

EUROPEAN KENDO FEDERATION

ヨーロッパ剣道連盟

## MINUTES OF THE

### EKF General Assembly 2018

Wednesday, 12th September 2018

Sheraton Grand Hotel Incheon, Incheon, Republic of Korea

#### **1. Listing of the Representatives**

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

###### **EKF Board of Officers (not voting):**

Dieter Hauck, President

Zsolt Vadadi, Vice-President

Donatella Castelli, Treasurer

Pekka Nurminen, Secretary General

###### **Representatives of EKF Member Countries:**

H. Hofer, Austria, representing also Hungary

S. Hendrickx, Belgium, representing also Jordan

L. Sagaev, Bulgaria, representing also Romania

M. Lukic, C. Filippi, Croatia

M.Kankainen, Finland

E. Malassis, France, representing also Luxembourg and Malta

S. Drossoulakis, Greece

K. Cassidy, Dirk Bakker, Ireland

G. Moretti, Italy, representing also Germany

V. Kindzulis, Latvia

K. Van Hattum, J. De Jong, The Netherlands



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J. Nörvåg, M. Nörvåg, Norway  
Z. Misiak, Poland  
N. Serrano, P. Marques, Portugal  
A. Magnushevsky, Alexandr Chavgun, Russia  
V. Kovicin, D. Nikolic, Serbia, representing also FY Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro  
P. Kosir, P. Nedjelko, Slovenia  
M. Grice, South Africa  
A. Gonzalez, D. Castro, Spain  
Jimmy Thorsell, Sweden  
S. Buob, Switzerland  
C. Engin, M. Hosgöz, Turkey  
C. Mansfield, G. O'Donnell, United Kingdom  
  
M. Miyasaka, FIK

It was noted that 31 voting members out of 43 members were present or represented at the General Assembly.

Excused or absent: Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Georgia (affiliated), Israel, Lithuania, Madagascar (affiliated), Mozambique (affiliated), Moldova, Slovakia, Tunisia (affiliated), 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 had paid their membership fees in due time.

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

For the first time in his capacity as EKF President, Dieter Hauck opened the meeting and welcomed all participants.

He paid homage to Jean-Pierre Raick, who passed away on 11 October 2017:

“He shall be remembered as a great man, teacher, good friend and internationally acknowledged supporter of Kendo, Iaido and Jodo all over Europe and beyond. He



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achieved nanadan kyoshi in Kendo and Iaido. Since 1989 he served with great dedication as the Technical Director of the European Kendo Federation and provided us with invaluable knowledge and advice. He was our friend.”

He also paid homage to Rob Van Acht, who passed away on 11 January 2018:

“He played an important part in taking the EKF into the electronic age as the first webmaster – in difficult circumstances - and was a man of many interests and talents. We will miss his humour and the talks over one or more beers.”

A minute of silence was observed to honour Jean-Pierre Raick and Rob Van Acht.

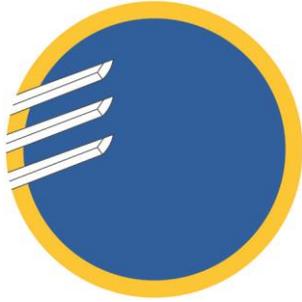
PR recalled the recent developments of the EKF website. The system is working well, making an effective job possible. Exam results, also national exams, can be registered in real time.

EKF shall also adopt the Japanese practice of making examination juries not visible for all except the country organizing the exam on the website.

EKF is in process of collecting all results of previous European Championships, problems with results of early EIC and EJC (pre-2000) shall be overcome by information eventually available with Member Federations.

Concerning statistics, referring to Kendo Population Survey conducted by the FIK, there are differences in the way the national federations, including ZNKR, and EKF make the count. EKF counts heads, not licences. Headcount, affecting also membership fees, is done reflecting the state on 31.12. of the previous year. Discussions or corrections need to be done before that date. A respective table was sent to all Member Federations.

Next year is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of EKF. EKF Board has launched an EKF History Book project. Italian Kendo practitioner Franco Sarra, who has already published books on Kendo history in Italian, is writing the book, based on Jean-Pierre Raick's work and documentation. Contribution from Member Federations will be asked.



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### **3. G.A. Minutes from Budapest 2017**

Minutes of the Budapest G.A. 2017 were sent to the Member Federations 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)**

VPR gave the following comments on his term of function, in particular on Anti-Doping work:

All federations are expected to appoint an Anti-Doping Officer (ADO). The name and email should be indicated on EKF website.

As requested by GA in Budapest 2017, a questionnaire on Member Federations' AD work is being prepared and circulated during this year.

All federations must familiarise and follow local/national AD legislation.

At the next EKC 2019 in Serbia, doping tests will be carried out according to respective Serbian law.

