



**MINUTES OF THE
EKF General Assembly 2019**

Thursday, 23rd May 2019

Hotel Tulip Inn Putnik Belgrade, Serbia

1. Listing of the Representatives

EKF Board of Officers (not voting):

Dieter Hauck, President
Zsolt Vadadi, Vice-President
Donatella Castelli, Treasurer
Jean-Pierre Labru, Technical Director
Pekka Nurminen, Secretary General

Representatives of EKF Member Countries:

K. Ziegerhofer, P.S. Geiger, Austria,
C. Maes, Belgium,
A. Arabadjiyski, Bulgaria,
M. Lukic, T.Panduric, Croatia
J. Ziegelheim, J. Ziegelheimova, Czech Republic
D. Mwaipaya, Denmark
T. Miyano, Estonia
M. Kankainen, Finland
E. Malassis, M. Guentleur, France,
G. Lekashvili, Georgia (affiliated member, not voting)
D. Viebranz, Germany
S. Drossoulakis, Greece
T. Abe, H. Mihalik, Hungary
K. Cassidy, Dirk Bakker, Ireland
P. Volodarsky, Israel
G. Moretti, M. Petri, Italy
B. Abbadi, Jordania
G. Rukas, Lithuania
P. Budden, R. Abdalla, Malta
G. Zugravu, Moldova



M. Nikitovic, D. Djurakovic, Montenegro
K. Van Hattum, Netherlands
N. Baleski, North Macedonia
J. Nörvåg, D. Storli, Norway
K. Bosak, A. Betley-Uchanska, Poland
N. Serrano, P. Marques, Portugal
S. Mahika, Romania
A. Magnushevsky, Russia
V. Kovcin, D. Nikolic, Serbia
P. Topic, Slovenia
M. Grice, South Africa
A. Gonzalez, D. Castro, Spain
J. Thorsell, Sweden
S. Buob, K. Fleury, Switzerland
C. Engin, U. Basar, Turkey
K. Stryzhychenko, D. Dobrovolsky, Ukraine
C. Mansfield, United Kingdom

It was noted that 37 voting members out of 43 members were present or represented at the General Assembly.

Also present were:

A. Ducarme, H. Odinot, J. Howell, R. Jättkowski, J.-C. Tuvi, Senior Councilors/Special Guests

S. Fukumoto, Y. Sato, M. Miyasaka, AJKF/FIK

N-E. Cheddad, Morocco (applicant country)

Excused or absent: Latvia, Madagascar (affiliated), Mozambique (affiliated), Slovakia and Tunisia (affiliated).

All member countries had paid their membership fees in due time.

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

EKF President Dieter Hauck opened the EKF General Assembly 2019.

He welcomed all at this very special GA, which considers the impact of 50 years of activities under the umbrella of the EKF and look to the future, when the biggest EKC ever shall be starting. He thanked the Serbian Federation, who have done a great job in the preparation of this big event.



It was a “Constitutional Meeting” in September 1969, with the 1. WKC upcoming in 1970 in Tokyo, that we consider to be the formal starting point of the EKF as it exists today. It was a very European meeting: Taking place in Brighton, UK, chaired by a Hungarian count living in Sweden, with attendants from France, Belgium, Switzerland, Austria, Great Britain and guests from Japan.

EKF has a history project under way, utilizing the data, documents and work already done by Jean-Pierre Raick, who sadly left us last year. EKF also reviewed the vast archives of Raf Bernaers.

Beside the Representatives of Member Federations, he extended special greetings to our special guests of the General Assembly:

From the FIK / AJKF we are honoured by the presence of Shuji Fukumoto, Kendo Hanshi 8 Dan, Vice-President of FIK and Vice-President of AJKF and Yukio Sato Kendo 7 Dan, Secretary General of FIK and Executive Director of AJKF. Further we welcome Masayuki Miyasaka, Kendo Kyoshi 7 dan, FIK director/the chairman of anti-doping committee. PR thanked the AJKF and FIK for their continuous support for development of European Kendo.

PR also greeted EKF Honorary President Alain Ducarme, Kendo Kyoshi 7 Dan from Belgium. As the President of the EKF from 1984 to 2017, more than 30 years, and before as the Secretary he was essential in the development of the Federations as we know it today.

