Alexander MIKHAILOV	YES	
SAN MARINO	Antonio PUTTI	NO	
SERBIA	Damir BARALIC		V. Dumitrov
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	Miroslav BARANIK		Julius Kralik
SLOVENIA	Savo TATALOVIC		CRO
SPAIN	Marco-A. RIOJA PEREZ		Antonio Garcia
SWEDEN	Lars LILJEGREN	YES	
SWITZERLAND	Olivier CARRARD	YES	
TURKEY	Müminhan BILGIN	YES	
UKRAINE	Sergiy MISCHENKO		P. Azarchenkov
TOTAL 41 of 45		17	24

1. WELCOME ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT

After opening of the Congress the EFC President, Mr. Janda, welcomed the participants, the representative of the FIE, EFC honorary members Mr. Kamuti and Van de Flier, and representatives of candidates for coming championships. Then he offered the floor for the president of the organising committee in Legnano, Mr. Caletti. The latter welcomed participants of the Congress and of the Championships and expressed the hope that expectation of delegations will be met during coming few days at competitions in Legnano, especially enjoying the venue for finals – the Castello. After that EFC Secretary General, Mr. Max Geuter, offered some technical instructions concerning interventions during Congress as well as schedule of the Congress. He also welcomed new candidate for EFC membership – Bosnia and Herzegovina, represented by Mr. Ragib Karamehmedovic, president of Walter Fencing Club in Sarajevo. He also informed about newly elected presidents of the national federations: Mrs. Velitchka Hristeva (BUL), Mr. Kalle Laine (FIN), and Mr. Junjie Cao (NOR).

2. VALIDATION OF PRESENT FEDERATIONS AND PROXIES

Mr. Max GEUTER announced that 41 Federations out of 45 members were represented either by their President or by proxy.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE CONGRESS 2011 IN SHEFFIELD

Mr. Geuter reminded 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.

The Minutes of the 2011 Congress held in Sheffield were **approved unanimously**.

4. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY (full text to see in attachment)

Before handling this point Mr. Maxim PARAMONOV, FIE Secretary General, took the floor on behalf of FIE President, Mr. Usmanov, mentioning the support of the FIE for different EFC projects and also made statement that the European Fencing Confederation “looks like a very well settled confederation”. Finally he informed about recent decision of FIE President who created new foundation from his personal finances for fencers in need.

Afterwards Mr. Geuter called for one minute silence as respect to the deceased colleagues mentioned in his Report:

Merih Sezen (TUR), Luigi Carpaneda (ITA), Lajos Somodi (HUN), Vladimir Aptsiauri (GEO) and Edoardo Mangiarotti (ITA). Further in the Annual report he mentioned continuing success of European fencers in World Championships, successful organisation of different European Championships, video refereeing system bought by the EFC, welcomed new FIE and EFC member Albania, informed about EFC COMEX meeting and stressed how Olympic sport – fencing – can be proud of its state without doping.

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

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

In his speech he mentioned the following points:

- a) After 3rd year of the mandate of the Board of the EFC can be said that the operation was successful
- b) Cadets and juniors Championships in Porec were very well organised and congratulations go to the organisers from Croatian Fencing Federation. He stressed not only good organisation but also high level of competitions.
- c) The EFC assisted the organisation of FIE OG Qualifying tournament and European U23 Championships in Bratislava to whom the EFC President expressed his congratulations for “outstanding organisational effort”.
- d) He mentioned that at the beginning of the mandate the EFC adopted the goal for increased participation of European federations at Olympic Games. However, current rules of qualifications allowed only 4 members of federations to get their places for London in Bratislava besides those already qualified by other criteria.
- e) The work of EFC Referees Commission was appreciated. Thanks to recent development at the FIE added fee for referees at Cadets and Juniors Championships should be cancelled for the future and will be covered by the FIE.
- f) EFC web site is running very well. Only social part of web portal moved to Face book, which seems be more convenient for young people.
- g) Thanks to the generosity of “Foundation for the Future of Fencing” the EFC could buy stream box for sending video records from competitions to the Internet.
- h) In December 2012 FIE elections will be held for electing new FIE president and FIE commissions. He expressed his expectation that Mr. Usmanov will be re-elected also by European votes.
- i) At the end he expressed thanks to EFC Women Council, headed by Mrs. Someroja, and EFC commission of coaches, Mr. Zidaru, for activities of their commissions.

