



**MINUTES OF THE  
EKF General Assembly 2024**

**Wednesday, 3rd July 2024**

**Royal Garden Hotel Milan, Italy**

**1. Listing of the Representatives**

1.1 EKF Board of Officers (not voting):

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  
A. Arabadjiski, L. Sagaev, Bulgaria  
T. Panduric, Croatia  
L. Laibr, Czech Republic  
J. Jensen, D. Mwaipaya, Denmark  
T. Vikberg, Finland  
E. Malassis, France  
S. Henschier, C. Metzger, Germany  
K. Matzaras, Greece  
G. Sohajda, H. Mihalik, Hungary  
M. Kiosew, D. Bakker, Ireland  
P. Volodarsky, Israel  
M. Petri, G. Moretti, Italy  
S. Ghokhsaw, T. Judeh, Jordan  
M. Smagulov, Y. Smagulova, Kazakhstan  
V. Kindzulis, D. Arsenin, Latvia  
M. Maciulevicius, Lithuania  
J. Jalava, Luxembourg  
T. Debono, Malta  
G. Zugravu, Moldova  
M. Andrijasevic, Montenegro  
J. De Jong-Talen, G. Minnaert, Netherlands  
Z. Keskovski, A. Atanasovski, North Macedonia  
M. Skiftesvik, Norway



K. Yearwood, Poland  
P. Marques, Portugal  
S. Mahika-Voiconi, Romania  
I. Jovanovic, D. Nikolic, Serbia  
E. Allouche, D. Ložar, Slovenia  
M. Grice, South Africa  
M. A. González Jiménez, D. Castro Rabadán, Spain  
J. Thorsell, Sweden  
S. Buob, R. Fleury, Switzerland  
A. Nouisser, S. Smoali, Tunisia (Affiliated)  
C. Aydogdu, A. Batmansuyu, Turkey  
K. Stryzhychenko, D. Dobrovolsky, Ukraine  
T. Kincaid, F. Biscomb, United Kingdom

It was noted that 37 voting members out of 44 members were present or represented at the General Assembly.

### 1.3 Also present

A. Ducarme, Senior Councillor and Honorary President  
M. Wouters, Presenting 33rd EKC progress on behalf of Netherlands

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

- 2.1 Welcome, it is very good to see you all here. Even if you may have mainly come for the WKC, your interest in the operation of this European federation is important and necessary. We all are the European Kendo Federation; we make it prosper if united we stand! The Board's mission is to enable, guide and implement, lead. But as always, leading only works if there is somebody following!
- 2.2 The year 2023 saw Europe and the activities of EKF and the national Federations – though still overshadowed by the ongoing and still unbelievable and still unjust war in Ukraine – get free from the grip of the pandemic. This shows also in the statistics of grades and exams. We are almost back to pre-pandemic levels. This is good. We want this also to be also reflected in our member statistic, where we see interesting and some strange relations between yudansha registered and headcount. Please check and amend at your end!
- 2.3 **Financials:** Our financials are sound; details will be given by the treasurer. We do have a small surplus, but our mission is not to accumulate more than a reasonable reserve. Our policy to support selected events, such as focused on women, kids and seniors in all discipline has been working well. However, in the future we may need to use more funds on travelling for Japanese sensei, as I will report later when speaking about the FIK / ZNKR relations. Further, we want to focus on a new subject: European hachidan-



candidates – a goal which seems to be within reach – shall be supported within a certain budget, again the treasurer will give you the details.

- 2.4 **Technical system:** This is working quite reasonably, please use the possibilities, such as gathering information, displaying events, Menjo printing, exam registration, event registration etc. The mailing of Menjo shall be implemented soon. Just one item to be proud of: The European Championship System – codename Siver Sake - will be running – in an adapted version – also for the WKC.
- 2.5 **Elections at WKC:** Due to the Corona-Pandemic, the traditional cycle of elections for the EKF – BOD was affected by the extension of term we made in 2020. Thereafter, we want to return to the original system, having the election in the year before the WKC. Consequently, for the 2024 election a shorter term of two years will be effective for the BO, such setting the next election to 2026. The BO Team and other seasoned officers are available again, no alternative candidates have been presented. We take this as the message that we did our job.
- 2.6 Unless there are questions or specific comments here, we shall continue with the agenda.

### 3. G.A. Minutes 2023

Formal approval of the minutes of the GA 2023, 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)

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Kendo friends,

Last May we met in Beauvais and thirteen months after that, we meet again here in Milan. I am very glad to see all of you again. In 2023 nothing reminded us of the COVID days. Although the certain safety measures against COVID were in place, we returned to a full schedule of activities. And of course, practitioners of our disciplines across Europe, showed 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 the previous GA, the EKF Board has met 11 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 Antidoping activi-



ties, 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 Antidoping field, following WADA updates on prohibited substances and forming an Ad-Hoc TUE Committee, to examine relevant requests, for European Championships.