PR welcomed EKF Honorary Vice-President Hein Odinot, Kendo Renshi 6 Dan from The Netherlands. He was Treasurer of the EKF from 1983 to 2005 and then until 2011 the Vice-President, while at the same time leading the Dutch Kendo Renmei.

PR also welcomed Jean-Claude Tuvi, Kendo 7 Dan from France. He was the first EKF Technical Director or Chair of the Technical Committee from 1984 to 1988. In 1988, Jean-Pierre Raick was elected to that position.

PR also welcomed Senior Councillors John Howell and Rainer Jättkowski. Both Kyoshi 7 Dan Kendo and both many years Presidents of their respective federations and Members of the Senior Councillor Committee.

PR also mentioned Raf Bernaers, Kendo Renshi 6 Dan from Belgium. He was the EKF Secretary – General from 1984 to 2010. His very difficult task was to cope with a rapidly growing federation in quite changing circumstances.

“These persons and many more and the organisations they were and are part of, have brought the EKF where it is today. Thank you.”

After opening, PR gave his comments on the EKF Web-site (www.ekf-eu.com) and online-



data system.

The system – which includes the very good cooperation by Member Countries - works. Thank you to all Country ADMINS who check and update. We have started a new version / master release of the system on a new server and it also works well. Big Thanks also again to Harald Hofer.

Grades of 16.000 active (Yudansha) are registered and administrated. The tendency of exams and grades is still clearly rising. For 2018, out of 515 Exams 2328 grades were registered. Also, the absolute number of Yudansha is rising. Countries need to 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 the basics are sound.

The EKF registration system for the Referee Seminar and the EKC / EIC / EJC now has been tested repeatedly and seems to work. The fundamental idea still 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.

Improved EKF / EKC Championship system also works well. 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, further improved, and possibly shall be available to national events.

3. G.A. Minutes Incheon 2018

Minutes of the Incheon G.A. 2018 have been sent to the Member Countries according to Art. 05.09 EKF-Statutes and have been published on the EKF website. No remarks have been received in the statutory deadline. The published version was approved unchanged.

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

VPR commented on his term of function, in particular on the state of affairs regarding the EKF anti-doping activities. Questionnaires will be sent to Member Federations. Important thing is to raise awareness and start activities according to national Anti-Doping Rules. Doping Tests will be carried out at the EKC.

VPR gave the floor to Masayuki Miyasaka, FIK Director responsible for Anti-Doping activities, who presented the current state of activities in FIK.



5. Report by the EKF Treasurer (TR)

Treasurer presented the EKF Financial Report 2018 and commented on the report. Membership fees, based on number of practitioners, are invoiced, and paid on due time.

EKF Auditor Jindrich Ziegelheim reported that he has audited EKF accounts. All entries have been correctly made, funds were used for the objectives of the Federation, records are properly kept and he had no negative findings. He suggested that the GA approves the Financial Report 2018.

EKF Financial Report 2018 was unanimously approved.

The Treasurer then presented a proposal for the 2020 budget and answered a question by Germany.

EKF Budget 2020 was unanimously approved.

6. Report by the Secretary-General

SG gave his comments on the administrative side of the EKF activities and on the EKF Website (www.ekf-eu.com) and online-data system. Events organisation and registration is working well with the on-line system on EKF website. Outsourcing accommodation at the Kendo Referee Seminar to ADEPS and external hotels proved to be a smooth operation and will continue.

For communication, the website is used to generate mailing lists. Each federation should have at least two operational e-mail addresses included. It is recommended to have several addresses for different functions (President, Secretary-General, Treasurer, Kendo, Iaido, Jodo and Anti-doping, etc.), if the size of the federation allows.

SG report was noted.

7. Report of the Technical Director

TD commented on the World Kendo Championships 2018, the European Jodo Championships 2018 (Budapest, Hungary), the European Iaido Championships 2018 (Zawiercie, Poland), the 28th European Referee Seminar 2019 (Brussels, Belgium) and events with EKF 6th and 7th Dan Exams:

- **17th European Jodo Championships 2018 (Budapest, Hungary);**
 - 14 teams, 120 fighters, 194 persons,
 - 65 candidates at exam, 9 rokudan, one nanadan!



