

EUROPEAN KENDO FEDERATION

ヨーロッパ剣道連盟

**MINUTES OF THE  
EKF General Assembly 2015  
27<sup>th</sup> May 2015, Tokyo, Japan**

**1. Listing of the Representatives**

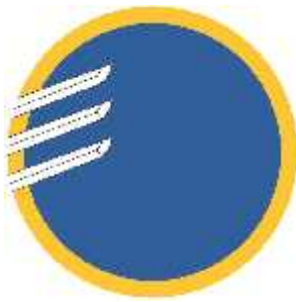
**1.1. Registration of the representatives' and observers' names and eventual absences.**

**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, A. Lopez-Mateos, Andorra (not voting)  
H. Hofer, Austria,  
D. Delepiere, S. Hendrickx, Belgium  
A. Arabadjiyski, L. Sagaev Bulgaria  
T. Jelen, Czech Republic  
M. Lukic, T. Panduric, Croatia  
J. Jensen, Denmark  
M.Kankainen, Finland  
J.-P. Soulas, D. Dupuis, France  
D. Viebranz, Germany  
T. Abe, M. Böviz, Hungary, representing also Malta by proxy  
P. Volodarsky, Israel  
G. Moretti, S. Verrina, Italy  
B. Abbadi, M. Hweidi, Jordan  
Latvia represented by Lithuania



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G. Rukas, Lithuania, representing also Latvia by proxy  
Malta, represented by Hungary  
Montenegro, represented by Serbia  
Z. Keskovski, N. Baleski, Macedonia  
K. Van Hattum, The Netherlands  
F. Naerland, M. Rygh, Norway  
Z. Misiak, Poland  
N. Serrano, P. Marques, Portugal  
S. Mahika, F. Stanciu, Romania  
V. Byk, Mr. Okada, Russia  
V. Kovicin, D. Nikolic, Serbia, representing also Montenegro by proxy  
B. Sefor, South Africa  
A. Gonzalez, Spain  
C. Strandberg, Sweden  
O. Perrenoud, Switzerland  
M. Ozyilmaz, Turkey  
F. Goodman, J. Hopson, United Kingdom

It was noted that 31 voting (+ 1 non-voting) out of 42 members were present or represented at the General Assembly.

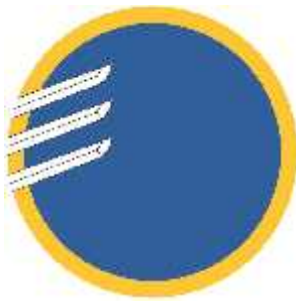
Excused or absent: Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg, Mozambique, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tunisia and Ukraine

### **1.2. Checking for the EKF membership fee payment; 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, Georgia and Ukraine were noted to have paid their membership fees until 2014.

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

EKF President Alain Ducarme opened the meeting and thanked the participants for making the effort to join the meeting in Tokyo. It was noted that not all EKF members were members of FIK, therefore not present in WKC.



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One minute of silence was observed in memory of Terry Holt and Claude Hamot, founding figures of European kendo.

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.

He reported on the second ever official visit to ZNKR of the EKF BOD and one FIK Director in May 2014. The purpose of the visit was to discuss possibilities of revision of EKF-ZNKR agreement on sharing costs of official ZNKR delegations to 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Dan Examinations in Europe, with the aim of increasing number of exams in Europe. Also, the number of European FIK Directors was discussed during the visit.

### **3. G.A. Minutes Clermont-Ferrand 2014**

Minutes of the Clermont-Ferrand G.A. 2014 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.

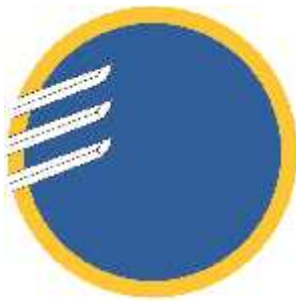
### **4. Report by the EKF Vice-President (VPR)**

#### **4.1. VPR Duties**

Between the GA 2014 in Clermont-Ferrand, France and this GA, the BO met at six Board Meetings in Brussels, Budapest and here in Tokyo. The BO Members attended and supported in various combinations the Shinpan Seminar in Brussels, the EKC in Clermont\_Ferrand, FRA, the EIC in Vantaa, FIN and the EJC in Torino, ITA.

EKF Dan examinations up to 7th Dan were held and administrated for Kendo in Brussels, Clermont-Ferrand and Novara, for Iaido in Vantaa and Modena, for Jodo in Torino.

