



EUROPEAN KENDO FEDERATION

ヨーロッパ剣道連盟

**MINUTES OF THE
EKF General Assembly 2012
23rd May 2012, Novara, Italy**

1. Listing of the Representatives

1.1. Registration of the representatives' and observers' names and eventual absences.

EKF Board of Officers:

Alain Ducarme, President
Dieter Hauck, Vice-President
Zsolt Vadadi, Treasurer
Pekka Nurminen, Secretary General

Jean-Pierre Raick, Technical Director, was excused due to simultaneous participation in the WKC Shimpan Seminar.

Representatives of EKF Member Countries:

M. Morancho, Andorra
H. Hofer, Austria
D. Delepiere, S. Hendrickx, Belgium
A. Arabadjiyski, L. Sagaev, Bulgaria
T. Jelen, Czech Republic
Y. Kato, D. Mwaipaya, Denmark
T. Jüristo, Estonia
N. Saikkonen, Finland
J.-P. Soulas, D. Dupuis, France
D. Viebranz, Germany
I. Papadimitriou, Greece
G. Erdelyi, Hungary, representing also Malta by proxy
P. Volodarsky, Israel
G. Moretti, S. Verrina, Italy
B. Abadi, Jordan
V. Kindzulis, Latvia



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G. Rukas, Lithuania
K. Van Hattum, J.de Jong, The Netherlands
M. Rygh, Norway
W. Malecki, A.Izdebski, Poland
N. Serrano, L. Sousa, Portugal
B. Mishin, V. Trofimov, Russia
P. Topic, Slovenia
B. Sefor, South Africa
E. Gomez, J. Gonzalez, Spain
A. Sunje-Persson, Sweden
R. Itoh, G.Thcherter, Switzerland
K. Stryzcychenko, Ukraine
J. Hopson, United Kindom

Malta was represented by G. Erdelyi, HUN

It was noted that 30 out of 40 voting members were present or represented at the General Assembly.

J. Howell, Senior Councillor & Auditor

Observers:

H. Odinot, EKF Honorary Vice-President
W. Demski, EKF Senior Councillor
Y. Sato, ZNKR Secretary-General
M. Arabai, Representative Belarus

Excused or absent: Croatia, Georgia, Ireland, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Turkey.

1.2. Checking for the EKF membership fee payment for 2011; if the fee has not been paid in due time, the country in question will lose its right to vote.

All member countries were noted to have paid their membership fees until 2011.

2. Opening and Report by the EKF President (PR)

EKF President Alain Ducarme opened the meeting by thanking the Italian organizers of CIK for their huge efforts on the WKC and for providing excellent support for the



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EKF in organizing this GA. President Ducarme also thanked the participants for making the effort to join the meeting.

President Ducarme noted that this was the first General Assembly organised by the renewed BOD, after first operational year in the office. He thanked Zsolt Vadadi and Pekka Nurminen for their contribution in the work of the EKF BOD. The President evaluated in short last year's activities and events and commented on the developments to be expected, inside and outside of Europe.

3. G.A. Minutes Gdynia 2011

Minutes of the Gdynia G.A. 2011 were sent to the Member Countries according to Art. 05.09 EKF-Statutes and have been published on the EKF-website.. No remarks have been received since. Consequently, the Minutes are approved.

4. EKF Statutes

Vice-President Hauck gave a report on the state of play concerning the registration of EKF as "AISBL" under Belgian law (AISBL = association internationale sans but lucratif, i.e international non-profit association). He thanked all members for their cooperation. In February 2012 all voting members had by written procedure approved both the procedure and the substance of the changes of the Statutes, required by the registration authority. Further, formal documents need to be signed with a Belgium Notary, now requesting original signatures for the approval documents. After collecting those, the registration will be hopefully moved into the final stage in Brussels in June 2102, in the context of next BOD meeting.

5. Report by the EKF Vice-President (VPR)

5.1. VPR Duties

Vice-President Hauck thanked former VPR Hein Odinot for all the advice he had given. He also thanked the new TR and SG, with whom an administrative teamwork has been conducted during the last term of office. VPR has been in charge for BOD Meeting minutes and has still handled the exam validation and grade management of the EKF.