- **26th European Iaido Championships 2018 (Zawiercie, Poland);**
 - 21 teams, 183 fighters, 317 persons,
 - 109 candidates at exam, three rokudan!

- **28th European Referee Seminar February 2019 (Brussels, Belgium).**
 - 99 referees (42 red, 57 black); 20 fighters
 - Japanese Fighters (Preparation for WKC)
 - New Selection System;
 - 84 candidates at exam, four rokudan, one nanadan!

- **Other major events with EKF 6th and 7th Dan Exams.**
 - Iaido Exams in Bruges June 2018 – **49** 6/7 dan candidates, three rokudan;
 - Kendo Exam in Budapest July 2018 - **19** 6/7 dan candidates, three rokudan;
 - Kendo Exam in Paris December 2018, **51** 6/7 dan candidates, five rokudan, one nanadan;
 - Iaido Exams in Modena May 2019 – **39** 6/7 dan candidates, six rokudan, one nanadan.

TD also continued the reflection on the future of European Kendo Championships, considering experiences of the recent EKC, and preparations for the 2019 EKC. The 2019 EKC is the biggest ever, and further growth is likely to put the present organisation at strain. Ideas on developing the EKC are welcome and will be gathered.

TD noted that next examinations for 6th and 7th dan Kendo in Europe will be held in Berlin in July and in Italy in December.

The date for the 28th edition of the FIK/EKF Referee Seminar in 2020 is on the first weekend of February 2020 (31 January - 2 February 2020, in Brussels). Some changes to the participation will be announced to reflect developments in FIK's selection procedure for WKC Referees and the need to enlarge the pool of potential referees at future EKC.

TD also commented on the WKC Referee selection procedure developed in FIK, which started in 2019. There is a panel of evaluators composed by representatives of different FIK Zones and Japan (JPN, KOR, USA, EKF). The potential referees will be classed in five categories, from national level to WKC level. That will be maintained every year until next WKC.

Question by Great Britain concerning selection of EIC and EJC referees was answered by TD and PR.

TD report was noted.



8. Question of Iaido Examination Rules (in EKF Grading Rules)

SG introduced the item.

At present, the EKF Grading Rules on Iaido examinations stipulate the following:

“6.1. For Iaido, the examination subjects are:

Dan applied for: Subject:

1st to 3rd Dan: 5 Shitei waza from the ZNKR-Iai-Kata; (Note: the first of the Shitei-waza may be replaced by 1 free choice Koryu-Kata);

4th to 5th Dan: 1 free choice Koryu-Kata & 4 Shitei waza from the ZNKR-Iai-Kata;

6th & 7th Dan: 2 free choice Koryu-Kata & 3 Shitei-waza from the ZNKR-Iai-Kata.

From 6th Dan onwards, the use of a shinken is obligatory, unless Force Majeure (including legal restrictions) prevents such use. The elapsed time is a consideration, but there will be no strict time limit.”

At the FIK General Assembly 2018 in Incheon, the “FIK Standard Guidelines for Dan/Kyu Examinations” were modified to include examination subjects to Iaido Examinations. The relevant provision according to the FIK Guideline reads as follows:

“Shodan - 3rd Dan: AJKF iai 5 forms (1 koryu form may be included). Time limit: 6 minutes

4th Dan & 5th Dan: AJKF iai 5 forms (1 koryu form may be included). Time limit: 6 minutes

6th Dan & 7th Dan: AJKF iai 6 forms (2 koryu form may be included). Time limit: 7 minutes

Torei (protocols for sword etiquette) must be that used in AJKF Iai.

Examination time commences from the bow to the Shomen after entering the examination area and ends when the candidate stands up holding the sword to the side after performing the final bow.”

In the context of the EIC in Zawiercie in 2018, an information session was organized.

By invitation to the General Assembly in Belgrade, the EKF Board had asked the national federations to reflect the matter and send ideas/suggestions by 23 March 2019. By the deadline the Board has received written input from three federations. One suggested sticking to ZNKR



Seitei kata only, two were in favour of allowing koryu katas as options. For time limits and number of kata, all favoured aligning the EKF Rules to FIK Guideline.

The EKF Board had considered the matter and proposes to approach it with two principles:

- Maximum alignment to FIK Standard Guideline.
- Minimum change to existing EKF Grading Rules and practices.

