



Development Commission Updates 2014





Development Commission History

The European Softball Federation (ESF) was established in ROME (Italy) in 1976 by the representatives of six national Baseball and Softball Federations (Belgium, France, Italy, Germany, Netherlands, Spain,) of the European continent, with the objectives of promoting and developing Softball in Europe.

The ESF organized its first Senior Women Championship in 1979 in ROVERETO (ITALY), where 6 countries participated (Netherlands, Italy, Belgium, Sweden, Spain, Great Britain).

Throughout the years, the ESF has grown and today there are thirty-five national Federations or Associations in the European continent, and has organized sixty European Championships and more than one hundred European Cups for Clubs in all gender and age categories.

The ESF has also established many training programs for coaches, players and umpires with over two hundred international Umpires graduates.

The Federations affiliated to the ESF meet each year during the General Congress and is managed by an Executive Council of nine members, elected by that Congress.

The present Members of the Executive Council have been elected during the 2013 Congress in BLED (SLOVENIA) for a four years term.

During the 2001 Congress in SOFIA (BULGARIA) the Delegates of the Congress have unanimously decided the constitution of the ESF as an Association under Swiss Law and have modified the Statutes accordingly.



2014 OFFICIAL FEDERATIONS AND REGIONS

ESF West

*Belgium,
Denmark,
Finland,
Great Britain,
Guernsey,
Ireland,
Jersey,
Netherlands,
Norway,
Sweden*

ESF East

*Lithuania,
Russia,
Ukraine*

ESF Central

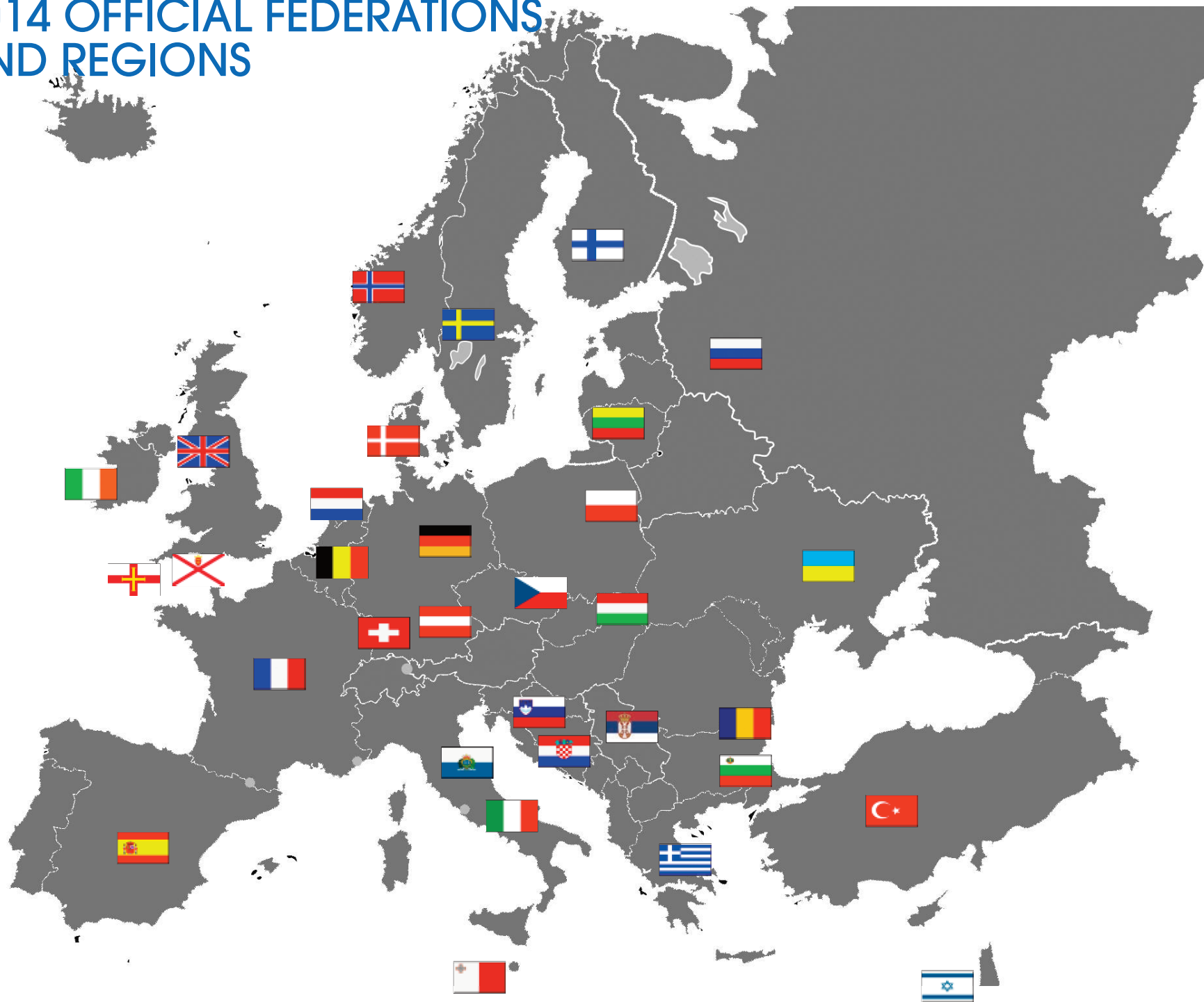
*Austria,
Czech Republic,
Hungary,
Poland,
Slovakia,
Switzerland,
Germany*

