

EUROPEAN KENDO FEDERATION

ヨーロッパ剣道連盟

**MINUTES OF THE
EKF General Assembly 2016
31st March 2016, Skopje, Republic of Macedonia**

1. Listing of the Representatives

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

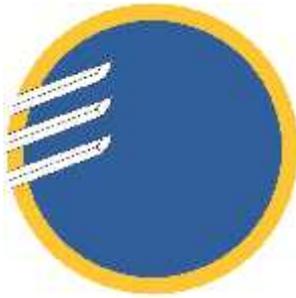
EKF Board of Officers:

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

Representatives of EKF Member Countries:

H. Hofer, S. Moser, Austria,
D. Delepiere, S. Hendrickx, Belgium
A. Arabadjiyski, L. Sagaev Bulgaria
M. Lukic, T. Panduric, Croatia
T. Kyncl, Czech Republic

D. Mwaypaya, Denmark
T. Jüristo, Estonia
M.Kankainen, Finland
J.-P. Soulas, D. Dupuis, France
D. Viebranz, Germany
Z. vadadi, H. Mihalik Hungary
P. Volodarsky, Israel
G. Moretti, M. Petri, Italy
B. Abbadi, Jordan
V. Kindzulis, Latvia



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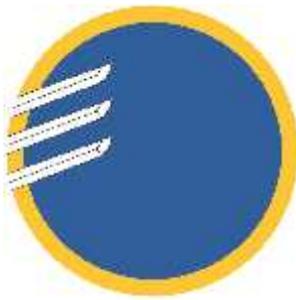
G. Rukas, Lithuania
P. Budden, K. Matsuda, Malta
M. Nikitovic, Montenegro
Z. Keskovski, N. Baleski, Macedonia
K. Van Hattum, J. De Jong, The Netherlands
D. Storli, Norway
Z. Misiak, J. Lipinski, Poland
J. Ribeiro, Portugal
S. Mahika, Romania
V. Byk, K. Minchenkov, Russia
V. Kovicin, Serbia,
A. Sorot, J. Gobec, Slovenia
W. Ho, J. Krugl, South Africa
A. Gonzalez, E. Gomez, Spain
Peter Höglund, Sweden
O. Perrenoud, K. Fleury, Switzerland
S. Beji, A. Trabelsi, Tunisia (affiliated member)
M. Ozyilmaz, Turkey
K. Stryzhenko, D. Dobrovolsky, Ukraine
C. Mansfield, John O'Sullivan, United Kingdom

V. Oncea, G. Zugravu, Moldovca, candidate country for EKF Membership

R. Jättkowski, Senior Councillor

It was noted that 34 voting (+ 1 non-voting) members out of 43 members were present or represented at the General Assembly.

Excused or absent: Andorra, Georgia (affiliated), Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg, Madagascar (affiliated), Mozambique (affiliated), Slovakia,



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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 present had paid their membership fees in due time, thus all full members had right to vote.

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

EKF President Alain Ducarme opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. He pointed out that the situation in Europe is challenging. The EKC is a possibility show friendship and commitment to common ideals.

President Ducarme thanked the members of EKF BOD for their work for the EKF and its administration. he also thanked the Macedonia Kendo Iaido Federation, its President and his team for the work to organise the EKC. He also thanked all the volunteers from various countries who had joined the effort.

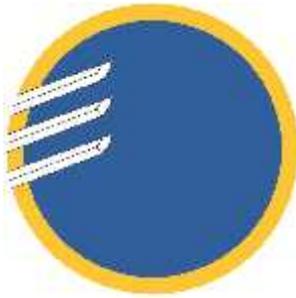
3. G.A. Minutes Tokyo 2015

Minutes of the Tokyo G.A. 2015 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.

It was noted, that German DKenB has expressed it wish to communicate following declaration which relate to the GA 2015 (ref: Minutes, paragraph 7, report of Technical Director):

“Because in DKenB not every dan holder has automatically the authority to be a jury member in dan gradings, we have the following situation:

If a jury for dan grading with examiners from Germany [is] conducted, for which there is no prior information and agreement of the President DKenB and the examiner does not have an actual permission for being a jury member in Germany, the President DKenB will operate the cancellation of the results at EKF and ZNKR. It is the risk of everyone who invites jury members, to be informed in advance that the person has the national authority to be a member in a jury.”



