



**MINUTES**  
**EKF General Assembly 2023**  
**Beauvais, FRANCE**

Listing of the Representatives

**1.1 EKF Board of Officers:**

Dieter Hauck, President  
Spyridon Drosoulakis, Vice-President  
Donatella Castelli, Treasurer  
Jean-Pierre Labru, Technical Director  
Kathryn Cassidy, Secretary General

**1.2 Representatives of EKF Member Countries:**

K. Ziegerhofer, Austria  
S. Hendrickx, Belgium  
M. Lukic, T. Panduric, Croatia  
L. Laibrt, M. Fritz, Czech Republic  
D. Mwaipaya, Denmark  
F. Estudillo, T. Tuominen, Estonia  
S. Aarnio, Finland  
E. Malassis, France  
U. Kumpf, C. Metzger, Germany  
K. Matzaras, Greece  
Á. Szegöfi, T. Abe, Hungary  
M. Kiosew, D. Bakker, Ireland  
P. Volodarsky, Israel  
M. Petri, M. Battaglioni, Italy  
S. Ghokahsaw, M. Nasereddin, Jordan  
V. Kindzulis, D. Arsenin, Latvia  
J.K. Jalava, Luxembourg  
O. Galea, R. Abdalla, Malta  
G. Zugravu, Moldova  
N. Cheddad, K. Benaboud, Morocco (Affiliated)  
G.J.M. Minnaert, Netherlands  
M. Skiftesvik, A. Powell, Norway  
K. Yearwood, K. Bosak, Poland  
L. Sousa, Portugal  
S.C. Mahika-Voiconi, Romania  
I. Jovanovic, D. Nikolic, Serbia  
M. Grice, South, Africa  
M.A. González Jiménez, D. Castro Rabadán, Spain



J. Thorsell, M. Paganini, Sweden  
S. Buob, C. Kröbl, Switzerland  
A. Nouisser, F. Ben Souilah, Tunisia (Affiliated)  
C. Aydogdu, B. Aydogdu, Turkey  
K. Stryzhychenko, D. Dobrovolsky, Ukraine  
T. Kincaid, M. Goodwin, United Kingdom

### **1.3 Proxy Votes**

D. Nikolic (Serbia) held the proxy vote of Montenegro.

### **1.4 Not Represented**

Bulgaria  
Georgia  
Lithuania  
Madagascar (Affiliated)  
Mozambique (Affiliated)  
North Macedonia  
Slovakia  
Slovenia

### **1.5 Calculation of votes and quorum**

32 voting representatives are present out of a voting membership of 39 at the time of the GA. This represents more than one third of members and the meeting was therefore quorate as per Article 05.08 of the EKF Statutes.

### **1.6 Also present**

Y. Tatishev, Kazakhstan Kendo and Iaido Federation, membership request pending.  
A. Ducarme, EKF Honorary President

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

**2.1** The year 2022 saw Europe and the activities of our Federation – though rattled by the still ongoing and still unbelievable and still unjust war in Ukraine – get free from the grip of the pandemic. The conduct of training in Iaido, Jodo and Kendo slowly came back the level of earlier years. We were able to plan and conduct events according to traditional patterns, i.e. European Championships, a Referee Seminar and high grade exams for Kendo, Iaido and Jodo. From our side, these events were all successful, much supported by the enthusiasm of national federations and practitioners that can again practice our beloved disciplines very much without restrictions as dictated for years by the pandemic.



