



**MINUTES OF THE  
EKF General Assembly 2025**

**Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**Fletcher Wellness Hotel Leiden, Netherlands**

**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, G. Zegg, Austria  
N. Pauwelyn, Belgium  
L. Sagaev, A. Arabadjyski, Bulgaria  
T. Panduric, Croatia  
L. Laibr, F. Pavlíček, Czech Republic  
M. Sharton, Estonia  
M. Czimbalmos, Finland  
J.L. Fourcadet, E. Schoumsky, France  
G. Gagenava, A. Cruz, Georgia  
U. Kumpf, C. Metzger, Germany  
K. Matzaras, Greece  
G. Sohajda, M. Mihalik, Hungary  
M. Kiosew, D. Bakker, Ireland  
P. Volodarsky, Israel  
M. Petri, M. Battaglioni, Italy  
Y. Tatishev, M. Smagulov, Kazakhstan  
V. Kindzulis, D. Arsenin, Latvia  
M. Maciulevicius, T. Bagdonas, Lithuania  
J.K. Jalava, Luxembourg  
T. Debono, A. Debono, Malta  
D. Djuraskovic, Montenegro  
K. Van Hattum, The Netherlands  
A. Atanasovski, North Macedonia  
M. Skiftesvik, Norway



K. Yearwood, M. Szczepanski, Poland  
P. Marques, Portugal  
S.C. Mahika-Voiconi, Romania  
I. Jovanovic, D. Drmanović, Serbia  
M. Grice, South Africa  
M.A. González Jiménez, D. Castro, Spain  
C. Lindholm, Sweden  
S. Boub, K. Fleury, Switzerland  
A. Nouisser, F. Ben Souilah, Tunisia  
C. Aydogdu, B.E. Akmenek, Turkey  
D. Dobrovolski, Ukraine  
T. Kincaid, F. Biscomb, United Kingdom

### **1.3 Also Present**

A. Ducarme, Senior Councillor and Honorary President  
L. Vitalis, Senior Council Candidate  
L. Heek, Organising Committee for EJC 2027, Netherlands

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

**2.1 Welcome**, it is very good to see you all here. Your interest in the operation of this European federation is important and necessary and it gives us the tools to shape the future together with you, whatever it may hold. We all are the European Kendo Federation; we make it prosper if united we stand! The Boards mission is to enable, guide and implement, lead. But as always, leading only works if there is somebody following!

**2.2 The year 2024** saw Europe, our activities and those of the national Federations still overshadowed by the war in Ukraine and now another country – not our member, but of great impact to the world! - that used to be part of the solution became a problem. The world is changing rapidly – and not necessarily to the better. We all – individually and as organisations - need to be prepared in many different ways. And we need to act in coordination. Then we can shape the future!

**2.3 Members:** That is the basis of it all. The status and the outlook into the future is quite positive, the lines point upwards, there is a steady rise in yudansha! Most countries are very good in their updating, please go on or improve! However, in our member statistic we see interesting and some strange relations between yudansha registered and headcount. Please check and amend at your end! (Exhibits)

**2.4 Financials:** Our financials are sound; details will be given by the treasurer. We had a deficit in 2024, 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. In 2024 there was support given to the Italian Federation, hosting the WKC. 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. We also support persons who actually challenge the hachidan-exam in any of the disciplines. So, I think the money was well spent.

**2.5 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 was implemented. If you have questions, please ask or send a mail, the more the system is used and working well, the more we all have more time for things we enjoy. And the basis of all operations – not only in the military – is good communication. Please keep that running and just check if you feel anything does not work properly.

**2.6 We have been working** and will be reporting during this GA on several projects, such as a new menjo design and the book on the “EKF Story”. Further points of discussions will include the transgender-discussion, a subject without easy solutions, affiliations, and ideas like guest federations at ECs and a Kata taikai. This goes on top of the regular events – six, the Technical Director will report in more detail! – the not so regular communication with ZNKR / FIK and about 2500 emails (no spam / automatic emails!) the President alone handles in an average year. So, this was a very regular and therefore very busy year. The BO thanks for your support and continues to enjoy the job accepted – most of the time.

**2.7** I also want to thank my colleagues in the BO for their work done and the perfect cooperation among the Board. Without that, we would not be able to run this operation, covering 44 national federations, about 21.000 people practising and the agenda you can look up at the EKF – website, including six major events and some smaller ones.

**2.8** The demanding relationship with ZNKR and FIK will be addressed later at a separate point.

**2.9** No questions, the report was approved.

### **3 G.A. Minutes 2024**

Formal approval of the minutes of the GA 2024, 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)**

I am very glad to see all of you again, after our last meeting in Milan, last July.

2024 was an active year. EKF activities were again scheduled and conducted in full. And happily, practitioners of our disciplines, across European Zone, showed up in satisfactory numbers.



During this time the EKF Board continued its activities by, meeting regularly, monitoring the evolving situation and directing evolutions. Since previous GA, EKF Board has met 11 times, basically through video conference. BO 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 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 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, as past experience has shown, tests can be conducted in smaller scale events and practitioners should be aware of the potential of being doping positive from the use of non-doping substances.

EKF being a Regional Federation has no direct involvement with Antidoping administration matters, which are conducted, in our case, at National and Global, aka FIK, level. However, in order to cope with Antidoping requirements, at the ECs, we form, when needed, an ad-hoc TUE Committee, which examines TUE Requests, by member federations and advises us accordingly. The members of this Committee are selected among your AD officers, primarily medical doctors. Currently TUE Committee is composed by the AD Officers of Germany, France and The Netherlands

At this point I will conclude my report, 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 National Antidoping Agency website in the respective section in their Country information at EKF Data Base.
- f) Last but not least, please keep in mind that TUE Requests, for the European Championships, should be submitted on time. Otherwise, there is a risk of not been granted at the opening of the Championships, with whatever consequences may occur



## 5 Report by the EKF Treasurer (TR)

### 5.1 Financial Report 2024

The WKC in 2024 was significant burden on our finances, but this is not a bad thing. We are happy to host the WKC in Europe, because this makes it cheaper and easier for EKF members to take part. The EKF subsidised the organisers to run this event, which resulted in a deficit for 2024.

The membership fees, although not very high, are higher this year than previously. This is because the FIK fees have changed, and members were informed that this was coming last year at the FIK GA.

