

EUROPEAN KENDO FEDERATION

ヨーロッパ剣道連盟

**MINUTES OF THE
EKF General Assembly 2014
10th April 2014, Clermont-Ferrand, France**

1. Listing of the Representatives

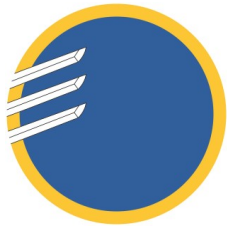
1.1. Registration of the representatives' and observers' names and eventual absences.

EKF Board of Officers:

Alain Ducarme, President
Dieter Hauck, Vice-President
Zsolt Vadadi, Treasurer
Jean-Pierre Raick, Technical Director
Pekka Nurminen, Secretary General

Representatives of EKF Member Countries:

M. Morancho, Andorra
H. Hofer, Austria,
D. Delepiere, P. Lam, Belgium
T. Jelen, Czech Republic
A. Arabadjiyski, Bulgaria
T. Panduric, Croatia
M. Frey, M. Salonen, Finland
J.-P. Soulas, D. Dupuis, France
D. Viebranz, Germany
M. Akylas, Greece
E. Penzes, Hungary,
G. Moretti, S. Verrina, Italy
B. Abbadi, Jordan
P. Budden, Malta
N. Baleski, Macedonia
K. Van Hattum, J. de Jong, The Netherlands
F. Naerland, , Norway



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W. Malecki, Z.Misiak, Poland
L. Sousa, Portugal
S. Mahika, M. Luca, Romania
A. Kovalchuk, A. Glushko, Russia
V. Kovicin, Serbia
M. Greif, Slovenia
B. Sefor, South Africa
J. Gonzalez, Spain
A. Sunje-Persson, Sweden
O. Perrenoud, G.Tscherter, Switzerland
K. Stryczychenko, Ukraine

It was noted that 25 voting (+ 3 non-voting) out of 41 members were present or represented at the General Assembly.

Observers:

W. Demski, EKF Senior Councillor
R. Jättkowski, EKF Senior Councillor

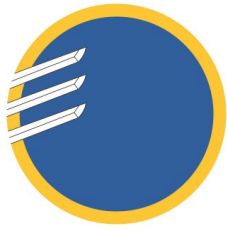
Excused or absent: Georgia, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Ireland, Israel, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Mozambique, Slovakia, Turkey and United Kingdom

1.2. Checking for the EKF membership fee payment for 2013; if the fee has not been paid in due time, the country in question will lose its right to vote.

All member countries except Andorra, Greece and Slovenia were noted to have paid their membership fees until 2013.

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

EKF President Alain Ducarme opened the meeting by thanking the French organizers of CNKDR for their efforts on the EKC and for providing excellent support for the EKF in organizing this GA. President Ducarme also thanked the participants for making the effort to join the meeting.



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One minute of silence was observed in memory of F. Dettwiler, one of the founding figures of the EKF and member of the Senior Councillor Group, who passed away in late 2013.

President Ducarme thanked the members of EKF BOD for their work for the EKF and its administration. 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 Berlin 2013

Minutes of the Berlin G.A. 2013 were sent to the Member Countries according to Art. 05.09 EKF-Statutes and have been published on the EKF-website. Since no remarks have been received, the Minutes were approved unchanged.

4. EKF Statutes

Vice-President Hauck explained on needs to develop EKF statutes following registration of EKF as "AISBL" under Belgian law (AISBL = association internationale sans but lucratif, i.e. international non-profit associations). In order to avoid unnecessary legal procedures to change operational parts of the Statutes, it will be considered that the Statutes be divided in two parts, notably to Constitutional articles (thereafter the Statutes) and Technical articles (to be called "Byelaws" or "Rules of Procedure"). Member Countries will be duly informed of the process, which is not urgent, and all changes to Statutes will be made under provisions of present Statutes.