- 2.2 Not surprisingly, the years of the pandemic severely impacted the operations by national federations and the EKF. This shows also in the statistics of grades and exams. However, we are almost back to pre-pandemic levels. This is good. We want this to be also reflected in our member statistic, where we see interesting relations between yudansha registered and headcount. Please check and amend at your end! (Exhibits)
- 2.3 In December 2022 a kendo exam in Istanbul was planned and successfully implemented with the effective help by the Turkish federation. Regrettably, because of security concerns, the ZNKR – Delegation could not come and the EKF BO made on rather short notice the decision to hold the exam up to Nanadan, nevertheless. While we hope that we still can rely on the support and knowledge provided by ZNKR for many years, this event shows that Europe has developed the capacity and intention to act on its own – if needed. We are happy that for this EKC and the upcoming European events, we again have the support from delegation by ZNKR.
- 2.4 As driven by the actual and technical developments, we will implement a few technical changes in the system of dan examinations and the registration of results and grades:
- The Yellow Cards, that have been a useful tool in the paper era, are technically not necessary anymore and fell out of use. Many countries have their own “Exam Books” and the EKF system for some time already gives to those countries, who want the possibility to produce the Yellow Cards with the data from the EKF system. EKF will not produce any cards in paper anymore and will not require them at EKF events. Grades can always be checked easily online.
  - Starting AFTER this EKC and related exams, we will introduce a system that the Yellow Card which is an excerpt of the registration data and the EKF Menjo will be mailed electronically to successful candidates for EKF exams. For that, it will be necessary that for any person that is registered to an exam in the EKF system an email-address is on file.
  - Finally, I want to remind you on the possibility to produce your own national menjo for exams from the system. Any questions on that Kathryn, Harald or I can answer in needed.
- 2.5 Elections at WKC: Due to the Corona-Pandemic, the traditional cycle of elections for the EKF – BOD was affected due to the extension we made in 2020. We see no problem in having an election at an WKC in 2024, especially, since the event takes place in Europe. Thereafter, we want to return to the original system, having the election in the year before the WKC. Consequently, we will propose for the 2024 election a shorter term of two years for the BO, such setting the next election to 2026.



Procedural questions about the management of headcount, inactive and deceased members in the EKF System were answered by the President and Treasurer.

### **3. G.A. Minutes 2022**

Formal approval of the minutes of the GA 2022, which have been sent to the Member Federations according to Art. 05.09 EKF-Statutes and have been published on the EKF website. No remarks have been received within the statutory deadline. The published version is approved unchanged.

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

2022 was the year that we were returned fully, to our activities schedule. Despite the safety measures against COVID, taken during our activities last year, the situation of the pandemic allowed us to return in our regular annual schedule of activities.

While the Technical Director, in his Report, will inform you in detail about our activities, I would like to underline the fact that practitioners of our disciplines across Europe, welcomed this return by showing up, in all activities, in satisfactory numbers.

During this time the EKF Board continue its activities, by monitoring the evolving situation, meeting regularly, and directing evolutions. Since previous GA, EKF Board has met 12 times, basically through video conference. It also met a number of times, in video conference, with Member Federations responsible to organize events, in order to discuss organizational matters.

By this way EKF Board was able to follow evolutions closely and provide timely solutions to evolving issues.

The return of our activities in the Championships area had its influence on Anti-doping Activities, which as you are aware constitutes a field of special interest and falls within my responsibilities. Activity in that field included, monitoring evolutions on the Anti-doping field, following WADA updates on prohibited substances, and forming an Ad-Hoc TUE Committee, to examine relevant requests, for European Championships.

At this point I would like to repeat the requirement, for every Country member of EKF:

- a. To assign a suitable Anti-doping Officer.
- b. To follow closely evolutions on Anti-doping field.
- c. To ensure that practitioners, in the country, are aware of Anti-doping requirements.
- d. To be prepared to deal with Anti-doping tests, if demanded so, by respective National Authorities.
- e. To insert National Anti-doping Agency website in the respective section in their Country information at EKF Data Base.



A question was raised about whether there have previously been instances of doping recorded in European Kendo. The Vice-President confirmed that although there have been tests at European Championships, there have not been positive test results. Poland confirms that they have had a doping issue nationally.

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

### **5.1 Financial Report 2022**

The Financial Report for 2022 was presented by the Treasurer who confirmed that the accounts maintain a healthy balance, allowing us to run a future championship at a loss if it became necessary. The President adds that the EKF holds a reserve of 1.5 – 2 times our yearly budget in case of a problem such as the cancellation of 30th EKC 2020 in Kristiansand, Norway due to the COVID Pandemic.

### **5.2 Budget 2024**

The Treasurer presented the budget for 2024 and noted that while 2022 showed a small surplus, we are currently predicting a small loss in 2024.

The Financial Report 2022 and Budget 2024 were accepted by the unanimous vote of the assembly.

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

The Secretary General reiterated the President's message about the correct use of the EKF system in order to improve communications between EKF and the National Federations. In particular, she pointed out that several of the email addresses currently in the system for individual members are bouncing and asked countries to ensure that these were updated by their administrator.

For those new to working with the EKF System, she pointed them to the Help Documents, and also pointed out that members can retrieve statistics for their country within the System which may be useful.