ESF Balkan

*Bulgaria,
Greece,
Romania,
Serbia,
Slovenia,
Turkey*

ESF South

*Croatia,
France,
Israel,
Italy,
Malta,
San Marino,
Spain*





EXECUTIVE BOARD



PRESIDENT

André
Van Overbeek
(Netherlands)



**VICE
PRESIDENT**

Youri
Alkalay
(Bulgaria)



**1st VICE
PRESIDENT**
Gabriel
Waage
(Czech Republic)



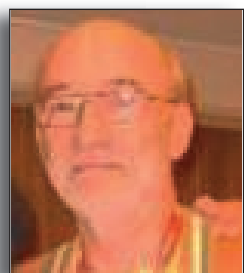
**SECRETARY
GENERAL**

Ami
Baran
(Israel)



TREASURER

Eddy
Van Straelen
(Belgium)



**VICE
PRESIDENT**

Gilbert
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**VICE
PRESIDENT**

Dejan
Jesic
(Serbia)



**VICE
PRESIDENT**

Mette
Nissen-Jakobsen
(Denmark)

HALL OF FAME - MEMBERS OF HONOUR



Member of Honour:		Mr Patrice BIENFAIT (FRA)	1992 - Prague (CZE)	Administrator:	Mrs Anny REINENBERGH-HEUSSCHEN (BEL)
1988 - Paris (FRA)	Administrator:	Mr Renato GERMONIO (ITA)		Coach:	Mrs Ernesta MESCHIERI-CAMPIONI (ITA)
	Administrator:	Mr Theo VLEESCHHOUWER (NED)		Player:	Mrs Nora VERMANDER (BEL)
				Player:	Mrs Rita RAMIERI (ITA)
				Player:	Mrs Patrizia CAROTI (ITA)
1989 - Paris (FRA)	Administrator:	Mr Svend ERIKSEN (DEN)			
	Player:	Mrs Ludy VAN MOURIK (NED)	1994 - San Marino (SMR)	Umpire:	Mr Gerard GILIS (BEL)
1990 - Tbilisi (USR)	Meritorious Service:	Mr Renzo RAMIERI (ITA)	1997 - Paris (FRA)	Administrator:	Mr Enrico BERTIROTTI (ITA)
	Player:	Mrs Carol LIDFELDT (SWE)			
1991 - Venice (ITA)	Umpire:	Mr Bert BREBDE (NED)	2000 - Eilat (ISR)	Umpire:	Mr Pavel PRACHAR (CZE)
	Coach:	Mr Arnoldus HOUTKAMP (NED)	2003 - Krakow (POL)	Administrator:	Mr Jacques REINENBERGH (BEL)
	Player:	Mrs Renée VAN DEN BERG (NED)			
	Player:	Mrs Annemiek VAN KAPPEL (NED)	2005 - Prague (CZE)	Player:	Mr Zednek ZYMA (CZE)
	Player:	Mrs Caroline SMIT (NED)		Player:	Mrs Zuzana ZYMOVA (CZE)
			2007 - Zagreb (CRO)	Player:	Mrs Vera VAN DE VEN (BEL)
			2006 - Sofia (BUL)	Administrator:	Mrs Güller ERIKSEN (DEN)
				Umpire:	Mr Franco BORGIA (ITA)
			2009 - Lausanne (SUI)	Umpire:	Mr Gilbert TOBBACK (BEL)
				Administrator:	Mr Massimo ROMEO (ITA)



EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2013-2014

XVIII. Prague (CZE) - 2013 EC WOMEN

NETHERLANDS (NED)

ITALY (ITA)
CZECH REPUBLIC (CZE)
RUSSIA (RUS)
GREAT BRITAIN (GBR)
AUSTRIA (AUT)
SWEDEN (SWE)
SPAIN (ESP)
GERMANY (GER)
SLOVAKIA (SVK)
BELGIUM (BEL)
UKRAINE (UKR)
DENMARK (DEN)
SWITZERLAND (SUI)
POLAND (POL)
CROATIA (CRO)
ISRAEL (ISR)
FRANCE (FRA)
HUNGARY (HUN)

IV. Dupnitsa (BUL) - 2014 EC UNDER 22 WOMEN

RUSSIA (RUS)

CZECH REPUBLIC (CZE)
GREECE (GRE)
BULGARIA (BUL)
UKRAINE (UKR)
SLOVAKIA (SLO)
POLAND (POL)

XIII. Rosmalen (NED) - 2014 EC JUNIOR WOMEN

CZECH REPUBLIC (CZE)

ITALY (ITA)
RUSSIA (RUS)
GREAT BRITAIN (GBR)
NETHERLANDS (NED)
FRANCE (FRA)
BELGIUM (BEL)
LITHUANIA (LTU)
GERMANY (GER)
SPAIN (ESP)
SERBIA (SRB)
DENMARK (DEN)
CROATIA (CRO)
ISRAEL (ISR)
UKRAINE (UKR)

VII. Ostrava (CZE) - 2013 EC CADET GIRLS

RUSSIA (RUS)

CZECH REPUBLIC (CZE)
NETHERLANDS (NED)
BELGIUM (BEL)
GERMANY (GER)
GREAT BRITAIN (GBR)
POLAND (POL)
SLOVAKIA (SVK)
ROMANIA (ROM)
SERBIA (SRB)
UKRAINE (UKR)
LITHUANIA (LTU)

XII. Havlickuv Brod (CZE) - 2014 EC MEN

CZECH REPUBLIC (CZE)

DENMARK (DEN)
NETHERLANDS (NED)
GREAT BRITAIN (GBR)
ISRAEL (ISR)
BELGIUM (BEL)
CROATIA (CRO)

VIII. Stenløse (DEN) - 2014 ECP JUNIOR MEN

CZECH REPUBLIC (CZE)

DENMARK (DEN)
CROATIA (CRO)
ISRAEL (ISR)
GREAT BRITAIN (GBR)

IX. Pardubice (CZE) - 2013 EC COED SLOWPITCH

GREAT BRITAIN (GBR)

SLOVENIA (SLO)
GERMANY (GER)
IRELAND (IRL)
CZECH REPUBLIC (CZE)
SERBIA (SRB)



Development Programs Slowpitch Softball

ABOUT SLOWPITCH

Slowpitch softball protects that aspect of the game that everyone loves hitting the ball. There is no uneven playing field; it is simply a team game with no one position more important than another. A team does not gain an advantage by have a better, faster pitcher, and because the ball is pitched slowly to the batter, there is more action more hits, runs, throws and catches.

