



EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear ESF Federation Members,

Well, my dear friends, first I welcome you this year's ESF Congress. This Congress is a special one especially for me, as you all know this is my final Congress as President of the ESF. It is also special as we will have at the end of the day a new Executive Council, who will continue the work of growing our sport throughout Europe. I am sure whoever they are they will do their best as we have tried in the past 4 years.

2016 was a year of challenges, as we had in mind to progress further in all aspects of our work in the ESF. To try and match every year with more innovative and creative ideas to enhance our sport is not any easy task. Marketing and Media always a challenge and with our special team including VP Youri Alkalay, VP Dejan Jesic and of course the light of our marketing and media commission, Communications Director Helena Novotna, they were able to create an even more outstanding year for our Members and Competitions. From live streaming of over 91 hours [last year 50] of softball from our tournaments in Europe to an incredible personal appearance at the Women's World Championships in Surrey. I am sure that the future holds even better progress in this area and hope to see more cooperation from our Members.

Yet again our Development Commission has been active in both getting equipment to countries in need, sending coaches to do clinics, become partners in the preparation of national programs and much more. VP Mette Nissen Jakobsen, VP John Austin and Sec Gen Ami Baran have put much effort in the development programs and have spent endless hours on projects that I am sure we will all see in the coming years. The time spent on convincing member federations to participate in the Women's World Championships and the Junior Men's World Championships, lead to a total of 11 European Countries participating in Surrey, a third of the teams that played. The continued cooperation with the WBSC Softball Division has allowed the growth of many of the programs that are in place today and without the continued efforts and guidance by Dale McMann, Ron Radigonda and Laurie Gouthro European Development would be struggling. The name ESCA will become a name to remember and a place for all our European coaches to learn, discuss and teach as already we have had cooperation with three conferences this year and more to come.

Our 1st VP, Gaba Waage and his Competitions and Technical team, with VP Gilbert Tobback, have put together an incredible array of competitions, rules and regulations and with this growth including the appointment of our newly formed Umpire in Chief positions for Assignments, Education and Development, will set a world standard in these areas. The new Competitions, although off to a slow start, will for sure increase as will the participation levels and the recognition by many member federations in the necessity to participate in order to facilitate the growth of the game in their countries.

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I would like to give special thanks here for our Treasurer, Eddy Van Straelen. His financial competence and guidance has taken the ESF to the dreams and visions of many ESF Boards.

He has made it possible to do all what we need to do in order to make the ESF one of the most organized and structured Confederations amongst the WBSC Confederations.

I would also like to remember those who began the journey with me in 2009 and who since then have moved on to other endeavors in their sports careers. Thank you for the first four years to Totoni Sanna, Michael Schmidt, Chiqui Vasquez, Slava Smagin , Patrice Benfait and Francesca Fabretto.

As I mentioned in my last report, CEB and the ESF initiated a Joint Steering Committee which in turn created commissions that have been trying to work on different strategies for the future of our sports.

We are now entering a new era, mainly because the city chosen for the Olympic Games 2020 was Tokyo. This choice by the IOC opened the possibility for Baseball and Softball to return to the Olympics. Although only one team from Europe/Africa will be represented there, the addition of Baseball and Softball has implications in many of our Member Federations. In some it does not have any significance as there is still no support from the NOC's of those countries.

This is where the Joint concept comes together. In the next few days there will be discussions of the future of the ESF and CEB. I am positive that the Europeans will come together and build an Organization that will be the guiding light of all other Confederations and provide a body that the WBSC will need to recognize and understand that support for all the development and competition initiatives in Europe will be a priority of the WBSC as only the Confederations around the world have the ability to understand their members, their cultures and their needs.

My dear friends, I hope that my years as ESF President will be remembered as years of progress, cooperation and friendship. I apologize to anyone that might feel that I have neglected them, mistreated them or any other instance that was uncomfortable. I will remember all of you and all the great things we have accomplished together , because without all of you I would not have been able to lead the ESF for the past eight years. I do promise you one more thing. I will not stop working for the ESF, I will continue to be a part of the ESF family and assist in any way to continue the great work and the growth of Softball throughout Europe.