5.2. EKF Web-site

The Vice-President commented on the EKF Web-site (www.ekf-eu.com) and the online-data system by thanking the Member Countries' Administrators. All countries are now participating in the system. Some Members still have special needs, but they will be taken care of by separate efforts. Some evolution is still on the wish-list: (optional) tools for national exam registrations for the Members, menjo printing tool for



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national exams, card production for national federations and production of exam lists for national exams. The efforts to make the system more effective will continue. To the question on EKF numbers, VPR pointed out that ONLY the EKF-number indicated on the EKF website is valid. All old numbers appearing on yellow cards can be corrected by hand. General reference is made to the detailed documentation available on the EKF website.

5.3. EKF anti-doping commission

The EKF anti-doping rules and the commission are established but so far there was no need for reportable activities. Member countries have a very different level of AD activity from practically none to almost professional level, depending on local legal requirements. In general all members should be prepared and, advisably, have some medical doctors and lawyers involved in AD matters, preferably from their own membership.

6. Report by the EKF Treasurer (TR)

6.1. EKF Financial Report 2011

The Treasurer presented the EKF Financial Report 2011, commented on the report and gave the word to the Auditor for his comments. John Howell, auditor, commented that the financial report was correct and accounts well kept. He pointed out that grading fees are subject to fluctuation over the years and that the budgeting should be based on realistic calculations on expected grading fees and further also on other sources of income. The Treasurer answered questions about costs related to reduced paper-work vs. database and on the costs relating to former Secretary General. The EKF Financial Report for 2011 as presented to the Member Countries was approved unanimously.

6.2. 2013 budget

The Treasurer presented a proposal for the 2013 budget. GER asked clarification on budget years $n-1$ and $n+1$, which was given. The EKF 2013 budget was approved unanimously.

It was agreed, that from now on preparatory material sent out to members prior to GA will contain such $n\pm 1$ information for better understanding of the proposal.

6.3. Financial Committee

Treasurer gave a report on the work of the Financial Committee, which had concentrated mostly on the proposal for new structure for EKF financing. Treasurer presented a proposal to modify EKF membership fees, grading fees and shogo registration fee as follows:



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- modification of **EKF Membership fee**, which have not been changed for many years, meaning a slight raise in the basic fee and a move to membership fee increase on the basis of all members of national federations instead of yudansha only:
 - Minimum fee 250 €
 - < 100 Members: 2,50 €/head
 - < 500 Members: 2,30 €/head
 - < 1.000 Members: 2,00 €/head
 - < 2.000 Members: 1,80 €/head
 - < 2.500 Members: 1,50 €/head
 - < 3.000 Members: 1,30 €/head
 - < 5.000 Members: 1,15 €/head
 - < 10.000 Members: 1,00 €/head
- upgrade of **dan examination fees**, both for inscription and registration of successful exam, which have not been changed for many years:

DAN	Application fee	Registration fee
1.dan	15 €	20 €
2.dan	20 €	30 €
3.dan	30 €	50 €
4.dan	50 €	70 €
5.dan	70 €	100 €
6.dan	100 €	130 €
7.dan	130 €	170 €

- fixing an 100 euro **registration fee for national shogo**, including as awarded in Japan. This fee only accrues upon registration with EKF.

After discussion, the proposal of the Financial Committee was approved as such by 25 votes in favour, 5 votes against, no abstentions.

On proposal of BEL, it was unanimously agreed, that the national shogo registration fee will apply only to the shogo received after the Gdynia GA on 5th May 2011, when the principle of shogo registration fee was approved. Shogo titles awarded prior to that will be registered free of charge. Possible payments from previous shogo title registrations will be reimbursed.



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6.4. Technical Assistance

Following earlier discussions it was proposed by the BO that deviating from earlier practice and the document on financial responsibilities in connection with European Championships, the onsite cost for Technical Assistance as called upon by the BO with European events shall be paid from the general EKF budget. Normally this covers the hotel accommodation during the event and the sayonara party. The selection of persons will be done by and under the responsibility of the BO. SA proposed a separate budget for such costs. BO explains that such costs have been and will be included in the general budget and financial report. Upon question by PORT if such assistance is needed with European events the BO explains that this depends on the event and on the organizing country. This is accepted.

7. Report by the Secretary-General

7.1. General

The Secretary General commented on his first term of office by thanking all members' federations for their kind support and for the members of the BOD for their assistance. The tasks of the SG during the first year have been mainly on the correspondence of the EKF and on the renewal of different documentation (grading rules, EC rules);

7.2. EKF-Website

The Secretary General commented on the EKF Web-site (www.ekf-eu.com) and online-data system by saying that the system in general works very well. Occasional problems of the past are being sorted out on case-to-case basis in good cooperation between the VPR, SG and webmasters of the EKF and the Member Country concerned. He reminded the GA on the main elements of the system.