At the entry level Slowpitch Softball is easier to play than Fastpitch Softball or Baseball, and is less intimidating for people of average athletic ability because anyone can hit the ball. The result is that far more adults (and children) can be encouraged to take up Softball. Anybody can play.

In addition, Slowpitch can be played longer than other formats: many successful players continue into their 50s and beyond. This can lead to a dramatic growth in the overall number of people playing the sport, and can give entities that incorporate Slowpitch along with other formats a larger participation.

The best and most athletic Slowpitch players (especially children) will often make the move to Fastpitch, thus enhancing the Fastpitch game as well.

In short, Slowpitch is an easy to learn, easy to play action sport for all ages and gender.



PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF SLOWPITCH SOFTBALL IN EUROPE

The European Softball Federation (ESF) promotes and develops Slowpitch Softball in Europe. It is responsible for organising European Championships and Cups and has also established many training programs for players, coaches and umpires.





SLOW PITCH & BORDER BATTLE FOR EUROPE

Team Europe (men's slowpitch team project)

A very successful Inaugural European presence at the Border Battle. John Austin had some very good discussions and has created the interest of the USA and Canada to further the development, even with a hopeful future Inter- Border Battle on European Soil.

There were a few amendments to the Memo of Understanding between the ASA, Softball Canada, and the ESF agreed to with Craig Cress in Haarlem last August. These edits were included in the written Memo and emailed in the same month. Unfortunately despite many attempts to contact Craig since August, the new version of the Memo has not been approved and as such the project is in a state of limbo.

We have in the meantime been developing the Team Europe Commission and are happy to report that the following people have agreed to be part of the commission...

Ami Baran
Colum Lavery
Marc Stein

We hope that we will hear back from the ASA on the Memo in the near future and can then get this project moving again.



Development Programs Slowpitch Softball



Netherlands

After an initiative organized by some members of the ESF Development the EU-Champions Great Britain played during 3 days a very successful demonstration tournament as a challenge against the former top of the Dutch Baseball and Softball players. In 2013 the KNBSB (Dutch Federation) decided to implement slowpitch in the Netherlands on a recreational level. The ESF Development Committee assisted in 2014 a complete Slowpitch Clinic given by John Austin. In 2015 a start with an official competition is planned by the Dutch Federation. *The Dutch federations are making enquiries regarding participation in the European Championships Co-ed Slow Pitch next summer.*



2014 ESF Clinic in the Netherlands



Czech Republic

There have been enquiries from the Czech Republic and the Irish province of Ulster regarding player clinics in 2015. We will be asking those involved to make their requests official and for them to follow the official procedures through their national federations.



Slovenia

We also had a request by the organiser of a Slovenian tournament to run an umpire clinic. We referred this on to the ESF Umpire in Chief, James O'Farrell regarding timelines and organisation. We are in agreement with how this module should be incorporated into any development clinic. In this case the timelines were far too short and we have advised the organiser of the same.

Other Points

European Slow Pitch league is growing with interest coming from more teams and countries. It is still small scale, but demonstrates that there is an appetite for single sex slow pitch competition in Europe. We've had communication from a couple of private tournament organisers. One regarding a name of a tournament so that it doesn't clash with anything that we're doing and the other to reassure me that there is no intention of creating a rival organisation in Europe e.g. ASA verses USSSA.

Development Programs Slowpitch Softball

DEVELOPMENT PACKS

Inside the Slowpitch Development Pack a lot of interesting helpful items were produced and available for every Federation or Team.

Available in English and Dutch is a booklet with an Introduction to Slowpitch Softball which contents about Rule Differences between Slowpitch and Fastpitch, Slowpitch Pitching Guide, Pitching Drills, An Umpire's Guide to the Slowpitch Strike Zone, Why Slowpitch Makes Life Easier for Umpires.

Slowpitch Promotional Materials Poster, Flyer and Postcard Slowpitch Promotional DVD (in English - French DVD available).

All productions are available digital or in print in the Federations languages if required.





Sweden

An initiative by VP **Mette Nissen-Jakobsen** (foto) help with last seasons inaugural Nordic Championships, which in turn began the Men's fast pitch project with already more than 20 participants and growing. Contact with Finland and Norway are underway to help establish a wider span of fast pitch and slow pitch softball.



