



CONGRESS 2016

HOOFDORP (NETHERLANDS) – February 13th 2016

Andre Van Overbeek 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, HUNGARY, IRELAND, ISRAEL, ITALY, LITHUANIA, MALTA, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, POLAND, ROMANIA, SAN MARINO, SERBIA, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SPAIN, SWITZERLAND, SWEDEN, TURKEY.

Affiliated Federations absent:

GUERNSEY, GREECE, JERSEY, RUSSIA, UKRAINE, FINLAND

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

There are 33 Federations affiliated, 27 Federations duly represented, 25 Federations with the right of vote, the Congress is quorate.

*ISF President Dale McMann addresses the Congress

*President of the Dutch National Federation, Ron Schel welcomes the attendants of the Congress

*Patrice Bienfait (non-attendant) addresses the Congress through a letter

*Little League Award presented by Daniel P. Velte to the Netherlands

*PONY League Award presented by Abraham Key to Czech Republic

ESF Movie; the 2015 season highlights

II. Approval of the Minutes of 2015 Congress

The Minutes of 2015 Congress is approved by unanimity.

III. Admission of new Federations

None

IV. Suspension or exclusion of Federations

None

V. Approval of the activities report 2015

The activities report is approved by unanimity

Development Report

Guest Speakers; Craig Cress ASA Executive Director, Mattias Grimstoft and Craig Montvidas ESCA

Panel discussion

Moderating – Ron Radigonda

Stella Ackrell (GBR), Monica Corvino (ITA), Karen Vroonhof (NED), Vojta Albrecht (CZE)



VI. Approval of the financial report 2015

The financial report is approved by unanimity.

VII. Approval of the budget 2016

The budget 2016 is approved by unanimity

VIII. Appointment of the Auditor

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

IX. Membership fees and special contributions

No discussion

X. Approval of activities to be carried out

Guest Speakers; Kevin Smith Director Clearwater Sports Commission, Michele Smith

XI. Amendments to the Statutes

XI. 1 – MODIFICATION/ADDITION OF ESF STATUTES ARTICLE 1.4

Including WBSC and WBSC SD (ISF) terms in the Regulations and Statutes

XI. 2 – MODIFICATION/ADDITION OF ESF STATUTES ARTICLE 1.9

"WBSC" the World Baseball Softball Confederation, governed by its "Confederation Constitution".

"WBSC Softball Division" the division of the World Baseball and Softball Confederation (WBSC) , recognized as the official entity for Softball is appointed to and claims jurisdiction over every form of softball

XI. 3 – MODIFICATION/ADDITION OF ESF STATUTES ARTICLE 3.2

3.2.1.2 If the General Congress shall be a Joint ESF and Confederation of European Baseball (CEB) Congress, the decision of location of the Congress in even years shall be that of the CEB and the odd years that of the ESF. The date shall not be later than the second full weekend of February.

XI. 4 – MODIFICATION/ADDITION OF ESF STATUTES ARTICLE 5.1.2

- 5.1.2. The President is the Legal Official representative of the ESF in all public matters. He represents the ESF in the international sporting organizations and notwithstanding Art. 4.03 (a) of the WBSC SD (ISF) shall be one of the Vice Presidents of the WBSC SD (ISF). He calls and chairs the General Congress and the Executive Council*
- Amendments to the Statutes approved by 24 votes, 1 abstained.



XII. Motions and other Matters

XII.1 –MOTIONS FOR AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS proposed by the Affiliated Federations

- None

XII. 2 – MOTIONS FOR AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS proposed by the Executive Council

- None

XII. 3 – MATTERS BY CONGRESS COMMITTEES

- Technical and Competitions Committee
 - Resolution of Ties – section 6
 - Players – section 7 – Definition of PUPs: **07.10.** *For purposes of determining player eligibility in ESF Cup Competitions, a Pick-Up player is defined to be a player who is from a Federation other than an ESF affiliated Federation.*

XII. 4 - HALL OF FAME

- Lubomír Vrbenský (CZE) and Mike Stapleton (AUS) were inducted into the ESF Hall of fame