Andre Van Overbeek

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Andre Van Overbeek', with a stylized circular mark at the beginning.



EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

ESF 1st Vice President Report

My friends,

My report contains two parts: a general overview, and then a review of ESF competitions in 2016 by ESF Technical Director Mike Jennings.

General Overview

The ESF directly organizes European Championships and Cups, but these are not the only events taking place under ESF sanction. The ESF also sanctions events which have a strong influence on the development of softball in specific regions, such as the Baltic Cup, the Balkan Cup and Euroleague. Euroleague in particular – see [Final Report](#) – could be effective in other parts of Europe and increase options for play.

We planned to introduce two new ESF events in 2016 – a Men's Slowpitch European Championship and an Softball Masters – but we had to cancel both due to a lack of organizers or a sufficient number of teams. This was probably due to not advertising these events far enough in advance.

But we already have an organizer for an inaugural Men's Slowpitch European Championship in 2018 and I hope this tournament will be fixed for the future. And the development efforts taking place through the [Joudrs International Cup](#) have led directly to an Under-16 Boys' European Championship, which will be held together with the already-existing Under-19 Men's European Championship in 2017 at the same venue and over the same dates. Players on Under-16 national teams can also be included on Under-19 rosters.

We also evaluated our new definition of the PUP rule that came into effect in 2016. While one year's experience is not a large enough sample size, we didn't detect any massive use of non-club players. So the change in regulations whereby citizens of all ESF member countries do not need to be classified as PUPs has worked well and made the whole application process easier.

We intensified our efforts to advertise and promote our sport, including live streaming of 39 games from four major ESF tournaments. All softball fans, parents etc could watch softball action from several types of tournaments, along with the comments of players, officials, organizers and fans. This is a great way to bring softball to the whole of Europe.

We also extended our promotion to include European teams playing at the year's biggest event overseas. In cooperation with the ISF, we sent our Communications Director to Surrey, Canada and she brought back live pictures from European teams at the Women's World Championship -- another step to improve awareness of softball in Europe.

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As a part of a process to become more media-friendly and more audience-friendly, a change in the [denomination of ESF competitions](#) has been approved. The new names correspond with those of WBSC events, and they should be easier to understand by both the worldwide softball community and the non-softball public. In addition, the new names are designed for more fluent use in both written and spoken English.

The ESF also introduced a European ranking system this year, based on the WBSC ranking system. The [ESF ranking system](#) evaluates countries according to their Senior National Team results, but also takes into account Youth National Team attendance at European Championships. So this system produces rankings that reflect a combination of competition achievement and softball development. Hopefully, these rankings can help National Federations to be more effective in finding funding sources and establishing partnerships. They can also work as a tool to promote softball national teams in every country.

I attended the 2016 Europe & Africa Little League District Administrator Regional Meeting held in Warsaw from October 7-9. We want to extend cooperation between Little League and the ESF around the coordination of activities and tournaments for young girls.

We also changed our structure with regard to the position of ESF Director of Umpires. Andrea Marcon has stepped back from this position after five years of dedicated work, and I want to give a warm thank-you to Andrea for his successful efforts in this very demanding job.

Now, the ESF has decided to split the role into two areas, each with designated responsibilities and a person in charge who will be called a [Director of Umpires Co-Chair](#). One Co-Chair will take on the assignment of umpires and UICs at ESF tournaments and events, while the other will be responsible for the development and education of umpires at all levels across the whole of Europe.

Two of the most experienced ESF Technical Commissioners have been appointed to these new positions – Carolien Stadhouders has been appointed to the position of Director of Umpires Co-Chair responsible for the development and education of umpires and Pavel Prachar has been appointed to the position of Director of Umpires Co-Chair responsible for the assignment of umpires and UICs at ESF tournaments and events.

Finally let me thank all of the organizers who hosted ESF tournaments in 2016 and other events supported by the ESF. Your work is essential, because it allows competition activities to take place for so many players. Thank you so much for hosting!

Thanks also to all of the officials – TCs, UICs, SICs, ECs, umpires, scorers, locals and so many volunteers – for your assistance at ESF tournaments in 2016! Your work is invaluable!