The Vice-President added a request for countries to request a new administrator account for new users rather than sharing old credentials so that we have a clear record of activity. To request an account your President or other recognised official should send an email to the Secretary.



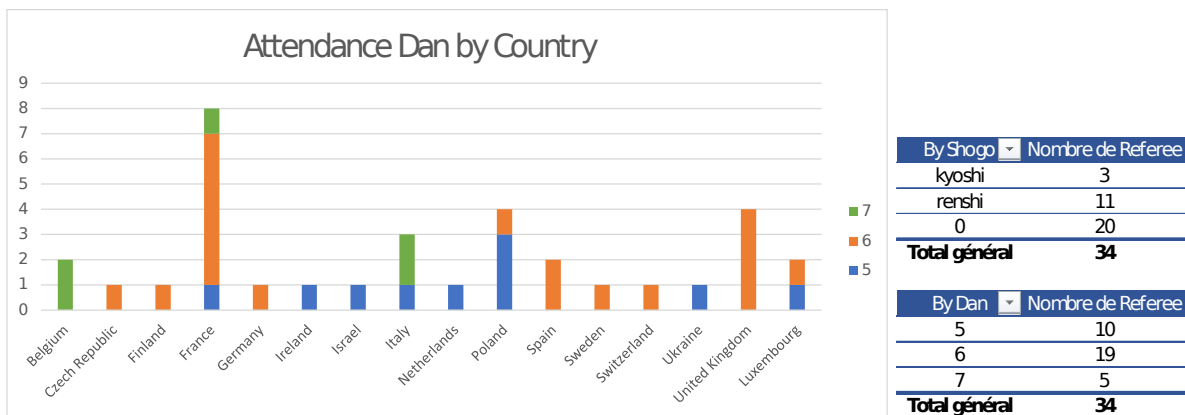
## 7. Report of the Technical Director

A year as usual in 2022: Three European championships, a refereeing seminar and six 6 & 7 dan exams.

For the very first time, during the Istanbul 2022 High Level Seminar, due to the cancellation of the Japanese delegation, EKF organized a 6 & 7 dan Kendo exam without Japanese sensei in the jury. 6 European senseis evaluated 35 candidates for a result ratio identical to that of a jury with 3 Japanese senseis included.

### 7.1 EKF events 2022

- **The 30<sup>th</sup> FIK/EKF Referee Seminar 2022 (Brussels, Belgium).**



In 2022, a special custom edition was organized. In order to limit the risk of infection, we have pre-selected 29 referees on their past level assessments. This RefSem 2022 had to select the 9 missing referees and the backup list (Pandemic requires).

Following the same concept of security, we asked Louis VITALIS sensei (NED) to be the chief evaluator for this edition of RefSem. Assisted by Serge HENDRICKX sensei and Emilio GOMEZ sensei, they all three evaluated the candidates and so I could finalize the selection of referees for the 31st EKC in Germany.

- **The 31<sup>st</sup> European Kendo Championships, Frankfurt (GE)**

A big thank you to the German Kendo Federation for organizing this championship in a very short time.

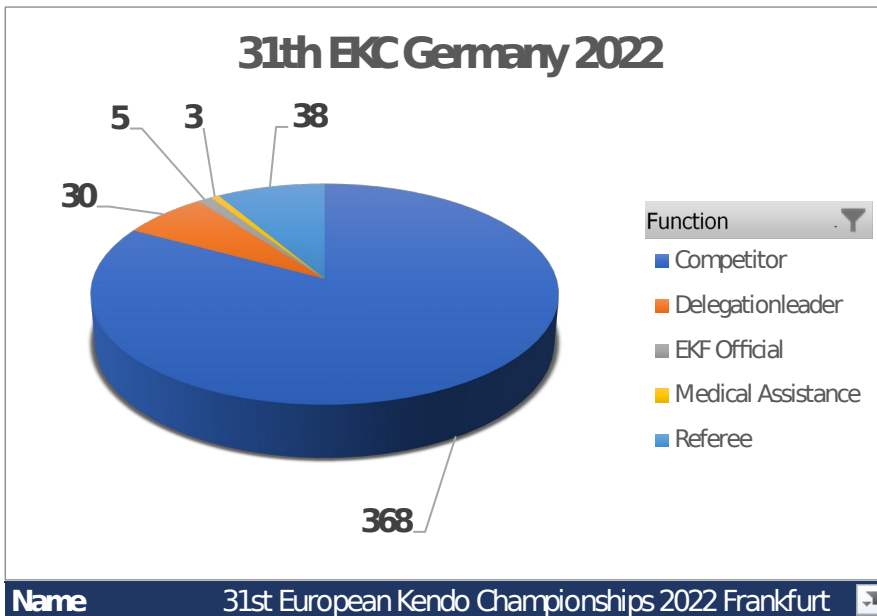
The FIK delegation was :