If any other European country who wants to organise a future WKC please come forward. There used to be a rotation system, one zone after the other for the WKC, but this has not been done for the past while. It is therefore possible for a European country to host the WKC after the next on if anyone is interested. The EKF would be happy to support such a bid in a similar way as for the Italian WKC.

The most expensive event of our year is the Referee Seminar. In the future, we will have a large number of candidates, and the delegations from Japan more getting more expensive, with flight cost increases, bringing fighters from Japan, etc. We may modify this situation going forward, as not every year is an EKF/WKC selection year. Also FIK is organising a second referee seminar which impacts our finances.

Examinations continue to be the biggest source of income for us.

#### **Spending**

Throughout 2024, the EKF provided financial aid to a number of European events. The criteria for these are that they help promote Kendo, Iaido and/or Jodo for juniors, ladies, and life-long training.

We supported the Fujita sensei women's Kendo seminar in Portugal, the Women in Iaido seminar in Germany, The Tani sensei Kodansha seminar in Italy, and the Hirakawa sensei seminar in Belgium.

We can only offer support a maximum of two times for an event in the same country. So we would be very happy to have candidate countries come forward and volunteer to host events such as these. Some, such as Fujita, women in Iaido, etc. move around Europe. You can also request support for other events targeting these demographics which your country is hosting.

As discussed at the 2024 GA, we have initiated a hachidan candidate support scheme. Please inform eligible candidates from your country. The support comes in the form of a small



bursary, 500 euro, for candidates to support their attempts at 8 dan. In return we ask just for evidence of their trip, and a report on the event.

Last year we sent 8 candidates, this year just with first exam we have reached 10 already. It is important that we know in advance so that we can plan how to distribute the bursary. In future we will move to handling this through the EKF System.

Even though we have already spent a lot on this, we will be flexible with the budget for upcoming exams this year, not to unfairly penalise people who didn't go to the May exams.

The support will be limited to once per year for support for any given candidate, and further limits may be put in place as we see the demand for the scheme.

Despite the above investments, we do have funds in reserve, enough to run a whole European Championships. We have had negative balance in recent years, and we consider our financial situation when making the decision on any spending.

## **5.2 Vote on Report 2024 and Budget 2026**

The report 2024 and the budget 2026 were approved.

## **5.3 EKF and FIK Membership Fees**

See 5.1 above.

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

Thank you for working with the EKF System, which, as the President mentioned earlier, is working well and makes everyone's life easier.

There have been some delays processing requests, in particular with regard to Shogo registrations. Shogo registration is voluntary, but there is a 100 euro fee associated with registering Shogo grades. Delays in processing the Shogo registration usually arises where the payment has not been made or is not identifiable. There is also an unavoidable delay between receiving a request and verifying that the payment has been received. We try to process these in a prompt manner, but there is a backlog, so we ask you to be patient. We have streamlined access to the online banking information, which should help us to process these more efficiently going forward.

The exam registration process is working better, some countries have been making great efforts to improve this process, thank you!

When sending requests to update grades for your members who have graded abroad, please send us their grading record in good time. We need their latest menjo (or other evidence of current grade), plus a list of the date and location of each of their prior dan exams.



This is very important, keeping the dan register is one of the primary functions of the EKF and we want to make sure that it is accurate. In almost every situation it should be possible to find the information by contacting the issuing federation. Please try to provide this information, and I encourage you to do this as soon as possible after a person grades abroad or moves to your country from a non-EKF country. Otherwise it may not be possible to add them to an exam in future, or to an exam jury.

Evidence of grading abroad should ideally be provided in English or with a translation of at least the date and other pertinent details.

Please add jury members early to ensure that we can validate exams. Please also don't forget to close exams. If you make an error in noting who passed an exam, we can reopen an exam so that this can be fixed.

We have had a number of emails informing us of board changes in your federations. The most important thing here is to update the record in the EKF system. This acts as official notification, although an email informing us of board changes can also be useful. When personnel change, you may also need to update credentials to access the EKF System. This has to be done via an email from the president requesting new accounts. Please note that it is always better to create personal accounts for each board member who needs access rather than using a single shared account. This will make things easier for you, as well as for us.

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.

A reminder that we are no longer issuing yellow cards, the EKF System is the authoritative record of grades. If a country wants to issue the EKF yellow cards to their members, you can download the outer cover from the documents section of the website, and you can download / print the inner part with the person's record from their profile within the EKF System. If you believe these add value for your members, feel free to issue them. We will also be advising individuals who contact us asking for the yellow card to contact their federation instead.

I remind you that 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 adding events to the EKF Agenda and Calendar. We don't do this for you, please let your regional federations / clubs know about this option if they are running events. For events that have a Europe-wide focus, we can also share on FB, please



contact us directly if you want this.

## 7 Report of the Technical Director

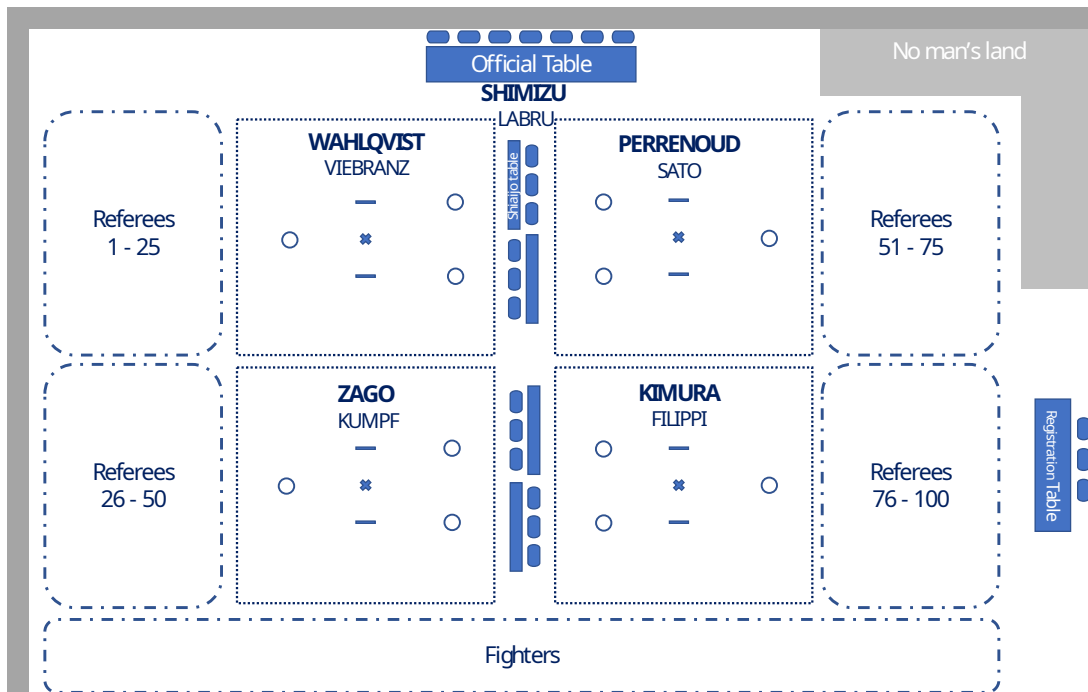
This year 2024 was a WKC year. This means that although Iaido and Jodo European championships were held, as every year, there was no EKC and no FIK Kendo Referee Seminar. At the same place and date, EKF organize an open (more than usually) Kendo Referee Seminar.