As mentioned by the President, meeting with the ZNKR / FIK on the subject of 6/7th Dan examinations in Europe was held in Tokyo (May 2014). Also a meeting with the



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FIK Directors from Europe was organized in Hannover, Germany to discuss the positions of Europe and Japan and coordinate the European opinions.

Trips were made to EKF member countries upon invitation.

The finances of the Federation are stable with sufficient reserves to execute the job attributed to and rightly expected from a Federation. The fighters of national team level were offered free lodging and party during the shinpan seminar and the fees for shinpan were reduced.

Candidatures for future ECs were collected, discussed and prepared; the project for an EC handbook is carried on.

Lots of communications are handled with Member Countries and Japan, most by email.

### **4.2. EKF Web-site**

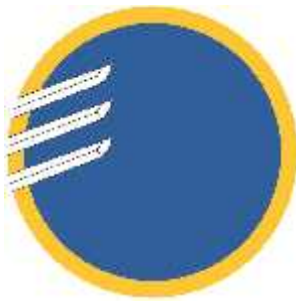
The system – which includes the very good cooperation by Member Countries - works very well, thanks to all Country ADMINS who check and update. As always, there is room for improvement. Most important is the timely registration of exams for validations, which should be according to the rules two month in advance at the least: All member countries and interested persons get the information on the exams via the website. Furthermore, the organising country can be assured that there is no problem with the composition of the jury. The validation process itself proved in most cases quick and simple.

Approximately 41.430 Grades of 13.870 active (yudansha) are registered and administrated. The tendency of exams and grades is still clearly rising. For 2014, out of 452 Exams 2124 grades were registered.

Also the absolute number of yudansha is rising. Countries should keep their records as to active members up to date.

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

Yellow Cards were produced and distributed upon receipt of result lists, which also



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were published on the EKF Website. Yellow Cards are distributed at the four EKF events (Ref-Sem, EKC, EIC and EJC) and mailed once a year if necessary.

Two little pieces of useful advice were given. One should copy the home countries of foreign candidates when reporting results by email. One should enter the person's details into the data base, even without grade, once issuing permission to take shodan exam abroad. This makes any necessary correction or amendment so much easier.

Information was distributed via a website and a Facebook site, which attracts some interest.

The EKF registration system for the Referee Seminar and the EIC / EJC now has been tested repeatedly and seems to work just fine. The big test for an EKC has yet to come. The fundamental idea is that an organising country avoids the burden to set up such system just for one event and the participants are not faced each time with a new and different system.

The online data system is an ongoing project. Further developments are planned.

### **4.3. EKF anti-doping commission**

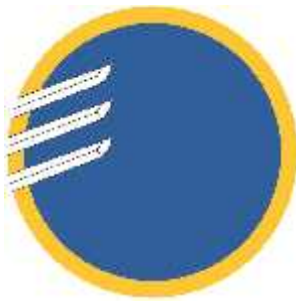
Luckily, no serious developments occurred. The Revision of the FIK AD Rules based on again a new WADA Proposal and Model Rules does not change the basic lines or principle, but makes the already complex system of rules on panels, appeals and sanction just a bit more complicated. Member federations must remain watchful, have an organisation (at least one AD correspondent) ready and inform their people on the rules. Information is published on the WADA and EKF website and disseminated via Facebook.

## **5. Report by the EKF Treasurer (TR)**

### **5.1. EKF Financial Report 2014**

The Treasurer presented the EKF Financial Report 2014. Operational reserve corresponding to one year budget has been achieved. The sound financial situation allows projects to be planned and implemented by EKF.

Portugal, Belgium and Austria were given the prizes of fastest payment of membership fees.



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Three points were made in relation to practical management of payments:

- Traceability of payments is necessary (what is paid, by/for whom). Mail to be sent to [treasurer@ekf-eu.com](mailto:treasurer@ekf-eu.com) with the details would ease the traceability of the payments.
- Banking charges are at the cost of sender. For non-euro zone payments, cash payment can be agreed.
- If there are problems with payments, early warning is needed. Scheduling arrangement can be made. Important is to not let the backlog grow.

Question from South Africa was answered.

EKF Auditor Olivier Perrenoud gave an oral report to the GA: All bills were correctly accounted, good accounting practice has been followed. Auditor recommended accepting the 2014 financial report.

The financial report for year 2014 was unanimously approved.

### **5.2. 2016 budget**

The Treasurer presented a proposal for the 2016 budget.

The EKF 2016 budget was approved unanimously.

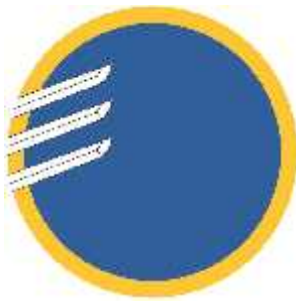
Switzerland asked payment instructions to be sent in writing to all member federations. Treasurer agreed to send them.