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

Mr. Bierkowski and Mr. Brucklé (auditor) were invited to present financial report. Mr. Bierkowski presented the report covering the period from August 2011 to June 2012. Details and figures of the report were distributed to the participants of the Congress in Legnano. It is important to stress that Mr. Bierkowski presented financial report covering the season.

Then Mr. Brucklé presented his report of auditor, which was distributed to all participants in written form. Mr. Brucklé outlined that the audit has to cover the annul year 2011 (from January to December). No comments from participants were presented and both, financial report and audit were **approved unanimously** by the audience of the Congress.

8. 9. ANNUAL WORKING PLAN AND BUDGET FOR 2013

Mr. Bierkowski, EFC Treasurer, presented current state of the EFC budget, which is totally dependent on subsidy from Mr. Usmanov, therefore it is not possible to establish realistic working plan for the coming period in a view that finances are not ensured. Mr. Janda confirmed that statement.

Mr. Scarso (ITA) expressed his **no satisfaction** with the situation where the EFC is depending of getting or not subsidy from Mr. Usmanov and expressed his opinion that the EFC, representing the most important confederation in the FIE, should be more independent financially having larger possibilities for running its activities.

No other comments were presented about this item of the agenda.

10. 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 applause.

11. 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 some concerns about potential need of very powerful server for our ambitious project with live video streaming transmission from competitions. He also expressed his

disagreement with publishing our data on Face book, which becomes an advantage for FB but not offering any advantage for the EFC.

David King (GBR) commented the speech of Mr. Tesch about video stream from fencing competitions. He pointed out the fact that major Zone and World fencing events coming on Internet led to expectations for continuation of this services on the Internet and are important for fencing as such.

Concerning reminder of Mr. Geuter about passivity of national federations at feeding EFC web portal by their news Mr. Tesch expressed the opinion that in current situation where many federations are running their own web site it would be suitable if their news could reach EFC web site automatically, not requiring the federations to make same job twice: once for their web site and then also for the EFC.

12.-16. CANDIDATURES FOR 2013/2014 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS – JUNIORS/CADETS, U23, SENIORS

AZE – presented already last year its candidature for organising senior Championships in Baku but was absent at the Congress, therefore its candidature could not be considered by the Congress.

FRA – Mr. Pietruszka with other members of his delegation presented orally and also with video projection candidature of Strasbourg for organising 2014 senior Championships.

The candidature of Strasbourg was unanimously accepted.

SRB – officially withdrew from organising ECJ 2013 Championships.

BUL – Mrs. Hristeva presented orally candidature of Plovdiv for cadets and juniors Championships 2013 where conditions remain those as known from 2004 but the organisers are more experienced.

HUN – Mr. Kamuti presented candidature of Budapest for cadets and juniors Championships 2013. He stressed the difference between two fencing events to be organised in Hungary from the view of sponsoring. Also video presentation was offered to participants of the Congress.

Given the fact that two candidates were interested, secret vote was organised. Observers of the procedure were designated: Mr. Bert v.d. Flier (NED) and Mr. Emmanuel Katsiadakis (GRE).

The result of voting:

Hungary – 25

Bulgaria – 16

That way the candidature of Budapest was accepted.

CRO – Mr. Reno Marolt declared capacity of Croatian Fencing Federation for hosting European Senior Fencing Championships 2013 in Zagreb.

The candidature of Zagreb was unanimously accepted.

ISR – Mr. Natan Habani presented orally candidature of Jerusalem for organising cadets and juniors Championships 2014. He thanked first Italy for withdrawing from that date allowing Jerusalem getting approval of that event organisation with more chance.

The candidature of Jerusalem was unanimously accepted.

POL – Mr. Bierkowski presented on behalf of Torun the candidacy of this city for organising the U23 Championships in 2013, using also video projection.

The organisation of EFC U23 Championships 2013 in Torun was approved unanimously.

GEO – Mr. Sakhvadze presented orally the candidature for organising EFC U23 Championships 2014 in Tbilisi.

The candidature of Tbilisi was unanimously accepted.