Antidoping tests were conducted at the 32 EKC 2023 Beauvais, for the male & female Individual Champions, with negative results.

However, tests conducted in a lower scale taikai, by a respective National Antidoping Authority, found a person positive, due to substances taken for recreational use. Appropriate penalties were imposed; however, the lesson is, tests can be conducted in smaller scale events, practitioners should be aware of being Antidoping positive from the use of substances not primarily intended for doping.

At this point I conclude by kindly reminding the requirement, for every Country member of EKF:

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

At this point my report is concluded. Thank you for your attention.

The delegate from Italy asked about the procedure for informing member federations of an Antidoping suspension. The President responded that the EKF Antidoping Rules reference the FIK Antidoping Rules, which uses a process managed through WADA. It is recommended that one or two members of each federation (e.g. Antidoping officer / Doctor / Lawyer) familiarise themselves with this system.

The Treasurer added that there is a FIK Anti-Doping Manual for Kenshi which she recommends federations circulate to their members. It is available on the FIK and EKF websites.

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

### **5.1 Financial Report 2023**

The financial year 2023 marked the definitive return to normality, in terms of activity. In spite of the relevant extra costs due to the double occurrence of the Kendo Referee Seminar (Brussels and Guildford, for the selection of the WKC shinpan) and the rise in the expenses for the Japanese delegations (who are not supported by AJKF in the same measure as in the past), EKF managed to have a positive result by the end of the year.



Beyond championships and examination sessions for all 3 arts, EKF could also offer a financial aid to some European-level events. The activities which were granted financial support were related to the same areas of development we already defined;

- Ladies: Fujita sensei's seminar in Spain and Women Aki Taikai in France
- Juniors: Sakura Cup in Hungary
- Lifelong Kendo: Tani sensei's Kodansha seminar in Italy

EKF's reserves were consolidated and left practically untouched during 2023.

This very prudent approach will allow to cover some extra expenses for initiatives already planned in the year 2024, in particular EKF merchandise purchase (shinpan and jury memberships) and specific support for hachidan candidates, while continuing sponsorship for international events dedicated to ladies, juniors and life-long kendo.

## 5.2 Budget 2025

The Budget for 2025 is more or less the same as for past years.

Included in the budget is ongoing supported for events – ladies, Juniors, life-long kendo as noted above.

Since the financial situation is in a healthy state we have agreed to offer 500 euro subsidy for candidates travelling to Japan to take 8 Dan exam, up to a total EUR 6.000.- limit.

In response to questions from the delegates about the 8th Dan support programme, it was further clarified that:

- Requests for support under should come from the National Federation who should send a letter requesting funding for their candidates.
- It will apply to all disciplines (Kendo, Iaido & Jodo).
- The EKF will not necessarily screen applications, the fact that the request comes through the National Federation will take care of this.
- Support may be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis.
- Further procedures may be put in place to ensure that the funds are used for the purpose indicated (e.g. evidence of participation in the exam).
- The programme will start straight away, i.e. for the exam in November in Japan.

The 2023 Treasurer's Report and 2025 Budget were unanimously accepted by the General Assembly.

## 6. Report by the Secretary-General (SG)

I would like to thank the member federations for their continued support and their cooperation with the administration of the EKF Database. This is working very well in most cases, and I hope it is making your lives easier as well as ours. I would just like to bring your attention to a few issues that can make things smoother.



- Most day-to-day administration tasks are completed via database, there are a few tasks where you need to contact us, mainly correcting grade information or updating grades for members who graded outside of Europe. Please ensure that the record for the person already exists in the Database and provide the latest Menjo as evidence. In cases with more than one missing grade please also provide a list of date and location of the previous dan grades as part of these requests.
- Ideally, exam participants should be added to the exam before the exam takes place, you can then download the list of candidates and use that during the exam. Exam results should be updated in the system after the exam. I know some federations, because of their structure, add all candidates after the exam, this is also ok, but be aware that you may have international candidates listed in the exam registration in the EKF System and add these to your records appropriately. Please don't forget to close the exams.
- It is important to keep your federation board member details up to date. Please list all of the board members there, sometimes we are contacted by people not listed as board members and we therefore do not know if they have authority to request changes.
- It is also very important to keep your list of active members up-to-date, and to annually update the total "Headcount" for your members (under the "EKF & FIK Fees" section of the "Member" page in the System. This is what determines your EKF & FIK fees, and it is also the basis of all of our statistics on membership. You can also see a report on your own statistics from the same "Member" page.
- As discussed at last year's GA, the EKF will no longer be printing the "Yellow Card" grade records for the countries, some individuals do contact us about these, we do not send them out directly to individuals. Your federation can print them directly from the EKF Database if you want to continue using them, but the EKF Database is now the canonical record of grades.
- Similarly, as mentioned already by the President, the EKF will soon be sending EKF Grading certificates by email after EKF Examinations. When entering candidates for exams it is now necessary for them to have an email attached to their record, so please ensure that the records are updated.
- Your Federation is responsible for maintaining the list of dojos and the events listing for your country. Again, I encourage you to keep this up to date, we have had queries from dojos about their records being incorrect or missing, or about adding events, but this is a function of the National Federations.