### 7.1 EKF events 2024

- **The 32nd EKF Referee Seminar 2024 (Brussels, Belgium).**

In Brussels (ADEPS), from February 2 to 4, 2024, this edition was organized, and SHIMIZU Shinji sensei was commissioned by ZNKR.

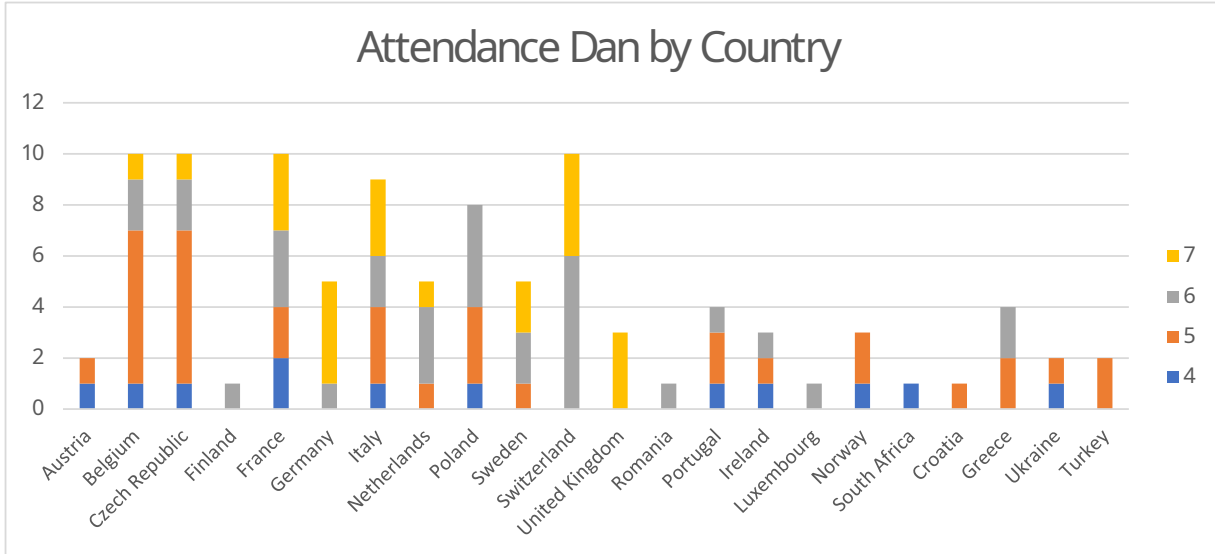
It was a referee seminar open to all from 4th dan, so 100 people attended. In spite of the fact that there was no selection neither for WKC nor EKC, a large group of senior official shinpan attended this seminar, and I decided to involve them in the organisation. So thank you to all the European senseis mentioned in the graph below:



As you can see, this large hall (ADEPS Brussels) seems to be very small, but was managed and it was a great success.



The attendance by country:

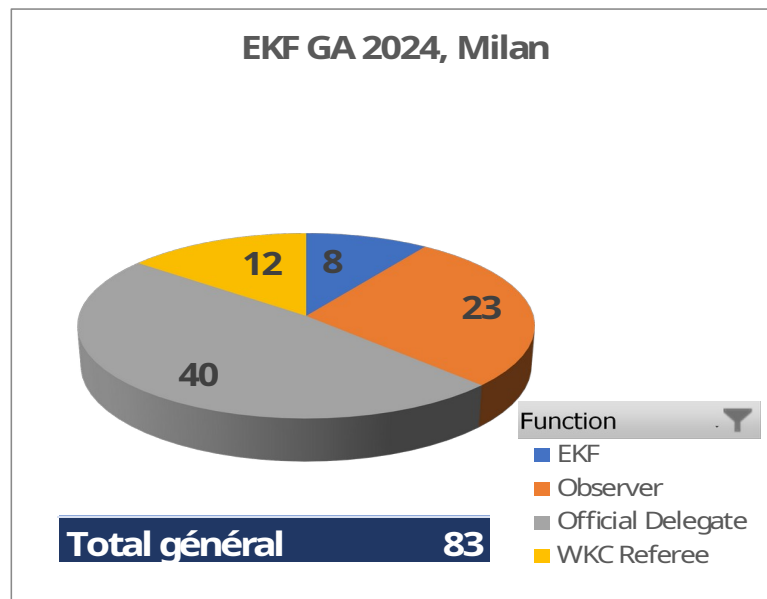


The EKF BO has decided to repeat this special seminar every year where a WKC is held.

- **The EKF General Assembly, July in MILAN (IT)**

Close to the World Kendo Championships, the EKF GA was held.