Now let's look forward to 2017!



Gabriel Waage
ESF First Vice President



EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION

TECHNICAL AND COMPETITION COMMISSION

ESF Technical Director Report

This report is compiled from detailed TC reports, separately available to all EC members, and from observations and recommendations by TC members in attendance at events throughout the 2016 season.

ESF 2016 Season:

Competition	Location	Teams	Games	Injury	Eject
			Planned / Played		
EChU22W	Pardubice, CZE	8	34 / 34	0	0
EChM	Montegranaro, ITA	10	40 / 32	0	1
EChJW	Barcelona, ESP	12	46 / 46	0	0
ESCCS	Wiener Neustadt, AUT	14	71 / 71	3	2
EMRYT	Collecchio, ITA	8	29 / 26	0	0
EPCW	Ronchi, ITA	9	40 / 40	0	0
ECW	Most, CZE	8	34 / 34	4	0
ECWCW	Ostrava, CZE	10	40 / 40	1	0
ESCM	Azzano, ITA	18	76 / 76	4	2
9 events	2016 TOTALS	97	410 / 399	7	5
10 events	2015 Comparison	106	438 / 411	8	3

***Schedules** were generally executed as planned, but late withdrawals and some adverse weather did require changes, which were in all cases managed to minimise disruption and preserve as many games as possible. Weather did have an effect on some competitions, as always, but there was less disruption than in 2015, and the provision of tarpaulins to protect fields against small / medium rainfalls reduced the time needed to return fields to play. As in the previous season, some events were hampered by lighting failure.*

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*The special arrangements trialed this year for **EMRYT** will need review and possibly revision. Opportunities for very young players are few and far between, so the existence of the tournament is important to all who are keen on developing European players from the earliest years. However, sufficient teams must be committed to the process to make it effective, particularly if sub-divisions of gender and ball type are introduced. Serious consideration should be given to planning ahead for next season among the interested Federations, and the 2017 Congress should provide the opportunity for that discussion.*

***Time-spans** allotted to games occasionally proved to be optimistic, with overruns delaying all subsequent games. Availability of lights could mean that all games were completed, but delayed teams were disadvantaged in planning proper warm-ups, and several playing days were not completed until after midnight. If no lights were available, this would have meant additional games being scheduled in already-crowded timetables.*

***Field dimensions** presented difficulties at some locations, particularly when facilities constructed for women's play were required for men's or slowpitch games, thereby requiring the use of much-reduced radial fence distances. If the venues have already been accepted at Congress the competition TCs have little option but to accommodate play as best they can. This may well be preferable to refusing the host's bid or requiring extensive or expensive extensions to fields or fences at the inspection stage, but there is an inevitable impact on the games and the relative balance of offense and defense.*

Venues where additional fields were provided on baseball diamonds posed no such problems, merely requiring the provision of a temporary radial fence.

*Enduring features of TC reports are the comments made about the skill and dedication of **ground crews** at all our venues. So our thanks go not only to the host clubs and Federations, but also to the individuals who, often in very adverse conditions, bring fields back to playable condition so promptly. Their contribution deserves special recognition.*

*Required standards for **First Aiders** will be addressed for next year, to standardize the minimum training and qualification required for on-field medics.*

***Disciplinary** situations occurred at the same frequency as in 2015. Upon review, the follow-up policy did not require further hearings or penalties beyond the ejections from the games in question. This will be reviewed at the TC group meeting prior to the 2017 season.*

***Web coverage** is a continuing feature of our events, and is increasingly accessed and expected by our supporters across Europe and beyond. Our preferred coverage is full TV presence with expert commentary, but failing that, web-cam, at least on main fields, and a minimum sufficient bandwidth for Play-by-Play, should be a requirement for host bids. Additional capacity for spectator access to Wi-Fi has to take less priority than ensuring that organizers, officials and media have access to reliable connections on all fields.*