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

VPR gave the following comments on his term of function

The five persons of the board have quite a schedule and a workload. Between the GA 2015 in Tokyo, Japan, and this GA, the BO met at five Board Meetings in Brussels and here in Skopje, the BO Members attended and supported the Shinpan Seminar in Brussels, the EIC in Berlin, Germany, and the EJC in Falkenberg, Sweden. EKF Dan examinations up to 7th Dan were held and administrated for Kendo in Brussels, Budapest and Strasbourg, for Iaido in Berlin and Modena, for Jodo in Falkenberg. A weekend with the FIK Directors from Europe was organized in Vienna, Austria, to discuss the positions of Europe and Japan and coordinate the European opinions. Trips were made to several EKF member countries upon invitation.

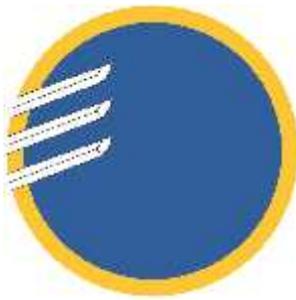
The finances of the Federation are stable with sufficient reserves to execute the job attributed to and rightly expected from a federation. For example, the fighters of national team level were again offered free lodging and party during the shinpan seminar and the fees for shinpan were reduced. Further activities are planned. Candidatures for future ECs were collected, discussed and prepared. Lots of communications are handled with Member Countries and Japan, most by email.

EKF Web-site

The system – which includes the very good cooperation by Member Countries - works very well. Thank you to all Country ADMINS who check and update. Please continue that work. However, the work of various countries is quite different in quality and speed, 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. Early registration serves various purposes: All member countries and interested persons get the information on the exam 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.

After some five years of operation it is good to recall the very fundamentals of the Dan Grades Register: It is a REGISTER, a public source of information people turn to for information and rely on it. Even the ZNKR is looking at our register. So please, handle it with utmost care and sincerity and let us know any mistake you spot.

An issue in relation to ZNKR and Menjo has arisen recently in individual cases. ZNKR – who upon an application for an exam in Japan request a Menjo from the prior



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grade – refused to accept Menjo from countries who were EKF members, but not FIK members. We try to resolve that matter with the ZNKR and advise such countries to amend their Menjo Forms with the following language:

“The XX Kendo Federation is a Member of the European Kendo Federation (“EKF”). This exam and the jury was validated with the EKF according to the EKF Grading Rules and the results hereof are registered in the EKF Dan Grading Register. According to the EKF Statutes the grade awarded herein shall be recognized by all EKF Member Countries.”

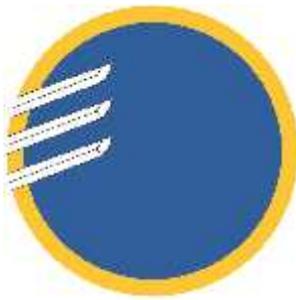
At the moment approx. 43.747 Grades of 14.645 active (Yudansha) are registered and administrated. The tendency of exams and grades is still clearly rising. For 2014, out of 457 Exams 2064 grades were registered. Also the absolute number of Yudansha is rising; we hope the Countries keep their records as to active members up to date. But be carefully and look at your own statistics, to see if the development and basics are sound.

Yellow Cards were produced and distributed upon receipt of result lists and only upon such receipt, which also were published on the EKF Website. As such reports are published, you may want to apply a minimum of care to their layout, as this reflects on your Federation! Yellow Cards are distributed at the four EKF events (Ref-Sem, EKC, EIC and EJC) and mailed only if necessary.

Two little useful tricks: a) copy the home countries of foreign candidates when reporting results by email and b) when issuing permissions to grade abroad, please enter the person’s details into the data base, even without grade. This makes any necessary correction or amendment so much easier.

The EKF registration system for the Referee Seminar and the EKC / EIC / EJC now has been tested repeatedly and seems to work just fine. The big test for an EKC has come and we think we passed it. 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.

You will also meet this year for the first time the EKF / EKC Championship system, so look at the screens and printouts. This system – except the screens – fits into a 30 kg box and was brought here from Austria, where it was developed with the help of Harald Hofer and Stefan Moser. The idea here again is that the system shall be reused upon future events and further improved and possibly also shall be available to national events.