A group of certified Coaches from Denmark (certified by a pilot course in Denmark with the ESF Development) went to Norway and conducted a two day clinic. Plans for a return and structuring a women's league are underway.

Swedish Head Coach **Mattias Grimstoft** (foto) has also been working hard on the ASA Florida connection, has had meetings and has planned all the opportunities with the local association including meetings with Michele Smith.

Mattias has been appointed by the Development Commission as the head of the Coaches/clinician's committee, concerning the developing and preparation for future Coaches/clinician opportunities throughout Europe including assisting in the development of the European Softball Coaches Association. We would invite Mattias to the Congress to present the success of the Swedish ASA/ESF cooperation, report on the meetings in NFCA and the establishment of the ESCA.

Development Programs Regions



Norway

As mentioned above ESF development had a clinic in Norway and believe we have planted the seed for future softball in Norway



Finland

ESF development and Finish Federation have been communicating in reviving the Finish softball from the past with the assistance of the pesaballo federation, who have many women players who if done right can actually be a leading figure in women's Scandinavian softball. Meetings will be held in Helsinki with the pesaballo federation who are also in charge of baseball/softball in the country.



Ireland

A commitment has been established between the Irish Federation and the ESF Development commission on starting women's fast pitch softball in the slow pitch kingdom and there is also a commitment on the Irish to begin a Men's program in preparing for the next European Men's Fast Pitch Championship in 2016. The Irish intend to have a women's team ready to go for the 2016 World Championships in Surrey. The practices have begun and in November there will be an all out development meeting with the Irish Board.

Development Programs Regions

Croatia

Two girl players and a men's player, coordinated with the assistance of the ESF Development Commission, flew to the USA and received training, game time in ASA leagues and home hospitality for the several weeks that they were there. ASA California and Massachusetts assisted with professional coaching and housing for these athletes. ASA Mass President Joe Alfonse, Bob Milosavljevic, Jim Fanning and others were a great help, as was ASA President and Local SoCal Phil Gutierrez, Jen Schroder Buchan assisted in Southern California.

Petra Cizmic Pokrajac has been appointed to lead the National Federations development planning including other issues such as EU funding for development in Federations, developing regional interleague games where possible, and much more.



Russia

Russia has already benefitted twice on the cooperation of the ASA and ESF and the Russian National Team coordinated games and training in May this season after a very successful youth girl's trip before. The ASA local association President of Florida Carlton Benton and his team, assisted in all aspects of these visits and we hope to see him and here from at the ESF Congress in February.





Development Programs Regions



Serbia

Serbian softball is on the grow and the junior women's program is moving forward especially after the ESF sent to Serbia Coach/Clinician Lawrence Allen who has given a jump start to the already existing program and has returned there for another 3 months (at the expense of the Serbian Federation) to help even better the existence of softball in the country.

There are discussions going forth on developing also the Men's game, as they did register for the 2014 ECh but at the last minute had to withdraw. We are hoping to continue the build up for this and are looking at the next season to initiate this plan.



Slovenia

Benefitting from ESF Development intervention on their behalf, the ISF and IBAF donated a significant amount of funding to implement a pilot program in the country. Coach Vince Colasuonno has come to Slovenia and implemented a plan he set up and has made significant progress in the country and will stay on to continue the project. ESF Is also assisting in getting the most needed shipment of equipment that Coach Vince has procured for the Slovenian Federation. Coach Colasuonno will also be the main contact person for the ASA Local association from Mississippi and will begin the cooperation as soon as possible



Ukraine

Due to the conflict in Ukraine, the Lugansk region has postponed their softball program as Vasyl Kisyl has moved to Kiev for now. In cooperation with the Kiev Baseball and Softball, The Ukraine Federation is looking for assistance as to equipment and BeeBall clinics. We will be helping them out with these requests and can only hope that this will keep Ukraine softball going



Greece

After meetings with the President of the Greek Federation and the Secretary General of the Ministry of Sports, it was concluded that Greece

will continue to try and achieve maximum participation within their limits in ESF Competitions.