***Photographer's** accommodation also presented challenges, balancing their needs with available locations in constricted areas. At some games no photographers might appear: at others, there might be too many to accommodate as they might wish. TCs may have to prioritize access, certainly favouring ESF-sanctioned individuals before more informal 'family-linked' applications. Reporting facilities generally need to be improved, but again the venues providing spaces which are not used can result in prime spectator space being denied to fans.*

*A novel phenomenon appeared this year at one of our fields – a photographer deployed a **drone** for aerial coverage of the field. This will need serious consideration and the creation of a policy to cover any future occurrences.*



EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION

TECHNICAL AND COMPETITION COMMISSION

Officials often have to rely on **personal mobiles**, SMS and occasionally personal radios to remain in contact during events and to contact teams with schedule changes etc. Such communication is vital to efficient administration, and we need to regularize our procedures in this regard.

Internationally, we applaud ESF member Federations' participation and successes in WBSC events in 2016:

Women's World Championship, Surrey, Canada:

4th: Netherlands

13th: Great Britain

14th: Italy

17th: Czech Republic

18th: Austria

19th: Greece

23rd: France

25th: Serbia

26th: Ireland

27th: Switzerland

30th: Israel

Junior Men's World Championship, Michigan, USA:

8th: Czech Republic

11th: Denmark

12th: Israel

Mike Jennings

ESF Technical Director

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EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR REPORT

MEDIA IN 2016

2017, January 5th

WEBSITE: The ESF website has gone through a good amount of changes (mainly restructuring of the main menu), but we're still in the first phase. Sadly, due to technical difficulties, all changes we requested took way longer than planned. Therefore, the website is still not final and more adjustments are to come, such as "Players Market" section, "Photogallery", etc.

Umpires website is being transferred under the europeansoftball.org domain. ESCA website is on its way, waiting for the final redesign of the ESF website, as we want both to match. Beeball and Fastpitch sections are also under supervision now.

FACEBOOK: After last year, when the amount of our Facebook page followers had doubled, we recorded another great number of new followers to our major communication channel in 2016.

 3322 ➡ 7165 (+115%)

Besides sharing news, results and photos, Facebook was also the place where some of our marketing projects were situated. Video contest "My favorite softball drill" brought a remarkable attention despite a low number of submitted videos. Both PhotoFESTs, held after the end of softball season, turned out successfully and helped to widen our audience base.

Trends of the last decade show that videos are exceptionally powerful tools. It is no different in case of the video outputs we've published in 2016. All expectations were exceeded by a fun video (by UCE Travellers), when this clip reached over 600k unique users.

TWITTER: Due to a low usage of Twitter in Europe, no special campaigns for Twitter took place in 2016. The ESF is using this channel mainly for sharing of our content and for keeping in touch with our partners and friends from all over the world, such as Little League, USA Softball, NFCAA, etc. Twitter is also the place where we're working on being noticed by media subjects such as Inside the Games, Women in Sports, etc.

 1298 ➡ 1821 (+40%)

YOUTUBE: The role of YouTube has not changed, all condensed games from the ESF tournaments were uploaded to the account as well as other video outputs. Daily summaries from the Men's Championship were provided to fans of men's fastpitch, special attention was also brought to ESF umpires.

INSTAGRAM: We've used the occasion of "PhotoFEST for Pros" to create an Instagram account. Utilization and objectives of this platform for 2017 have not been set yet.



EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR REPORT

ESF AND MEDIA OUTLETS: Frequency of newsletters and press releases has been depending on current needs, priorities, and amount of news. While newsletters were aimed to inform the softball community, press releases were sent out to be turned into news of various media subjects (news providers). There's still a long way to go, but I evaluate this year's start as successful with several articles having been published at Inside the Games, European Baseball Magazine, or Mister Baseball.

Cooperation with the WBSC has been exceptional; great amount of news covering European softball was featured on the WBSC website, or newsletter.

ESF COMPETITIONS MEDIA COVERAGE: This area, being one of my focuses for 2016, was better maintained than in 2015. Updates, photos, and summaries were provided. Press releases reporting on all senior (and U-22) competitions were sent out. All of this wouldn't be possible without help and work of many others, who let us use their photographs (Grega Valancic, Dirk Steffen, Sascha Schneider, Lauro Bassani, Matej Mrevlje, Rein Merckx, Libor Matejka, and others), provided information and content (Michele Gallerani, Bob Fromer, Pavel Hrdina,...), or helped in many other ways. I'd like to express my gratitude to everybody, who took their part in making European championships and cups visible.