## **6. Report by the Secretary-General**

### **6.1. General**

The Secretary General paid attention to events managed by EKF administration and which require lots of communication with Host Organisation, member countries and ZNKR:

- Jodo: EJC
- Iaido: EIC plus one high-level iaido seminar with EKF 6 and 7 dan examinations
- Kendo: Shinpan Seminar, EKC and one high-level kendo seminar with 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> dan examinations
- EKF General Assembly



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Mailing lists have been improved, still room for improvement. It is necessary that all communication to presidents/secretaries in national federations are distributed to teams and other interested persons. Facebook-profile with over 2000 followers facilitates communication.

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.

In registrations, three types of registrations are to be made:

- Competition registration (according to respective EC rules);
- Event registration according to instructions which might be specific for each event;
- Exam registration (standard for all exams);

Exam payments in advance are important. Traceability was again highlighted. Late or non-traceable payment risks elimination from exam and/or causes additional stress to the candidate. If number of exams is increased, this becomes more important.

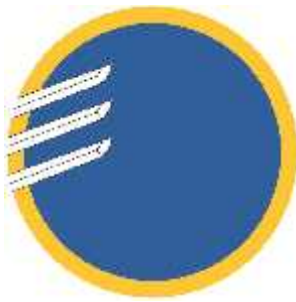
Questions from South Africa and Switzerland were answered.

### **6.2. EKF-Website**

The Secretary General commented on the EKF Web-site ([www.ekf-eu.com](http://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.

### **7. Report by the Technical Director (TD)**

Let's start this traditional report by a short comment regarding the 4 main events of the season.



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### **1. 26th EUROPEAN KENDO CHAMPIONSHIPS (EKC): CLERMONT-FERRAND, FRANCE.**

About the participation, it was after 2 years of slightly less participants, a very good event: 34 participating countries of 42 EKF official members (4 more countries than in Berlin); and more individual competitors in all categories (see annex).

Regarding the organization, we just kindly want to remind France, that several countries deeply regretted a lack of general information as well as the transport difficulties related to the different hotels location used for the event.

We should take into account this specific matter to restrict as much we can these difficulties for the next Championships.

It's worth to remember that EKF counts today 42 countries and 33 of these are members of FIK. All of them are present in Tokyo for the WKC, in which 56 countries are participating (10 from "America" zone, 13 from "Asia" zone).

### **2. 21st EUROPEAN IAIDO CHAMPIONSHIPS (EIC): VANTAA, FINLAND.**

There were less participating countries and less registered teams than in Meze, France, last year. However in all individual categories, except Mudan, there were more competitors (see Annex).

The general organization was very satisfactory and the talent of the commentator was particularly appreciated.

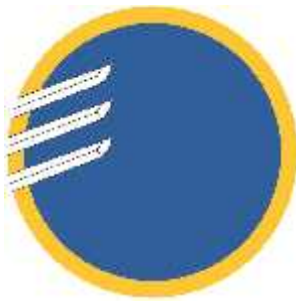
### **3. 13th EUROPEAN JODO CHAMPIONSHIPS (EJC): TORINO, ITALY.**

18 countries took part (1 more) and globally the same amount of competitors in each category (see annex).

The Italian organization gave us full satisfaction.

EKF thanks one more time these 3 countries: FRANCE, FINLAND and ITALY to have accepted this heavy task to organizing Championships.





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### **4. 24th EUROPEAN KENDO REFEREE SEMINAR (ERS): BRUSSELS, BELGIUM.**

The 24th edition welcomed 50 participants from 17 countries in the group of official referee candidates for the selection and 36 candidates in the study group seminar.

Of course, we are pleased about this successful quantity and at the same time we underline the responsibility for each country to select their best candidates and to guarantee their required level for refereeing our European Kendo Championships (EKC) or the World Kendo Championships (WKC), as the case may be.

We hope that in the group of official referee candidates there will be less level differences. This has to be based on the training within of each country.

Regarding the participation of the invited competitors, EKF is victim of the success formula. For the comfort of everyone, we will certainly review the invitations modality in the coming editions. To be continued!

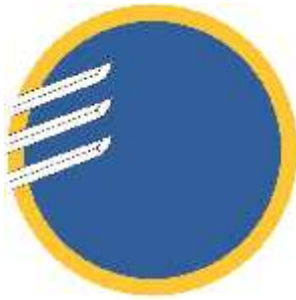
In the annex, you will find the results of Dan grading that took place in this event. We can see that not only the high Dan grades are difficult to succeed...