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

EKF Treasurer Donatella Castelli reported on the state of play of the handover from previous TR to herself. She asked VPR to present the Financial Report 2017.

#### **5.1. EKF Financial Report 2017**

VPR presented the EKF Financial Report 2017 as sent out to member federations before the GA in detail. Operational reserve corresponding to one-year budget has been achieved already during the previous years. The sound financial situation allows projects to be planned and implemented by EKF.

Spain, Belgium and Ireland were given the prizes of fastest payment of membership fees.



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For payments, VPR reminded the members that the banking charges need to be covered by the payer. Further, PayPal payment is available for countries outside the EU-RO-Zone.

EKF Auditor Jindrich Ziegelheim's report to the GA was read out loud: Access to all material, minutes and invoices was impeccable and the material is well organised. All bills were correctly accounted; good accounting practice has been followed. The Auditor recommended accepting the 2017 financial report.

The General Assembly approved EKF Financial Report 2017 unanimously.

## **5.2. 2018 Budget**

The VPR presented a proposal for the 2019 budget, which is based on the continuity of activities.

The sound financial situation allows certain new projects to be funded, like member federation organised, open seminars for certain target groups, notably ladies, referees, life-long training and juniors. The Board has established certain principles for patronage of these events: target groups relevant for all, events accessible and open to all European practitioners, financing limited to teacher costs, events to be marketed openly also via EKF channels, EKF visibility.

Questions and comments from UK, France and Finland were answered.

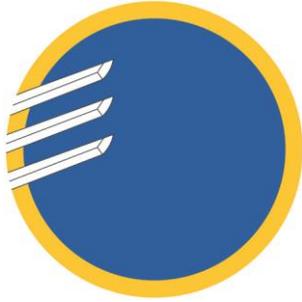
The EKF 2019 budget was approved unanimously.

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

The Secretary General mentioned annual events managed by EKF administration and which require lots of communication with Host Organisation, Member Federations and ZNKR:

- **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 or two high-level Kendo seminars with 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> dan examinations
- EKF General Assembly

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, the respect of payment deadlines is good.

Biggest organisational challenge is the annual Kendo Referee Seminar in Brussels, which is organised by the EKF Board with the help of Belgian ABKF. In the 2018 edition, a new element, the 10 Japanese fighters, added to the organisational charge, but was highly successful. Discussions with FIK/ZNKR are pursued to continue the practice. In 2019, accommodation arrangements will be outsourced to ADEPS. Members are free to choose accommodation outside, too.

Proposals for High Level Kendo and Iaido Seminars with possibility to invite an official ZNKR Delegation for 6th and 7th dan examinations were welcomed. The location of seminars will be decided upon availability of organising country, based on equal rotation and the demand for exam in the region. All candidates are invited to consult the ZNKR agenda in order to avoid overlapping high-level events in Japan.

Mailing lists have developed so that they are based on information and e-mail addresses provided by Member Federations at EKF website/database. It is important that these addresses are kept up-to-date. It is necessary that all communication to presidents/secretaries in national federations are distributed to teams and other interested persons.

EKF Facebook-profile with over 3000 followers facilitates communication to wider audience.

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

PR gave the TD report as follows:

**European Kendo Championships 2017 (Budapest, Hungary)**, was a big and successful event: 14 junior, 22 female and 35 male teams, 424 Fighters, 550 People, 100 candidates at the exam, producing two new rokudan.



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The EKF Championship system (with big displays) was successfully implemented a second time. It proved to save time and efforts of teams and organisers. Big thanks to Harald Hofer from Austria for putting it all together.

One medical incident to note. The incident could not have been prevented by EKF or organisation. A discussion of its handling afterwards has been conducted and addressed. Championship Rules will be amended to draw attention to injury and accident, shinpan will be instructed prior to next EKC.

On negative note, there were few damages during/after the Sayonara party. Responsibility of delegations will be highlighted.

### **European Jodo Championships 2017 (Heidelberg, Germany):**

15 Teams, 133 Fighters, 241 People, 67 candidates at exam: six new rokudan, five nanadan! Great event and excellent organisation.

### **European Iaido Championships 2017 (Torino, Italy):**

21 Teams, 193 Fighters, 245 People, 126 candidates at exam: five new rokudan, two nanadan. Also, a very successful and well organised event.

### **The 27th European Referee Seminar February 2018 (Brussels, Belgium):**

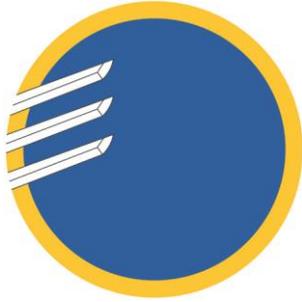
89 Referees (45 RED, 44 Black); 50 Fighters. 10 Japanese Fighters in preparation of WKC was a new, very much appreciated feature. 94 candidates at exam, five new rokudan, three nanadan!