STREAMING: Due to efforts invested into increase of viewers, I can't hide a little bit of disappointment. Though, we don't have any numbers for relevant comparison for most of the figures, statistics from last year were quite similar. Promotion of streaming and exploring new ways of increasing number of viewers will be continuously one of the main focuses in 2017.

ESCM 2016	ESCM 2015	EPCW 2016	EPCW+ECWCW 2015	EChJW 2016	EChJM 2015	EChU22W	no comparison
Azzano	Prague	Ronchi, Italy	Prague	Sant Boi	Most	Pardubice	
21 teams	23 teams	9 teams	20 teams	12 teams	6 teams	8 teams	
total visits		total visits		total visits		total visits	
10 765	14 193	8 569	11 819	14 622	15 461	9 833	
unique viewers		unique viewers		unique viewers		unique viewers	
6 204	6 222	4 546	5 726	7 278	7 763	5 098	
Facebook Ads	13k clicks	Facebook Ads	6k clicks	Facebook Ads	3k clicks	Facebook Ads	1,5k clicks



APPOINTMENT of ORGANIZERS of COMPETITIONS

(Approved by ESF Congress February 13, 2016, updated by October 1, November 15, December 20)

CALENDAR 2017

July 10 – 15	IX. U-16 Women's Softball European Championship	Ostrava (CZE)
July 24 – 29	X. U-19 Men's Softball European Championship I. U-16 Men's Softball European Championship (1)	Prague (CZE) <i>Nomination open</i>
June 25 – July 1	XX. Women's Softball European Championship	Bollate (ITA)
July 10 – 15	XI. Coed Slowpitch European Championship	Sofia (BUL)
TBA	II. U-19 Women's European Super Cup	<i>Nomination open</i>
August 9 – 12	VI. European M. Romeo Youth Trophy	Collecchio, Parma (ITA)
August 21 – 26	XXXX. Women's European Premiere Cup	Haarlem (NED) Caserta (MLT) (2)
August 21 – 26	XXIV. Women's European Cup	<i>Nomination open</i>
August 21 – 26	XXVI. Women's European Cup Winners Cup	Caserta (MLT) (2) <i>Nomination open</i>
Aug 28 – Sep 2	VI. Men's European Super Cup	Amersfoort (NED)

CALENDAR 2018

TBA	VI. U-22 Women's Softball European Championship	<i>Nomination open</i>
June 25 – 30	XIV. Men's Softball European Championship	Havlíčkův Brod (CZE)
July 16 – 21 July 2 – 7	XV. U-19 Women's Softball European Championship	Staranzano (ITA) Beveren (BEL)
June 12 – 16	I. Men's Slowpitch European Championship (1)	Chocen (CZE) <i>Nomination open</i>

(1) New competition

(2) Malta Baseball Softball Association put the bid for 2 tournaments placed in Caserta, Italy, preferably for WEPC, secondly for WECWC. Final decision of organizer WEPC will be done by Technical and Competition Meeting at ESF Congress in February. If WEPC be placed to Haarlem, the bid of Caserta goes to WECWC. Due to this fact the nomination for WECWC is still opened.



ELECTION TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL – 2017

ADMISSIBLE NOMINATIONS

Position	Candidate	Nominated by:
PRESIDENT	Gabriel WAAGE (CZE)	CZE
SECRETARY GENERAL	Ami BARAN (ISR)	ISR
TREASURER	Eddy VAN STRAELEN (BEL) Alexander SHENSHIN (RUS)	s. 4.5.2.3 RUS
VICE PRESIDENT	Youri ALKALAY (BUL) Petra ARENDS (NED) John AUSTIN (IRE) Daniela CASTELLANI (ITA) Oleg GRANKIN (RUS) Sebastian GUIDONI (FRA) Mette Nissen – JACOBSEN (DEN) John Michael JENNINGS (GB) Kristian PALVIA (SWE) Duric' SLOBODAN (SER) Christopher WIESER (AUT)	BUL NED IRL ITA RUS FRA DEN GBR SWE SRB AUT