The attendance was:

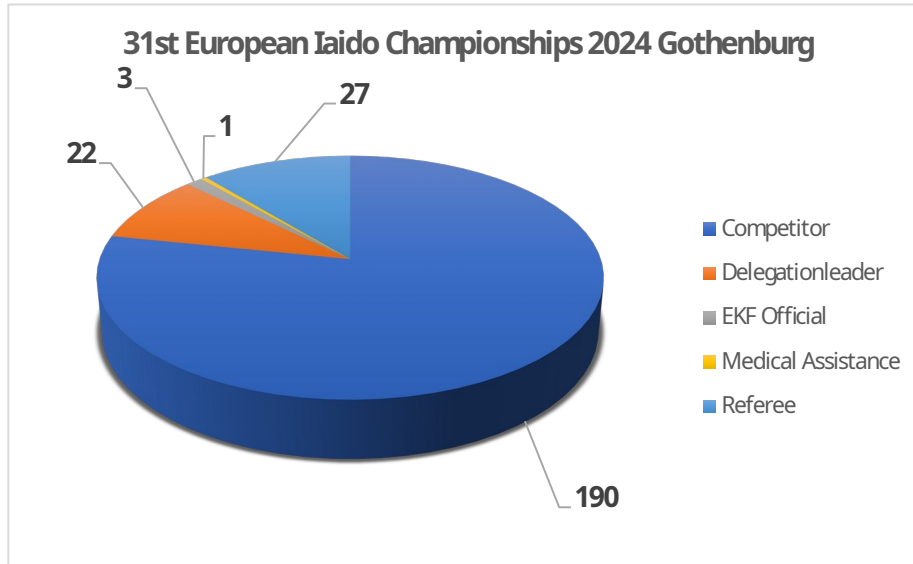




- **31st European Iaido Championships, GOTHENBURG (SWE)**

The FIK Delegation was:

- ISHIDA Sumio sensei, Iaido Hanshi 8 dan
- ODA Nobuaki sensei, Iaido Kyoshi 8 dan



<b>Type</b>	(Tous)	<input type="button" value="v"/>
<b>Name</b>	31st European Iaido Championships 2024 Gothenburg	<input type="button" value="v"/>

<input type="button" value="v"/> Individuals	
Competitor	190
Godan	41
Mudan	24
Nidan	34
Rokudan	31
Sandan	39
Shodan	28
Yondan	37

<b>Type</b>	TournamentTeams	<input type="button" value="v"/>
<b>Name</b>	31st European Iaido Championships 2024 Gothenburg	<input type="button" value="v"/>

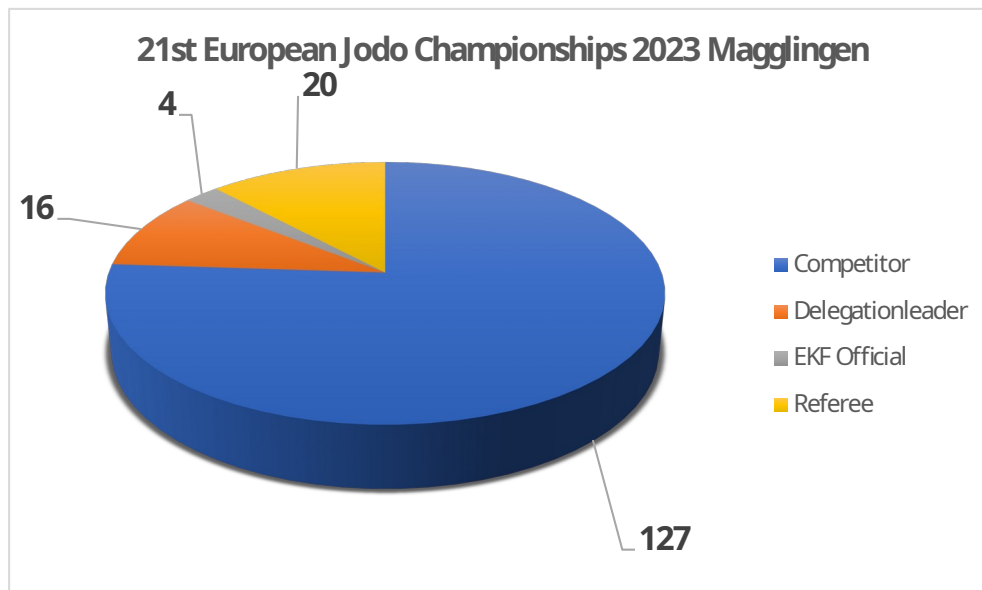
<input type="button" value="v"/> Teams	
Team	24



- **22nd European Jodo Championships, ESPOO (FIN)**

FIK Delegation:

- MORIMOTO Kunifumi sensei, Jodo hanshi 8 dan
- KOJIRO Koichi sensei, Jodo hanshi 8 dan



Type	(Tous)	<input type="button" value="v"/>
Name	22nd European Jodo Championships 2024 Espoo	<input type="button" value="x"/>

Étiquettes de lignes <input type="button" value="x"/> Individuals	
Competitor	127
Godan	31
Mudan	21
Nidan	27
Rokudan	23
Sandan	21
Shodan	17
Yondan	32

Type	Tournament Teams	<input type="button" value="x"/>
Name	22nd European Jodo Championships 2024 Espoo	<input type="button" value="x"/>

Étiquettes de lignes <input type="button" value="x"/> Teams	
Team	16



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

Type ExamPerson

2024	6				7				Total _Registered	Total _Passed
	_Registered		_Passed		_Registered		_Passed			
	female	male	female	male	female	male	female	male		
Iaido										
Budapest	6	26	0	9		13		2	45	11
Gothenburg	9	24	4	7		8		2	41	13
Jodo										
Espoo	2	9	1	5	1	8	1	2	20	9
Kendo										
Brussels	10	62	2	7	2	29	0	3	103	12
Milano	12	67	3	21	1	33	0	6	113	30
Bern	10	49	3	12	1	17	1	2	77	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>93</b>

Ratios	6			7		
	female	male	Total 6	female	male	Total 7
<b>Iaido</b>						
Budapest	0%	35%	28%	-	15%	15%
Gothenburg	44%	29%	33%	-	25%	25%
<b>Jodo</b>						
Espoo	50%	56%	55%	100%	25%	33%
<b>Kendo</b>						
Brussels	20%	11%	13%	0%	10%	10%
Milano	25%	31%	30%	0%	18%	18%
Bern	30%	24%	25%	100%	12%	17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>17%</b>

## 7.2 The Technical Projects:

- **European Kendo no Kata open tournament**

As we have discussed for two consecutive AGMs, this project has a good opportunity to get off the ground: there will be no EKC in 2027, which will allow for the organization of the first European competitive Kendo no Kata event in spring 2027.

The idea, at this stage, is to organize this open event over a weekend, followed by a Kendo no Kata seminar on the second day (or vice versa).