We have some newer members, or members where there have been personnel changes and we have had some questions and confusion over how to use certain functions. There is a "Help Documents" section in the EKF System menu for logged in users and it shows how to complete most functions. If it would be helpful I am also happy to set up an online session to demonstrate how to use the system.

The President added the following points

- Evidence of grading should ideally be provided in English, or with the relevant details translated.
- For Shogo registrations the National Federation should send an official request and a payment of 100 Euro is required.



- To replace an examination jury member, adding the new member first and then removing the old member avoids the need for revalidation of the exam.
- National Federations are free to set the registration closing date for their own exams.

In relation to payment for exams and other EKF payments, the Vice-President asked that countries be careful to include information on the purpose of the payment. The Treasurer thanked those federations who make a single consolidated payment for all examination candidates.

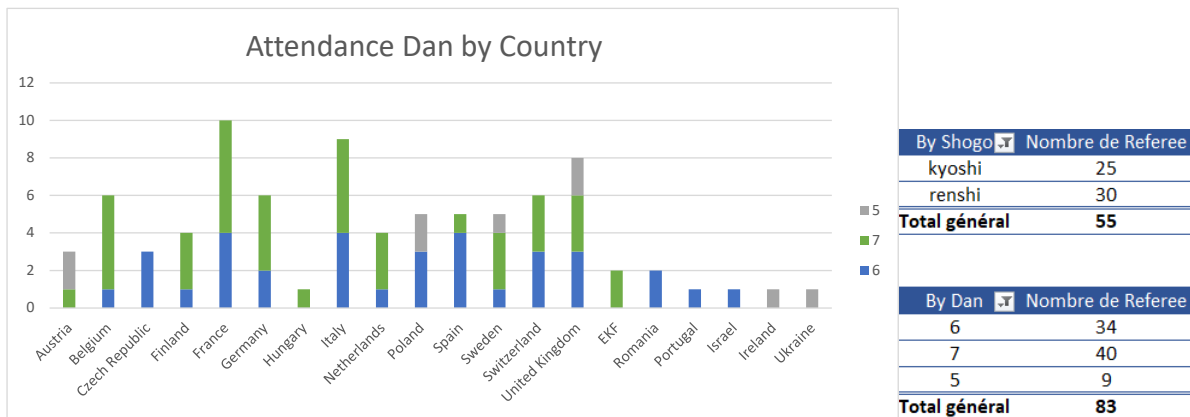
The delegate from Belgium asked if it would be possible to prevent a candidate being registered to more than one examination – i.e. in the case where a candidate registers for two exams, but passes at the first, they are then a no-show for the second and this is not usually communicated to the organising federation. The board confirmed that this was not currently possible in the EKF System, and it was suggested that good practice would be for Member Federations to remove such candidates from subsequent examinations or inform the organising federations.

## 7. Report of the Technical Director (TD)

A year almost as usual in 2023: Three European championships, a FIK/EKF Kendo refereeing seminar in February, a second FIK Kendo referee seminar in August and seven (1 more than 2022) 6 & 7 dan exams.

### 7.1 EKF events 2023

- **The 31st FIK/EKF Kendo Referee Seminar 2023 (Brussels, Belgium).**



In 2023, this selective kendo referee seminar, with a quota of 10 candidates per country, was a very successful event. The level was so high that the selection was difficult to make. A Japanese delegation composed of sensei and fighters was sent by ZNKR/FIK to evaluate European referees in preparation for the next WKC 2024 in Milano.



- **The supplementary FIK Kendo referee seminar 2023 (Guildford, UK)**

A second FIK kendo referee seminar was organised by FIK with EKF's and BKA's help in order to evaluate the European referees in preparation for the next WKC 2024 in Milano.

2023 Kendo Referee seminars	People
31st EKF Kendo Referee Seminar 2023 Brussels	83
Referee	83
FIK Kendo WKC Referee Seminar 2023 Guildford	33
Referee	33
<b>Total général</b>	<b>116</b>