ALL NOMINATIONS ACCORDING TO ARTICLES 2.2.2 & 4.5.2 OF THE ESF STATUTES



NOMINATION OF AUDITOR

The Executive Council of the ESF proposes to the Congress the appointment of:

Mr. Mark De Permentier

Present Auditor of the ESF, as Auditor of the ESF for the year 2017

ESF Executive Council



Motion proposed by the ESF Executive Council – Nr. 1 For Congress, 3-5 February 2017

Subject: ~~Modification~~/Addition of ESF Statutes Article 3.7.1.5

Author: Executive Council

Present writing :

None

Proposed writing (or New writing):

3.7.1.5. The Executive Council, may make a motion to the General Congress to change the status of an Affiliated Federation to Provisional status, which is defined as a Federation which has not discharged their obligations and are not in Good Standing and fall within the jurisdiction of Art. 2.2.3.

Such a motion should be timely submitted under these Articles and be accompanied by documentation to substantiate the reason(s) for the proposed change of Status. The grounds for the change in status and implications coincide with Art. 3.7.1.1, 3.7.1.2, and 3.7.1.4

3.7.1.3. The status change of an Affiliated Federation to a Provisional Federation may only be pronounced by the General Congress by an absolute majority vote as per Article 3.2.4.

3.7.1.4. The Executive Council has the power to reinstate the Provisional Federation if the Provisional Federation rectifies the matter in which it was originally penalized, whereas Art 2.2.3 shall be implemented.

Additional changes based on the above :

Present writing :

None only change numbering to comply

Proposed writing (or New writing):

3.2.2.5.4. Status Change of Affiliated Federations to Provisional Federation

Present writing :

3.2.4.1. on Article 3.2.2.5.11, where the absolute majority is required,

Proposed writing (or New writing):

3.2.4.1. on Article 3.2.2.5.11, and 3.2.2.4 where the absolute majority is required,

All other numbering will be changed accordingly. For the new Art 3.2.2.4



Reasons for change

To allow the Congress to impose a less severe penalty on a Federation that has not complied with the Statutes and/or Regulations of the ESF without the need of a two thirds elimination count.

Date of effect

Immediately at the end of the Congress.

EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION

CONGRES DOCUMENTS

MOTIONS OR PROPOSALS ONLY ESF

We undersigned,
Legal Representative of the Affiliated Federation

Name of Affiliated Federation: Softball Ireland

Certify that we are in good standing for purposes of the ESF Statutes and as such, are submitting motions for consideration at the 2017 Annual General Congress of the ESF.

MOTION OR PROPOSAL

It is proposed to increase the number of Vice Presidents from 6 to 8 on the ESF.

Rationale

The increased number of VPs will allow for greater (and broader) representation of the membership on the ESF Board. It will also create additional positions on the Board should the ESF wish to add independent Board members to fall in line with other International Federations.

Proposed changes to the Statues are set out below in red

4.1 – CONSTITUTION

4.1.1. The Executive Council is empowered the management of the ESF between Annual General Congresses and is constituted of the following Officers :

- 4.1.1.1. President*
- 4.1.1.2. Secretary General*
- 4.1.1.3. Treasurer*
- 4.1.1.4. First Vice-President*
- 4.1.1.5. ~~Five~~ Seven Vice Presidents*

4.1.2. The Officers of the ESF are elected by the General Congress for a four year term. They may be re-elected with no limit on the number of terms, with the exception of the President who can not be elected for more than two consecutive full terms.

- 4.1.2.1. The Officers of the ESF are elected by the General Congress for the following positions : President, Secretary General, Treasurer, ~~six~~ eight Vice Presidents. Each Officer can hold only one position at a time.*
- 4.1.2.2. The First Vice President is then elected by the General Congress from the ~~six~~ eight Vice Presidents elected*

Date: November 4, 2016

**Name of Legal Representative
Colum Lavery (President)**



EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION CONGRESS DOCUMENTS

MOTIONS OR PROPOSALS Only ESF

We, undersigned,
Legal Representative of the Affiliated Federation:

Name of Affiliated Federation: Real Federación Española de Béisbol y Sófbol (Spain)

Certify that we are in good standing for purposes of the ESF Statutes and, as such, are submitting the following motions for consideration at the 2017 Annual General Congress of the ESF.

