



EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION

PRESIDENT'S NOTICE

QUARTER REPORT, ISSUE 2

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TO: ESF National Federations

Dear friends,

The ESF 2017 season has been completed. I wish to update you on some of the ESF activities during last months.

Competitions:

In total we had 10 ESF events which were played successfully during the months of July and August.

I am happy to say that we had a few very important events this year that stand out and should be mentioned. For example the first edition of the U16 MECh and the two divisions – Sport and Future – at the EMRYT tournament. This is great message for our future. Also the historical victory of Germany at the Coed Slowpitch European Championship after 20 years of Great Britain domination. Two overseas teams played at our Cups Competitions – Titans from Botswana and Argentina U19 Mens. Our ESF Cup Competitions are a platform for experience with different styles of playing, which surely helps both sides.

As the 4th edition of the Women's European Championship in the existing format of an open event it is time to revisit and evaluate the situation. I realize that it is impossible to create a format which everybody agrees to, because there are several different points of view. However, we needed to try this in order to see how it works and as I mentioned we are at the point where we can truly evaluate this format.

In general, it is great to have all teams at one venue, in order for the different teams to see our top level play. This is the tool which allows our middle class teams to grow and learn. On the other hand we need to ensure that the games are matched and that our teams will get the most out of their playing time. I have asked ESF VP Petra Arends to prepare an evaluation of this format and bring proposals to make our TOP event more effective for all parties.

Finally let me mention also the participation of European teams at the World Championships. I am more than happy that Europe had a very large representation at both world events. In total 4 European teams from 16 in total –the Czech Republic, Denmark, Great Britain and Turkey – participated at Men's World Championship in Whitehorse. Europe had a larger representation in Clearwater at U19 Women's World Championship. In total 7 European teams played in Florida –the Netherlands, Italy, Great Britain, Czech Republic, Ireland, Israel and Turkey. I thank all of you for representing Europe, we were visible there.

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President's Meeting:

During this period I conducted some very important meetings.

I along with our Secretary General Ami Baran, along with our CEB counterparts met with WBSC leaders headed by Riccardo Fraccari in Lausanne. The main topic was preparation of the new WBSC Statutes and the exchange of information about the current position of softball and baseball.

The Women's European Championship in Bollate was an excellent time to meet many of our NFs representatives. I used this event, as I did at other events where I was present, to talk with the leaders to have clear view of their needs. This information is very valuable for me, because its coming from the people who are doing real sport on the field. I also arranged a joint meeting with three countries (the Netherlands, Italy and the Czech Republic) regarding our joint efforts in promoting the planned NPF Tour as well as our very close co-operation in other topics.

I had an excellent opportunity to talk with all leaders of Men's fastpitch in Whitehorse where I also promoted the Men's World Championship 2019, which will be played in Europe for the first time ever.

I met with the promoters of the Taiwanese Women's Professional League and discussed the possibilities of getting places for European players to this competition. I believe one European player will play this competition already this year. The player exchange is one of the major issues I and the ESF would like to promote and have asked ESF VP Daniela Castellani to prepare the project plan and I really believe it can help our TOP players to bring their national teams to top world level.

Softball Europe:

One of our biggest accomplishments this summer could not be missed. The new brand - [Softball Europe](#) - was introduced during the European Women's Softball Championship. It's not just a logo, it's a concept, that should help us to communicate softball as a sport to everyone, who may not even know our sport as of yet. I really thank ESF VP Marketing John Austin and ESF Communication Director Helena Novotna for making this happen. Helena has sent to you all the graphics, so please feel free to use it.

Other activities:

All NFs and Regional Confederations were informed about the WBSC Development Fund. I hope many of you put your development program on the WBSC table. Also the ESF, as the Regional Confederation, placed a request for funding our activities. Thank you to Co-chairs of ESF Development, ESF VP Kristian Pälviä and ESF SG Ami Baran, for preparation of the whole plan. I hope our plan will be somehow successful, which helps to extend the portfolio of ESF income to be ready to cover all our plans of development.

*And finally let me advertise an upcoming unique way of improvement of our players and coaches. [Softball camp](#) for both players and coaches will take place in the Netherlands in October, it will be the debut event organized by the European Softball Coaches Association (ESCA). **Please register on our website.***

WBSC Congress in Botswana:

As you know the WBSC Congress in Botswana is coming soon. I really would like to ask you to participate there as the softball representatives and since this will be very important, I will send you special letter next week.

If you have any questions, suggestions, feel free to contact me anytime.

Best regards



Gabriel Waage
ESF President