Marketing Report

XIII. Appointment of Organizers of Competitions

XIII. 1 Calendar of 2016 Events:

The Championship U 22 Women – EChU22W is allotted to Pardubice (CZE), Jul. 4th – 9th

The Championship Men – EChM is allotted to Montegranaro (ITA), Jul. 11th – 16th

The Championship Junior Women – EChJW is allotted to Sant Boi, Gava (ESP), Aug 1st – 6th

The Championship Men Slowpitch was cancelled

The Softball Masters - ESM is allotted to Prague (CZE) Jun. 22nd – 25th

The Super Cup Coed Slowpitch – ESCCS is allotted to Wr Neustadt (AUT), Aug. 2nd – 6th

The Massimo Romeo Trophy – EMRYT is organized in Collecchio (ITA), Aug. 10th – 13th

The Premiere Cup Women – EPCW is allotted to Ronchi d.L., Cervignano d.F.,(ITA) Aug. 15th – 20th

The Cup Women – ECW is allotted to Most (CZE), Aug. 15th – 20th

The Cup Winner's Cup Women – ECWCW is allotted to Ostrava (CZE), Aug. 15th – 20th

The Super Cup Men – ESCM is allotted to Azzano, Staranzano, Castions (ITA), Aug. 29th – Sep. 3rd

2017 Events

The Championship Cadet Girls – EChCG is allotted to Ostrava (CZE) Jul. 10th – 15th

The Championship Women – EChW is allotted to Bollate (ITA), Jun. 25th – Jul 1st

The Championship Junior Men – EChJM – **NOMINATION OPEN**

The Championship Coed Slowpitch – EChCS – **NOMINATION OPEN**



XIV. Election to the Executive Council

No Elections

XV. Place of 2017 Congress

The next Congress will be held in Belgrade, Serbia

XVI. Various

None

Closing of the Congress

Dale McMann addresses the Congress

Andre van Overbeek addresses the Congress

André VAN OVERBEEK
President

Ami Baran
Secretary General



EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION

DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

2016 ESF CONGRESS

MINUTES

2016, February 12th, Hoofddorp

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

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

GUESTS, PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS:

- An expanding portfolio of softball organizations and persons who support or cooperate with European Softball: WBSC, ASA/USA softball, Clearwater Sports Commission (Kevin Smith, Michele Smith), Angel Natal Lee County Sports Commission, New Zealand softball federation, Little League Europe, Pony league (in discussion), Cindy Bristow, NFCA, ISG
- WBSC SD is involved in all of these activities

DEVELOPMENT WITHIN COUNTRIES: short list

- Denmark – Coaches certification: pilot course of level 1, third year of the project: continued with level 2 and new course for level 1, we will try and implement in some countries.
- Sweden – Nordic/Baltic open – the idea of regional competitions, ESF support aims for the development of men's fastpitch in the region; Sweden signed up for Men's Championship. This can lead to other regional competitions, including implementation of the Euroleague.
- Ireland – 1st time participation in the Women's fastpitch championship and growing.
- Serbia – Balkan Co-ed Slowpitch – regional tournament was held with good success.
- Poland – Junior Men's team in European Championship – good level of softball, building their juniors and U22 program
- Germany – team signed up for Men's Championship. Convention in Paderborn – ESF support (speakers), with other Conferences around Europe, UK Summit, Swedish Conference and in Italy.