The rules will be inspired by Kendo no Kata championships in Japan and elsewhere. A technical committee will be formed by sensei from the three EKF disciplines.

Candidatures are open. Applicant countries should email the EKF to apply.



- **Refereeing also their own country in European Championships**

This is not a rule, but rather a matter of "habits & customs". For many years, referees were not allowed to referee matches from their own country.

In Iaido and Jodo, the Ryuha system and the teaching network of all referees and sensei have now made nationality a non-priority.

In Kendo, the level of refereeing has improved considerably since the quota was opened to 10 candidates per country. This decision brought together different generations of referees, most of them former members of their national team, and increased their opportunities to experience high-level shiai refereeing. Refereeing matches from their own country, but also from their own dojo, friends and family, brings them to experience additional pressure that develops their ability to handle the pressure of the stakes.

It is also noted that at the World Kendo Championships, most of the referees, and most of the best among them, are Japanese, Korean, or American and, as a result, are not allowed to referee the semifinals and finals. This project could point to another path for a future WKC.

### **Discussion**

The representative from Poland asked about the timeframe for this change and the Technical Director confirmed that, if agreed, it would be applied immediately from the next Championships.

The representative from Kazakhstan asked about the current breakdown of European Referees by country. The Technical director explained that the selection for each EC was made from a panel of referee candidates nominated by their national federations. Although larger countries, or those with a longer history of practice, are likely to have more higher grades and therefore more referees nominated and selected, this is not always the case.

The representative from Belgium suggested that Iaido and Jodo should have their own referee seminar or other procedure for judging referees to ensure that they are impartial and able to referee their own countries. The Technical Director responded that because of the Ryuha system, many referees are teaching in other countries and have direct students outside of their own countries. It doesn't make sense to allow them to referee their own students, but not their country fighters. He added that when we see the draw, we will endeavour to separate referees from their country, but it is not practical to manage a separation of referees from fighters that takes into account ryuha, countries, and networks for Iaido and Jodo. There was some discussion about possible ways to rank or judge referees, but the Technical Director pointed out that judging that a referee is 100% impartial is not really possible, it is a matter of building a higher level of skills to get closer to impartiality, which is something we need to work on an ongoing basis.



The President pointed out that the main purpose of the Kendo Referee Seminar is selection, as we have twice as many candidates than referee places. In Iaido and Jodo we are lucky to get enough nominated candidates at all. If we don't have the numbers, there is no point in having a selection seminar.

The representative from Sweden asked about the impact of this proposed change on the current selection process. The Technical Director explained the current difficulty during EC of selecting referees for quarterfinals, semifinals and finals in a short period of time. This would be made easier by the proposed changes, as a simpler referee draw could be made. There would be no quota for countries, and the final selection will continue to depend on the level of the referees, and the balance between country and level. For Iaido and Jodo, there are not usually enough nominated candidates to allow a proper selection, as very few candidates are put forward by their federations. The Vice President added that the number of countries putting forward referees is increasing, but the number of candidates is still low.

The representative from Hungary added that without the numbers the selection is moot. National Federations should nominate more referee candidates, and we can then work on the quality of the referees.

The representative from Poland pointed out that some National Federations may have been rotating their nominated candidates themselves. Knowing that only two or three maximum would be selected per country, they chose not to put forward all of their candidates each year to ensure that all of their referee candidates had a chance of selection at some point. The Technical Director indicated that the removal of the restriction on refereeing your own country would also reduce the restrictions on the number of referees from each country. He asked that National Federations propose all available candidates for selection in future.

The representative from Norway pointed out that while there are many elements that may impact the partiality of referees, refereeing their own country is the one element that we can control. She is therefore not in favour of removing this restriction. Having referees from the same country as fighters may also not look good to the audience. The Technical Director reiterated that currently referees can referee their own students, which, in his opinion, is worse than refereeing a fighter from your own country who you may not know. As it is not possible mathematically to track and balance all of the factors, a random allocation is fairer.

The representative from Finland asked if it would be possible instead to ask referees to declare who are their students. The Technical Director pointed out the difficulty of this, as many high-grade sensei have a lot of students across Europe, and tracking and balancing this information would be extremely difficult. He has considered this and believes that the easiest and fairest way is to just remove the rule for countries.

After discussion the proposal was put to three votes, for Kendo, Iaido and Jodo. At the time of the vote there were 32 voting representatives present.



	<b>Kendo</b>	<b>Iaido</b>	<b>Jodo</b>
In Favour	17	11	11
Against	10	9	8
Abstentions	5	12	13
<b>Result</b>	<b>Passed</b>	<b>Passed</b>	<b>Passed</b>

## 8 Membership questions

### 8.1 Tunisia

There are two organisations in Tunisia. The current member is the Association Sportive de Kendo, President Sadri Smoali. They have been the member since 2014 and have sent teams to represent Tunisia at the EKC, and participated at the GA.

The second organisation is called the Tunisian Kendo League, President Ahmed Nouisser, which is part of the Tunisian Judo Federation.

During 2024, the name of the current member was changed in the EKF System from the Association Sportive de Kendo to the Tunisian Kendo Union. At this point it was not clear whether this organisation was a new organisation, or simply a renaming of the existing member, and we asked for clarification. At the 2024 EKF GA, 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 continued as the member organisation.

We have now received a membership application from the Tunisian Kendo League.

In December 2024, we also received an email from Mr. Smoali, president of the ASK, stating that in order to comply with Tunisian legal requirements, issued on May 29, 2024, from the Tunisian Ministry of Youth and Sports, which stipulated that associations cannot represent the interests of the country at the international level, the ASK was officially requesting to transfer the membership of EKF for Tunisia from the ASK to the Tunisian Kendo League.

These documents were circulated with the agenda for this meeting, along with the other materials from the Tunisian Kendo League, including support letters from France and Greece.

On reviewing these documents, there are some concerns about the statutes, which appear to be more internal rules, and guidelines for organising events, etc. rather than an official constitution or statutes

On 15th May 2025, we received a follow-up letter from Mr. Smoali, president of the ASK, raising concerns about the regulatory framework governing the Tunisian Kendo League. In particular he pointed out that according to Article 28 of the statutes of the Tunisian Judo Fed-



eration, league presidents and board members are appointed, rather than elected, meaning that the current board of the Tunisian Kendo League are not democratically elected by the members.