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4.1. EKF anti-doping commission

Luckily, no serious developments occurred. WADA lists were routinely changed, check them out on the respective websites. In any case, try to stay out of AD-Trouble, remain watchful, have an organisation (at least one AD correspondent) ready, inform your people on the rules and lists and hope the best. Information is published on the EKF website and on Facebook, as the case may be. See also the extensive website by WADA.

5. Report by the EKF Treasurer (TR)

5.1. EKF Financial Report 2015

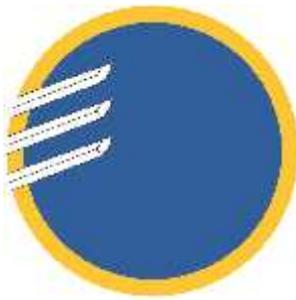
The Treasurer presented the EKF Financial Report 2015. Operational reserve corresponding to one-year budget has been achieved. The sound financial situation allows projects to be planned and implemented by EKF. Therefore, some differences to the budgeted figures can be observed:

- Participation at the WKC and organisation of EKF GA and EKF Dinner in Tokyo was much more expensive than budgeted.
- There is now an established practice to organise meetings between EKF BO and European FIK Director to consolidate European approach at the level of FIK. Organisation of these meetings has been taken over by the EKF.
- The "SilverSake" Championship IT system has been developed and tested in various occasions.

Belgium, Portugal and Czech Republic were given the prizes of fastest payment of membership fees. The Treasurer indicated that if there are problems with membership fees, there is a possibility for getting a short term support by the EKF, but that requires active communication and agreement between the EKF and the federation concerned. It is not good to let the backlog grow.

EKF Auditor Olivier Perrenoud gave a report to the GA: All bills were correctly accounted; good accounting practice has been followed. Improvements have been made to allow better follow-up of the financial situation. Some suggestions have been made to improve management of EKF assets. The Auditor recommended accepting the 2015 financial report.

The General Assembly approved EKF Financial Report 2015 unanimously.



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5.2. Situation in Andorra

The Treasurer explained the situation concerning Andorra. They have an over 4 year backlog in their EKF and FIK payments. FIK payments are from now on withheld. Despite of several attempts, no agreement on orderly payment has been found.

The Vice-President explained the procedure laid down in article 10 of the EKF Statutes. A federation which is in material breach with the EKF statutes can be expelled or suspended from EKF membership. The procedure can be completed only at the next EKF General Assembly. The VPR asked if the General Assembly agrees to start the procedure.

The General Assembly gave its agreement unanimously.

5.3. 2017 Budget

The Treasurer presented a proposal for the 2017 budget.

Questions and comments from Germany, the UK and Finland were answered.

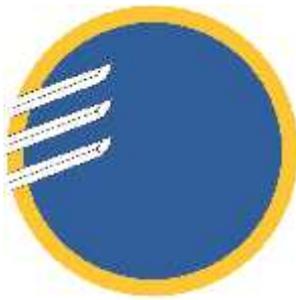
The EKF 2017 budget was approved unanimously.

6. Report by the Secretary-General

6.1. General

The Secretary General paid attention to annual 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 6th and 7th dan examinations
- EKF General Assembly



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The SG thanked all federations for improved respect of deadlines. The new registration system established on the EKF website is working well and facilitates event organisation greatly. Also respect of payment deadlines is improving.

Biggest organisational challenge is the annual Kendo Referee Seminar in Brussels, which is organised by the EKF Board almost completely. Here, problems were linked to last-minute cancellations and changes in participation. A more explicit and clearer cancellation policy will be established for year 2017 in order to avoid huge extra workload and to allow equal treatment of all member countries and kendoka participating in the event.

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. A Facebook-profile with over 2000 followers facilitates communication.

The SG noted that most communication is between EKF and ZNKR or EKF Member Countries. However, a substantial number of mails is also received from individual practitioners. Even if EKF BO wants to maintain good service towards all, individual members are primarily supposed to deal with their national federations in issues relating to participation in championships, seminars and gradings.