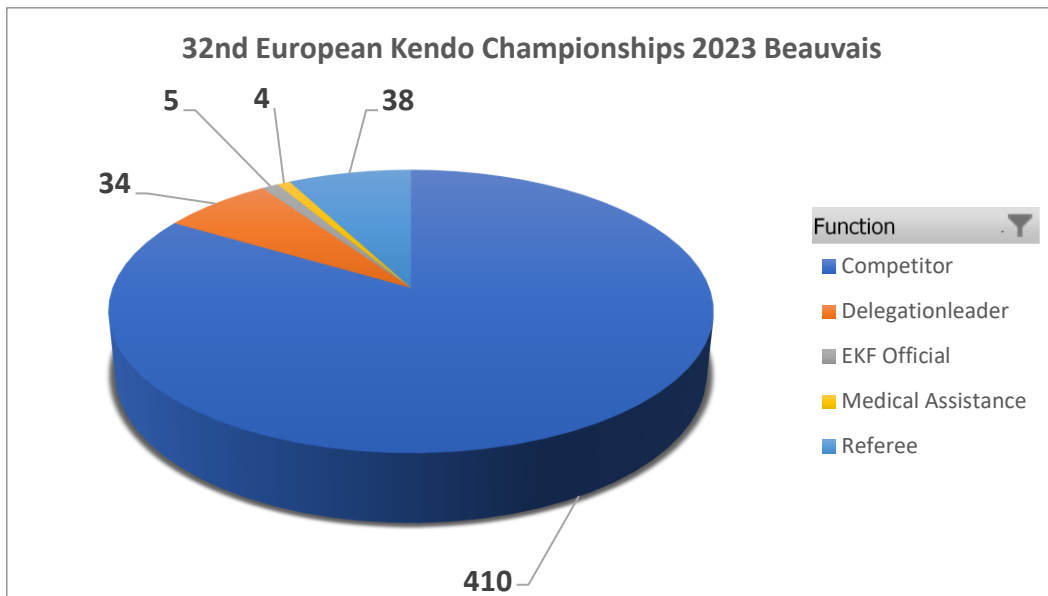
- **The 32nd European Kendo Championships 2023 Beauvais (FR)**

A big thank you to the French Kendo Federation for organizing this wonderful championship.

The FIK delegation was:

- TOYOMURA Azumori, Hanshi 8dan (Chief)
- SATO Keio, Hanshi 8dan
- KIYONO Shinobu, Kyoshi 8dan

The application of the new rules of the shiai was handled very well both by the referees and by the fighters. At the end, no significant remarks from TOYOMURA sensei.







Name	32nd European Kendo Championships 2023 Beauvais
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Individuals	
Junior Individual	66
Ladies Individual	107
Men Individual	152

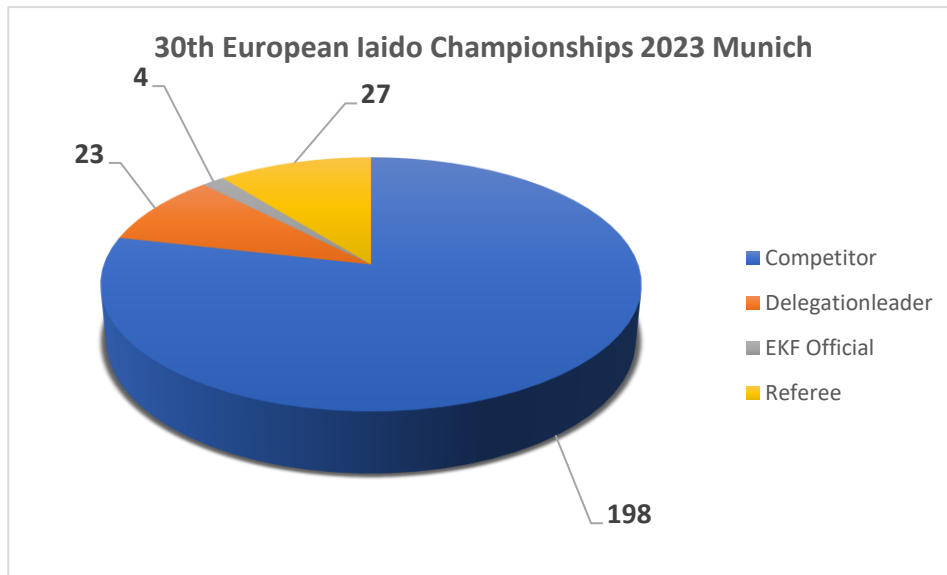
Name	32nd European Kendo Championships 2023 Beauvais
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Étiquettes de ligr Somme de Count	
Junior Team	17
Ladies Team	24
Men Team	32

- **30th European Iaido Championships 2023 Munich (GE)**

The FIK Delegation was:

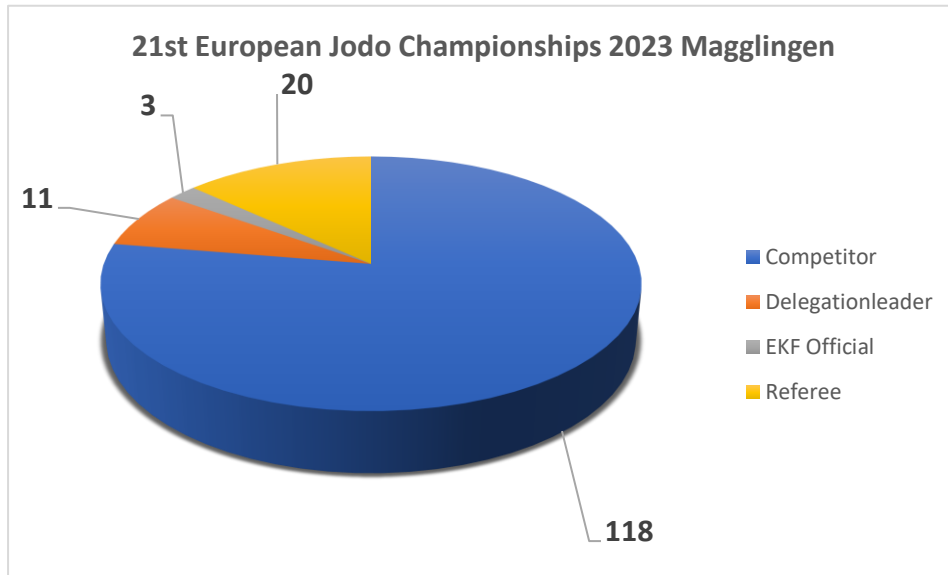
- NAKAMURA Masato, Hanshi 8dan
- KUNIKATA Takayuki, Kyoshi 8dan





<b>Name</b>	30th European Iaido Championships 2023 Munich	
	<b>Individuals</b>	
Competitor		198
Godan		40
Mudan		27
Nidan		30
Rokudan		27
Sandan		32
Shodan		32
Yondan		38
<b>Type</b>	TournamentTeams	
<b>Name</b>	30th European Iaido Championships 2023 Munich	
	<b>Teams</b>	
Team		25

• **21st European Jodo Championships 2023 Magglingen (CH)**



FIK Delegation:

- FUJISAKI Koro, Hanshi 8dan
- HATTORI Tomoji, Kyoshi 8dan



Name	21st European Jodo Championships 2023 Magglingen	
<b>Étiquettes de lignes</b> Individuals		
Competitor		118
Godan		31
Mudan		15
Nidan		23
Rokudan		31
Sandan		21
Shodan		20
Yondan		27
Type	TournamentTeams	
Name	21st European Jodo Championships 2023 Magglingen	
<b>Étiquettes de lignes</b> Teams		
Team		17

- **Grading major event and achievements: 6th and 7th Dan Exams**

	6				7				Total_Registered	Total_Passed
	_Registered		_Passed		_Registered		_Passed			
	female	male	female	male	female	male	female	male		
<b>Iaido</b>										
Mulhouse	11	40	0	5	2	13	1	1	66	7
Munich / Oberhaching	7	30	1	10	2	12	0	1	51	12
<b>Jodo</b>										
Magglingen	4	13	1	4	1	7	0	1	25	6
<b>Kendo</b>										
Brussels	9	67	2	13	5	38	3	6	119	24
Modena	6	53	3	25	3	25	2	7	87	37
Beauvais	13	58	5	20	5	34	1	10	110	36
Guildford	3	15	1	1		5		2	23	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>126</b>



Ratios	6			7		
	female	male	Total 6	female	male	Total 7
<b>Iaido</b>						
Mulhouse	0%	13%	<b>10%</b>	50%	8%	<b>13%</b>
Munich / Oberhaching	14%	33%	<b>30%</b>	0%	8%	<b>7%</b>
<b>Jodo</b>						
Maggingen	25%	31%	<b>29%</b>	0%	14%	<b>13%</b>
<b>Kendo</b>						
Brussels	22%	19%	<b>20%</b>	60%	16%	<b>21%</b>
Modena	50%	47%	<b>47%</b>	67%	28%	<b>32%</b>
Beauvais	38%	34%	<b>35%</b>	20%	29%	<b>28%</b>
Guildford	33%	7%	<b>11%</b>	-	40%	<b>40%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>23%</b>

## 7.2 The Technical Director's points for the future:

At the same time of the EKF GA, the Technical Director is attending the FIK Referee seminar before the WKC.

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

At this stage, the following events are planned with 6th and 7th Dan examinations:

- 19 WKC 2024 8.7.2024 Milan, ITA
- 22 EJC 2024 06-08.09.2024 Espoo, FIN
- 6/7 Dan Exam Kendo 11-13.10.2024 Bern, CHE
- 31 EIC 2024 08-10.11.2024 Goteborg, SWE
- REFSEM 2025 31.1-2.2.2025 Brussels, BEL
- 33 EKC 2025 30.05-1.6.2025 Leiden, NED
- 6/7 Dan Exam Iaido 13-15.6.2025 Bruges, BE
- 6/7 Dan Exam Kendo 9 or 10 2025 Budapest HUN

The delegate from Hungary asked if it was possible to see the statistics presented in the TD Report broken out by country as this is required by their national funding body. The delegate from Sweden asked if it would be possible to see these statistics in the form of a year-on-year comparison. The board confirmed that it would investigate both possibilities for next year.