After several years of disappointing results in Iaido, we finally had the pleasure to see three successful candidates in rokudan and two new nanadan in the exam held in Modena, two weeks ago.

### **5. GENERAL REMARKS:**

For the Kendo Championships, we have been thinking on the real usefulness of the Tare numbers and we came to the conclusion that they are not really necessary. Therefore we are considering in the general interest to cancel them and to formally require an official Nafuda / Zekken (model will be given). The country name, the flag, the family name and if necessary initial letters of the first name shall be shown.

Another point recently reported is regarding the obligation to use “Shinken” for the Iaido examinations of 6th Dan and over. It may be difficult, even forbidden, to transport a real sword in some countries. Therefore, we decided to add in the rule regarding the obligation related above, the words “...*except in case of Force Majeure*”.



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One season is finishing and a new one is starting...

I went to the 3 candidates countries that will welcome our next Championships: MACEDONIA, GERMANY and SWEDEN and up to now, all is fine!

The conditions look full of promises regarding the Sports installations as well as the accommodations.

It's my pleasure to remind and confirm the up-coming dates for these important events:

EJC: FALKENBERG, SWEDEN; September 18th and 19th, 2015.

EIC: BERLIN, GERMANY; October 23rd to 25th, 2015.

EKC: SKOPJE, MACEDONIA; **NEW DATES:** 31 March – 3 April 2016  
2016.

ERS: BRUSSELS, BELGIUM; February 5th to 7th, 2016.

But also very soon:

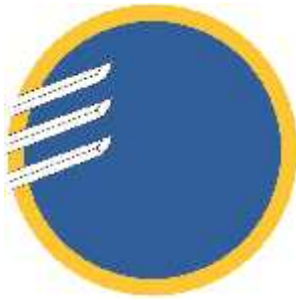
Dan examination for 6th and 7th Dan Kendo in Budapest, Hungary: July 18th, 2015.

Finally, we warmly thank the ZNKR for its continuous support through the highly qualified delegations sent as usual during this period.

Discussion:

Technical Director commented on a letter by Germany (DKenB) regarding asking permission of national federation president when another federation is planning to use foreign members in dan examination juries. TD explained that the EKF has decided not to actively implement this rule 4 of FIK Standard Guidelines. EKF monitors only the technical capacity (sufficient grade) of jury members. At EKF database, the indication of jury membership is for information purposes only and not divided by disciplines. However, even if there is no rule to ask permission, it would be good practice to inform the President of the national federation of foreign jury member well in advance.

Question from Czech Republic was answered.



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### **8. Coffee Break**

### **9. Affiliations**

#### **9.1. Madagascar**

**Madagascar's** "Federation Malgache de Kendo et Disciplines Associées FMKDA" application was presented by Secretary General. The file, including application, statutes of the Association and two letters of recommendation by France and Belgium, was considered to be in order according to Article 3.3. of the EKF Statutes.

According to the Articles 3.2 and 3.4 of EKF Statutes the General Assembly unanimously approved Madagascar's Federation Malgache de Kendo et Disciplines Associées FMKDA as provisional affiliate member of the European Kendo Federation.

Denmark made a comment on language of documentation.

#### **9.2 Report on visit to Tunisia**

Secretary General gave a report on his visit to Tunis, Tunisia, where EKF's latest affiliate member federation ASK held first shodan examination in May 2015.

#### **9.3 Other affiliation issues and contacts**

Treasurer reported on Georgia, whose status has been at least provisionally moved to affiliate member.

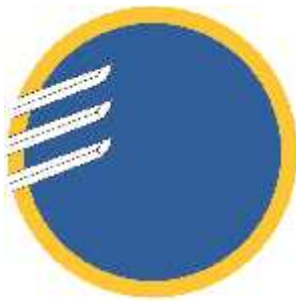
South Africa mentioned that Malawi has some established kendo activity and might consider joining the EKF as affiliate member.

Jordan gave a report on development of situation in Lebanon.

It was noted that also Moldova might submit membership application shortly.

### **10. EKF Relations with FIK and ZNKR**

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



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Relations with ZNKR and EKF Board visit in Tokyo:

- Relations with ZNKR remain constantly positive; ZNKR support according to present agreement is continuous. However, there is a degree of confusion when FIK is implied. This was demonstrated by EKF BOD visit to ZNKR in May 2014, when EKF proposed revision of EKF-ZNKR agreement. No clear answer was received, partly due to Japanese considerations relating to FIK.
- France has approached EKF BOD and European FIK Directors with very clear idea to make EKF completely independent of ZNKR in regard to number and organisation of dan examinations. EKF Board agrees that the decision is only in the hands of the EKF itself.
- EKF has extremely good experience in ZNKR support in organising European Championships. EKF Board is confident that a solution to the examination issue will be found. Financial considerations are unproblematic.