- Kunihide KODA, Hanshi 8dan (Chief)
- Katsuhiko TANI, Hanshi 8dan



- Katsunobu SATO, Hanshi 8dan
- Susumu NAGAO, Hanshi 8dan as FIK Secretary General

The application of the new rules of the shiai was applied very well both by the referees and by the fighters. At the end, no significant remarks from KODA sensei, Chief of Competition and Referee Committee at ZNKR.



Individuals	
Junior Individual	45
Ladies Individual	94
Men Individual	135

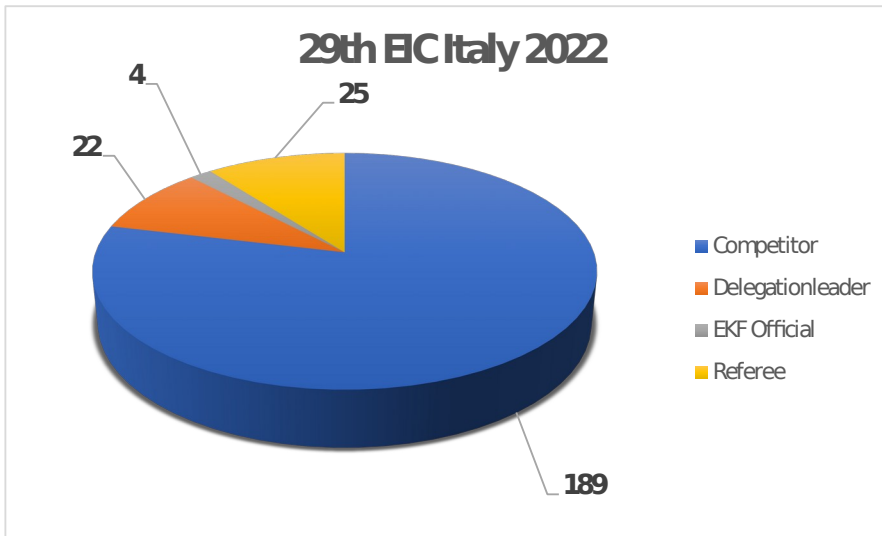
Teams	
Junior Team	15
Ladies Team	21
Men Team	30



- **29<sup>th</sup> European Iaido Championships, Modena (IT)**

The FIK Delegation was:

- Junichi KUSAMA, Hanshi 8dan
- Kazunori YAMASHIBU, Kyoshi 8dan
- Takahiro KUMEDA, Kyoshi 8dan

