



EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION CONGRESS MINUTES

CONGRESS 2017

BELGRADE (SERBIA) – February 4th 2017

Andre Van Overbeek opens the Congress

I. Roll Call

Affiliated Federations represented by Accredited Delegates with Credentials:

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

Affiliated Federations absent:

GUERNSEY, JERSEY, SLOVENIA

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

There are 33 Federations affiliated, 30 Federations duly represented, 28 Federations with the right of vote, the Congress is quorate. (ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IS 15)

*WBSC Riccardo Fraccari addresses the Congress

WBSC SD President Dale McMann addresses the Congress, thanks Andre van Overbeek for his work

*President of Serbian Softball Federation, Sloboda Djuric, welcomes the attendants of the Congress

*President of Serbian Sport Association, Aleksandar Sostar, welcomes the attendants of the Congress in Serbia

*Little League Award presented by Daniel Velte to Great Britain

*Pony Award presented by Jan Bagin to Germany

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EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION

CONGRESS MINUTES

II. . Approval of the Minutes of 2016 Congress

The Minutes of 2016 Congress approved by unanimity

III. Development Report

Guest Speakers

- Craig Montvidas on ESCA
- John Boyd on Hit the Pitch

IV. Media and Marketing

- Summary of the Marketing Committee meeting by Youri Alkalay

V. Approval of the financial report 2016

The financial report is approved by unanimity.

VI. Approval of the budget 2017

The budget is approved by unanimity.

VII. Appointment of the Auditor

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

VIII. Amendments to the Statutes

- Spanish Federation has withdrawn their motion, will be discussed at the EC meeting
- Softball Ireland has withdrawn their motion
- EC proposal "Provisional Members" approved by unanimity



EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION CONGRESS MINUTES

IX. Appointment of Organizers

- Belgium withdrawn their bid for 2018 U-19 Women's European Championship
- Czech Republic's proposal to allocate 2019 WECh prematurely, change in Technical and Competitions regulations required to do so
- Thank you to Andrea Marcon (former Director of Umpires)
- Introduction of the new DoUs – Carolien Stadhouders, Pavel Prachar
- Presentation of the WECh 2017, Bollate
-

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	Prague (CZE)
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	XXX.Women's European Premiere Cup	Haarlem (NED)
August 21 – 26	XXIV.Women's European Cup	Montegranaro (ITA)
August 21 – 26	XXVI.Women's European Cup Winners Cup	Caserta (MLT)
Aug 28 – Sep 2	VI.Men's European Super Cup	Amersfoort (NED)
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	XV. U-19 Women's Softball European Championship	Staranzano (ITA)
June 12 – 16	I. Men's Slowpitch European Championship	Chocen (CZE)

X. Championships Drawing

- U16WECh - pool A: CZE, GER, SVK, FRA, pool B: ITA, BEL, NED, LTH, pool C: RUS, UKR, POL, pool D: GBR, CRO, SRB
- WECh – pool A: ITA, GRE, ISR, SRB, pool B: GBR, UKR, SUI, BUL, pool C: GER, SVK, IRL, pool D: AUT, SWE, CRO, pool E: ESP, SLO, BEL, pool F: RUS, DEN, HUN, pool G: NED, FRA, LTH

XI. Honorary speech

- Gilbert Tobback
- Andre van Overbeek
- Thank you to Andre van Overbeek

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EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION CONGRESS MINUTES

XII. Election to the Executive Council

Gabriel Waage elected ESF President by acclamation

Ami Baran elected ESF Secretary General by acclamation

Eddy van Straelen elected ESF Secretary General by acclamation (candidate Alexander Shenshin withdrew)

6 Vice Presidents elected in the first round:

Youri Alkalay – elected 1st Vice President

Petra Arends

John Austin

Daniela Castellani

Mette Nissen-Jakobsen

Kristian Pälviä

(candidates Mike Jennings, Sebastian Guidoni, Christoph Wieser withdrew)

XIII. Place of 2018 Congress

The location of the next Congress is Paris, France

XIV. Various

none

Closing of the Congress

André VAN OVERBEEK

President

Ami Baran

Secretary General

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EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION FINANCIAL COMMISSION

2017 ESF CONGRESS

MINUTES

2017, February 3rd, Belgrade

Chair: Eddy van Straelen, treasurer **Co:** Andre van Overbeek, president

ROLL CALL: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Great Britain, Germany, Israel, Italy, Ireland, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland (12 total)

GENERAL REMARKS

- We try to keep the umpire costs cheaper by early bookings, so we don't have to raise umpire fees.
- Please note **March 1st** for payment of - or letter for - umpire guarantee (see AR 04.07 - penalty € 350)
- Information about the right to vote at Congress : **Finland, Lithuania and Russia** not "in good standing"

DISCUSSION FINANCIAL RESULT 2016

Entry Fees less than budget because:

- Entry fee U22 became € 575, before it was € 1175
- Entry fee ECWCW only 10 teams usually minimum 15 teams
- Entry fee EChU19W only 12 teams last time 15 teams
- Entry fee ECW only 8 teams usually around 12 teams

Expenses TC and UC : less than budget, but we need higher quantities of members for future tournaments. Expenses TV+Web : we have a good deal with the company, but always the organizer also decides.