On basis of that, and considering the input from national Federations, the Board proposed that article 6.1. of EKF Grading Rules is changed to read as follows (changes underlined):

“6.1. For Iaido, the examination subjects are:

Dan applied for: Subject:

1st to 3rd Dan: 5 Shitei-waza from the ZNKR-Iai-Kata; (Note: the first of the Shitei-waza may be replaced by one free choice Koryu-Kata, if so decided by the organizing federation). Time limit 6 minutes.

4th to 5th Dan: 5 Shitei-waza from the ZNKR-Iai-Kata; (Note: the first of the Shitei-waza may be replaced by one free choice Koryu-Kata, if so decided by the organizing federation). Time limit 6 minutes.

6th & 7th Dan: 6 Shitei-waza from the ZNKR-Iai-Kata; (Note: the two first of the Shitei-waza may be replaced by two free choice Koryu-Kata, if so decided by the organizing federation). Time limit 7 minutes.

From 6th Dan onwards, the use of a shinken is obligatory, unless Force Majeure (including legal restrictions) prevents such use.

Torei (protocols for sword etiquette) must be that used in ZNKR Iai.

Examination time commences from the bow to the Shomen after entering the examination area and ends when the candidate stands up holding the sword to the side after performing the final bow.”

The Board also expressed its intention, when EKF is the organizing federation, to maintain the option of koryu kata in place for examinations of 4th to 7th Dan. In 1st - 3rd Dan examinations, the examination subjects will be ZNKR Iai only.

In the debate, following representatives expressed their opinions: Hungary, Italy, Denmark, Greece, Great Britain, Germany.

It was proposed to change the EKF BOD proposal so, that in the context of 6th and 7th Dan, the words “if so decided by the organizing federation” are changed to “if so decided by EKF”. Also, it was proposed that the intention to maintain koryu kata in place for EKF examinations of



4th to 7th dan is also written *expressis verbis* in the Grading Rules. The Board considered these proposals as acceptable.

The proposal of the Board with the modifications mentioned above was submitted to vote. The proposal was approved by 31 votes in favour, one vote against and five abstentions.

The new rules will be applied after publication of the EKF General Assembly minutes and the modified Grading Rules. They will be applied in the next EKF Iaido exam organized in the context of next 26th European Iaido Championships in Athens in November 2019.

9. COFFEE BREAK

10. Affiliations

10.1. Morocco

The Royal Moroccan Federation of Aikido, Iaido and Martial Arts applied membership in EKF according to Article 3 of EKF Statutes. The application file was complete, and it included recommendation letters from Belgium, France and Tunisia (affiliated).

According to the Article 3 (2) Morocco can become an Affiliated Member, with a provisional membership of two years. The Board supported the application.

EKF Honorary President Alain Ducarme presented his findings from his frequent trips to Morocco.

Mr. Nour-Eddine Cheddad, representative of the applicant, made a presentation.

Morocco's affiliation as provisional affiliate member of EKF was unanimously approved.

10.2. Confirmation of Provisional Members to full members or affiliate members

It was noted, that Moldova's "Kendo Federation of the Republic of Moldova" was approved as provisional member already in 2016, and Tunisia's "Association Sportive de Kendo", was approved as provisional Affiliate Member in 2014. Both countries have been active in participating EKF events and Championships.

The General Assembly confirmed unanimously Moldova as full member and Tunisia as Affiliate member of EKF.



It was noted that Madagascar's "Federation Malgache de Kendo et Disciplines Associes" was approved as provisional affiliate member in 2015. It has not participated in European Championships, and the activity has been on low level. Its provisional membership is maintained by another year.

10.3. Other issues relating to EKF membership:

Secretary General informed the GA on other contacts relating to EKF membership.

11. EKF Relations with FIK and ZNKR

PR informed the G.A. on the latest developments:

Excellent support of AJKF and FIK continues, as demonstrated by the latest edition of EKF/FIK Kendo Referee Seminar and the cooperation in WKC referee selection procedures. The AJKF continuously sends high level delegations to EKF events and exams. European membership in FIK is increasing. New members approved in Incheon are Malta, Tunisia and North Macedonia.

FIK Secretary General, Yukio Sato informed the GA that SportAccord organisation is re-named as GAISF. Combat Games will be organised in Kazakhstan.