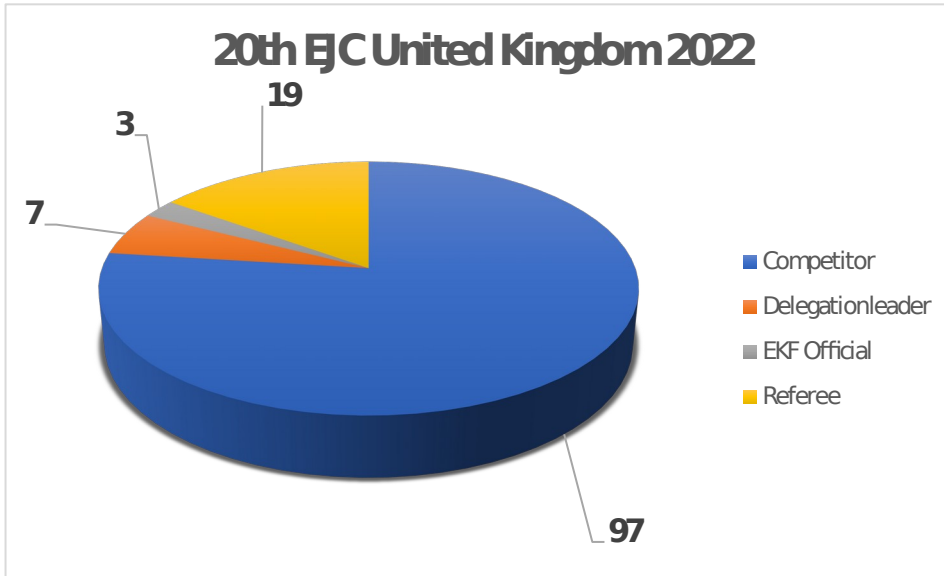


Name		29th European Iaido Championships 2022 Modena
<b>Individuals</b>		
Competitor		189
Godan		38
Mudan		29
Nidan		27
Rokudan		24
Sandan		40
Shodan		24
Yondan		37
<b>Teams</b>		
Team		24





- 20<sup>th</sup> European Jodo Championships, Stevenage (UK)



FIK Delegation:

- Koro FUJISAKI, Hanshi 8dan
- Koichi KOJIRO, Hanshi 8dan
- Naotaka MURAKAMI, Hanshi 8dan

Name	20th European Jodo Championships 2022 Stevenage
<b>Étiquettes de lignes</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Individuals</b>	
Competitor	97
Godan	26
Mudan	15
Nidan	11
Rokudan	20
Sandan	23
Shodan	15
Yondan	16

Name	20th European Jodo Championships 2022 Stevenage
<b>Étiquettes de lignes</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Teams</b>	
Team	11



• Grading major event and achievements: 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Dan Exams

	6				7				Total_Registered	Total_Passed
	_Registered		_Passed		_Registered		_Passed			
	female	male	female	male	female	male	female	male		
Iaido										
Budapest	1	29	0	12	3	13	1	2	46	15
Modena	8	25	0	6	3	18	1	3	54	10
Jodo										
Stevenage	2	16	2	10	2	4	0	0	24	12
Kendo										
Frankfurt	12	71	3	15	5	32	2	8	120	28
Montpellier	5	44	2	6	6	28	1	0	83	9
Istanbul	1	26	1	7	2	6	0	1	35	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>83</b>

Ratios						
	6			7		
	female	male	Total 6	female	male	Total 7
Iaido						
Budapest	0%	41%	40%	33%	15%	19%
Modena	0%	24%	18%	33%	17%	19%
Jodo						
Stevenage	100%	63%	67%	0%	0%	0%
Kendo						
Frankfurt	25%	21%	22%	40%	25%	27%
Montpellier	40%	14%	16%	17%	0%	3%
Istanbul	100%	27%	30%	0%	17%	13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>16%</b>

7.2 The Technical Director's points for the future:

- Reflection on the future of European Kendo Championships
  - I want Kendo no Kata to take its rightful place in the EKF practice of Budo. A few ideas are in the works. Kendo no Kata could be the way to practice all together: the link between Iaido, Jodo and Kendo.
  - I am very pleased with the progress made in involving top European senseis in the Kendo Referee seminar. The overall level of EKF referees coming to RefSem has increased a lot over the past few years. I am more and more confident in the judgment of each of them. And so, I am confident that one day every EKC referee will be able to judge all countries, including their own country.



### 7.3 Dates and places to organize next examinations for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> dan in Europe

At this stage, these events are planned with 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> dan examinations:

• 32 EKC 2023	19-21.5.2023	Beauvais, FRA
• Extra REFSEM 2023	05-06.08.2023	Guilford, UK
• Iaido 6/7 Dan Exam	17-18.06.2023	Mulhouse FRA
• Kendo 6/7 Dan Exam	16-17.9.2023	Modena, ITA
• 21 EJC 2023	6-8.10.2023	Maglingen, CHE
• 30 EIC 2023	27-29.10.2023	München, DEU
• 19 WKC 2024	4-7.7.2024	Milan, ITA

### 7.4 The 2023 FIK/EKF Referee Seminar

The 32<sup>nd</sup> edition of the FIK/EKF Referee Seminar was held on the first weekend of February 2023 (3-5 February 2023, in Brussels).

A 2<sup>nd</sup> Referee seminar, organized by FIK will be held in Guildford (UK) the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of August 2023. The referee candidates will be evaluated in their ability to referee the next World Kendo Championships in Milano (IT) in 2024.