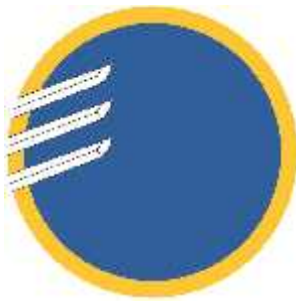
General Assembly noted the report of the President and demonstrated confidence on the chosen approach.

FIK:

- FIK assembly on the day after of EKF GA will be a formality. All issues are decided at the Director meeting. New FIK president will be elected by Directors. No candidature procedure has been announced.
- European membership in FIK is rising (now 33/42 EKF members are members of FIK) but there is still room to improve the situation. In order to participate in WKC 2018, the FIK BOD must approve the candidature at its meeting in 2017. Since there is 18 month handling time, it is recommended to send applications already in year 2015.
- Secretary General presented conditions and modalities to apply FIK membership. They will be sent to federations.

## **11. Future Championships**

### 11.1 Rules issues



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Time/grade rule (Art. 9) in European Iaido and Jodo Championships. Vice-President presented the modifications made for 2015 EJC and EIC Rules and Regulations.

France, Switzerland, UK and Finland made comments and proposals.

After discussion and indicative vote, it was decided that the time/grade rule will not apply to both godan and rokudan categories. Rule 9 would be applied as published only to mudan – yondan categories. Secretary General was instructed to inform member federations.

### 11.2 EKC

27th EKC 2016:

Macedonia presented the state of preparation of EKC and Macedonian candidature.

After recommendation by the EKF Board of Officers it was unanimously decided to hold the 27<sup>th</sup> EKC in Skopje, Republic of Macedonia. Dates were confirmed to 31 March – 3 April 2016. **(NB! These are new dates as decided by EKF BOD.)**

Announcement of future candidatures for 2017 and possibly 2019

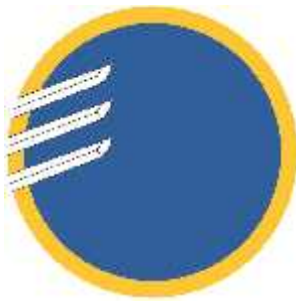
Hungary announced its candidature to organise 28<sup>th</sup> EKC 2017 in Budapest, Hungary. Announcement was welcomed by applause.

Serbia announced its candidature to organise 29<sup>th</sup> EKC 2019 in Belgrade, Serbia. Announcement was welcomed by applause.

President noted that EKC in 2019 will also be the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the EKF.

### 11.3 EIC

Germany made presentation of organisation 22nd EIC in Berlin, 23 – 25 October 2015.



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Hungary made presentation of Hungarian candidature for the 23rd EIC in 2016. Dates are 16 – 21 November 2016. Hungarian candidature was unanimously approved.

Italy announced its candidature to organise 24<sup>th</sup> EIC 2017. Announcement was welcomed by applause.

### 11.4 EJC

Sweden made presentation on 14th EJC in 2015 in Falkenberg, Sweden, 18th - 20th September 2015.

Switzerland announced its willingness to consider organisation of 15<sup>th</sup> EJC in 2016. President welcomed this positive spirit.

President encouraged members to consider hosting 16<sup>th</sup> EJC in 2017.

## **12. Date of the next General Assembly**

Next EKF General Assembly will be held at the occasion of the 27<sup>th</sup> EKC in Skopje, Macedonia, on Thursday 31 March 2016. Members were instructed to prepare for possibility to hold the meeting already in the morning, starting around 10.00.

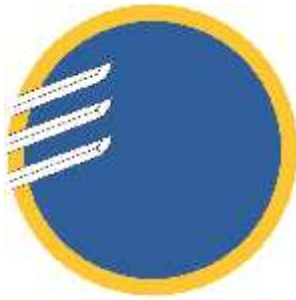
## **13. Closing by the President**

President gave floor to Buster Sefor, South Africa, who was last time present as President of South African Kendo Federation. Buster Sefor thanked all member federations for their support and friendship and congratulated the EKF for all progress made during the years.

Buster Sefor's words were greeted with warm and sustained applause by the General Assembly.

President Ducarme closed EKF General Assembly 2015 by thanking all participants.

## **14. Invitation to the EKF Dinner later that evening**



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