7.3. EKF Grading Rules

Secretary General presented latest version of the EKF Grading Rules, including linguistic adaptations. After presentation and some comments which were duly noted, the General Assembly approved (1 objection by FR) the new version of Grading Rules to be published on the EKF website. This will also include the update of fees.

8. Report by the Technical Director (TD)

In the absence of Jean-Pierre Raick, TD, the SG read aloud the following report, which was also distributed to all members:



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**REPORT OF THE EKF TECHNICAL DIRECTOR J-P RAICK.
EKF - GA - NOVARA 2012**

Dear Friends,

This year, 2012, the World Championships are taking place in Europe, perhaps a long time before the next time. As you know, the rotation system between the 3 zones (Asia, America and Europe-Africa) has changed.

Even if this opportunity allows a bigger number of European countries to participate in this event (transportation's cost are limited), we have to regret that some of them couldn't participate as they had not registered within the timeframe of the International Kendo Federation (FIK). In this moment and according the statutes, it's not enough to be an EKF member to become automatically FIK member.

Corollary, EKF is not direct interlocutor of FIK and it's necessary to distinguish, from international point of view, the difference between the EKF and the FIK European Zone (Africa included), represented by 3 Directors elected by EKF! This relative complexity leaves us to understand that sometimes questions are difficult to clarify.

So, let's come back to our specific European activities.

- Last European Kendo and Iaido Championships in Gdynia – Poland and Andorra have been seen from an external view as well organized and of course we can be pleased.

Nevertheless, in both cases it's impossible to hide the difficulties we have encountered. This is surprising when we take into account how many times we repeat the warning related to the difficulty of the task even with a specifications and precise notes related about the practical organization.

The purpose is not to dwell upon the past, but to remember strongly that to accept to take in charge a European Championships cannot be taken lightly. In this perspective, we are working on a document, as complete as possible to avoid as much we can the difficulties we talked about.

Naturally, this does not undermine the kind voluntary and all the work that is done in the field by a number of voluntaries: their investment has helped to make the events satisfactory for the participants, and we thank them very warm-heartedly.



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- The European Jodo Championships were organized in a very satisfactory way by Great Britain. EJC participation by member countries has grown regularly, however not enough to be able to organize this Championships during two full days yet. Without a doubt, it should be convenient to concentrate on the pure “sportive” and increase the seminar part. This point has to be seen with the next organizers (Belgium).
- European Kendo Referee Seminar – Brussels – February 2012, we can only say about this regular event, that as in the previous years, the assistance is constantly the same regarding the number and quality of participants.

The first target is to ensure the quality of refereeing during the EKF Championships. Also, to answer some comments, we remind that this Seminar is not a training seminar for referee-beginners neither is it an intensive practice seminar (these two aspects are in the responsibility of Member countries) but “perfection of understanding”, precision of the rules, and new orientation. This is so, even if exceptionally we accept participants who are relatively beginners from “young” countries that don’t have yet strong technical structures. Of course, the main target of this mixed EKF / FIK European zone remains the selection of Referees for the coming Championships, for this year the WKC.

According to the calendar of FIK / AJKF, the selection was done before the seminar and surprised many of us. Nevertheless, in spite of this unusual inversion, all the candidates, except few people, made a point of honour to be present.

To close this chapter, we have to regret once again, the lack of high level fighters and as before, we would ask for your “participation”.

- Concerning Dan examinations, we are facing an unexpected problem due this year’s WKC. The WKC that takes place this year end of May, is followed by the Dan examination from 4th to 7th Dan under the responsibility of FIK / AJKF. And therefore we have to cancel the Dan examination that takes place regularly June in Italy. The decision to restrict the access to this Dan examination only to the participants of WKC and to the Officials was unexpected.

It has been practically unfeasible to organize in parallel a Dan examination for the candidates who are not on these categories.

- All that brings me to remind you the origin of our actual system for high Dan grade examinations (6th and 7th Dan).



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In the past, the state of our Kendo development allowing (possible candidates for 6th Dan), we were thinking about the best way to organize under solid foundation a 6th Dan examination.

Two elements were taken in consideration:

- The EKF alone was not able to compose a jury according to the FIK standard (= seven 7th Dan at that time). The help of Japan (ZNKR) was necessary.
- Asking this help, it was difficult not to take into account the internal rules of the ZNKR that require Jury members to have 8th Dan.