## 8. Membership questions

### 8.1 Tunisia

The President outlined the current confusion over the status of the Member Federation in Tunisia:

- In 2014 the Association Sportive de Kendo (ASK) joined the EKF.
- The name was subsequently changed to the Tunisian Kendo Union and it was not clear whether this was the same organisation. Another organisation called the Tunisian Kendo League also exists.



- We requested clarification as to whether the Tunisian Kendo Union or Tunisian Kendo League legally identical to ASK.
- We received information from both the ASK and Tunisian Kendo League, but not a full new member application - according to Art. 03 of the Statutes in time for the agenda which is to be sent out one month in advance (EKF Statutes 05.07), i.e. including letters from 2 Member Federations, democratic statutes (in English or joined by an official translation, including regulations on a periodic General Assembly followed by approved Minutes).
- There is a procedure for handling competing federations, but it would be better if this could be avoided.

The delegates from Tunisia, who represented both organisations, jointly addressed the General Assembly to confirm that they would resolve the issue internally. In the meantime the ASK continues as the member organisation.

The President asked for the Tunisian delegates to ensure that they provided documentation stating that the current member is legally identical, or a full membership application for a new organisation in good time for the 2025 General Assembly.

The board thanked the delegates for taking this conciliatory approach, and the French delegate offered to support their efforts to find a solution.

## 8.2 Approaches from Iran, Uzbekistan & Armenia

- No full application received

## 9. Elections of the Board of Officers (Art. 06 EKF-Statutes)

### 9.1 Procedure

As the present officers are available for a further term and there were no alternative candidates presented with the time limits of the Statutes, the President proposes a simplified procedure, takes the chair for this purpose and presents the candidates.

### 9.2 Proposed term reduction

In order to avoid future elections falling in a WKC year (as not all EKF members are FIK members; every three years, the next in 2027), we propose to reduce – only this one time - the term of the incoming board by one year to end 2026.

### 9.3 Persons to take the following offices shall be elected for the next term of two years:

- EKF President;
- EKF Vice-President;
- EKF Secretary-General;



- EKF Treasurer;
- EKF Technical Director;
- EKF Auditor;

9.4 **10.3 The following candidatures and related declarations have been received:**

- Mr Dieter Hauck, Austria, longstanding EKF Treasurer, thereafter Vice- President, and currently President, is available as a candidate for the office of EKF President.
- Mr Spyridon Drosoulakis, Greece, Vice President since 2021, is available as a candidate for the office of EKF Vice President.
- Ms Kathryn Cassidy, Ireland, Secretary since 2021, is available as a candidate for the office of EKF Secretary.
- Ms Donatella Castelli, Italy, EKF Treasurer since 2017, is available as a candidate for the office of EKF Treasurer.
- Mr Jean-Pierre Labru, France, EKF Technical Director since 2018, is available as a candidate for the office of EKF Technical Director.
- Mr. Jindrich Ziegelheim, Czech Republic, current Auditor, is available as a candidate for the office of EKF Auditor and Mr Sorin Mahika, Romania, is available as a candidate for Reserve Auditor.

The candidatures were voted on in a single block and were unanimously elected for the reduced term of 2 years until the 2026 General Assembly.

The representative from Hungary thanked the board for their ongoing work.

9.5 **All candidates reserve the right to finally accept their election when the full result thereof is known.**

All candidates present accepted their election.

9.6 **The elected PR takes the chair; the Board of Officers takes office and continues the agenda.**

**10. Presentation of new Senior Councillors**

The President explained the purpose of the EKF Senior Councillor Group according to Article 7 of the EKF Statutes. Senior Councillors should be persons with experience in their National Federations or the EKF, but who no longer hold any official mandate in these organisations.

They form a group with experience and knowledge about the organisation of Kendo, Iaido and Jodo in Europe, who will be consulted by the EKF Board on a variety of issues. These include, for example, review and approval of National Shogo Programmes, review and advice on new EKF policies and programmes.



The current list of Senior Councillors was presented as an example. This can be found on the EKF Website. Countries are invited to consider and present new candidates for the Senior Councillor Group in advance of the 2025 General Assembly.