6.2. EKF-Website

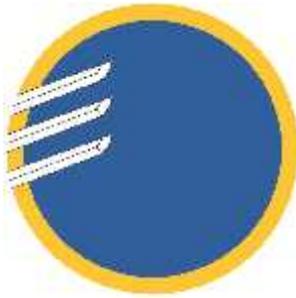
The Secretary General commented on the EKF Web-site (www.ekf-eu.com) and online-data system by saying that the system is also used for communication purposes, as well as e-mails and EKF Facebook profile. All member countries were asked to consult website's "news section" frequently.

7. Report by the Technical Director (TD)

Technical Director gave the following report:

Dear Friends

It is obvious that the main event last year has been the World Kendo Championships held in Tokyo in May, these had the largest attendance observed since the first world championships in 1970.



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This large attendance somewhat surprised. The steering committee and the organization were only seemingly discovering this large participation close to the opening day. In turn, they proposed some changes for the competition settings to lighten the schedule, namely to suppress the pools in the team competitions. This proposal was subject to ballot which fortunately rejected the proposal.

This notwithstanding, the general trend already observed in several previous championship editions came up here clearly: a single team per pool earns its place for the general tournament, and apparently no one objected to this.

Everyone is aware of the practical problems stemming from the mass development of our disciplines. One should be delighted with this but one also ought to draw the conclusions from that while avoiding alterations of the rules that try to compensate the different levels between countries when feasible.

A logical evolution would be to increase the number of shiaiyo with the obvious consequences of the need for more referees (and higher fees), to find larger facilities housing the event, etc. Is that not the price of success for the desired growth?

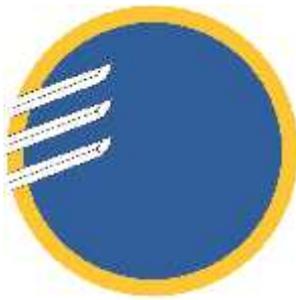
Let us hope that the FIK takes this problem seriously, so that we can successfully prepare for the next world championships (Korea, 2018).

European Iaido Championships, European Jodo Championships

Back in Europe, it is again my pleasure to underline (as was the case for the preceding editions) the excellent organization of the European Iaido Championships held in Berlin and that of Jodo held in Falkenberg; some details on these events are available in the Appendix.

For more than ten years now, the goal of EKF to raise these championships to a standard similar to that of Kendo has been reached thanks to the responsible people from the organizing countries. We thank them a lot for that.

The only concern we have to cope with is that of the pool of referees, the latter is just large enough for covering both championships and I urge the countries concerned to solve the problem by relying upon a policy of raising awareness and formation.



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European referee seminar, Brussels February 2016.

Let us continue in the domain of refereeing with our annual seminar in Brussels (refereeing for Kendo), the attendance of which is very satisfying (see Appendix).

In regard to this topic and following the advice of the supervisory staff (experts from FIK-ZNKR), it would be welcome that the Level of the so-called "red" group (that of applications for a European and World selection) is more homogeneous. This comes through the necessary reinforcement (as for Iaido and Jodo) of the training and practice improvement within each country. We strongly recommend to each country the introduction of a short period devoted to theory and practice of refereeing in each seminar and other sporting events.

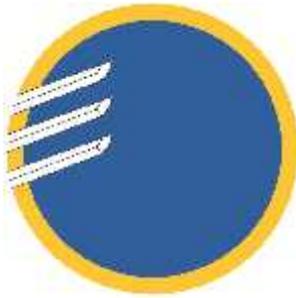
This point is in close relationship with the fate of the European Championships. As is the case worldwide, we are faced with an increasing attendance that would need for three full days for each category (6) in progress.

After the Championship of this year will be over, we will see whether a new distribution of categories allowed us to lighten the run of the championships. However, we have to think about the future organization right now. A few tracks are possible:

- Add a day to the event (= 4 days of competition)
- Increase the number of shiai
- Split the event in two with individual competitions at a given date and team tournaments at another date.

Of course, everyone can hear that some practical questions still remain. I think it is too early to start a discussion on this topic, but you are invited to think about it. I will complete this short report by reminding you of the schedule and dates of the major future events:

- September 24-25, 2016, Magglingen, European Jodo Championship
- November 19-20, 2016, Budapest, European Iaido Championship
- February 2017, first weekend, Brussels, European Referee Seminar.



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Thanks a lot for your attention, I am at your disposal for any question you may ask.