EQUIPMENT FOR EUROPE:

- ESF is trying to accumulate the equipment coming from US to Bulgaria, some of it was distributed to the Federations who requested some. We will be trying to get to all the Federations in order to help supply equipment.
- WBSC SD new policy regarding equipment requests – a development plan, or another softball activity needs to be seen in order to provide the equipment

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SLOWPITCH:

- European Championship Coed Slowpitch in Dupnitsa: GB won, Lithuania debuted
- WBSC Slowpitch World Cup – 4 teams from Europe, thanks to Laurie Gouthro and Mike Jennings doing a good job promoting and developing this tournament, ESF wants to cooperate on developing of this competition
- 2016 European Super Cup Coed Slowpitch - 15 teams entered, the biggest SP tournament yet
- 2016 European Championship Men's Slowpitch - cancelled due to a low number of entered teams – for ESF – we see where we are and how to develop more and better
- Clinics – Steve Patterson and John Austin lead a clinic for the Dutch national men's slowpitch team.
- Facebook page – good engagement, there's interest, potential to use that for further expansion

BEEBALL (Antont Kops):

- In Rosmalen during EChW: information about BeeBall was distributed and provided
- Starting packs are for free, distributed on a request
- Clinics – Anton Kops has the lecturers to teach the clinics; on a request
- BeeBall program great for building players base
- Czech Republic has a Beeball championship in 12 cities, Denmark, Belgium, Italy, France (doing their own program for the youngest players)

NEW INITIATIVES:

- **Petra Cizmici:** Inter League / Euro League – regional tournament for women or juniors
 - o Objectives - more international games (or games in general) for the players, raise the awareness and publicity of the sport
 - o In a 3-year period developed from 6 to 8 teams, from 3 to 5 countries
 - o 2015: ESF support – balls, umpire costs
 - o Plans to grow: promotion and expansion, plan for next 4 years to set regions and start tournaments in regions “European league”.
 - o (SUI) Idea to set and announce dates when Euroleague would be played, so Federations can keep those weekends free to support the participation in the Euroleague
 - o (ITA) consider increasing of the budget for Euroleague (a lot of traveling)
- European Softball Coaches Association (ESCA)
 - o Mattias Grimstoft (SWE) and Craig Montvidas (NED) are working on the project
 - o Already presented in Paderborn and GB clinic with positive reactions
 - o (ITA) which would be the benefits of being registered within ESCA compared to coaches' registrations in their countries

AB: Materials, connections, creating an umbrella, communication space...more details to be presented during the Congress
- European Coaches Certificate Program – Module that would be distributed
- Coaches Fastpitch Program – Pitching coaches program – each country would have one or two specialist for pitching (pitching coaches), who would go through continuous process of learning
- Michele Smith Academy (CW Florida/European Branches)
 - o Cooperation with Michele Smith
 - o (ITA) We should also utilize European coaches

FINANCIAL:

- **Andre Van Overbeek:** Development committee prepares a detailed plan (for expenses) which has to be approved by the EC, if anything extra occurs during the year, when no EC meeting is scheduled, the expense has to be approved by the ESF president.



EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION

FINANCIAL COMMISSION

2016 ESF CONGRESS

MINUTES FINANCIAL COMMITTEE

2016, February 12th, Hoofddorp

Eddy Van Straelen (treasurer), Andre Van Overbeek (president)

ROLL CALL: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Great Britain, Germany, Israel, Italy, Poland, Slovenia, Sweden, Turkey (12 total)

UMPIRES COSTS:

- It is important to send information about umpires' travel costs in time for organizational and financial reasons.
- If a team withdraws in time the obligation to cover the cost for one umpire is cancelled.

FINANCIAL BUDGET 2015:

- (ISR) Shouldn't we invest more into the development
EVS: Anyway we should stay within the approved budget.
- (ITA) According to the report Italy has a debt to the ESF
EVS: Situation from EPCW 2014 was only changed after the closing of the financial year. According to new information received from Caserta (ITA) and Eagles (CZE) regarding this problem, the debt is a matter of the two clubs. Not from Italy to the ESF anymore. As it became clear to be a matter of player transfer.

Therefore, the ESF EC decided that this situation does not affect the Italian Federation's right to vote. A new explanation concerning the responsibility will be part of the application forms, to assure that the NF takes responsibility for the club for anything that may occur in connection with the ESF event they sign for.