A compromise was adopted: to be as close as possible to the rules of ZNKR and to adapt them according the situation and following the rules of FIK. This system is still applied today.

You are invited to find in annex, extract of the GA of Toronto 1991 and Barcelona 1992 related to this topic.

To remain in this topic of Dan grades, it's impossible to hide our worry about the last years' results of the Iaido Dan examination (6th and 7th Dan) where almost no one has succeeded. We have recognized and evaluated the problem and we continue the reflection about this topic and take into account the comments received.

- Let's go on now to our futures activities.

In this stage, the decisions taken and proposals received, I would like to remind you:

1. The next edition of the **European Kendo Referee Seminar** including the selection for the next EKC (Berlin 2013) will take place the 1st weekend of February 2013 in Brussels.

Concerning the next editions we have:

- A precise proposal of France.
- A precise proposal from Switzerland.
- A proposal of Belgium who suggest an alternated system.

As TD, I'm personally in favour of one date and one place fixed.

2. The next **European Jodo Championships (EJC)** will take place in Brussels, Belgium, from the 31st of August to the 2nd of September 2012. Rules and regulations will be published immediately after the WKC.



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3. The next **European Iaido Championships (EIC)** will take place in Stevenage, Great Britain, the 28th and 29th of October 2012. Rules and regulations will be published also very soon.

I leave to the representative persons of these two countries to give eventually any precision that can be useful if necessary.

Concerning the next seasons, we have:

1. France is candidate to organize the **European Iaido Championships (EIC)** in 2013 as well as Finland and Germany.
2. France is also candidate to organize the **European Kendo Championships (EKC)** in 2014.
3. Andorra is candidate to organize the **European Jodo Championships (EJC)** in 2013.
4. Finally, Macedonia is a prospective candidate to organize the **European Kendo Championships (EKC)** in 2016.

To close this brief report, and as well as at the end of each season, in the name of EKF, I present our warmest thanks to the ZNKR for their help and in particular for the high-quality delegations they have been sending for each event. (See in annex)

Of course I keep my ears open for any of your comments or suggestions.

Thank you very much.
Jean-Pierre RAICK,
EKF, Technical Director

ANNEX:

- **European Iaido Championships, 2011 ANDORRA.**

Number of countries participants: 23

PORT/D/PL/I/B/CH/SW/NL/P/F/G/HU/CZ/SP/NOR/RU/SK/TURQ/AND/ISR/JORD
/GB/FIN.

Number of Teams: 19

Referees: 24 from 8 different countries: GB/F/NL/B/I/HU/D/FIN.

ZNKR Delegation:

KAWAGUCHI Sensei, KOMAKOKURYU Sensei, KUSAMA Sensei



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- **European Jodo Championships, Stevenage, GREAT BRITAIN.**

Number of countries participants: 16

A/B/BUL/FIN/F/D/I/HU/N/P/PL/CH/SW/NL/TUR/GB.

Number of Teams: 13

Referees: 21 from 6 different countries: F/GB/NL/SW/D/B.

ZNKR Delegation:

NAMITOME Sensei, SHIYA Sensei, ISHIDO Sensei

- **European Kendo Championships, Gdynia, POLAND.**

Number of countries participants: 30

Number of Teams: Men Team: 28 (-1),

Women Team: 16 (-5)

Juniors Team: 13 (+1)

Men Individual: 138 (-6)

Women Individual: 88 (-16)

Juniors Individual: 51 (+3)

ZNKR Delegation:

UEHARA Sensei, KURIHARA Sensei

- **European Kendo Referee Seminar 2012**

Number of participants: 71 from 16 different countries.

F/NL/CH/D/S/I/FIN/E/GB/PL/RO/B/SA/BG/CZ/IRL.

Official candidates: 30, others, 41

ZNKR Delegation:

MATSUNAGA Sensei, TAGUCHI Sensei, HIGASHI Sensei, YAMAZAKI Sensei

END of ANNEX.

After presentation of the report of the Technical Director, the SG mentioned that the Royal Spanish Judo Federation had after the respective deadlines for the agenda had expired approached the EKF BO with a letter suggesting that in the European Iaido Championships, the time/grade rule be changed so that the maximum time a person can stay in one category is extended to the number of years of the grade the person is going to grade next (for example, two years in first dan, six years in fifth dan) and instead of the number of years the person is obliged to wait until next examination (one year in first dan, five years in fifth dan) like in the present rules. The reason seems to be the national grading rules in Spain. The BO saw no reason to propose or promote this kind of change.



