



EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION CONGRESS MINUTES

CONGRESS 2018

Paris, France – February 10th 2018

Gabriel Waage opens the Congress

I. Roll Call

Affiliated Federations represented by Accredited Delegates with Credentials:

AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, BULGARIA, CROATIA, CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK, FRANCE, GERMANY, GREAT BRITAIN, GREECE, HUNGARY, IRELAND, ISRAEL, ITALY, LITHUANIA, MALTA, NETHERLANDS, POLAND, RUSSIA, SAN MARINO, SERBIA, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SPAIN, SWITZERLAND, SWEDEN, UKRAINE, TURKEY.

Affiliated Federations absent:

GUERNSEY, FINLAND, NORWAY

Each present Federation has provided a proof of payment of its Membership Fees.

There are 31 Federations affiliated, 28 Federations duly represented, 28 Federations with the right of vote, the Congress is quorate. (ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IS 15)

*ESF President Gabriel Waage introduces special guests:

WBSC Treasurer Angelo Vicini
USA Softball Executive Director and WBSC SD 2nd Chair Craig Cress
WBSC Executive Director Michael Schmidt
ESF Honorary Member Patrice Bienfait

*Little League Award presented by Daniel Velte to the Netherlands

*Pony League Award presented by Abraham Key to the Czech Republic

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EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION

CONGRESS MINUTES

II. Approval of the Minutes of 2017 Congress

The Minutes of 2017 Congress approved by unanimity

III. Development Report

- Kristian Pälviä sums up the Development Commission meeting
- Craig Montvidas talks about the 2017 ESCA Camp and introduces news for 2018 ESCA
 - Partnership with NFCA, possibly another ESCA Camp in Croatia, ESCA membership launch
- Angel Natal from Lee County can help with facilities and program. Sweden and the Czechs already cooperating.
- Kenko corporation presentation (training balls)

IV. Hall of Fame

- Antonio Micheli, Italian National Team Coach in Sydney Olympics was inducted into the ESF Hall of Fame
- Patrice Bienfait was awarded a special President's Award
- Andre van Overbeek was awarded a special President's Award

V. Approval of the budget 2018

The budget is approved by unanimity.

VI. Appointment of the Auditor

On the proposal of the Treasurer, Mr. Mark de Permentier is re-appointed as Auditor by unanimity.

VII. Marketing and Media

- John Austin gives summary of the Marketing and Media joint (ESF/CEB) workshop
 - Media Standards (Johannes Godler), OTT Platform (Patrick Mostboeck), Helena Novotna (increase your media presence), Sam Gilman (address international media)

VIII. Technical and Competitions

- Mike Jennings gives summary of the TC Commission
 - Athletes Commission (Daniela Castellani)
 - Innovation Women's Championship System (Petra Arends)
 - Federations shall send their comments and proposals to Mike Jennings within the next two weeks
 - WBSC World Cup changes
 - Slowpitch umpires clinic will take place two days before the CSPESC
- Possibility of a transportation between U19 and U22 WEChs



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IX. Appointment of Organizers

- Presentations from organizers: U19WECh, U22WECh, WEPC, WEC, CSPESC

2018		
June 12 – 16	I. Men's Slowpitch European Championship	Choceň (CZE)
June 25 – 30	XIV. Men's European Championship	Havlíčkův Brod (CZE)
July 16 – 21	XV. U-19 Women's European Championship	Staranzano (ITA)
July 23 – 28	VI. U-22 Women's European Championship	Trnava (SVK)
July 31 – August 4	IX. Coed Slowpitch European Super Cup	Riccione (ITA)
August 15 - 18	VII. European M. Romeo Youth Trophy	Collecchio, Parma (ITA)
August 20 – 25	XLI. Women's European Premiere Cup	Forli (ITA)
August 20 – 25	XXV. Women's European Cup	La Loggia (ITA)
August 20 – 25	XXVII. Women's European Cup Winners Cup	Capelle a.d.IJsell (NED)
September 3 – 8	VII. Men's European Super Cup	Prague (CZE)
September 18 – 22	Super 6 (Invitational)	Hoofddorp (NED)
2019		
July 29 – August 3	X. U-16 Women's European Championship	Zagreb (CRO)
July 8 – 13	XI. U-19 Men's European Championship	Sezimovo Ústí (CZE)
	II. U-16 Men's European Championship	
July 14 – 20	XXI. Women's European Championship	Ostrava (CZE)
TBA	XII. Coed Slowpitch European Championship	<i>Nomination Open</i>
2020		
TBA	II. Men's Slowpitch European Championship	<i>Nomination Open</i>
TBA	XV. Men's European Championship	Ledenice (CZE)
TBA	XVI. U-19 Women's European Championship	<i>Nomination Open</i>
June 29 – July 4	VII. U-22 Women's European Championship	Kunovice (CZE)