### **Other major events with EKF 6th and 7th Dan Exams:**

Iaido Exams in Bruges June 2018 – 49 6/7 candidates, three new rokudan.

Kendo Exam in Budapest July 2018 - 19 6/7 candidates, three new rokudan.

Kendo Exam in Paris on 2<sup>nd</sup> December is confirmed by CNKDR, but the ZNKR delegation is still to be announced.



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Attention was drawn to general issues concerning 6/7 Dan exams, two in Kendo and one in Iaido, besides ECs and REFSEM:

These are moving events, they go around Europe. Countries wishing to organise them need to contact EKF at least one year in advance. Host Country confirms the Seminar, EKF asks Delegation from ZNKR. Costs of ZNKR sensei are shared: EKF covers flights, Host Country all costs on the ground (transfers, accommodation, meals). Proposals for 2019 were discussed.

Attention was drawn to the fact that the structure of EKC needs constant evaluation. For the moment we are OK, changes introduced in 2016 and 2017, with the new Championship System help a lot. But if the event grows, changes will come: Limit number of Competitors further? Split Championships? Add days? Require more Shiai-jo – more Shinpan? Eliminate pools? All open for future discussion.

The next FIK/EKF Kendo Referee Seminar will be held on the first weekend of February 2019 (1-3 February, 2019 in Brussels). Planned changes are: Red Group will work in Shinpan attire (Jacket!). Lectures will be better organised. Hopefully Japanese fighters are confirmed again.

### **8. Question of Iaido examination rules (EKF Grading Rules)**

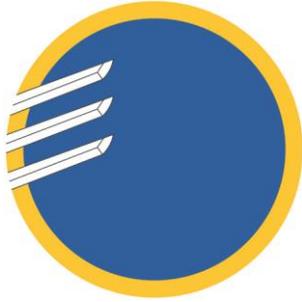
PR presented the proposal to be adopted at FIK General Assembly next day. Important changes relate to examination rules of Iaido in Japan, i.e. in 6th and 7th dan examination, notably adding one ZNKR kata, preference for no koryu (two koryu out of six remains optional), adding time limit of 6 or 7 minutes.

Entry into force is open, EKF tries to prevent immediate application for EIC 2018. Also question who decides the kata (koryu or not) shall be clarified.

The question concerns Rule 6.1. of the EKF Grading Rules (kata, time), and its possible alignment to the new Japanese rules/practice.

Question of Great Britain was answered by SG.

It was decided to organise an informal information session during the next EIC to raise awareness and launch discussions among the EKF Iaido community before decisions at next EKF GA.



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## **9. Coffee Break**

## **10. Election of the Technical Director**

Long-standing EKF Technical Director Jean-Pierre Raick passed away on 11 October 2017. Since no EKF General Assembly has taken place after the sad event, it is the duty of the EKF GA 2018 to elect a new Technical Director for the remaining mandate of the Technical Director. The elected TD will remain in the office until next statutory elections of the EKF Board of Officers in 2020.

By his letter dated on 20 June 2018, Mr. Eric Malassis, President of the French Comité National de Kendo et Disciplines Rattachées, supported the election of Mr. Jean-Pierre Labru, Kendo 7th Dan kyoshi, Iaido 2nd Dan, as new Technical Director.

Eric Malassis presented Jean-Pierre Labru, who was unable to attend the GA due to his participation in the WKC referee seminar.

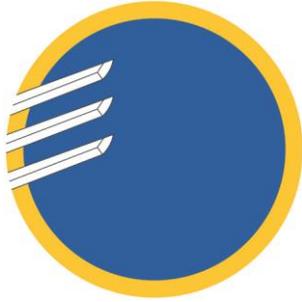
In discussion, the Netherlands raised question on having different TDs for Kendo, Iaido and Jodo. PR replied to the question noting the EKF Statutes and the history of the position, the nature of work of the Board and the nature of the role of TD, notably being a management position. Technical expertise has already been obtained through high level Kendoka, Iaidoka and Jodoka.

Jean-Pierre Labru was unanimously elected as EKF Technical Director for the remaining mandate of the Board elected in 2017, i.e. until next statutory elections of EKF Board of Officers in 2020 General Assembly.

## **11. Affiliations**

SG presented the situation of affiliations. No complete files are to be discussed or decided at this GA. However, Morocco is close to submit an application to the next GA.

Other contacts are made by Nigeria, Ghana, Armenia and Azerbaijan, also vague contacts are made from Cameroon and Malawi. Potential is also in Egypt and Algeria.