There are a few requests as to assistance for equipment, and clinics and a commitment by them to try and establish Men's fast pitch. It was not successful this time in 2014 but they are looking for the opportunity and understand the reason and the importance.

They have also committed to abide by their internal rules and regulations as there were many complaints by clubs on misuse of rules, regulations and funding. All this came up in the meetings with the Secretary General of the ministry of Sports. The Development commission is working to address all the other Federations development plans, assist them in developing these plans, and are preparing a new outline of development requests for all federations.



Spain

Pitching clinic for 5 day is planned at the expense of the Spanish Federation who have received funds for this. We are assisting them to get the best possible clinician with hope of also bringing in a batting clinician as well. A very good relationship has grown with the ESF and we are working on their development and including assisting in having more cooperation for their Men's program, based mainly in Tenerife.



Development Programs Regions



EQUIPMENT FOR EUROPE



VP Yuri Alkalay has given the ESF Federations an opportunity to have all equipment the ESF Development Commission is collecting in the USA, either through the ASA or any other organizations donating equipment, delivered to Europe. The equipment leaves every few

months from Florida and will be distributed at the federation's expense once reaching European soil.

A new procedure will come about for ISF starter kits also as the amount of starter kits is reducing and we need to take care of the division of the equipment throughout Europe and the World.

We have been in contact with several of the ASA Local associations at the ASA Convention in Reno and they are fully on board in the aspect of collecting equipment on a yearly basis. Some collections have begun and we receive assistance from 'Pitch in For Baseball', an organization dealing with donations throughout the world for both Baseball and Softball.





JOINT COACHES CLINIC IN ROTTERDAM

We have established an agreement of supporting this year the European Coach Clinic in the Netherlands. We are supporting this monetarily as we did also the Michele Smith Clinic during the World Championships in Haarlem.

The Softball part of this Clinic has not been as strong as wanted in the past and we have joined in to support this, by bringing in Michele Smith and Jen Schroeder Buchan for the two day clinic for coaches.

We would like to say that there is also the Italian Clinic, organized by Andrea Marcon, and we only knew of this later on and there was no request for assistance from the ESF.

The ultimate goal is to establish next year the ESF Coaches Convention which we hope will be the beginning of a more professional outlook into Coaching throughout Europe. A plan for eventually having a ESF Certification for Coaches is being drafted.

ESF COACHES CONVENTION

As mentioned above we are planning to incorporate a Coaches Convention. The concept of professionalizing our Coaches throughout Europe is seen as a potential boost for our sport and hopefully bring more recognition to it and the people that spend their lives coaching.

The draft document is being prepared as to all issues dealing with funding, marketing, venues and other issues.

Development Projects Update



EUROPEAN SOFTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION

In cooperation with the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) we are planning the establishment of the European Softball Federation Coaches Association (ESFCA).

This organ of the ESF will create a home for all those coaches who spend their entire lives developing our sport and through this organization will be able to learn, share and be a part of the coaching community for the betterment of themselves and their careers.

We are planning already the structure of this organization which will be under the auspices of the ESF, and will have its own independent leaders with hopeful support and guidance from the NFCA. Discussions were held with Lacy Lee Baker, CEO of the NFCA and much enthusiasm was expressed and in December we will be sending Mattias Grimsoft, head of the Coaches/Clinicians Committee to further the discussions on this issue.





Development Projects Update

SUMMARY OF MEETINGS IN HAARLEM

The EC were present at the World Championships and were involved in meetings with the top leaders of Softball from around the World. Negotiations were held in order to further development plans between the different Federations and Europe. Meetings with our ESF National Federation representatives were also held. The following are a few examples of meetings and a short summary of these meetings:

New Zealand CEO Tony Giles

We will prepare a cooperation agreement between ESF and NZ Softball with the intent to have NZ NT (Black Sox and White Sox) coming to Europe to play and prepare for Championships and assist in development programs throughout Europe.