(GBR) NF has to deal with the club, it's also a matter of a reputation

- (ITA) Question on the figures and numbers of live streaming
EVS: Will be presented during the Marketing and TC Committee meeting
- (ITA) Are travel costs for development actually worth the development growth?
EVS: Can be explained during the Development Committee meeting

AVO: Expressing the importance of live streaming, the exposure of our sport

- (ISR) Are those owing affiliation fees going to be collected?

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EVS: There's always an aim to collect them. If the situation is not solved for a longer period, exclusion of a federation may have to be considered

FINANCIAL BUDGET 2016:

- (ITA) ESF budget keeps increasing, we should be careful about this
(GBR) As long as we have a certain border marked under which we cannot go, we should do ok

AVO: In 2008 I took over ESF with a certain amount. I want to pass the ESF on to the next president with no lower amount. A goal that is accomplished so far.

The approval of the budget is on the agenda of the Congress.



EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION

MARKETING COMMISSION

2016 ESF CONGRESS

MINUTES

2016, February 12th, Hoofddorp

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

ROLL CALL: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Great Britain, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Netherlands, Sweden (11 total)

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR REPORT (Helena Novotná)

- 2015 Objectives: daily maintenance of our media, provide information, establish communication channels
 - o Numbers available at on request (ESF CD)
- 2015 Live Streaming: 6 events broadcast, total of 57 games, total views EChW: 31 468, EChJM: 15 461, complete data available on request (ESF CD)
- 2016 Plans and Objectives
 - o Improve ESF events media coverage, Campaign-based promotion of live streaming, strengthen ESF position within the softball organizations worldwide
 - o Implement the new accreditations system

BRANDING (Youri Alkalay)

- Identity Manual – already used by EC, will be available on the website as a Web-application
- Competition Locator – on the website, will be filled with information during the 2016
 - o (DEN) – suggest to have all the softball fields in Europe there
- Photofest – 54 participants, 152 pictures, 11 000 reach, Photo calendar 2016
- Goals for 2016
 - o Fill the CL with information
 - o ESF information and merchandise tents
 - o Development of the Identity Manual
 - o PhotoFEST – chain of events,
 - Video contest - softball drill: in March
 - Amateur photo contest
 - Professional photographers contest

GUEST: Stefan Beskov – presentation of his invention

- o A handle that anyone can attach to a plastic bottle and use the bottle as a softball/baseball bat

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EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION

TECHNICAL AND COMPETITION COMMISSION

2016 ESF CONGRESS

MINUTES

2016, February 12th, Hoofddorp

1st VP: Gabriel Waage, **TD:** Mike Jennings, **DoU:** Andrea Marcon

ROLL CALL: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Great Britain, Israel, Ireland, Malta, Netherlands, Sweden (12 total)

TECHNICAL AND COMPETITIONS REPORT 2015

- **MJ** – no big issues, medical support is a concern (to make sure that it's appropriate), Coin flip was used for the first time – positive responses
- **AM** – ESF occurred a trouble with a too low number of allocated umpires due to financial reasons