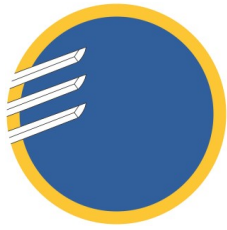
5. Report by the EKF Vice-President (VPR)

5.1. VPR Duties

VPR has been in charge for BOD Meeting minutes and has still handled the exam validation and grade management of the EKF.

- Between the GA 2013 in Berlin and this GA, the BO met at four Board Meetings in Brussels, Linz and Eaubonne. BO Members attended and supported in various combinations the Shinpan Seminar in Brussels, Belgium, EIC in Meze, France, EJC in Linz, Austria and the Combat Games in St. Petersburg, Russia.

- EKF Dan examinations up to 7th Dan were held and administrated for Kendo in Berlin, Eaubonne and Brussels, for Iaido in Meze, Modena and Bristol (2014), for Jodo in Linz.



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Also a weekend with the FIK Directors from Europe was organized in Bergamo, Italy to discuss the positions of Europe and Japan and coordinate the European opinions. The finances of the Federation are stable with sufficient reserves to execute the job attributed to a federation.

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. The system – which includes the very good cooperation by Member Countries - works very well.

At the moment the database includes 38.858 grades of 13.017 active practitioners (yudansha). The number of exams and grades is still clearly rising. In 2013, 2173 different grades out of 453 exams were registered.

Even AJKF consults the public system for European Grades and contacts EKF, if grade info is missing. The same is true for individual practitioners; the system of public control is working.

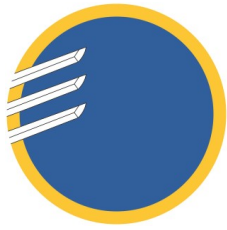
Yellow Cards are produced and distributed upon receipt of result lists. Yellow Cards are distributed at the four EKF events (Ref-Sem, EKC, EIC and EJC) and mailed once at years end.

VPR asked member country administrators a) to copy the home countries of foreign candidates when reporting results by email and b) to enter person data in database when issuing permission to grade abroad.

The online data system is an ongoing project. Further developments are planned, such as (optional) exam registration for member Countries, xls-upload, Amazon Bookshop, etc.

5.3. EKF anti-doping commission

Luckily, no serious developments occurred. Member countries should remain watchful, have an organisation (at least one AD correspondent) and inform people on the rules. Information is published on the EKF website and on Facebook, as the case may be. See also the extensive website by WADA.



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6. Report by the EKF Treasurer (TR)

6.1. EKF Financial Report 2013

The Treasurer presented the EKF Financial Report 2013, commented on the report and read aloud the Auditor report on 2013 finances.

Portugal, South Africa and Spain were given the prizes of fastest payment of membership fees.

South Africa's question on organisational deficit of Referee Seminar was answered by TR.

Instructions to use the new EKF Bank Account were given. South Africa made proposal to be able to use PayPal or Credit card in the future. The proposal is to be studied by TR.

The EKF Financial Report for 2013 as presented to the Member Countries was approved unanimously.

6.2. 2015 budget

The Treasurer presented a proposal for the 2015 budget.

The Treasurer answered Portugal's and South Africa's questions about income from grading fees. Germany and TR noted that modest budgeting is necessary for a year of the WKC.

Czech Republic asked if bigger reserve is necessary. PR and TR explained plans to use reserve for shinpan seminars and development.

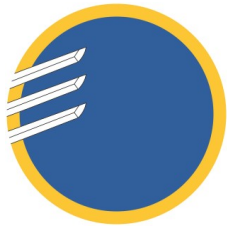
The EKF 2015 budget was approved unanimously.