Preparation of 18th WKC 2021 in France is advancing. Time of the WKC is May 2021. Rules and Regulations will be approved later in 2019. There will be changes in regulations concerning safety of shinai and kote. The procedure to select WKC referees will be renewed.



12. Future Championships

12.1 Rules issues

PR and TD informed the General Assembly of the following rules changes which are being applied in the future European Championships:

- Data Protection – Agreement to pictures and video taken at event will be added to the rules.
- Deadlines on Therapeutic Use Exemptions and Exemption of Nationality Requirements will be aligned to the Pre-Entry Deadlines.
- Selection of Fighting Spirit and decision of Referee allocation will be stipulated more clearly.
- Question of European Jodo Championships Rokudan Category has been considered. As in the 17EJC2018 the shinpan were 9 nanadan, 6 rokudan and 3 godan, and there are currently 35 Jodo rokudan and 17 nanadan in Europe, this is considered still premature. A Rokudan Embu Taikai could serve as intermediary step.
- Splitting EJC Tournament on two days is basically up to the Host Country to propose. EKF Board is open to the idea. This might be applied in EJC 2020.
- Splitting EKC Junior Championship to boys' and girls' categories is being considered by the EKF Board at the request of Russia.
- Shinai measurements (Junior, Nito) will be aligned with the ones of AJKF/FIK.
- Rule on incompatibility competitor with coach and team manager will be made clearer. No objection for a competitor to function as team manager or manager for another competitor, except in his/her own behalf.

Questions or comments from Germany, Great Britain and Italy were answered by PR and TD.

12.2 EKC

30th EKC 2020 in Kristiansand, Norway, on 16.-19.4.2020. Presentation was made by Norway.



A discussion on the date took place. Greece and Serbia expressed their wish to find alternative date. EKF Board undertook to consider the date issue with the Host Country and inform Member Federations promptly.

Future EKC candidatures were presented and noted as follows: 2022 (Italy), 2023 (Portugal), 2025 (Netherlands) and 2026 (Montenegro). Decisions will be made in forthcoming General Assemblies.

12.3 EIC

26th EIC 2019 in Athens, Greece, on 1 – 3 November 2019. Presentation by Greece. The General Assembly confirmed the date and the venue.

Serbia present their candidature for 27th EIC 2020 in Belgrade, Serbia, on 30 October – 1 November 2020. The candidature was approved unanimously.

No announcements of further candidatures were made.

12.4 EJC

18th EJC in 2019 Zawiercie, Poland, will take place as confirmed earlier.

Great Britain made presentation on the 19th EJC 2020 in Stevenage, Great Britain. The tournament might take place over two days, and the whole event over three days.

No announcements of further candidatures were made.

13. Other issues raised by Member Federations

13.1 Proposal by Germany: Organising a seminar for 6th and 7th Dan holders once a year.

Germany presented the idea. PR answered that the idea falls well into the system where the EKF will provide moral support (patronage) and limited financial support to kendo, iaido and jodo events, which relate to three priority areas: juniors, ladies and life-long practice. EKF Board is willing to consider support to events proposed by Member Federations. The events must be open to all practitioners in the target group, they should not be non-profit events and they should one-off events, which can move from one country to another. PR invited Germany to make a proposal.

Comments and questions by Great Britain and Italy were answered by Board Members.



13.2 From last GA in Incheon: Referee Seminar in Iaido and Jodo

PR informed the GA on discussions in EKF Board to organize specific Referee Seminars in iaido and jodo. Seen the specifics of iaido and jodo refereeing compared to kendo refereeing and the main function of the kendo referee seminar, which is selection, the Board does not consider specific referee seminars appropriate. However, part of the seminar organized in the context of EIC and EJC could be targeted to referees of the event.

Comments by Great Britain and Greece were answered by PR.

14. Date of the next General Assembly

The next GA will take place in the context of the 30th EKC, in Kristiansand, Norway, on Thursday afternoon prior to the EKC.

(After announcement of the EKC dates: Thursday 16 April 2020.)

15. Closing by the President

PR closed the meeting and thanked all participants.

16. Invitation to the EKF Dinner later that evening

EKF President invited all General Assembly participants to the EKF Dinner later in the evening.