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

Update from yesterday's FIK GA:

- 11.1 **Support by FIK / ZNKR:** For many years we have received kind and highly valuable support from ZNKR / FIK by sending sensei to our Referee Seminar, Championships and exam sessions in three disciplines. During and after the pandemic and because of the war in Ukraine – while the financial situation of FIK was not much changed – costs for flights rose. This and regrettable late selection and late booking of tickets did significantly increase the related costs. Long lasting agreements and practices fell into disregard and the arrangements with FIK needed to be done on a case by case basis. The EKF BO is working to restore a more efficient basis for future operations. However, the procedures (availability, selection and numbers of sensei) and the financing may change in the future.
- 11.2 This shows even more that the voice of Europe needs to be unified, and the European federations need to establish a broad and independent basis for their operations for Kendo, Iaido and Jodo, while utilising international sources of support and for gaining knowledge. One tool to this end shall be the close coordination of the FIK Directors from the European Zone and the coordinated vote in the FIK General Assembly.
- 11.3 Further, the FIK Constitution, basically dating from the 1970ies, may need an update and amendment to meet the requirements of the present.
- 11.4 It was further noted that the EKF is intensifying connections with other zones and countries. In May 2023 the EKF cooperated with the Canadian Kendo Federation to send European Sensei to support their organisation of a Jodo Seminar and Dan Examination.
- 11.5 The 2027 WKC will be held in Tokyo in May.

## **12. Future Championships**

### **12.1 Rules issues**

#### **Men Face-Shield requirement**

The President indicated that the BOD intended to maintain the requirement for a half-shield in the men at the 33rd EKC 2025, the same as the requirement for the WKC.



The delegate from Israel argued that wearing a shield adversely affects breathing. The delegate from Sweden pointed out that there were studies undertaken in Japan and Korea indicating that the use of masks shows a decrease in performance, but that there is no evidence that plastic face shields impact performance.

The delegates from Poland and Belgium pointed out that there are no standards or safety regulations for shields. Some are home-made or modified which may raise safety concerns or affect their protective purpose. In the absence of any standard they can be any shape, size or colour.

The delegate from Israel called for a vote on the issue and this was seconded by the delegate from Bulgaria. The General Assembly was therefore asked to vote on the following motion:

*“The EKF Board proposes to include in the Rules and Regulations for the next EKC the necessity for competitors to wear a half shield with suitable specifications.”*

The result of the vote was 7 in favour, 25 against, and 3 abstentions. The motion was not passed and thus, in the absence of any counter recommendations from the WHO or laws from the hosting country, face shields will not be a requirement for the 33rd EKC.

### **Shinai Specification**

The President reminded countries to check the shinai regulations for the WKC and note the change from  $\geq$  to  $>$  as proposed by the EKF and changed at the last EKC. Going forward the EKF will now be able to use the same specifications as the WKC for future EKC.

### **Juniors' Categories at 33rd EKC 2025 Leiden**

- Juniors Category Individuals will split into Boys & Girls. Reason is a balance between security and fairness.
- Juniors Category Team will remain mixed. Composition, max 3 boys or 3 girls out of 4 max players.

It was confirmed that the age requirement for all junior categories would remain 16-17.





## 12.2 EKC

- 33<sup>rd</sup> EKC 2025 30.5-1.6, 2025 in Leiden, NED.

Guido Minnaert and Marije Wouters presented the current status of preparations for the 33<sup>rd</sup> EKC 2025 in Leiden, Netherlands. They confirmed that the hall would fit four shiai-jo and has a good wooden floor. The venue has recently been tested for the Iijima Cup. There is also a warming up hall with a rubber floor. The tournament fee is expected to be ~200 Euro, Sayonara ~60 Euro, with hotels in the region of 150-180 Euro for a 2-person room.

- Candidature for 2026 Montenegro

Marko Andrijasevic presented the candidature of Montenegro for the 2026 EKC. The venue has space for four shiai-jo with plenty of space for shinpan and spectators. There is a second hall for warming up. The participation fee is expected to be in the region of 160 Euro. The dates are not yet confirmed, but likely early June.

The General Assembly voted on the candidature of Montenegro which was accepted unanimously.

- Candidature for 2028 Serbia

Serbia confirmed their candidature for 2028.

- The Candidates are requested to confirm their offers, if still in force. Any other candidatures can be presented.

Portugal announced their candidature for 2030.

North Macedonia announced their candidature for 2031.

## 12.3 EIC

- 31<sup>st</sup> EIC 2024 08-10.11.2024 in Goteborg, SWE. Update, and discussion.

Jimmy Thorsell presented the current status of preparations for the 31<sup>st</sup> EIC 2024 in Goteborg, Sweden. In addition to the main hall, a second hall for warm-up is available. The participation fee will be 50 Euro for individuals and 100 Euro for each team as previously advised. Hotels range from ~43 Euro pp to ~118 Euro pp. There are good transport options. Shinken transport is not an issue within Sweden, but Jimmy warned that there may be issues for those landing in or traveling through Denmark.

- Presentation or announcements of future candidatures.

No candidatures received.



## 12.4 EJC

- 22<sup>nd</sup> EJC 2024 in 06-08.09.2024 in Espoo, FIN. Update and discussion.