In this letter Mr. Smoali also disputes some of the information provided by the Tunisian Kendo League in their application and raises concerns about the statutes / internal regulations document.

He therefore withdraws the request made in December 2024 to allow the Tunisian Kendo League to replace the ASK as the member organisation for Tunisia in the EKF.

The EKF board feel that there are enough legitimate concerns, as well as confusion over the current situation, to make a vote to accept the Tunisian Kendo League as a member inadvisable at this time.

The EKF board proposes to ask the two organisations to come back to us by the end of 2025 with a clear proposal, with evidence of sufficient democratic processes being in place and the necessary authority from the Tunisian Ministry of Youth and Sport to represent the interests of Tunisian Kendo at an international level.

In the absence of such a proposal, the EKF board would move for expulsion of the current member during the 2026 GA. In the meantime, in order to facilitate the practice of Kendo in Tunisia, the EKF board proposes no change to the current membership.

The representative from Tunisia said that he was not aware of the content of the letter sent by Mr. Smoali on 15th May. As far as he is aware the Tunisian Kendo League has sent a complete application, and he expressed his disappointment at the decision not to approve membership. He agreed to clarify the questions raised about the democratic nature of the new organisation after the General Assembly.

For the present, the ASK remains as the official EKF member organisation for Tunisia.

## **8.2 Morocco**

There are currently two organisations in Morocco. The Royal Moroccan Federation of Kendo, president Nour-Eddine Cheddad, is the current member, having taken over from the Royal Moroccan Federation of Aikido, Iaido and Martial Arts at the GA 2022.

There was no member of the Royal Moroccan Federation of Kendo at the GA. A second federation from Morocco, the Royal Moroccan Federation of Aikido, Kendo, Iaido and Jodo (FR-MAKIJ), president Abdelhamid El Hamidi El Idrissi, was attending the EKC, but had not been invited to speak at the General Assembly. We have received a membership application from



this second organisation. The application is incomplete as per Article 3 of the EKF Statutes, and, furthermore, was received too late to be considered at this year's GA.

There has apparently been a legal challenge against the validity of the Royal Moroccan Federation of Kendo (the current member), which has been declared illegal by the Moroccan courts. The EKF board was informed that this decision is being appealed.

Similarly to the Tunisian membership question, the EKF board proposes that the two organisations come back by the end of 2025 with clarity on the legal status of both organisations. In the absence of such clarity, the EKF board will move for expulsion of the current member during the 2026 GA. If a full membership request was to be received then this would be considered and eventually presented to the GA for approval.

In the meantime, in order to facilitate the practice of Kendo in Morocco, the EKF board proposes no change to the current membership.

### **8.3 Change of status of provisional members to full members**

- Georgian Kendo Association (joined 2021)
- Kazakhstan Kendo and Iaido Federation (joined 2023)

Both organisations were confirmed as full members by a unanimous vote of the General Assembly. The representatives from Georgia and Kazakhstan expressed their thanks.

### **8.4 Approach from Uzbekistan.**

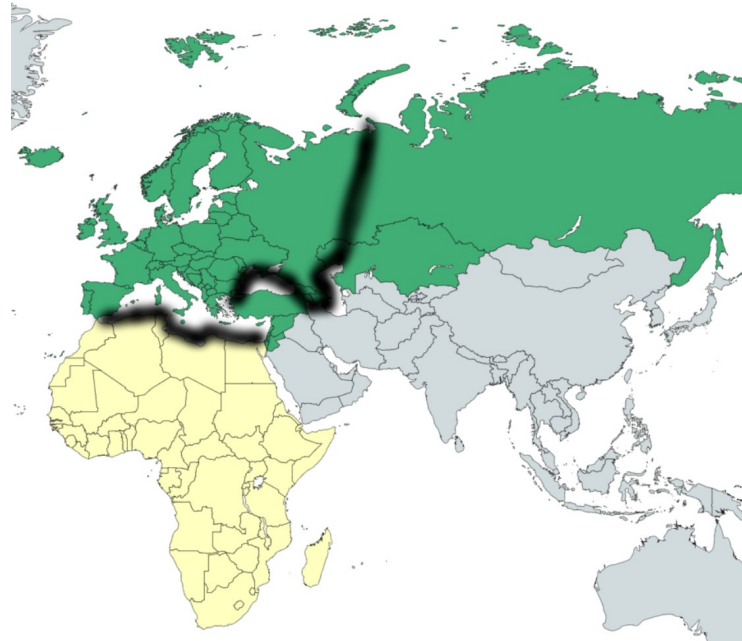
We received an application from the Uzbekistan Kendo Federation. The application is formally complete, and the content of the application is not in question. However, on reviewing the application the EKF board determined first that Uzbekistan is outside of the geographically defined region specified within Article 03.01 of the EKF Statutes, which is bordered to the East by the water divide of the Ural Mountains, the Ural River, and by the Caspian Sea.

We therefore explored the possibility of Affiliated Membership, which is open to other Countries within the European Zone, as defined by the FIK (EKF Statutes 03.02). On reviewing the FIK Constitution, however, it appears that Uzbekistan also falls outside of the European Zone as defined by FIK (see the Exhibit for Zones in the FIK Constitution). According to the FIK zone definitions, the EKF board believes that Uzbekistan would not be eligible for EKF Membership but should instead apply directly to FIK for membership of the Asian Zone.

On being informed of this, the Uzbekistan Federation have asked us to reconsider based on the argument that Uzbekistan can be considered as part of the Caspian region and the Near East. The EKF board believes, however, that they are firmly in Central Asia. Other countries, such as Russia and Kazakhstan, which are also largely in Central Asia, are members, but these



countries have part of their territory within the explicitly defined EKF border area, as per Article 03.01 of the EKF Statutes. See map below for clarification.



There are also ongoing efforts by FIK to develop an Asia Zone federation. According to FIK rules, Uzbekistan would be eligible to join this federation, rather than the EKF.

The representative from Israel stated that the Uzbekistan Federation was promised membership, but the board clarified that this was not the case. They had previously sent an incomplete application and were informed of the requirements for consideration of membership applications at that time. It is unfortunate that we did not review the zone borders at that time and inform them that they were not eligible for EKF membership, but applications are not typically considered until we have received all of the completed documentation.