As to development for Men's and Women's programs there are possibilities for players, in coordination with NZ Softball to play in NZ with help in acquiring work permits and accommodations. NZ have also agreed to participate in having Coaches come and give clinics.

Japan Softball Vice President Utsugi Taeko

Japan has agreed to form an agreement bringing more involvement in assisting with Development including establishing a program for players/coaches coming to Japan and learn from their experience. It was mentioned that there are differences in styles of training and playing but these gaps might actually be beneficial for Europeans.

Chair of the Surrey Women's World Championship Organizers, Gregg Timm:

Discussions were held prior to the World Championships on cooperation between the ESF and the Organizers of Surrey WCh specifically on preparing meetings between the ESF Federations and them in Haarlem. The main issue raised was possible funding of National Teams from Federations who can put a team forth at the WCh. There will be substantial support for our Federations (as others) in order to insure maximum participation.

Botswana Softball President Tirelo Mukokomani

Dale McMann and Ron Radigonda along with a plea from Tirelo to formally admit the struggling African countries that truly have Softball programs be a part of the ESF in any form, legally possible. It would be in support along with fund raising from around the world to assist these federations to participate in European tournaments including cups and championships. A proposal will be brought up to the ESF EC.

ASA President Phil Gutierrez and Executive Director Craig Cress

Our meeting with the ASA was fruitful as we discussed the cooperation which has been going on for a few years and reiterated the commitment of the ASA towards the plan. We discussed equipment collections and shipment to ISF headquarters for stock that would eventually reach Europe.

The ASA requested and it was agreed that if National Teams from ESF Federations want to play and train in the USA should go through the ASA headquarters, ISF and ESF. The agreement on the European Slow Pitch Team participating in the Border Battle was confirmed and the signing of the full agreement will take place soon.

An invitation was extended to come to the ASA Convention in Reno to continue to form closer relations with the ASA Local Associations.

ISF President Dale McMann and Executive Director Ron Radigonda

The continuing cooperation between the ESF and the ISF was discussed. Representatives of the ESF from different Federations will be assigned to Commissions that will have true meaning and real agendas in order to further the development of Softball. Development plans are underway and new criteria for requesting starter kits, equipment and clinics will be the incentive for federations to prepare in detail development programs.

Equipment storage for the ESF will be accommodated as hopeful equipment will be sent to the ISF storage from ASA Local Associations and other Organizations that have agreed to assist Europe.

More discussions will be held after the decision in December of the IOC as to the hopeful inclusion of Baseball and Softball in Tokyo.



Development Programs BeeBall

ABOUT BeeBall



During the ESF Congress in Antalya Turkey BeeBall was Introduced for the first time to the Affiliated Associated Federations by Anton Kops, member of the Executive Board of the Dutch Federation KNBSB.

After a few years of testing this concept it seems to be the most successful way to recruit the youngest children of both genders for the game with the **3 Bee 's**, the Ball, the Bat and the Bases.

The core of the game is based on the simplest form of both baseball and softball without complicated rules and regulations. It can be played by children of both genders from 6 to 9 years old.

Winning is less important than FUN. Since the introduction the ESF Development Committee, joined the development activities of BeeBall with CEB, the European Baseball Confederation. Our Committee performed many clinics for adults and children in several countries of Europe.

This experience and with the assistance of the Dutch Federation we were able to learn and discover many tips and tricks for recruiting new youth members, including marketing and merchandising. Our committee is grateful for the cooperation and help from several volunteers from the Netherlands..



CLINIC ULM - GERMANY



CLINIC BARCELONA - SPAIN

PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF BEEBALL IN 2014

During the Prague Congress in February 2014 many a lot of meetings and agreements were made with the present federations.

Our committee spent a lot of time in organizing clinics for Skandinavia Sweden and Ukraine, translations and artwork in local languages and presentations.

Unfortunately the clinic in Sweden had to be postponed due to logistical reasons, and the clinic for Ukraine had to be postponed due to the political situation.



FREE BEEBALL PROMOTION BAG

For personal reasons further applications for some clinics would not be honored. However, various activities were started in digital form for the promotion of BeeBall.