7. Report by the Secretary-General

7.1. General

The Secretary General paid attention to events managed by EKF administration and which require lots of communication:

- Jodo: EJC
- Iaido: EIC plus one high-level Iaido seminar with EKF 6 and 7 dan examinations



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- Kendo: Shinpan Seminar, EKC and one high-level kendo seminar with 6th and 7th dan examinations
- European participation in World Combat Games (Kendo)
- EKF General Assembly

Improvements in registration procedures have made things more manageable and this development will continue. Most problems arise from last-minute registrations and/or missing the deadlines. Once deadlines are missed, manual procedures are required.

More discipline in regard to deadlines will be implemented in the future.

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 is also used for communication purposes, as well as e-mails and EKF Facebook profile. All member countries were asked to consult website's "news section" frequently.

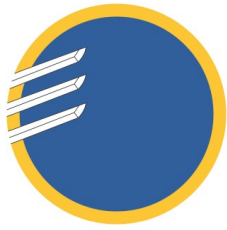
8. Report by the Technical Director (TD)

ANNUAL REPORT BY THE EKF TECHNICAL DIRECTOR CLERMONT-FERRAND, APRIL 10th 2014

EKC 2013 Berlin:

Since 1990 and 10th European Kendo Championships, we hadn't had the pleasure of taking part in such an important event in Germany. In 2013, Berlin welcomed the 25th EKC - Male Individual, the 17th EKC - Female Individual, the 14th EKC - Female Team as well as Junior Individual, and finally the 5th EKC - Junior Team.

The organization was flawless in spite of a few timing issues on the last day, which were due to room-rental related obligations. One important aspect regarding the general comfort of the event was the accommodation of all delegations in the same hotel (with 2 levels of quality), but also the short distance between the hotel and the sport facilities. We strongly encourage the future welcoming candidates to think along the same lines.



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EJC 2013 Linz

This was even more the case in Linz, Austria, during the 12th European Jodo Championships, (EJC) since Hotel and facilities were part of the same complex. I have to thank and congratulate the Austrian Federation and its President Harald HOFER, who managed to make this first international event, organized in the country an undeniable success.

The event itself was roughly as important as the previous ones. Reorganization of the schedule allowed, with no excessive charge, to run the Championships (Team and Individual) as well as the Dan Exams on one single day instead of two.

EIC 2013 Mèze

Regarding the 20th European Iaido Championships (EIC), they were organized by France, on the south coast (Meze). If the organization (seminar & competitions) happened smoothly, certain welcoming conditions raised criticism by some participants, all of which the organizers surely took into account. Naturally, this is not meant to incriminate anyone. We know perfectly well how the many unexpected surprises put at risk those who accept the heavy task of organizing such an event.

European Kendo Referee Seminar 2014

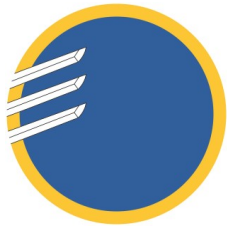
The first event of 2014 was, as usual, the European Referee Seminar, which is currently maintained in Brussels. The participation is steady: 44 candidates for selection (26 selected) and 31 for the "training" group. All of those candidates come from 21 countries (see annex).

Regarding the possibility to sponsor competitors' accommodation, it has been such a great success that we will certainly have to limit their number in the future.

For those four events - and strong points of our season - we would like to thank again warmly the ZNKR for its help and its support through all delegations, which are always made out of very high-level teachers.

WCG 2013

In order to finish with this last season's activities overview, the quality participation of our European Delegation (14 competitors, 3 referees) to the 2nd Sport Accord Combat Games which happened in St-Petersburg in October 2013 must be underlined.



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GENERAL REMARKS.

KENDO:

Our Championship is regularly growing (this year: +5 Male Teams, +2 Female Teams, +3 Junior Teams, +23 Individual Males, +20 Individual Females, +3 Individual Juniors). In the next few years, we most certainly will have to review our organization. I would probably first suggest that we align ourselves with the World Championships regarding the number of individual participants per country (4).