## 8. Membership questions

### 8.1 Portugal

- Change of legal status from Association to Federation and change of name to “Federação Portuguesa de Kendo – FPKIJ”

This is a change in legal status and name but having reviewed the documentation provided, there appears to be no substantive change and this is merely a different type of national institution and a more prestigious type of organisation which benefits Kendo, Iaido & Jodo in Portugal. The board members have not changed significantly.

### 8.2 Kazakhstan

- Application for membership received from the Kazakhstan Kendo and Iaido Federation (Public Association)

Mr. Yerkin Tatishev, 4<sup>th</sup> Dan Kendo, presented the candidacy of Kazakhstan for membership of the European Kendo Federation.



The Kazakhstan Kendo and Iaido Federation has grown from small single club with 20 members in 2020 to a large organisation with over 120 members, including almost 100 juniors.

This has come about largely by the introduction of obligatory Kendo and Judo classes for students in High Tech Academy, a private, innovative school located in Almaty, Kazakhstan where Mr. Tatishev is a co-founder. He stressed the value of Kendo for girls in a country like Kazakhstan where there is still abuse of girls and children.

Mr. Tatishev also expressed a wish to help by providing a hub for kendoka in other countries in this region.

The Swiss delegate asked if the Federation also included Iaido and Jodo and Mr. Tatishev confirmed that they have some Iaido, but do not currently have any Jodo practitioners.

The Polish delegate asked about the retention rate for students after they leave the school. Mr. Tatishev responded that as this is still a young initiative they do not yet have good statistics on long-term retention rates.

Israel made a supporting statement. Mr. Volodarsky indicated that he has had some involvement in the project and that students practice Kendo in the morning and that evening practice is also available for those who are interested.

Turkey made a supporting statement. Mr. Aydogdu indicated that Turkish Kendo and Kazakhstan Kendo have been friends for some time and that they have met Kazakhstan Kendoka at various seminars and events over the years.

The President points out that a part of the territory of Kazakhstan is within the borders of Europe as defined by the EKF Statutes Article 03.01. This means that after a 2 year probationary period, if the GA votes to accept as full members, then the Kazakhstan Kendo and Iaido Federation will become a full member with full voting rights.

The membership application of the Kazakhstan Kendo and Iaido Federation was accepted by the unanimous vote of the assembly.

### **8.3 Uzbekistan**

- Received initial query, but full application not yet received

### **8.4 Other issues relating to EKF membership**

No other membership issues were raised.



## 9. EKF Relations with FIK and ZNKR

The EKF President informs on the latest developments in EKF – ZNKR and FIK relations since the Frankfurt GA 2022:

- 9.1 19 WKC in 2024 in Italy:** Beyond technical support provided by Harald Hofer and the EKF championship system (Code: Silversake), the preparation work is done by the Italian federation. Please give us a short update.
- 9.2 World Combat Games 2023 in Saudi Arabia:** Following the BO decisions and a respective referendum by Member Federations, EKF will not directly participate and support this event for the political situation in Saudi Arabia. However, certainly relevant information will be provided, and the Member Federations are free to participate as FIK Members. Respective requests shall be directed to the FIK secretariate.
- 9.3 ZNKR Delegations:** We are happy that after the forced pandemic break, again ZNKR delegation are available for events and examinations in Europe. They provide a great and important source of knowledge and guidance. However, during those difficult years it also became evident that the European Federations have the resources to organize events and exams with fewer sensei than usual and in special cases (such as the Istanbul exam) even without ZNKR delegations. This is not what we want as a standard, but what can be done if needed. In all cases we shall make all efforts to keep the level of education and exams on at an international level.

## 10. Future Championships

### 10.1 Rules issues

- Shinai Measurements
  - For practical reasons the EKC Rules and Regulations stipulate shinai measurements as “>” (greater than) not “=” (equal to) as this is easier to measure with the tool.
  - It was noted that the international measurement have changed in last few years, and we have not updated this, so the EKC Rules and Regulationn differ slightly from the curent international rules.
- Men Face-Shield requirement
  - The EKC Rules and Regulations still require a half shield, but do not require mask in or outside of men
  - It was noted that the ZNKR rules have recently changed. The shield will be kept, a mask is not mandatory under the shield and a sponge under the shield is



recommended to capture any water. As this is a recent change we do not yet reflect this in the EKC Rules and Regulations or other guidance.