CLINIC KAUNAS - LITHUAINA

For the 2015 season the Committee will contact those federations who had already requested for clinics in their region.



Updates

In 2015 between 5-7 requests for clinics shall be honored in various countries. Specific requests came from



UKRAINE

The preparations were well advanced in 2014 and will take shape in 2015 in Kiev



SWEDEN & NORWAY

Both from Sweden and Norway we received requests for clinics. During the Dublin Congress the Commission will contact both countries for further appointments.



POLAND

We received requests from the Polish Federation-which will be honoured in spring 2015.



DENMARK

Denmark BeeBall is already a concrete fact. We had some contacts with the local authorities and information about the promotion and it has been supplied. A clinic will be forseen in 2015



BELGIUM

During the last contact with the Belgian delegation an appointment concerning cooperation with the Dutch Federation and ESF / CEB has been discussed and we wait for further action. BeeBall is already Implemented in Belgium.



SWITZERLAND

After the first ever clinic in Switzerland the local Federation informed us about a successfull start and follow up in BeeBall. Even tournaments were held to expand the concept..



CZECH REPUBLIC

We were informed that BeeBall has been implemented in the Czech Republic all over the country and the results are very hopefull.



AUSTRIA

We received several requests from Austria-which we hope to realize concrete in 2015.

Development Programs BeeBall



FRANCE

France BeeBall successfully started and in 2014 there was a National Day BeeBall France 2014. A fantastic movie is available on Facebook Kids really had fun again! AND, the event has won an award from the Agency of Education of sport in France!



SPAIN

The Commission received an additiopnal order of 20 BeeBall Starterspack after the first clinic in Barcelona



NETHERLANDS

During 2014 we organized several BeeBall projects for the national school events on Kings Day. In Vlijmen we had the cooperation of HSV Gryphons for a BeeBall Day for 800 kids.

During the Final Ceremony of the EC Softball Junior Women 2014 the EC Commission was assisted by 16 little BeeBall players for promotional exposures.



INTERNATIONAL EVENT FOR BeeBall

In the Netherlands the National Day BeeBall has been a very popular event since it started in 2012. Many teams appeared at this event since 2013 and it is now a successful item organized in four different locations. We are preparing a plan for an international event in 2016.

In cooperation with the organizer of the upcoming European Championship Women Fastpitch 2015 in the Netherlands a short clinic and demonstration of BeeBall will be organized by the Committee for players and staff of all federations.

GLOBAL CONTACTS

During the World Championship Softball in Haarlem 2014 we were invited to present BeeBall to the Executives of the ISF. An enthusiastic reaction has given us hope of expanding worldwide.

We received a request from **SOUTH AFRICA** for further cooperation and information about BeeBall, which will be honoured in 2015.



RECRUITMENT

In good cooperation with the Dutch federation we developed successful items for the European Federations- which will be helpful full in recruiting players for clubs and teams. All will be available in local languages.

Development Programs BeeBall



PROMOTIONS

The Development Commission is preparing short digital promotional and instructional clips in English. On request of the federations it can be translated in the local languages.

The productions will be available mid 2015 and are sponsored by Westelaer Communications b.v.- Netherlands

Development Plan New Initiatives



Petra Cizmic Pokrajac (Croatia),

has joined the forces of the Development Commission and is already in the midst of planning some new initiatives that will hopefully be the template of future development plans/projects.

A few of the interesting issues she is dealing with are:

1. Updating the Development matrix which contains all information on all our Federations as to future plans and development needs. This will be done with a more concise updated questionnaire so we can receive immediate feedback and begin to work.
2. Reinitiating the Regional Commissioners plan and responsibilities with the hope that this time it will work.
3. Interleague concept document that is a base for the possibilities of regional tournaments which already is working in some regions.
4. Preparing a document of EU guidelines how to get funding on different projects.

We will want her to be present at the Congress where she will:

1. Present a presentation on the ASA/ESF cooperation success with Massachusetts, and of course SoCal with tips on how to make it really work and have patience with this program.
2. Present the Interleague concept and how it could work in different regions.
3. Present the EU guidelines for the different possible projects