IAIDO & JODO:

In those disciplines, the increasing enthusiasm for competitive events keeps on going hand in hand with the lasting problem of accessing 5th Dan and, above all, 6th & 7th Dan.

A recent proposal from Great Britain to organize an IAIDO special seminar preparing for these high grades (a proposal which was accepted by the EKF), was held last March. Unfortunately, it did not meet the initiators' expectations (see annex 5). It is also important to remember that this type of seminars exists for many years in several European countries (above all in Great Britain, the Netherlands, France, Belgium, Italy), always lead by high-level Japanese experts. In those kinds of seminars, there is always a 5th 6th & 7th Dan group that is especially taken care of.

According to all experts, whether they are Kendo, Iaido or Jodo experts, the solution lies in a well oriented practice. One that is as much constant and regular as possible.

ANNEX.

EKC BERLIN 2013:

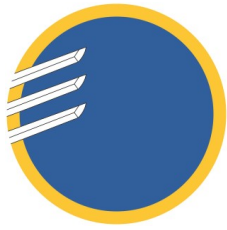
Countries: 30

- Men Team: 28

- Women Team: 18

- Junior's Team: 10

- Men Individual: 135



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- Women Individual: 84

ZNKR DELEGATION: MATSUNAGA, FUKUMOTO & KANAOKI

EJC LINZ 2013.

Countries: 17

- Team: 15 (+1)
- Mudan: 20 (+3)
- Shodan: 18 (-1)
- Nidan: 24 (+5)
- Sandan: 20 (-2)
- Yondan: 15 (+2)
- Godan: 8 (=)

ZNKR DELEGATION: SHIYA, ARAI & TSUBAKI

EJC MEZE 2013.

Countries: 20 (-1)

- Team: 20
- Mudan: 25
- Shodan: 24
- Nidan: 18
- Sandan: 28
- Yondan: 20
- Godan: 19
- Rokudan: 6

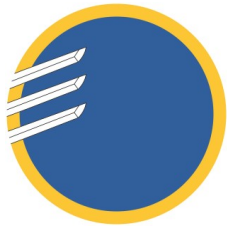
ZNKR DELEGATION: SAKONO, KUSAMA & AOKI

EKF REFEREE KENDO SEMINAR BRUSSELS 2013.

Participating Countries: A/F/HU/ FIN/GB /NL/CH/ D/ S/ I/ E/ PL/B/BG/ CZ/N/ RO/
L/ LT/ RU/ ISR.

ZNKR DELEGATION: ENDO, KO & YOSHIZAKI

SPECIAL IAIDO HIGH LEVEL SEMINAR GREAT BRITAIN 2014.



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2 candidates succeed 6th Dan up to 14 and nobody succeed 7th Dan up to 7 candidates.

ZNKR DELEGATION: KUSAMA, NAKANO & AZUMA

EVENTS FOR COMING...

- European JODO Championships: Turin-Italy September 12th to 14th 2014.
- European IAIDO Championships: Helsinki/Vantaa-Finland October 31st to November 2nd 2014. - EKF Referee Kendo Seminar: Brussels January 30th to February 1st 2015.
- European KENDO Championships 2016

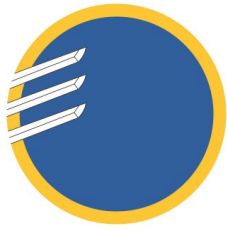
Discussion:

Technical Director commented proposal of Germany (DKenB) intending to modify possibilities to propose referees to EKC prior to Referee Seminar. Aim of the proposal is to allow countries to propose also shinpan-shunin in addition to six shinpan-in.

TD was not in favour of proposal explaining that there is no separate category for shinpan-shunin. There is no age-based separation between shinpan-shunin and shinpan-in. Also shinpan-shunin are active in refereeing. Shinpan-shunin will be appointed from the proposed shinpan according to the overall proposals made by member federations and according to evaluation made after Referee Seminar. Member federations are free to propose maximum of six referees and that is enough to cover also the shinpan-shunin. Also national selection is required.