- Juniors category
  - In previous years the Juniors category at the EKC allowed participants from 15 to 17 years old. This has changed to 16 – 17 years old.
  - The President pointed out that this is a legal issue as in most countries a 16 year old is considered differently under the law to someone 15 or under.
  - Due to physical differences and the fact that this is a mixed-gender category, there could be a danger to the smaller and younger competitors.
  - Other solutions are being considered such as requiring the team positions to be filled in age order, or splitting girls and boys categories. For the time being, however, we are adopting this narrower age band.

## 10.2 EKC

### • **Candidature for 2025 by The Netherlands**

The representative from the Netherlands presented the planning for the 33<sup>rd</sup> EKC 2025, which will take place in Leiden, Netherlands in May 2025. An Organising Committee has been appointed and the event logo has been selected. The venue is still under construction so will be confirmed later this year. It has seats for 2.5k spectators. The Organising Committee are currently in the process of seeking sponsorship.

The delegate from Poland asked if there was a contingency plan in the case that the construction for the venue was not completed on time and it was confirmed that there were two other options.

The candidacy of the Netherlands was accepted by the unanimous vote of the assembly.

### • **Candidature for 2026 by Montenegro**

Mr. Dusan Nikolic presented the candidature for the 34<sup>th</sup> EKC 2026 on behalf of Montenegro. The event is planned for the end of May 2026 in the Podgorica, the capital city of Montenegro. There is an international airport with low-cost flights and many hotels available. Indicative accommodation prices were given as 40 EUR+ per-person per-night. The venue has a capacity of 6k spectators and has a main hall large enough for four shiai-jo as well as a warming-up hall. The neighbouring federations of Serbia and N. Macedonia will support with their experience and volunteer helpers.

The candidacy of the Montenegro was accepted by the unanimous vote of the assembly.

### • **Candidature for 2028 Serbia**



Serbia confirmed their candidature for the 35<sup>th</sup> EKC 2028 in Belgrade. No further information was provided at this time.

- **The candidature of Portugal for the 36th EKC 2029 announced.**

### 10.3 EIC

- **30<sup>th</sup> EIC 2023 27-29.10.2023 in München, DEU. Discussion and decision.**

The delegate from Germany presented the proposal for the 30th EIC 2023 which will take place from 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> October in Munich. Mr. Metzger pointed out that the intention was to make the event one of communication – we will come together in one place, learn together, talk together, and drink together.

The location, Sports Centre Oberhaching has all facilities (sports centre, accommodation, restaurant) in one place. There is a capacity for 257 beds and prices will range from 35 EUR to 50 EUR per-person per-night depending on the option selected.

In answer to a question from the assembly, it was confirmed that there were several other nearby hotels available. The situation with regards to travelling with shinken in Germany will be clarified as soon as possible and the Secretary will issue the Rules and Regulations shortly.

The candidacy of the Germany was accepted by the unanimous vote of the assembly.

- **Candidature for 2024 Sweden**

The delegates from Sweden presented the Swedish candidacy for the 31<sup>st</sup> EIC 2024.

The proposed date is November 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> 2024 in Gothenburg, Sweden. The venue has one hall with a wooden floor as well as other halls with rubber floors which can be used for warming up. The venue is 25 minutes from Gothenburg airport and transport options include ferry. There are several nearby hotels, but it was noted that accommodation costs in Sweden are on the high side with indicative prices ranging from 86 EUR to 190 EUR per-person per-night. The organisers are currently in negotiations with the venue on price, which will affect the eventual participation fees.

There is no restriction on travelling with shinken in Sweden.

The candidacy of the Sweden was accepted by the unanimous vote of the assembly.



- **Presentation or announcements of future candidatures.**

No further candidatures were announced.

#### 10.4 EJC

- **21<sup>st</sup> EJC 2023 6-8.10.2023 Magglingen, CHE. Discussion and decision.**

The delegate from Switzerland presented the proposal for 21<sup>st</sup> EJC 2023 which will take place from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> October in Magglingen.

Magglingen houses a National Sports Centre with a huge complex of halls and accommodations. The EJC has previously been held here. It is a particularly scenic location with beautiful views and famed for its clock-making. It is approximately 1.5 hours from Geneva and Basel and one hour from Zurich, all of which have international airports.