SUI – Mr. Carrard informed that upon request of the EFC, the Championships in Montreux will start on 6th of June, preceded by EFC Congress on 5th of June 2014.

17. DATE OF THE 2013 ELECTIVE CONGRESS in ZAGREB

Mr. Geuter made proposal of the Congress for 14th June 2013, one day before the Championships will start. It was **approved unanimously**.

18. MISCELLANEOUS

EFC Technical Director Julius KRALIK raised two issues:

- 1) U23 project – in a view of low participation in Championships 2012 in Bratislava he asked for expressing the opinion of federations about this activity.

ITA – Mr. Cafiero argued that the dates in end of May seems not to be suitable for these Championships.

FRA – Mr. Pietruszka confirmed the position of Italy about the date of the event. He also stressed financial aspect inside federations because of year of OG.

IRL – Mrs. McGaritty – she mentioned problem of dates in the period of exams at Universities and also financial problems in their federation.

SUI – changed their opinion and plan for participating with teams in the future.

NOR – Mr. Cao supported the project in general of U23

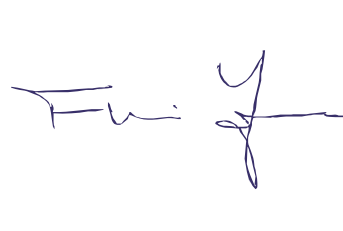
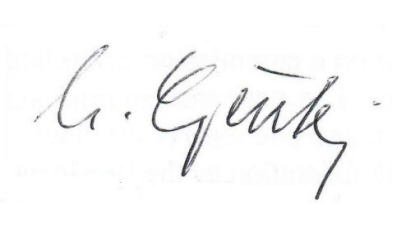
Mr. Kralik summarised the opinions and promised to prepare a draft of new date for U23 Championships situated earlier in the season, which will be submitted for approval to EFC Comex.

- 2) EFC TD reminded conclusions from the meeting in Porec related to entering obligation of paid EFC licences for all participants (fencers and referees) at the amount of 10 EURO per season.

Another issue raised from the same meeting was dedicated to the situation with referees in successful project of EFC Cadets Circuit.

ITA – Mr. Scarso presented the idea to organise in the future unofficial European Championships for U14 year old young fencers.

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



European Fencing Confederation Confédération Européenne d'Esgrime

Annual Report of the Executive Committee of the EFC/CEE for the 2012 Congress in Legnano

Since the EFC/CEE Congress in Sheffield (GBR) in July 2011, with a maximum participation of 43 out of 44 federations, the European Fencing Federations lost some of their well known personalities:

Merih Sezen (TUR)

Died on 12.12.2011 at the age of 93 in his home town Istanbul. Participant at the 1948 London Olympic Games as sabre fencer of the Turkish National Team he also was member of the former FIE "Commission du Barème des Voix" and was honoured by the FIE with the Honorary Gold Medal.

Luigi Carpaneda (ITA)

He was killed on 14th December 2011 at the age of 86 in a traffic accident.

Luigi Carpaneda was member of the Italian foil teams who won the gold medal at the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne and silver medal 1960 in Rome. He was also on the teams who won the 1955 world championships and the bronze medal 1957, together with such famous fencers as Mangiarotti, Di Rosa, Bergamini, Spallino, Lucarelli, Pellegrino and Aureggi.

Besides his fencing career Carpaneda was twice world champion in sailing and five times captain of the Italian sailing team for the Admiral's Cup.

Lajos Somodi (HUN)

He died at the age of 83 in Budapest. One of the famous former national coaches from Hungary he also won as fencer a bronze medal at the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne. Also his son Lajos has a good reputation as coach, working at present in Germany.

Vladimir Aptsiauri (GEO)

Olympic foil team champion at the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul and Vice President of the Georgian Fencing Federation, suddenly died at the age of 50 in Tbilissi. A heart attack on 14th May ended his life.

Edoardo Mangiarotti (ITA)

A legend in Fencing died on 24.05.2012 at the age of 93 in Milano. Member of Honour of the Italian and the International Fencing Federation, outstanding fencer in both foil and épée, he won 13 Olympic medals over a period from Berlin 1936 to Rome 1960. Also many medals at world championships crowned his fencing life. He visited all Olympic Games afterward until Peking 2008.