X. Championships Drawing

- **MECh**

pool A: CZE, BEL, GBR, ITA, GER, LTH;

pool B: DEN, NED, ISR, CRO, SWE, SVK

- **U19WECh**

pool A: ITA, ESP, ISR, NED, UKR;

pool B: CZE, BEL, SRB, MLT, BUL;

pool C: GBR, RUS, DEN, IRL;

pool D: GER, CRO, POL, FRA

- **U22WECh**

pool A: SVK, GRE, GBR, CRO, IRL;

pool B: NED, UKR, ISR, ITA;

pool C: RUS, LTH, BEL, AUT;

pool D: CZE, POL, SUI, HUN



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- Germany question – What is the process of pool-restructuring after final withdrawals?
 - Mike Jennings: Restructuring of the pools is approved by the ESF EC upon recommendation of the Technical Commission (the aim is to keep the balance among the pools)
- Ireland proposal – Withdrawals should be final at the time of Congress, so the draw at Congress is final
- Israel proposal – organizer should provide details about hotels earlier than at Congress
- Denmark – back to back events may cause problems to some teams (case of U19 and U22)

XI. Place of the 2019 Congress

- Not decided

XIV. Various

none

Closing of the Congress

Gabriel Waage

President

Ami Baran

Secretary General

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EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION

TECHNICAL AND COMPETITION COMMISSION

2018 ESF CONGRESS MINUTES

2018, February 9th, Paris

ESF: Gabriel Waage, Mike Jennings, Petra Arends, Daniela Castellani

ROLL CALL: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland (17 total)

TECHNICAL AND COMPETITIONS REPORT 2017

- no comments

2018 COMPETITIONS

- New competition: Men's Slowpitch
- 17 teams for the Coed Slowpitch Super Cup signed up
- Slowpitch umpires' clinic to be organized two days before the Super Cup
- Intercontinental Cup will be held in the Czech Republic
- **European Cup Winners Cup** presentation

WOMEN'S EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP INNOVATION

- **Petra Arends:** Why and is the change necessary?
 - o Ireland is against – games with the top countries attract the most media attention in their country
 - o Switzerland in favor – feedback from players
- **Mike Jennings:** presentation of the first draft
- **Kostis Liarommatis (GRE):** presentation of their draft
- It is not for decision at this Congress, just a start of discussions

ATHLETES COMMISSION – Daniela Castellani

- All federations shall nominate one athlete representative (over 18 years old, speaks English)
- Player Market on the ESF website
- **Denmark:** the Athletes Commission should look into the issue of the new championship format

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS CHANGES – Gabriel Waage and Michael Schmidt

- World Championships turn into World Cups, closed tournaments (16 teams, U19Men 12 teams)
- European Championships are qualifiers for World Cups
- Wild card: is not automatically given to the host, but the aim is to not to have the tournament without the hosting team participating
- 2020 Women's World Cup cancelled, will be held in 2021, Men's will be in 2021 and 2022.
 - o Qualifiers – how to plan – qualify from 2018 for 2020, or make an extra set of Europeans
- U16 Women's World Cup – possibly to be established by the WBSC – changes in Europe needed then

OTHER MATTERS

- **Great Britain:** make sure that the U19 and senior competitions don't overlap
- **Ireland:** any chance that Europe would have not three but four spots at the Worlds?
 - o Not now, future is open



EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

2018 ESF CONGRESS MINUTES

2018, February 9th, Paris

VP: Ami Baran, Kristian Pälviä, John Austin

ROLL CALL: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Slovakia, Switzerland, Sweden, Serbia (16 total)

WBSC DEVELOPMENT – Francesca Fabretto

- Operational WBSC restructure: staff for baseball and softball will share
- Francesca Fabretto - the responsible person for Europe
- ESF is one of the most active Federations, but WBSC would like to see more requests from European National Federations (WBSC Development brochure/guidelines on the WSC website)
- Olympic Solidarity funds option, even small sports can get funding (you don't ask, you don't get)

ESF DEVELOPMENT – Ami Baran

- ESF Structure review
- **IGETS** – Malta, Croatia, Netherlands – development in schools
- **Turkey** – participated in the Worlds in 2017
- **Baltic Open** – 4th edition, Lee County cooperation with Sweden
- Equipment shipment from Florida continues
- Partners NFCA, ISG, Turn 2 for Youth, LL, Pony, PiFB, USA Softball, WBSC, WBSC Sd
- **Euroleague** – 6 teams in 2017, promising for 2018
- **Hungary** – received equipment
- **Switzerland** – coaching clinic
- **Germany** - Paderborn coaching clinic