MOTION OR PROPOSAL:

Suspension of the elections scheduled for the Executive Committee of the ESF, beginning the process of creating the new European Baseball and Softball Confederation (EBSC), culminating in an Extraordinary Congress for approval of the Statutes of the Confederation and the election of its Executive Committee as well as the Board of the Softball Division and the Board of the Baseball Division, integrated into the EBSC based on similar criteria of organization and operation as in the WBSC. Meanwhile, and in order to ensure the normal functioning of softball-baseball in Europe, a Management Committee in charge of continuing the development of programs and ongoing activities, as well as preparing the draft Statutes of the EBSC, be appointed.

Same proposal is presented to the 2017 Annual General Congress of the CEB.

RATIONALE/SUPPORT FOR MOTION OR PROPOSAL:

The decision of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to recognize baseball-softball as one sole sport for inclusion in the program of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, and the constitution of the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC), recognized by the IOC as the sole governing body of baseball-softball, resulted in the disappearance "de facto" and "de iure" of the International Baseball Federation (IBAF) and the International Softball Federation (ISF), integrated now in WBSC as Baseball Division and Softball Division respectively, each with its own Board, independent but in coexistence with the Executive Committee of the WBSC.

The disappearance of the IBAF and the ISF have as immediate consequence the disappearance, at least "de iure", of the Continental Confederations currently existing, not having recognition in international sports bodies. Therefore, we can say that is no longer meaningful to speak of the existence of the Confederation of European Baseball (CEB) or the European Softball Federation (ESF), being necessary to form a new governing body of baseball-softball in Europe, the European Baseball and Softball Confederation (EBSC), with similar criteria in terms of its organization and functions that guided the creation of the WBSC.



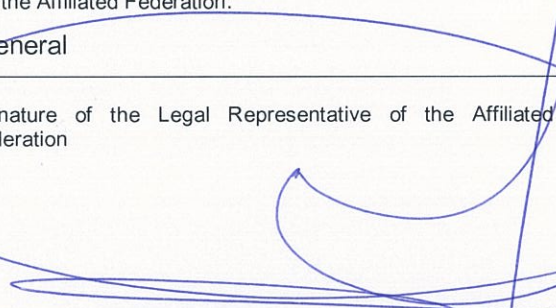
EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION CONGRESS DOCUMENTS

According to the above, meaningless elections for the Executive Committee of already nonexistent entities "de iure" such as CEB and ESF, and with this new reality corresponds focus efforts on the constitution of the EBSC, being worked from this time in the Statutes which should be approved following the ratification of the definitive WBSC Statutes, which will take effect in the Congress to be held in Botswana in October 2017. Once established the EBSC and approved its Statutes, it would be the time to hold elections for the Executive Committee of the EBSC as well as the Board of the Baseball Division and the Board of the Softball Division integrated into the EBSC.

Notwithstanding the above, and considering that baseball-softball in Europe must continue its normal operation based on the existing structures "de facto", it is necessary to appoint a Management Committee to ensure the normal functioning of each sport and its programs of competitions, development, marketing, etc., until the constitution of the EBSC and holding elections outlined above which could be effected during an Extraordinary Congress approval of the EBSC Statutes to be held in 2018.

Consistent with this proposal, the Spanish Baseball and Softball Federation will not submit nominations for the ESF Executive Committee.

By our Signature, we confirm the authority to submit such Motion or Proposal

Date : November 3 rd , 2016	Name of Legal Representative of the Affiliated Federation: Luis Melero – Secretary General
Seal of the Affiliated Federation 	Signature of the Legal Representative of the Affiliated Federation 

**TO BE RECEIVED BY THE ESF SECRETARY GENERAL BY E-MAIL (see above)
ON OR BEFORE 4 NOVEMBER 2016**