CHANGES OF COMEPTITION REGULATIONS

- Resolution of Ties – section 6 – clarification of the terms, changes only in wording:
 - “IF NO GAME OF THE PAGE SYSTEM IS PLAYED: Refer to the Results of the Round Robin
AS SOON AS A GAME HAS BEEN PLAYED IN THE PAGE SYSTEM: If it results in the elimination of a team, this Game is validated.
IF FIRST SEMI FINAL ONLY IS PLAYED: The winner shall be the Champion, the loser has 2nd Place. Places three and four shall be decided by the round robin.
IF SECOND SEMI FINAL ONLY IS PLAYED: The loser of Second Semi Final has 4th Place, The winner of Second Semi Final has 3rd Place, refer to the ranking of Round Robin for 1st and 2nd Places. If the round robin does not produce a ranking the top two teams will be ranked 1st.
IF FIRST AND SECOND SEMI FINAL ARE PLAYED: The winner of Second Semi Final has 3rd Place, loser of Second Semi Final has 4th Place, Winner of First Semi Final is champion, the loser has 2nd Place.
Note: It is recommended to play Second Semi Final before First Semi Final, as the result of Second Semi Final allows determining the ranking for 4th place.
IF SEMI FINALS AND FINAL ARE PLAYED: Loser of Final has 3rd Place, Loser of Second Semi Final has already 4th Place, Winner of First Semi Final is the Champion, Winner of final is 2nd place and the loser is 3rd.
- PUP rule – definition of the Pick Up Player
 - **07.10.** For purposes of determining player eligibility in ESF Cup Competitions, a Pick-Up player is defined to be a player who is from a Federation other than an ESF affiliated Federation.
 - **Interpretation Note for article 07.09 - 07.13:** There are no practical eligibility restrictions on Pick-Up players – they are from countries outside of the ESF affiliated Federations. They must be identified as Pick-Up players on the Application for Player Licenses that the club must submit to the ESF prior to the competition. To allow for possible injuries or other extenuating circumstances, there is no theoretical limit on the number of players that a club may identify as Pick-Up players on its Application for Player Licenses - the limit of three (ESCCS four) will apply to the final competition roster that is submitted during the ID Control.
 - “Bona fide member” is not identified any more (taken out)
 - The main intention of ESF is to develop European players
 - Easy enforcement of the rule

- Putting the responsibility on the clubs and federations
- (IRE) To consider this rule in relation to Slowpitch, consider EU residence permit

GUEST

- Laurie Gouthro: WBSC championships are open competitions - starting 2016
 - 17 teams entered for Surrey 2016 (entries until February 24th, juniors February 29th)
 - To allow anyone to get the title, increase the number of games
 - A change of the competitions format (9 or less teams – one pool) (16 - 28 – 4 pools) (29+ teams 8 pools)
 - The technical code is still in a process of development (including late withdrawals situations, once the date for event is announced, the number of days won't be reduced)
 - WBSC Slowpitch World Cup – great feedback, success, discussions where to go from this point (considering turning it into the world championship)

ESF COMPETITIONS 2016 (and 2017)

- European Championship U22 Women – Pardubice (CZE) 10 teams
- European Championship Men – Montegranaro (ITA) 11 teams
- European Championship Junior Women – Sant Boi, Gava (ESP) 13 teams
- European Championship Men's Slowpitch – cancelled due to lack of entries – will be organized in 2018
- European Softball Masters – Prague (CZE) – entries open until April 15th
- European Massimo Romeo Youth Trophy - Collecchio – entries open until April 15th
- European Super Cup Coed Slowpitch – Wiener Neustadt (AUT) 15 teams
- European Premiere Cup Women – Ronchi del Legionari, Cervignano del Friuli (ITA) 10 teams
- European Cup Women – Most (CZE) 10 teams (increase from 6 teams last year)
- European Cup Winner's Cup Women – Ostrava (CZE) 11 teams
- European Super Cup Men – Azzano, Staranzano, Castions (ITA)
- 2017 European Championship Women – Bollate (ITA) – June 25th- July 1st (new date)
- 2017 European Championship Cadet Girls – Ostrava (CZE)
- 2017 European Championship Junior Men – nomination open
- 2017 European Championship Coed Slowpitch – nomination open
 - (IRL) Suggestion to swap Slowpitch Cup and Slowpitch Coed Championship's
 - Ireland to prepare a proposal for this issue
- EMRYT – two brackets (competition and development), free t-shirts from ESF
 - (BUL) Consider to let the boys play mixed competition here with the girls (many delegates in favor), safety issues – positions restrictions, softies – balls for safety
 - **ESF will consider that and discuss with development committee, publish the result asap**
- European Softball Masters – age 35+, 1 place, 1 venue, 2 divisions – men and women

REGIONAL COMPETITIONS

- Interleague, Triple Ball, Baltic Open

SEASON EXTENSION

- Indoor Cups – Vilnius Cup, The Cup (NED) in Schiedam
- European Destinations: Canaria, South parts, **AM:** Suggesting South Italy

QUESTIONS

- (BUL) Player license form should be renovated
- GW:** Will be implemented