During the presidency of Giancarlo Brusati he was the General Secretary of the FIE and President of their Referees Commission. Edoardo always demonstrated real sportsmanship. He received a gorgeous funeral in Milano.

The Executive Committee of the EFC/CEE did not meet again after the Sheffield Congress and will only meet prior to the Legnano championships. The Bureau met once in Porec during the European Junior/Cadet championships.

The 2011 European Senior Championships in Sheffield (GBR) from 13.07. to 19.07. were very well organised by British Fencing. The 2012 European Cadet/Junior Championships in Porec (CRO) proofed that also small federations are capable to organise such big events. And the same applies to the U-23 Championships, this year held from 27-29 April in Bratislava (SVK), plus the Olympic Qualification tournament, and show excellent organisational structures. Congratulation and thanks go to all organisers, who did a wonderful job in these very difficult times of an economic crisis.

Results of World Championships 2011 in Catania (30.09.-09.10.09): Again Europe could dominate at this event. 10 gold, 9 silver, and 12 bronze, a total of 31 medals out of 42 possible were captured by our athletes.

And the European veterans won 50 from 72 medals at the World Championships in Porec (CRO), demonstrating also the lead in this category.

All European federations were regularly informed by information letters, 37 in 2011, and so far 23 in 2012. It would be nice if federations react on those letters and forward them in their federation to the right persons.

The EFC was represented at the FIE Congress in Philadelphia, at the World Championships in Catania, and at the Junior/Cadet World Championships in Moscow as well as at the World Veterans Championships in Porec (CRO), also at the recent European Veterans Team Championships in Kalmar (SWE).

The EFC/CEE could welcome last year a new member: Albania. Negotiations are under way to establish a federation in Bosnia and Herzegovina with the help of the "Foundation for the Future of Fencing". A member of a fencing club in Sarajevo is invited to this year's congress.

The Coupe d'Europe is still one of our small problems due to the international calendar. Good participation can be noticed in men's and women's épée, the latter one in Napoli included this year a Gran Gala for men's épée, called "Vito Noto", and invited the Olympic champion, the continental champions, the world cup winner, and the world champion.

For the first time we were using Video Life Streaming at the Olympic Qualification Tournament and the European U-23 Championships in Bratislava. The result was surprising and the Promotion Commission has to follow-up on this new media. Almost 16.000 visits of our website during the time of the championships – this means 5-6 times more than normal.

The EFC/CEE will sign at their COMEX meeting in Legnano the Brighton Declaration on Women and Sport, following in this regard our Women and Sports Council, headed by Marja-Liisa Someroja.

We have purchased a set for the Video Arbitrage System which was used already at the Olympic Qualifying Competition and at the European U-23 Championships, both in Bratislava. Also here in Legnano this system will be used again and is available during the fencing season to any federation against payment of 1.000 EUR as rent.

You will find in this report again our documentation with a summary of purchased FIE licences. With astonishment the COMEX had registered again that a lot of presidents and general secretaries of our Confederation still do not have this FIE licence and thus also not getting the FIE magazine with useful information. We invite all concerned persons to change this situation.

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

Last news: The FIE Calendar for junior, senior and satellite competitions was approved by the FIE COMEX and is available on www.fie.ch

Also the rules for Zonal Senior Championships have been modified and you will find this at the end of our Documentation.

Dear colleagues, dear friends,

We have just finished the third year of our term of office in very successful way. Now, please let me give you report about our activities in the past year.

Since our last Congress in Sheffield, the Cadet and Junior Championships in Porec took place. I want to highly appreciate the Croatian Fencing Federation for the fantastic organization. We entered another higher level of the organizing the Championships, which perfectly corresponded with the level of the following Junior World Championships in Moscow. We can proudly offer such Championships on the sport television market. And I want to stress that it is not only thanks to the quality of the organization, but also thanks to the high level of the fencers' performances.

The Veteran European Championships took place in Kalmar and the EFC in cooperation with the Slovak Fencing Federation organized the European Olympic Qualification Tournament and afterwards the U-23 European Championships in Bratislava. It was our choice to organize both events in Bratislava because of the geographic location and the possibility to use the land transportation for majority of our federations. Here I would like to thank to Mr. President Baranik and EFC TD Mr. Kralik for the outstanding organizing efforts. Those who visited both tournaments know that the whole fencing family of Slovakia participated on these events and all, including the volunteers, made exceptional organizing effort. This is really extraordinary performance for such small state and Fencing Federation!