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SG outlined the opportunities and challenges of continuous enlargement of EKF membership outside the geographic zone of Europe as laid down in EKF statutes. Only Armenia and Azerbaijan are inside the area. FIK Statutes divide the Kendo world in three Zones, Asian, European and American Zones. Africa is in European Zone, Middle East not so clearly defined. According to FIK statutes, membership in EKF is a prerequisite to FIK membership, if the country is in the European Zone.

European approach to Kendo is to promote international Kendo in close alignment to Japanese tradition. Europe and Japan share the concept of “correct” Kendo/laido/Jodo as budo and a way to self-improvement. In this respect the European involvement in development of Kendo also in the near neighbourhood of Europe would be welcome.

However, there is a question of resources of EKF and its member federations. Also, it is a fact, that the concept of an “amateur sports federation” which is common to EKF federation is not always shared outside Europe, and we have also some indications of that inside EKF. Organisations are interested in obtaining a status of internationally recognised sports federation for political prestige or financial benefits, not always related to promotion of Kendo, laido and Jodo.

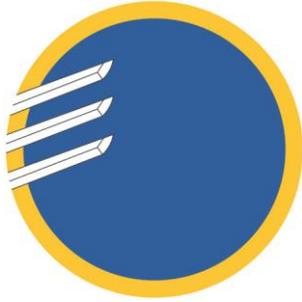
Therefore, the EKF Board suggests a rather careful approach, by keeping contacts but not encouraging speedy memberships. The definition of “European Zone” and its potential changes need to be discussed with FIK and Japan.

In discussion, Great Britain supported the presented approach, which was considered as approved by the GA.

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

President Hauck presented the agenda.

FIK General Assembly takes place next day. New EKF Treasurer Donatella Castelli will become FIK Auditor. European Council nations in FIK remain according to EKF GA 2017 decision France, Germany and Italy. There will be three EKF member countries as new FIK members: Malta, Tunisia and FYRO Macedonia. Jordan is expected to pursue FIK membership in 2021.



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### **Development on SportAccord:**

The future of the SportAccord is not very clear. The name of the Organisation is changed again to GAISF. Next World Combat Games are still not decided.

### **Next WKC in 2021:**

The FIK General Assembly will decide on the Host Country of next WKC in 2021. European candidate is France. Eric Malassis presented the French bid. PR pleaded strongly that all EKF members present at the FIK GA support France.

## **13. Future Championships**

### **13.1 Rules issues**

It was noted that a new 2017 Version of FIK Rule-Book is published.

Awareness needs to be raised on FIK Anti-Doping rules. Test will be conducted at next EKC.

Additional attention will be given to prevention of injury caused in shiai in the next EKC Rules.

### **13.2 Future EKC**

Serbia made presentation on the 29<sup>th</sup> EKC 2019 (50th Anniversary of EKF) preparations.

Norway presented its bid to organise the 30<sup>th</sup> EKC in Kristiansand, Norway. The proposal was approved unanimously.

Future candidatures to organise EKC were presented as follows: Italy 2022, Portugal 2023, Netherlands 2025, Montenegro 2026. Decision will be made in subsequent General Assemblies.



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### **13.3 EIC**

The upcoming 25<sup>th</sup> EIC in Zawiercie, Poland, was noted.

It was noted that no candidature is tabled for EIC 2019.

Serbia expressed interest to host EIC in 2020.

### **13.4 EJC**

The upcoming 17<sup>th</sup> EJC in Budapest, Hungary, was noted.

The 18<sup>th</sup> EJC 2019 will be organised in Zawiercie, Poland.

Great Britain presented its bid to organise 19<sup>th</sup> EJC 2020 in Stevenage, UK. The proposal was unanimously approved.

## **15. Any other business**

Great Britain proposed to EKF to consider organising an annual referee seminar in Iaido and Jodo. It could be conducted as a separate event in the context of EIC and EJC.

SG noted the need to consult the ZNKR, who is sending the instructors.

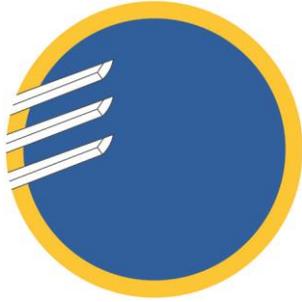
Greece supported the idea in principle but noted that this seminar would have no role in referee selection.

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

Next EKF General Assembly will be held at the occasion of the 29<sup>th</sup> EKC, in Belgrade, Serbia, on Thursday preceding the EKC, i.e. on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019 in the afternoon.

## **15. Closing by the President**

President Hauck closed EKF General Assembly by thanking all participants.



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**16. Invitation to the EKF Dinner later that evening**

Participants of the GA who registered in advance were invited to the EKF Dinner later in the evening.