Expenses game balls : we got a nice price for a good quality ball so we bought for the next three years.

These balls are also available for sales to the federations.!

Expenses Beeball : might need to be revised, also depending the 2017 CEB budget for this.

DISCUSSION BUDGET 2017

Affiliation fee: still no changes needed. Entry fees: no changes needed

We keep trying to save in all items

Expenses TC, UC and SC : we need better quantities for all three, so higher expenses

Expenses TV+Web : cautious amount, but this might change after more entries and depending organizers. Expenses

development : we now keep spending what was NOT spent during the last years, but we approach the date where we will need to search for other solutions.

Intention of the treasurer : The minimum capital reserve should not go below € 80.000

Question ISR: why lower budget for affiliation fees?

Treasurer answers : probably after the motion during the Congress we will have a status for some federations that can't pay the fees.

Question IRL: what about income for publicity by TV and Web streaming ?

Treasurer answers : at this moment expenses are divided 50% ESF and 50% organizer, but as the results seem to raise we might change to another dividing.

Some detailed information is given by the ESF president.

The ESF treasurer gives a small explanation of the procedure for umpire travel costs.

GBR thanks the treasurer for the very clear and punctual reports.

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EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION

TECHNICAL AND COMPETITION COMMISSION

2017 ESF CONGRESS

MINUTES

2017, February 3rd, Belgrade

1st VP: Gabriel Waage, Gilbert Tobback **TD:** Mike Jennings, **DoU:** Carolien Stadhouders, Pavel Prachar

ROLL CALL: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Slovakia, San Marino, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine (18 total)

TECHNICAL AND COMPETITIONS REPORT 2015

Mike Jennings – no additional information to the report

- **Ireland** – in relation to the insufficient measurements of Slowpitch field at the Super Cup – Federations should be provided with information that include the “fields meet the needed requirements” information, before making a decision on organizers. +**Denmark** – same issues with men’s competitions

Gabriel Waage

- Competitions Denomination
- Ranking system was introduced in 2016, won’t be used for competitions draw teams’ allocation
- **Ireland** – rankings don’t recognize attendance at World Championships
- **Laurie Gouthro** – explained WBSC rankings

2017 AND 2018 COMPETITIONS

- List of the competitions attached
- Women’s European Premiere Cup was allocated to Sparks, Netherlands by vote: 8 for Sparks, 0 for Caserta, therefore, the Women’s European Cup Winner’s Cup was allocated to Caserta
- U-19 Women’s European Championship 2018 was allocated to Staranzano, Ital by vote: 7 for Staranzano, 1 for Beveren, Belgium

PROPOSAL BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC

- The Czech Softball Association together with Poland proposed to have the Women’s European Championship 2019 allocated to Ostrava, Gopardy Žory and Rybnik 1 year early, so they can use the EU funding for covering the financial expenses
- **Netherlands** – impossible vote on something that goes against the current ESF Regulations. The Regulations need to be changed first.
- **Austria** – to think about updating the regulations with regards to this issue, National Federations often have the option to ask for additional funding (from the ministry etc.) if doing so two years ahead of the event only



EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION

TECHNICAL AND COMPETITION COMMISSION

- **The ESF EC will discuss this issue at the next EC meeting**

CR and TR CHANGES

- Entries for development tournaments (EMRYT, U19WESC) till April 15 (CR 03.02.01)
- License Applications Form deadline – 21 days prior to the start of the competition (CR 08.04.01)
- Press and Media designated area (TR 07.02)
- Place/stand/area designated for exhibition and sale of the ESF (TR 12.03.01 – 03)

DIRECTOR OF UMPIRES

Carolien Stadhouders – Director of Umpires Development

- Introduction
- Basic clinics for Umpires (both Fastpitch and Slowpitch) were announced and umpires are encouraged to sign up

Pavel Prachar – Director of Umpires Assignments

- Introduction

WBSC UPDATE

Laurie Gouthro

- **Junior Women's World Championship – Florida, USA** deadline for entries
- **Men's World Championship – Whitehorse, Canada**
- **Slowpitch World Cup** – November 2018 event confirmed, the participation has not been increasing, which needs to be improved
- **U-16 Women's World Event** to possibly be organized in 2018
- **Elite 8** men's fastpitch event currently being developed
- **Bids for 2020 and 2021 events** to be placed during the 2017 summer

EMRYT

- Looking for new approach to this event, was discussed with the interested countries only (Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Great Britain)



EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION TECHNICAL AND COMPETITION COMMISSION

2016 ESF CONGRESS

NOTES

2017, February 3rd, Belgrade

Format for EMRYT 2018, by discussion at Congress, Belgrade 2017.