I want to congratulate to these Federations and to all fencers, who won the places for London.

115 fencers from 37 European countries participated in all six tournaments. **16** fencers from **12** European countries have qualified - 3 x UKR, 2 x POL, 2 x ROU, AZE, BUL, CRO, FRA, GBR, GER, HUN, NOR and **RUS**.

We promised at the beginning of our election period that it is our main goal to bring as many European countries as possible to the Olympic Games. However, the qualifying system goes against our effort. Of the 16 qualification places, only 4 countries, which have not already had the place for London in different weapons, have qualified. And this is problem, because small and developing Federations are vitally dependent on the presence at the Olympics with at least one fencer. We will intensively discuss this issue before the approval of the new qualification key for Rio de Janeiro.

Our long-term goal – to keep increasing level of the refereeing – have been further developed. I want to thank to the EFC Referees Commission, led by Mr. Pozdniakov, for all their work. EFC obtained into its ownership one new set for the video arbitrage, which will be used for all European Championships (including U - 23) and, at the same time, it will be

always and everywhere installed as the reserve system, so in case of any malfunction the time schedule will not be disrupted. This is significant progress in the area of the fencers' comfort.

On behalf of the EFC I want personally thank to the President of the Russian Fencing Federation, Mr. Mikhailov, and to the President of the Foundation Fencing for Future, Mr. Kyrianov, for their support in the process of obtaining the grants for this system.

At present, the FIE declares the trend to unify the level of refereeing in senior and junior categories and across the continents. FIE stipulated bigger formal influence on the nomination of referees. On the other hand, in such case the EFC stipulated the financial participation on the expenses for the referees. Our goal is to arrange such financial support that the fees for referees in cadet and junior categories could be completely cancelled. This would be a significant help especially for smaller Federations.

The running of our EFC web portal can be evaluated very positively. The development shows that the part of the web, which we planned as the fencing social portal, has moved on Facebook, which our portal is integrated with. This is the natural progress and we adapted our web, for this situation.

Thanks to the generosity of the FFF Foundation, we were able to buy stream box connected with the cameras of the video-arbitrage. You could watch historic first live streaming broadcasting from the Olympic Qualification in Bratislava on our web. Certain matches were viewed by 1.700 (one thousand seven hundred) on-line viewers and overall, more than 15.000 (fifteen thousands) viewers watched this tournament.

(2,200 Spain, 1,800 France, 1,600 GB, 800 Hungary)

These are very good numbers for the pilot broadcasting and the following discussion on Facebook showed us what we have to do to meet the needs of our users. For this, I especially want to thank our web editor, Mr. Julian Seidl. The broadcasting from the U-23 European Championships from Bratislava has already established new tradition.

Dear colleagues,

we are entering the top part of the season, which are for fencers the Olympic Games in London. However, for us, the Presidents or representatives of our Federations, this season will finish in December. In December, there will be the electoral Congress of the FIE, where the new FIE President will be elected.

I am fully convinced that there is a common opinion that Europe will express its common support to Mr. Alisher Burkhabnovich Usmanov for his support of Europe in past 4 years, during the elections of the FIE President.

I want to appeal on you again that we should prepare our common list of candidates on time according the principles, which were effective in the past. I do not know if there will be a chance to meet again before the Congress. This is why me, and our GS Mr. Geuter, will try to coordinate the formation of this common list of candidates.

I would like to ask you to act with considerations when preparing your nominations and also kept in mind our common interests.

I am pleased to mention, for the first time, the activities of the Women and Sports council led by Mrs. Someroja and Training / Fencing Masters Commission led by Mr. Zidaru. During this season, both Commissions prepared two successful training courses, one only for female trainers in Budapest and one for males in Porec. Because EFC systematically supports such activities, I believe that we will repeat them again in the next season.

I would like to thank to the EFC Bureau and our Technical Director. Also I want to thank the EFC Executive Committee for all work and I want to wish all of you successful Congress and successful European Championships in Legnano. I want to thank the Organizing Committee for the preparations of the Championships and Congress.

Speech of EFC President, Mr. Frantisek Janda