The hall dimensions are 44 x 33 meters with a spectator area. Accommodation is 15 minutes walk through the forest, or a 5 minute shuttle bus which runs all day.

Participation cost for the seminar will be 50 euro. Competition fee will be 50 euro for individuals and 100 per team. Accommodation will be booked through the EKF Registration.

The event logo was presented, which incorporates two crossed traditional Swiss Halbards, a medieval weapons reminiscent of a Jo.

The candidacy of the Switzerland was accepted by the unanimous vote of the assembly.

- **Candidature for 2024 Finland**

The delegate from Finland presented the candidacy for the 22<sup>nd</sup> EJC 2024 in Otaniemi, Espoo, Finland from 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

The location is a University sports centre, 22 minutes from Helsinki by taxi. It is also accessible by train and metro. The city-centre location boasts many nearby restaurants and other facilities. Estimated costs will be approximately 305 EUR in total including seminar, accommodation, competition and party.

The candidacy of the Finland was accepted by the unanimous vote of the assembly.





- **Presentation or announcement of further candidatures.**

No further candidatures were announced.

## **11. Any Other Business**

- **The EKF-Story – The EKF Book Project**

Commitment to this project was reaffirmed. The cover has already been presented and accepted at the late GA. The main EKF history part is still in progress. Some countries have provided their own histories, some have not yet replied. The Secretary will be in touch to solicit these. We hope to have something to present at the WKC.

- **The EKF Championship System.**

The situation has not changed. The EKF system is available, but it is not a simple process to use it, a lot of behind the scenes technical support is required on the day. We want to convert it to a web application where you can upload the registrations and use the system, but it is not there yet. We need a group of 2-3 programmers who can collaborate on this and are seeking volunteers.

The delegate from Sweden raised the possibility of accessing EU funding for such a development.

- **Situation of membership for Russian members in other federations**

The delegate from Ukraine made a plea on the topic of Russian individuals gaining membership of other EKF Member Federations. Some federations have permitted individual Russian practitioners, still resident in Russia, to transfer their membership to their federation. While he understands the wish to encourage and support kendo and kendo practitioners, he asks all Federations to consider before permitting a transfer. He is aware of some practitioners who support the current war by Russia in Ukraine who have been transferred to other federations.

The President added that there is a problem of continued membership of the Russian Kendo Federation in FIK which obliges other federations to recognise the grades of Russian Kendo Federation members and to recognise the results of gradings in Russia.

The EKF will not register these grades or accept any exam in Russia.

Transfer rules is with agreement of both federations. Because Russia is not a member, their opinion is no longer relevant, so only the new Federation makes the decision in such cases.



The president asked for national federations to consider whether a transfer request is an honest request from someone who is training and living in your country. If so then there is no problem, but if not then he encourages national federations not to accept such requests.

In response to the question of whether Russia will participate in the WKC the President indicated that as far as we know at this moment, they would be able to participate.

The delegate from Israel pointed out that they had recently refused membership to a Russian member as they were aware he had pro-war sentiments. He advises national federations to investigate requests and ascertain whether a person is involved politically.

The President stated that the situation inside Russia is uncertain and unclear. It can be difficult to get a clear picture, so if a federation feels that they need to reject a transfer application then they should do so.

The Secretary added that some countries may have a problem where their athletes, due to the policy of the National Sporting Body, are barred from competing in events where Russian athletes also compete. She asked all federations to check the situation in their countries.

- **Suspended members**

The delegate from Poland asked about how to get information about suspended members from other Federations.

Each National Federation has this information for their members, but where a member registers to attend an international event, there is no way for the organisers to know that the member is suspended. This could be important where suspension results from criminal or violent behaviour.

The President stated that this would potentially be legal consequences if such information was made available via the EKF System and was incorrect or not updated by the member Federations. Such persons can currently be set to inactive by their county administrator.

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

The next GA will take place in the context of the 19<sup>th</sup> WKC 2024 in Modena, Italy, with the exact place, date and time to be confirmed. Information and invitations will be sent in due time.

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



EUROPEAN KENDO FEDERATION

ヨーロッパ剣道連盟

This is the end, my friends – only of this GA. In the name of the EKF BO I thank you for the cooperation here and during the past years. Now the traditional invitation to the EKF Dinner can follow and hope to see you there for a drink and relaxed discussions.