### **8.5 Situation in Russia.**

The EKF has been approached by a second Kendo Federation in Russia, not the original member federation. They have enquired about membership, citing the changed situation in Russia. No application has been received.

In the opinion of the EKF board, the situation in Russia has not materially changed, and this is not the time to consider any application from a Russian federation.

The President reminds members that in extending membership of their federations to individuals who were formerly members of the Russian Kendo Federation, you accept a certain responsibility for that individual. In situations where a former RKF member is living in your



country and has a connection to your federation this makes sense, but federations should not extend membership and request transfers for people they don't know and who have no connection to their country.

## **9 Presentation of new Senior Councillors**

### **9.1 Louis Vitalis NED**

### **9.2 Michel Guentleur FRA**

The President reminded the GA of the role of EKF Senior Councillors who act in an advisory capacity to the EKF board. Candidates for Senior Councillor positions should be individuals with a strong knowledge and understanding of the European Kendo / Iaido / Jodo landscape, but who are no longer administratively active in their federations. Senior Councillors have the right to be present at the EKF General Assembly and have a seat of honour at the European Championships.

Both candidates were unanimously accepted by the General Assembly.

## **10 EKF Relations with FIK and ZNKR**

10.1 For many years we have received kind and highly valuable support from ZNKR / FIK by sending sensei to our Referee Seminar, examinations and the Championships in three disciplines. The EKF BO cooperated with ZNKR / FIK in the spirit of friends who pursue a common goal. Certainly, all this needed to be financed, but that was and is no real problem. This situation has – not so much in substance, but in attitude – changed over the recent years. Long lasting agreements and practices fell into disregard and the arrangements with FIK now need to be done on a case by case basis and in sometimes cumbersome negotiations. 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.

10.2 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.

10.3 The FIK Constitution, dating from the 1970s and drafted by ZNKR, needs an update and amendments to meet the requirements of the present, in particular a more democratic way of decision making. There is a unique opportunity right now – i.e. with the FIK General Assembly in 2027 – as FIK shall be legally registered in Japan and transform into some kind of corporation under Japanese law. This needs to be agreed by the GA and for this the FIK Statutes need amendment. EKF will closely follow this process on an international, even global, level, provide proposals and advice. For you it is important to take note, study the EKF advice, the papers and the situation and make the right decisions – maybe deviating from the past to



shape the future. On the practical side: Start considering, whether you will be present in the FIK General Assembly in Tokyo 2027 – and if not, to whom you can give a proxy / power of attorney.

## **11 Future Championships**

### **11.1 EKC**

- 34<sup>th</sup> EKC 2026 to be held June 19th-21st, 2026 in Podgorica, MNT. Presentation by Dejan Djuraskovic:
  - The 34<sup>th</sup> EKC 2026 will take place in Podgorica, the capital city of Montenegro from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> June 2026, with the GA on the 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - The sports hall, which the EKF board visited recently during the Balkan Cup, has seating capacity for 6,000 people.
  - There is a second smaller hall available for warming up, and potentially a third larger hall if needed.
  - The floor of the main hall is Basketball Association standard.
  - Montenegro is a small country, and prices are reasonable (e.g. average taxi price 5 EUR, average meal 10 – 20 EUR).
  - Although not officially within the Euro Zone, the currency is the Euro.
  - It was noted that roaming charges may be applied as Montenegro is not a member of the EU, but there are reasonably-priced internet access bundles available.
  - The Balkan Kendo Community have agreed to support the event by providing helpers.
- Candidature for 2028 Serbia was confirmed.
- Candidature for 2029 Portugal was confirmed.
- Candidature for 2031 North Macedonia was confirmed.

No objections were raised to any of the above candidatures.

- EKC 2025 Junior Individuals practical impacts.

In this year's EKC 2025, Junior individuals boys and girls will be split for the first time. The President reminded the GA that time will be tight and asked teams to do everything they can to keep things on schedule. It was noted that if we find we can't reliably complete the championships in three days then there will be other implications for future championships, for example, splitting the championships, going to 4 days, etc.



## 11.2 EIC

- 32<sup>nd</sup> EIC 2025 to be held 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> November 2025 in Prague, CZE. Presentation by Lukáš Laibrť:
  - Prague is very well connected for travel.
  - The championships will take place at the Slavia Sports Centre which can seat 1,000 spectators and has a floor space of 1056m<sup>2</sup>.
  - An additional hall is available for training, warmup and seminar.
  - The main hotel is the Iris Hotel Eden, which is just nine minutes by foot from the venue. All delegations, the Sayonara party, etc. will be in the same hotel.
  - The organisers recommend that delegations use the PID Litacka app for timetables, bus and train ticket sales, etc.
  - Lunches will be provided in the hotel.
  - The website is live at <http://www.eic2025.cz> and the contact email is [info@eic2025.cz](mailto:info@eic2025.cz).

The candidature was accepted unanimously by the GA.

- Candidature for EIC 2026 Germany. Presented by Christian Metzger
  - The championships will take place from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> November 2026 in Munich / Oberhaching in the same venue as that used for the 30th European Iaido Championships in 2023.
  - There is space for four shiai, but no spectator seating.
  - The accommodation cost is very reasonable and there are 300 beds available at the venue, with other hotels nearby.
  - All meals and the Sayonara party will be at the venue.
  - The fees are expected to be ~495 EUR.

The candidature was accepted unanimously by the GA.

- Candidature for EIC 2027 Switzerland. Presentation by Stefan Buob. The Championships will take place from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> October 2027 in Magglingen, Switzerland.



- Magglingen is within easy of Geneva and Zurich by public transport.
- The venue is the Swiss Olympic Sports training centre with everything on-site, accommodation, meals, etc.
- The Swiss Olympic hotel has 300 individual and double rooms.
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included in price and the Sayonara party will also be in the same location.
- The price will be in the region of 400 - 500 EUR.
- The website eic2027.ch will be active soon.

The candidature was accepted unanimously by the GA.

### 11.3 EJC

- 23<sup>rd</sup> EJC 2025 to be held 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> September 2025 in Zielona Gora, POL. Presentation by Michal Szczepanski.
  - No airport in Zielona Gora, the organisers will arrange bus transfers for delegations to and from Poznan or Wroclaw airports based on information requested as part of final entry.
  - The venue has a large sports hall, with an additional hall a few minutes' walk away.
  - Accommodation is located around the sports hall and shuttle buses will be provided .
  - Dormitories are available within walking distance from the sports hall.
  - Breakfast and lunches will be provided for those who want them, for those staying in the dormitories, breakfast will be provided in the main sports hall.
  - Shuttle buses will be arranged to and from the Sayonara party.