- Team composition unchanged at all female or maximum 3 boys with 6 girls.
- Preferred playing format: all teams Round-Robin.
- Preferred ball: Just Softee throughout UNLESS BOTH teams request regular specification.
- NO boys to pitch. Pitcher restrictions on number of innings pitched unchanged, but clarified so as to eliminate doubt.
- Umpires to have UiC – (perhaps Senior Italian ESF Umpire to act, or regular ESF UiC.). (Umpires to arrive one day early for mini-clinic?)
- MIN 2 umpires per game, no back-to-back games at plate. (MAX # games per day?).

(To assist needy Federations at beginning of the process of developing V. Junior teams, request a special focus by ESF Development on possible support package – kit, accommodation subsidy etc).



EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

2017 ESF CONGRESS

MINUTES

2017, February 3rd, Belgrade

VP: Ami Baran, John Austin, Mette Nissen-Jakobsen

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

GUESTS, PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS:

- Development Commission Team introduction
- Partners: WBSC SD, USA Softball, USA Baseball, Michele Smith, Clearwater Sports Commission, Jen Schroeder, Pitch in for Baseball, ISG, Little League, Paul Walford (NZ Coach in USA), Cindy Bristow, NFCA (Carol Bruggeman)

DEVELOPMENT WITHIN COUNTRIES:

- Sweden – Baltic Open, Academy, participated in Men's Championship
- Ireland – 1st time participation in the Women's World fastpitch Championship
- Poland – Assistance with coaches through the ESF, new board
- Germany – Men's National Team at the Championship. Coaches Convention in Paderborn – ESCA support (speakers)
- Lithuania – indoor tournament in Vilnius, participations at ESF events, moving forward
- Spain – meetings held, development of men's fastpitch competition, slowpitch development
- Italy - Men's National Team at the Championship
- Austria – Craig Montvidas help with coaching

EQUIPMENT FOR EUROPE:

- ESF is cumulating the equipment coming from US to Bulgaria, some of it was distributed to the Federations who requested (Ukraine, Lithuania) some.
- Cooperation with Pitch in for baseball, WBSC, WBSC SD, USA Softball, Little League, Pony, NFCA, ISG

SLOWPITCH:

- The biggest attendance (14 teams) in the Slowpitch Super Cup so far
- Team USA's headcoach held a clinic at the Slowpitch Super Cup
- 3 European teams participated in the Slowpitch World Cup
- Development has been moving forward

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GUEST SPEAKERS

Ron Radigonda (WBSC SD)

- Joint Development Commission with baseball was formed
- WBSC gathers equipment – starter kits – available to National Federations on request (both youth and senior sizes), cooperation with Shutt and other brands
- Jennie Finch the MLB ambassador for Softball
- Looking at the possibility of organizing an U-16 girls event in 2018 together with USA Softball in relation to the Olympics

Craig Cress (USA Softball)

- Sending coaches and players to event in Europe to help with clinics
- Coaching clinics in the US open to coaches from Europe (through the ESF)

SPECIAL PROJECTS:

Petra Cizmic

- Euroleague – update – Baltic Open to transform into a Euroleague regional tournament, more teams interested (men's and women's teams)
- Erasmus+ project presentation – Malta + Croatia + Netherlands – development project covered by the EU funding, the aim to get girls interested in softball

EUROPEAN SOFTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION:

Craig Montvidas

- The importance of good coaching
- Encouraged all federations to talk to him about what each country's needs for coaches' development

FUTURE PROJECTS

- European Coaches Certification Project
- Coaches Fastpitch Program



EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION MARKETING COMMISSION

2017 ESF CONGRESS

MINUTES

2017, February 3rd, Belgrade

VP: Youri Alkalay, Dejan Jesic, **CD:** Helena Novotná

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

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR REPORT (Helena Novotná)

- Social media update
- Media coverage highlights – exceptional cooperation with Michelle Galerani (ITA), Bob Fromer (GBR), media guide – team Italy, event guide – Most, Czech Republic
- Intercontinental cooperation with WBSC SD, Little League
- Goals for next year – Four-year media and marketing plan has to be discussed first after the election
- We'll be looking closer to the live streaming investments, to make sure they bring us benefits back
- Federations should inform the ESF about any unofficial (potentially international) tournaments to be placed on the ESF website, so other clubs are informed about they're existence

BRANDING (Youri Alkalay)

- Identity Manual update
- Competition Locator update
- Photofest summary
- ESF E-shop presentation
- Information about the ESF merchandise at the Congress

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