An indicative vote took place in which TD proposal to maintain present system was supported by all delegations except Germany.

Referee Seminar organisation was discussed from the point of view of fighters. Germany, Finland and Switzerland indicated the need to maintain good level of fights, to reduce number of fighters, to pre-organise the matches, to keep ladies fighting against ladies and men against men. It was also proposed to organise three shiai-jo, to limit ZNKR Delegation participation to the "red group" only and to organise "black group" instruction by European experienced referees. BO will look into these proposals for next edition of the Referee Seminar.



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9. Coffee Break

10. Elections of the Board of Officers (Art. 06 EKF-Statutes)

The most senior (by age) of the Member Countries' representatives, Mr. Gianfranco Moretti from Italy, took the chair of the Assembly for the voting procedure.

Persons to take the following offices were to be elected for the next term of three years:

EKF President;
EKF Vice-President;
EKF Secretary-General;
EKF Treasurer;
EKF Technical Director;
EKF Auditor;
EKF Directors to FIK (three).

The following candidatures and related declarations had been received according to the deadlines and procedures stipulated in the Statutes:

Mr **Alain Ducarme**, Belgium, longstanding EKF President, available as a candidate for the office of EKF President;

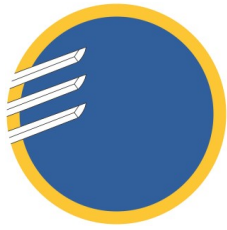
Mr **Dieter Hauck**, Austria, longstanding EKF Treasurer and thereafter Vice-President, available as a candidate for the office of EKF Vice-President;

Mr **Pekka Nurminen**, Finland, Secretary General since 2011, available as a candidate for the office of EKF Secretary-General;

Mr **Jean-Pierre Raick**, France, longstanding EKF Technical Director, available as a candidate for the office of EKF Technical Director

Mr **Zsolt Vadadi**, Hungary, Treasurer since 2011, available as a candidate for the office of EKF Treasurer;

Mr **Jean-Pierre Soulas**, France, President of CNK, available as a candidate for the office of FIK-Director;



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Mr **Gianfranco Moretti**, Italy, President of CIK, available as a candidate for the office of FIK-Director;

Mr **Detlef Viebranz**, Germany, President of DKenB, available as a candidate for the office of FIK-Director;

Mr **Olivier Perrenoud**, Switzerland, President of SKI, available as a candidate for the office of EKF Auditor and Mr Jindrich Ziegelheim, Czech Republic, available as a candidate for Reserve Auditor. Reserve Auditor is not required by Statutes, but is proposed to take into account possible legal requirements by Belgian law.

10.1. The five Members of the Board of Directors were unanimously re-elected “en bloc” by acclamation. All elected Board members accepted their election.

President Ducarme thanked general Assembly on behalf of all elected Board members for the confidence shown. President continued to chair the meeting.

10.2. All three EKF appointed FIK-Directors were elected “en bloc” by acclamation. They all accepted their election.

10.3. Auditor and Reserve Auditor were elected “en bloc” by acclamation. They accepted their election.

Germany abstained from election of Reserve Auditor since the post is not statutory function.

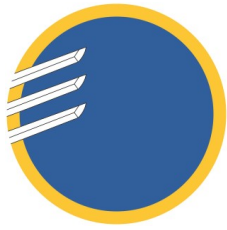
11. Affiliations

11.1. Romania

Romanian representative gave short presentation about process leading up to establishment of independent Romanian kendo Federation. The Assembly took good note of the situation.

11.2. Belorussia

There is no progress on Belorussian affiliation since GA in Novara in 2012.



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11.3. Tunisia

Tunisia's "Association Sportive de Kendo" application was presented by Secretary General. The file, including application, statutes of the Association and two letters of recommendation by Italy and France, was considered to be in order according to Article 3.3. EKF Statutes.