Thomas Vikberg presented the current status of preparations for the 22nd EJC 2024 in Espoo, Finland. Espoo is a suburb of Helsinki and served by Metro from the city centre. The cost is 50 Euro for individuals and 100 Euro for each team as previously advised. Shuttle busses will be provided from the official hotels to the venue at a small additional cost. There was an issue with the hotel booking code, so Member Federations are asked to contact the EJC organisation team if they have any problems with booking.

- Presentation or announcement of further candidatures.

No candidatures received.

## 13. Sports Floors and EKC Events

Jens Moellgaard Jensen presented the Danish proposal for minimum floor requirements for future EKC events. In light of an injury sustained by a Danish competitor at the 2023 EKC, they are calling for the EKF to mandate that all floors for EKC events meet EU standard 14904.

The President responded stating that the EKF Board wants to ensure safe events and regrets any injury and incidents. We will do our best to ensure this does not happen again. Halls are routinely inspected in advance of EKC and other events to ensure suitability. In some situations, including the 32nd EKC 2023, the floor is a temporary one installed just before the event and it is therefore not possible to inspect the floor in advance.

There is a risk that by requiring this as a minimum standard, the chances to find venues to host future championships could be greatly reduced. For example, the hall in Leiden for the 33rd EKC 2024 says that they think they are certified, but they have not been able to produce any evidence of this. If the General Assembly adopts this motion, and the hall cannot produce this evidence, it could mean cancellation of the 32nd EKC. Older halls and those outside of the EU could have particular problems.

The delegate from France clarified that the floor installed for the 32 EKC in France was actually certified, but the problem was in the installation. Requiring this standard may not have prevented the issue in this case.

Jens asked that in the case of a poorly installed floor, the contractor should be required to fix the problem as soon as it is discovered.

Delegates expressed positions both for and against the proposal. A number of countries indicated that a yes vote would mean that they would not be able to host future events. After a lengthy discussion the proposal was put to a vote.



The result of the vote was 5 in favour, 17 against, and 8 abstentions. The motion was therefore not passed.

#### **14. Transgender athletes in Kendo, Iaido & Jodo**

The Secretary General made a presentation about transgender participation in Kendo competition. The presentation summarised the current IOC recommendations, as well as a number of arguments against the IOC's approach. It outlined some of the main approaches by other sports governing bodies, which range from participation based on self-declaration of gender, through setting testosterone limits and testing, allowing transgender women to compete in women's categories only where they have not gone through puberty as males (in conjunction with testosterone limits and testing), to complete bans on transgender women's participation in women's categories. It is clear that there is no consensus among other sports, and there is little research into the fairness and safety of transgender participation in Kendo, or indeed in other combat sports.

The SG pointed out that for the EIC and EJC this was not an issue as we do not have separate men's and women's categories. For Kendo, beyond the EKC, it is not necessarily the role of the EKF to set rules on this issue for all member organisations and it would make sense to first look to your national sporting bodies for guidance. Some National Federations may already be working on their own policies, and we are interested in hearing from them.

The EKF is continuing to watch developments in this area and is specifically looking for transgender inclusion policies from contact sports, or relevant research in this area.

The President emphasised that there is a potential Antidoping implication where gender-affirming hormone therapy is involved.

#### **15. Updated Grading Rules**

The updated EKF Grading Rules were presented. The President stressed that there were no substantive changes, and that the majority of details remain the same. One main change is the proposal under 6.1 that

*“In case that an examinee is not capable, due to medical reasons, to perform ZNKR Iaido kata 1-4 from a sitting position, the respective standing version of ZNKR Iaido kata 1-4, should be performed. A medical certificate, confirming examinee's medical issue, should be presented before the exam.”*

The delegate from Finland suggested that the requirement for a medical certificate is quite strong, and suggested a self-declaration might be sufficient.

The delegate from Belgium asked about the time limit in Iaido. The Vice-President responded that this is now a requirement in the FIK rules and has hence been adopted into the EKF rules.



The annex “*Guidelines for organizing Kendo, Iaido or Jodo grading examinations*” was presented. This is a further change to the Grading Rules document and gives general guidelines for federations and some points for jurors to consider.

It was agreed to put the new Grading Rules document to a vote as it stands, without any changes.

The result of the vote was 23 in favour, 4 against, and 0 abstentions. The updated EKF Grading Rules are therefore accepted.

### **16. The EKF-Story – The EKF Book Project**

An update on the status of the EKF Story was presented. The main part based on the archives of the late Jean-Pierre Raick is now largely written and in the process of being translated. Some additional biographies of prominent figures are currently being worked on. The second part is a short history of each country, some countries have not yet provided their content, and the SG will contact countries to follow up. The cover-art by Markus Frey was previously approved by the General Assembly in 2022.

### **17. Any Other Business**

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

The next GA will take place in the context of the 33rd EKC 2025 on Thursday 29th May 2025 in Leiden, The Netherlands.

### **19. Closing by the President**

The President closed the meeting thanking all delegates for their participation and expressed the wish to see them at the EKF Dinner.