USA SOFTBALL – Craig Cress

- Open and excited for cooperation and ready to help
- The Czech Republic and Sweden already taking advantage

LITTLE LEAGUE – Daniel Velte

- Ready to help with development, coaching, equipment
- Want to do more of development in Europe, additional coach-trainings
- Little League University – online free database of drills and tutorials (also umpire training)
- Softball Grant program (up to 20.000 \$)
- Whoever needs an assistance should talk to John Boyd or Kristian Pälviä

LEE and POLK COUNTY – Angel Natal

- Government agency (tourism founded)
- Access to facilities, Fort Myers

SLOWPITCH

- Germany won the European Championship, disappointing number of participants though
- 19 teams signed up for the Slowpitch Super Cup in Riccione, Italy
- First-ever Men's Slowpitch Championship to be held in 2018

ESCA – Craig Montvidas

- Encourages all countries to talk to him to see how ESCA can help
- ESCA Camp in 2018, news to be announced on February 10th

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2018 ESF CONGRESS, Paris (FRA)

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

February 9th 2018

Chair: ESF treasurer, Eddy van Straelen
Minutes:

Present : 9 federations :

BEL, BUL, CZE, DEN, IRL, ISR, SUI, SVK

Discussion financial result 2017 :

Income: around 17.200 more than the budget Expenses: 5.400 more than the budget
So **Loss**: about 11.800 less than expected.

Above all because received Tournament **Entry Fees** were 10.000 more than the budget.
(also because new tournaments Men U16 + Men U19)

Penalties were almost all for club teams. Federations could help these teams with good information about the regulations and the follow up.

PUP income is becoming every year a little less after the rule changes for this.subject.

Meeting costs became also more expensive because of the change of the Congress hotel
TC costs were more after the extension of the board. (see report Congress 2017)

ESCA camp was not at all in budget (costs 10.000 euro, but 4000 euro was received from WBSC)

As the camp was a great possibility for the development, we allowed these expenses, but in the future it should become more self-supporting. (will be discussed in Development meeting and Congress)

IRL thanks the treasurer for his job in 2017

ISR asks information about unpaid amounts for Slovenia and Lithuania.

Explanation was given that these amounts should be paid before participation in 2018 tournaments can be allowed.

SUI asked about the debt of 3000 euro from sponsor Tecnovap/Enjoy It.

It will not yet be written off, as we are first waiting for another possibility for payment.

ISR asked about the negative amount for "debts written of"

This is the result of received payments for amounts that have been written off a few years ago.

Discussion budget 2018 :

Affiliation fee has not been changed since 2002 and will not be changed.

Promotion, Marketing, TV, and Website: will be mentioned from 2018 together in one budget amount as they overlap each other (before they were two separated amounts).

We do have gameballs: enough for the 2018 tournaments, A contract with WBSC for gameballs for 2019+2020 will be signed.

After the Botswana Congress the WBSC Europe situation is heading to an agreement.

Most probably the meetings and expenses for that goal will increase sooner than expected in the budget.



EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION MARKETING COMMISSION

2018 ESF CONGRESS MINUTES

2018, February 9th, Paris

JOINT MEETING: ESF - John Austin, Helena Novotná, **CEB** - Rainer Husty, Johannes Godler

GUESTS: Patrick Mostboeck (SportRadar), Sam Gilman (European Baseball Softball Magazine)

ROLL CALL both Softball and Baseball: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Great Britain, Germany, Israel, Italy, Ireland, Netherlands, Slovakia, Serbia, Sweden, Turkey (16 total)

CEB 2017 activities report – Rainer Husty

ESF 2017 activities report – John Austin

- Softball Europe brand launch, #lovesoftball
- Social media update
- Live-streaming figures, cooperation with FloSoftball
- Logos for senior softball championships introduced

MEDIA STANDARDS – Johannes Godler

- Unification and set up of minimum media standards for organizers of European events
- How to handle media coverage at European tournaments - guidelines
- Best practice examples

SPORTRADAR OTT PLATFORM – Patrick Mostboeck

- Live-streaming and other digital content platform for both baseball and softball in Europe
- Contract to be signed after the meeting
- Option for National Federations to use this platform too
- No cost for the federations

INCREASE YOUR MEDIA PRESENCE – Helena Novotna

- How to offer your content to media, so they would more likely publish it
- Tips and tricks on how to
- Examples
- Targeting local ad national media
- Helena's experience

ADDRESSING INTERNATIONAL MEDIA – Sam Gilman

- Tips, tricks and musts on how to

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