The candidature was accepted unanimously by the GA.



- Candidature for EJC 2026 France. Presentation by Jean-Louis Fourcadet.
  - The Championships will take place from 25th to 27th September 2026 in Mérignac, Bordeaux.
  - Mérignac is well connected near both a train station and an international airport .
  - The venue SALLE Omnisports de Bourran has a 1,320m<sup>2</sup> hall, located ~5.4km from the accommodation area where there are several hotels available at a range of price points.

The candidature was accepted unanimously by the GA.

- Candidature for EJC 2027 Netherlands. Presentation by Louis Heek.
  - The Championships will take place from 9th to 13th September 2027 in Arnhem, Netherlands.
  - The venue is the Topsportcentrum Papendal, which has a 1680m<sup>2</sup> sports hall, 3 - 4 shiai-jo.
  - Hotel Papendal is fully booked exclusively for the Championships, priced at 165 - 195 per night for 2 person room all inclusive.
  - There are convenient transport links by bus and train to Arnhem.
  - The projected total price (accommodation, sayonara, seminar, etc.) is ~900 per person, but the organisers are seeking sponsorship and subsidies to reduce this.

The candidature was accepted unanimously by the GA.

#### **11.4 Proposed 2027 Kendo Kata European Open Competition call for candidatures.**

Candidatures are now open for hosting a European competitive Kendo no Kata event in spring 2027. See Section 7.2 in the Technical Directors Report for more information.

#### **11.5 EC Related**

- **Transgender athletes in Kendo, Iaido & Jodo.**

We are continuing to look into the issue of transgender athletes in Kendo competition. This is a complicated issue, and we want to ensure that fairness and safety are maintained, but to balance this against providing an environment as inclusive as possible.

As you will have seen, this year the Rules and Regulations of the EKC states that "*The terms*



*Woman, Man, Female, Male, Boys and Girls are used in the sense of the biological sex at birth. By registration the respective federation confirms this fact.*" This is not so much a change to the rules but simply clarifying the existing situation. Any change to this position will need careful consideration and consultation with all member federations.

We are looking at other sports, particularly sports such as fencing, boxing, and other martial arts, which have some similarities with Kendo. We hope that examining their policies will help inform our own discussions.

The representatives from Finland, Italy, Norway and Germany confirmed that individuals in their countries are legally permitted to change their gender and organisations may not be legally entitled to ask about biological sex. This could put federations into a difficult position.

The President pointed out that the alternative is to go down the route of testosterone testing. He also confirmed that under the current rules, if proven that a person is registered for a category not corresponding to their gender assigned at birth, that person would be disqualified.

The representative from Sweden pointed out that in their opinion, the current rule not simply confirming the status quo, it's a new rule, which actively excludes people who have in the past competed and now cannot do so.

The General Assembly voted on whether the current rule as stated above (biological sex at birth) should be changed. There were five votes in favour of a change, with the majority against. The EKF board will nonetheless continue to monitor this issue and investigate possible future approaches.

- **Guest Federations participation in ECs.**

The President explained that we have had an approach from a country outside of the European zone asking about participation in the European Championships. He asked whether we should develop this idea.

The representative from Kazakhstan said that this could be of interest to many small countries outside of EKF and FIK and might be considered to be in the spirit of Kendo.

The GA voted on whether to further develop the idea of allowing some form of guest participation in the EC. Only one vote was in favour, with all others against. It was therefore agreed that the board will not further investigate this issue.

- **Retired Shinpan award.**

It is proposed to develop an award to acknowledge the work of European Championship shin-



pan who have now retired. This is in progress and further information will be shared with member federations in future.

## **12 Administration**

### **12.1 EKF Code of Conduct reminder**

The Secretary General reminded member federations of the EKF Code of Conduct, which was adopted by the General Assembly in 2022. While no official complaints have been received by the EKF BO, we have heard of some instances of behaviour which may contravene this code of conduct, for example, harassment and bullying. The EKF board strongly encourages all member federations to adopt this, or a similar code of conduct. You should also ensure that members of their organisations are familiar with the code's provisions and that measures are in place within your organisation to deal with any situations of unacceptable behaviour that may arise.

The representative from Finland asked if the EKF could play a role in handling instances of inappropriate behaviour that may arise within a federation. The Secretary General pointed out that there exist national legal frameworks dealing with certain types of behaviour. In addition to the law, there are national bodies, e.g. Sport Ministries, responsible for the promotion of sport, and these have their own rules and arbitration processes. The EKF is not familiar with the legal frameworks in each country and does not have jurisdiction. It is therefore not appropriate for the EKF to take a direct role in any dispute or issue that may arise within a member federation. Member federations should first look to their own sports ministry or similar organisations.

The EKF Code of Conduct simply provides some guiding principles, in a similar vein to the All Japan Kendo Federation's "Concept of Kendo" and "Purpose of Practicing Kendo".

The representative from Sweden added that their federation has adapted the EKF Code of Conduct to a Swedish context and added a list of actions that their federation can take to respond to incidents. She is happy to share this with others if it would be useful.

### **12.2 New Menjo design**

The President presented the new design for the EKF Grading Menjo, designed by Marcus Frey. Future EKF exams will issue an A4 versions of this Menjo, and a PDF version will also be emailed directly to successful exam candidates. The new design was well received by the General Assembly participants.

### **12.3 The EKF Story**

The Treasurer gave a short update on the status of the EKF Story. The book text is now largely completed, and some chapters have been translated with proofreading underway. Not all coun-



tries have provided their own history chapters, there will be a further communication from the Secretary General on this, but eventually, if not received, the book will go to print without some countries' contributions.

The representative from Kazakhstan pointed out that they did not have any information about this project. The Secretary General clarified that this was because they joined after the requests were sent out and agreed to forward them the necessary information.

### **13 Any Other Business**

No other business was raised.

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

The next GA will take place in the context of the 34<sup>th</sup> EKC 2026 on the Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2026, before the championships in Podgorica, Montenegro. The President reminded all that next year's GA will be election GA.

### **15 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.