According to the Articles 3.2 and 3.4 of EKF Statutes the General Assembly unanimously approved Tunisian "Association Sportive de Kendo" as provisional affiliate member of the European Kendo Federation. Germany abstained from the vote.

11.4. Armenia and Lebanon

Secretary General shortly introduced the contacts which have been made by Armenia (Karate Organisation) and Lebanon (Judo Federation). These contacts have not yet developed to the level of real activities.

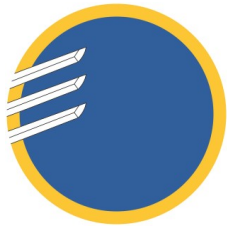
Jordan representative explained shortly the situation in Lebanon, which they know, and hoped that they will be able to join EKF.

President noted that EKF intends to facilitate and to encourage contacts with new countries.

12. EKF Relations with FIK and ZNKR

President Ducarme, also Vice-President of FIK, presented the point on the agenda:

- European membership in FIK is rising but there is still room to improve the situation. Deadline to apply FIK membership to be able to participate in WKC 2018 is in December 2016.
- Increase of number of FIK directors, a European request, is still pending because of discussions on the procedure.
- Preparation of the 16th World Kendo Championships in Tokyo 2016 are well underway.
- EKF has an agreement governing the annual number of official ZNKR delegations to Europe and possibilities to organise 6th and 7th Dan examinations. This agreement has



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worked very well, but since the number of high-grade practitioners is growing, there is a need to increase events. EKF Board will travel to Japan in May to meet ZNKR Headquarters and to initiate revision of this agreement.

13. Future Championships

13.1 Principles governing the organisation and financing of European Championships

Vice-President reported on experiences on implementation of the principles adopted in EKF GA in Berlin. System is being implemented gradually. It has shown its merits and provides more information for all interested parties: host organisation, member countries and EKF administration.

13.2 EKC

State of affairs on the Macedonian candidature for the 27th EKC in 2016

N. Baleski presented the situation of preparation for 27th EKC 2016 in Skopje, Macedonia. Government has indicated its support for organisation.

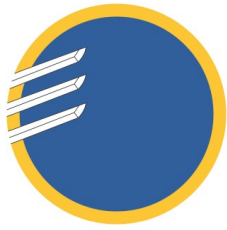
Poland, Germany and Czech Republic made questions regarding procedure, evaluation criteria and finances. PR explained that EKF BO will work closely with Macedonia during the two years to come. BO will visit the premises and make full evaluation of organisational capacity. EKC will be confirmed according to principles agreed in Berlin. Full information will be provided for General Assembly in Tokyo at the latest.

Announcement of other candidatures and future candidatures for 2017: Italy, Hungary (Budapest) and Serbia (Belgrade) announced their readiness to organise EKC after 2016.

13.3 EIC

Finland made presentation of 21st EIC 2014 in Vantaa, Finland. Information is available on website www.eic2014.fi

Germany and Hungary shortly presented their candidatures for 22nd EIC 2015 in Germany (Berlin) and 23rd 2016 EIC in Hungary (Budapest).



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Announcement of future candidatures: Italy announced readiness to organise EIC 2017.

13.4 EJC

Italy made presentation on 13th EJC in 2014 in Torino, Italy, 12th - 14th September 2014. Information is available on website <http://www.jodotorino2014.it>

Sweden presented preparations for 14th EJC in 2015 in Falkenberg, Sweden. Dates are 19-20 September 2015. Preliminary information is available on website <http://www.kendoforbundet.se/ejc-2015/>

No announcements of further candidatures for EJC in 2016 – 2017 were made.

14. Date of the next General Assembly

Next EKF General Assembly will be held at the occasion of the 16th WKC in Tokyo, Japan, on Wednesday 27th May 2015.

15. Closing by the President

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

16. Invitation to the EKF Dinner later that evening

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

The EKF Board of Officers