Appendix 1

European Iaido Championships - Berlin

Attendance to the seminar: 220

Attendance to the competition: 162

Number of countries: 22

POL, AUS, SUI, FRA, FIN, ISR, ESP, GBR, HUN, SVK, SWE, SER, GER, BEL, TUR, JOR, ITA, CZE, NLD, ROM.

Number of teams: 20

MU=30, SH0=21, NI=31, SAN=27, YON=27, 00=18, ROKU=8.

ZNKR delegation: Yamazaki Takashige, Kusama Junichi, Azuma Yoshinobu

Appendix 2

European Jodo Championships- Falkenberg

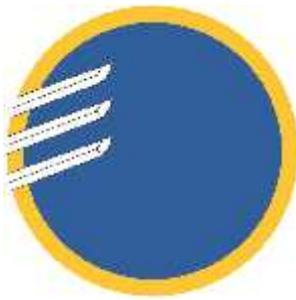
Attendance to the seminar: 134

Countries:

SWE, FRA, SUI, POL, FIN , ITA, GBR, BEL, JOR, NLD, GER, SVK, TUR, NOR.

MU=14, SH0=20, NI=16, SAN=22, YON=14, GO=11.

ZNKR delegation: Kurogo Genji, Tsuriga Toshiro, Yasumaru Susumi.



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Appendix 3

European referee seminar - Brussels

Attendance "red" group: 46 official applicants.

Countries: BEL, BUL, FRA, FIN, CZE, POL, ROM, POR, ESP, GBR, NLD, ITA, HUN, SWE, SUI, GER.

Attendance "black" group: 49 trainees.

Countries 20, same as for the "red" group plus RUS, NOR, GRE, DEN, AUT, LIT, CZE, ISR, UKR, IRL.

ZNKR/FIK delegation: Sato Yukio, Iwatate Saburo, Mizuta Shigenori, Yamazaki Masuru.

Fighters: 26.

8. Coffee Break

9. Affiliations

9.1. Moldova

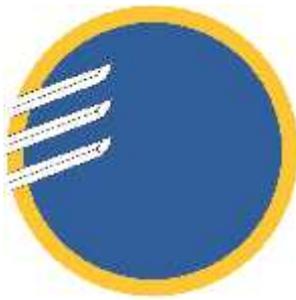
Moldova's "Kendo Federation of the Republic of Moldova (KFRM)" application was presented by Secretary General. The file, including application, statutes of the Association and two letters of recommendation by Ukraine and Malta, was considered to be in order according to Article 3.3. of the EKF Statutes.

Mr. G Zugravu made a presentation on the KFRM history, status and activities. He also answered questions by EKF Technical Director, the United Kingdom and Finland.

According to the Articles 3.2 and 3.4 of EKF Statutes the General Assembly unanimously approved Kendo Federation of the Republic of Moldova (KFRM) as provisional affiliate member of the European Kendo Federation.

9.2 Other affiliation issues and contacts

It was noted that exchange of letters with Lebanon Judo Federation has taken place.



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10. EKF Relations with FIK and ZNKR

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

Relations with the ZNKR:

Discussion with the ZNKR on the issue of increasing number of 6th and 7th Dan examinations in Europe are progressing slowly but surely and a first opening might happen for a fourth kendo exam already in 2016. This might necessitate a system which controls the number of tries of individual candidates during one year to three, i.e. there would be several events, but one person can take part only in three exams per year.

Another topic has been the permission to allow non-official Japanese delegations to participate in grading juries abroad. There seems to be a tendency to systematically refuse this authorization by the ZNKR.

Third problematic issue is the exams by EKF member countries who are not members of FIK. Japan seems to be reluctant to recognise these exams unless the Menjo make an explicit reference to authorization of EKF, which is of course the case when EKF is validating the exams.

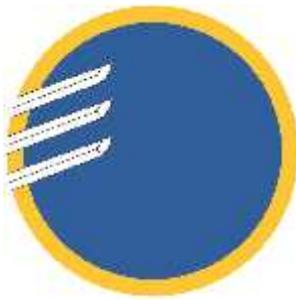
In all issues the EKF BO will continue to discuss matters with the ZNKR in order to achieve positive solutions.

European membership in FIK:

President pointed out the need to submit membership application soon (in the autumn of 2016 at the latest) if EKF member countries who are not yet FIK members want to join and participate the 2018 WKC.