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Clarification was given to UK and SA comments and questions on the applicable rules concerning sixth and seventh dan examination with reference to the Technical Director's report.

9. Coffee Break

10. Affiliations

10.1. Belorussia

An advancement report was given by the Secretary General. He pointed out that some clarifications concerning the Statutes of the Belorussian Kendo Federation were asked by the BO to guarantee democratic nature of the statutes. The Belorussian federation had not yet answered to the request. The BOD hopes to be able to present the membership file in the next GA. M. Arabai, representative of the Belorussian Kendo Federation gave a presentation of the Kendo activities in Belarus. The Assembly thanks her for the effort and looks forward to receive reports on the further process.

11. EKF Relations with FIK

PR, also Vice-President of FIK, presented the point on the agenda of the FIK GA next day concerning the change of statutes. He reminded the GA, that increase of the number of FIK directors was initially a European request. However, the procedure to appoint new directors was not very satisfactory, since EKF should be in the position to appoint European directors in FIK. GER announced that they are against proposed change of FIK Statutes, since the proposed text is not clear.

EKF position vis-à-vis 16th WKC in Japan or Korea is discussed. A brief discussion took place, most comments are in favour of Japan and appreciate the Korean efforts, but no decision was adopted. SG presented information how to follow the radiation levels in Tokyo area after Fukushima nuclear accident. The levels observed there in the Tokyo area give not rise to any concerns, as they are constantly normal.

There will (again) be Combat Games organized by Sport Accord, this time in St. Petersburg, Russia, 18th – 26th October 2013. No further details are known as to organisation, fighters selection etc. as of now. FIK is expected to take the lead on that again.



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A general discussion on the expected future developments in FIK and the role to be played by Europe and/or the various countries comprising Europe concludes the topic.

12. Future Championships

12.1. EKC

The 25th EKC in Germany (Berlin) on 12-14 April 2013 was confirmed. GER representative gave information on the event. Pre-entry 1st December 2012, final entry 15 February 2013.

Candidature of France for the 26th EKC 2014 was confirmed. City of the EKC will be announced later, but it will not be Paris due to considerations of expenses.

SG gave a report on state of affairs on the Macedonian candidature for the 27th EKC in 2016.

12.2. EIC

The 19th EIC in the UK (Stevenage) on 26-28 October 2012 was confirmed.

The French candidature for the 20th EIC 2013 was confirmed. Likely Venue is Montpellier in mid-October 2013.

The Finnish (Helsinki) candidature for the 21st EIC 2014 was confirmed.

The German (Berlin) candidature for the 22nd EIC in 2015 was confirmed.

Italy announced willingness to host the 23rd EIC in 2016.



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12.3. EJC

The 11th EJC in Belgium (Brussels) on 31 August – 2 September 2012 was confirmed.

The Andorran candidature for 12th EJC in Andorra 2013 was confirmed. The date is the last week-end of September 2013.

Further candidatures for EJC 2014 – 2015 were solicited by the President.

13. Date of the next General Assembly

The date and venue of the next EKF GA, at the occasion of the 25th EKC in Berlin on 11 April 2013 was announced.


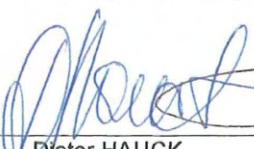
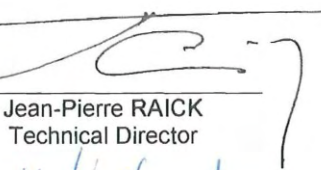
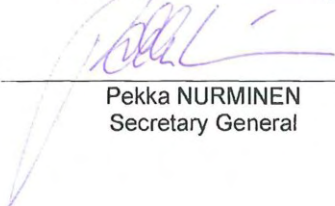
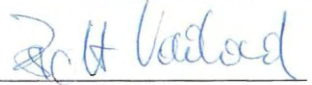
14. Closing by the President

President Ducarme closed this year's General Assembly by thanking all participants.

15. Invitation to the EKF Dinner later that evening

Persons as registered in advance by the answer form were invited to the EKF Dinner.

The EKF Board of Officers:

 Alain DUCARME President	 Dieter HAUCK Vice-President	 Jean-Pierre RAICK Technical Director
 Pekka NURMINEN Secretary General	 Zsolt VADADI Treasurer	

