



# EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION

## PRESIDENT'S NOTICE

### QUARTER REPORT, ISSUE 8

May 15, 2019

TO: ESF National Federations

Dear friends,

*I would like to take this opportunity to update you on our activities and operations with the intent to keep you informed of what is being done within the ESF.*

#### **EC WBSC Europe / EC ESF Meetings:**

*Since the Congress in Athens two meetings were held.*

*The EB WBSC Europe met in Sofia on April 6, 2019. WBSC President Riccardo Fraccari and WBSC Executive Director Michael Schmidt were present at the meeting. The main topic was the working plan and framework for the next 2 years and synchronizing all steps needed for the implementation of the WBSC Europe Statutes. Ami Baran (ISR) was appointed Chair of the Legal Commission responsible for the implementation process of the Statutes). The EB WBSC Europe also appointed three new chairs of the mandatory commissions. Media and Marketing Commission will be headed by Rainer Husty (AUT), the Financial Commission will be headed by Andrea Marcon (ITA) and the Anti-Doping and Medical Commission will be headed by Melanie Lavery (IRL). At the WBSC Europe Congress 2020 in Vilnius the new structure of WBSC Europe after 2021 will be brought up for approval.*

*The EC ESF met in Prague on April 28, 2019. The main topic was the 2019 competition situation and the longer perspective and consequences of European events based on WBSC calendar of World Cups. The EC ESF decided that the three teams that will represent Europe at the U18 WWC 2020 will be based on the ESF Ranking – Italy, Netherlands and Czech Republic. The EC ESF also decided that the host of U18 Men's Qualifier for U18 MWC 2020. The European Qualifier will be held at Gezer, Israel on October 16 – 19, 2019. The Top 2 teams will earn a spot for the U18 MWC 2020 played in New Zealand.*

#### **Calendar – New competitions:**

*Other than the decision of the U18 MQ host the EC ESF had discussions about calendar 2020 – 2022 based on the WBSC calendar changes of World Cups. One of the main goals of the ESF is making sure that the teams for the European spots at World Cups will be selected on the field. Based on this, two additional events have been added into the Calendar. U18 and U16 MECh will also be played in 2021 as the European Qualifier for U18 MWC 2022. MECh will also be played in 2022 to prevent a long gap between the top men's events in Europe.*

**President** tel: +420 603 583 362  
e-mail: [gwaage@europeansoftball.org](mailto:gwaage@europeansoftball.org)

**ESF** tel: +972 52 275 1367  
e-mail: [sg@europeansoftball.org](mailto:sg@europeansoftball.org)

A new event has been added to the ESF Competitions. The ESF Masters for Men and Women 35+ will be yet another special tournament starting in 2019. This event will be hosted in co-operation with the Spanish Baseball and Softball Federation in Barcelona on October 30 – November 2. Deadline for entries is August 1 and the Entry Form is already on the ESF website [here](#). Also dates of known European Championships – MECh, U18+U16 MECh and U15 WECh – were approved. Those dates are mentioned [here](#).

#### **TC and UIC clinic:**

March 15 – 17, 2019 was dedicated to the ESF technical forces – Technical Commissioners and Umpires in Chief. The convention was held in Prague, Czech Republic. There were 23 TC and UiC members at the convention, including new additions – Zsuzsa Balog (TC) and Christopher Moon (UiC).

At last year's Blue Convention the major topic was "game management". Now the TCs and UiCs focused mostly on one topic "role and directions". The goal was to unify and set the norm for four basic aspects and were discussed in smaller groups; Communication, Cooperation, Representation, and Evaluation. More [here](#).

#### **Education of ESF leaders:**

One of the main building blocks of development of European softball is the education of our technical leaders. ESF Director of Umpires Carolien Stadhouders was invited for the 10<sup>th</sup> Blue Convention Softball Canada, held in Montreal on April 18 – 20, 2019. You can read about the Blue Convention [here](#).

The WBSC will be conducting a seminar for Technical Commissioners and Scorers. The seminar will be held in San Jose, California on June 5 – 9, 2019. The ESF is sending ESF Technical director Mike Jennings with the intention to bring ideas of WBSC to Europe and to synchronize the governing of events.

#### **Ayelet Games:**

The 14th annual Ayelet Games were held in Israel, March 6-9. The Ayelet Games is a multi-sport event in Eilat, Israel where around 1300 athletes, coaches, and officials came to the city to experience a weekend full of sports. Amongst those 1300 people, there were more than 400 male and female softball players, which made it the biggest sport of the event. 26 teams divided into three divisions competed for gold medals. More [here](#).

#### **Olympic Qualifier Format:**

From July 23 - 28, the first Olympic Softball Qualifier will be held in Utrecht, the Netherlands on the fields of UVV. In total, six tournaments will be played worldwide to determine the six teams that will participate in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. About the format read [here](#).

#### **Future activities:**

We have a summer of incredible events. Let me invite all of you to the Men's World Championship, to be held for the first time ever in Europe. This event will be held in Prague and Havlickuv Brod on June 13 – 23, 2019. The Olympic Qualifier will be played in Utrecht on July 23 – 28, 2019. The top six teams from WECh will have right to play there. WECh will be held in four cities in Czech Republic and Poland on June 30 – July 6. CSPECh in Budapest and U16 WECh are other events, where the players will play for European titles. Visit any of our event and understand our values of our softball family.

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

Best regards,



Gabriel Waage  
ESF President