Development on SportAccord:

The future of the SportAccord is not very clear or promising. There might even be a dissolution and merger with IOC. Next World Combat Games are not decided.



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Next WKC 2018 in Korea:

The preparations for the next WKC seem to be going on the old model of the event, even if the difficulties to organise such an event in three days are clear and well-known. There is not much hope for reorganisation in 2018.

EKF has expressed its support for Hungary for hosting the 18th WKC 2021 in Hungary.

In discussion Detlef Viebranz, FIK Director from Germany, appealed EKF members to apply FIK for membership if conditions are met.

Questions by Estonia, and the UK were answered by the President and the Treasurer.

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

11. Future Championships

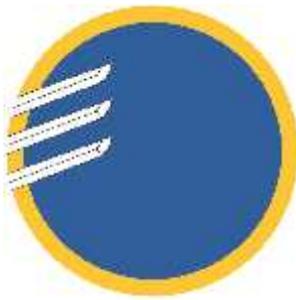
11.1 Rules issues

The EKF BO presented the situation on European Championship rules governing exemption from nationality requirement (Kendo, Iaido and Jodo). There is a need to standardise requirements and streamline procedure without altering the actual principle of nationality, with possibility for an exemption granted by the EKF President.

The "streamlined" handling of requests would cover cases where there is already established practice and where the application would concern European competitors who fill the following conditions:

- Relatively long time of residence in country of residence, to be decided (at least 3 – 5 years).
- Transfer of EKF administration to country of residence has taken place.
- Agreement needed by country of origin if the person in question previously was a member in the national team of the country of origin.

Streamlined handling of request would not apply to competitors who are nationals of non-EKF Countries.



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EKF BO also proposed a separation of the exemption procedure from national team selection and EC final entry. This would necessitate earlier deadline for all applications, and EKF Board decides for each EC in one go with unified criteria.

In the discussion the following delegation took floor: Switzerland, Finland, Hungary, Macedonia, Germany and the UK. The streamlined approach, with clear criteria to approve most common and clear cases was endorsed. In the event of person who has previously participated in the national team of the country of origin, there should absolutely be the agreement of the country of origin and perhaps a "cooling period".

The EKF BO was given mandate to develop the criteria and procedure along the lines discussed at the General Assembly.

11.2 EKC

- **28th EKC 2017:**
 - The candidature of Budapest, Hungary, was presented by HKF. Suitable date is still to be negotiated with the ZNKR.
 - The candidature was approved by acclamation.

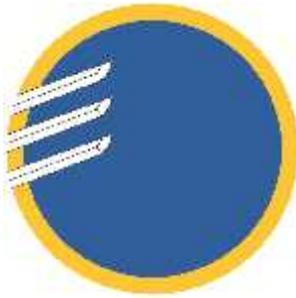
- **29th EKC 2019 and 50th Anniversary of EKF**
 - Candidature of Belgrade, Serbia, was presented by the SKF.
 - In discussion a question by the UK was answered.
 - The candidature was approved by acclamation.

- **Announcement of future candidatures for 2020 and possibly 2022**

Interest to organise European Kendo Championships was expressed by Italy (2020) and Ukraine.

11.3 EIC

Hungary made presentation of organisation 23rd EIC in Budapest, on 19 – 20 October 2016, preceded by two-day seminar. Pre-entry deadline would be fixed on 5th September 2016 and final entry on 1st October 2016.



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Italy made presentation of their candidature for the 24thrd EIC in Torino in 2017. Dates are still to be confirmed. Venue would be the same as for the EJC in 2104.

No candidatures were expressed for 2018. Macedonia announced its consideration to organise the EIC in 2019.

11.4 EJC

Switzerland made presentation on 15th EJC in 2016 in Magglingen, Switzerland, on 24th - 25th September 2016.

Germany made presentation on its candidature to host the 16th EJC in Heidelberg, Germany, on 9th-10th September 2017. The candidature was approved by acclamation.

Hungary presented its intention to host the 17th EJC 2018 in Budapest.

12. Date of the next General Assembly

Next EKF General Assembly will be held at the occasion of the 28th EKC in Budapest, Hungary, on Thursday preceding the EKC. The exact date will be confirmed.

13. Closing by the President

President Ducarme closed EKF General Assembly 2016 by thanking all participants.

14. Invitation to the EKF Dinner later that evening

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

