

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE ORIENTEERING FEDERATIONS IN EUROPE**

Wednesday, July 18, 2012 in Lausanne, France

1. Opening and Roll call

The Chairman of the European Working Group (EWG), Helge Søggaard (HS), opened the meeting at 19.10 by welcoming the representatives of the European federations and other guests attending the meeting.

2. Establishment of the number of votes present

22 federations were present at the meeting, namely BEL, BLR, CZE, DEN, ESP, EST, FIN, FRA, GBR, GER, HUN, ITA, MKD, NOR, POL, ROU, RUS, SRB, SUI, SWE, TUR, UKR.

3. Election of Chairperson, Minute-taker, and three Tellers

Tom Hollowell (SWE) was elected to chair the meeting, Erik Nielsen (DEN) to take the minutes, and Jiri Subrt (CZE), Kirre Palmi (FIN), Alexei Kusmin (RUS) as tellers.

4. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

5. Approval of the minutes from Chambéry, France 2011

The minutes were submitted to the member federations before end of August 2011 and at the same time put on the IOF website. This is well within the deadline of no later than 6 weeks after the meeting. The minutes had also been attached to the final call and agenda for this year's meeting. The minutes were approved.

6. Report on actions taken by the European Working Group

The EWG written annual report had been distributed to the federations together with the call for the meeting. The Chairman of the EWG, Helge Søggaard (DEN), presented the below key issues of the report to the meeting.

a) General information about EWG work

The number of European federations within the IOF-family has remained unchanged since last year's Annual Assembly. At present we are a total of 39 (thirty nine) European countries.

The communication between the EWG members has as usual been handled by email, some occasional conversations when met at international events, and at the official meetings during the WOC-week.

Erik, our valued secretary, and I meet approximately three or four times a year in Copenhagen to discuss and coordinate status and on-going matters, as well as the preliminary planning of the Annual Meeting.

The cooperation with the IOF-Secretariat has been carried out via email.

After a lot of requests we were finally granted a meeting with the IOF Presidency to discuss the future role of the EWG, a subject I will come back to later in the report. No other formal meetings have been conducted.

b) European Championships

First some words concerning the European championships.

I would like to thank the organizers of all European events during the period:

- EYOC2011, hosted by the Czech federation,
- EMTBOC2011, hosted by the Russian federation,
- ESOC/EYSOC2012, hosted by the Ukrainian federation and
- EOC/ETOC2012, hosted by the Swedish federation,

Thank you for your excellent work to organize these important events under the auspices of EWG and IOF. Everybody has done a huge and a very good job, making every nation within the European federations proud to participate.

A various number of tasks related to these championships were conducted during 2011 and 2012, for example

- The issuing of Bulletins
- Handling of requests for various deviations
- Appointments of Event Advisors in coordination with IOF Foot-O, Ski-O and MTB-O commissions, as well as setting up timetables for visits and reports
- Handling and distribution of Event Advisors' reports
- Handling of European Medals and Diplomas, and finally
- Trying to be present at these championships – to honour the organizers and the hosting federation.

At today's meeting, organizers for the EYOC2014, ESOC2014 and EYSOC2014 will be appointed by voting on the basis of applications submitted and presentations given by the applicants.

c) Updated EWG rules and championship rules

The period also contained a lot of work related to rules matters.

New updated rules for the European Working Group were adopted at last years Assembly. The Rules were brought forward and approved by the IOF Council at their meeting in October 2011.

The competition rules for the official European Championships, i.e. the Senior EOCs, were reviewed and revised jointly with the Discipline Commissions and subsequently approved by the IOF Council.

The competition rules for the youth championships were revised and adopted by the EWG after consultations with the Discipline Commissions.

d) Sub-regional activities

The noteworthy positive development in the *South East European Sub-Region* has continued since last year's annual assembly. A total of 12 federations are collaborating in the development of orienteering in this part of the world, including Bosnia-Herzegovina that is expected to become a new member of IOF shortly.

The sub-region is led by South East European Working Group, (SEEOWG), chaired by Mr. Zoran Milovanovic from Serbia, who has been instrumental in setting up the organization and who is very actively contributing to the development of orienteering in this part of Europe.

EWG has since the start of the SEEOWG supported the initiative to establish closer links between the federations. We see this initiative as commendable and an example to follow by other European sub-regions. It is very encouraging to notice the progress that has already been made.

Whenever possible EWG-representatives have participated in the semi-annual meetings. At the meeting in Krusevo in Macedonia in September 2011, Erik and Tatiana took part while only Tatiana was present at the meeting in Bosnia-Hercegovina in March 2012.

In addition to exchange views and experiences on development issues, the semi-annual meetings focus on development activities and joint activities for providing support to less-experienced federations in the sub-region, for example by organizing seminars, clinics and training camps.

NORD, the sub-regional cooperation between the four Nordic countries, hold regular meetings where common orienteering development issues are discussed and resolutions are adopted.

Apart from general orienteering issues the *NORD*-federations have been instrumental in the effort to develop orienteering in Iceland, Faroe Islands and Greenland by providing technical, financial, and management support.

Over recent years orienteering events have regularly been held in Greenland, while the first international event in Iceland took place in 2011. The positive development trend was continued in 2012 with the inclusion of events in Faroe Islands.

e) Preparation of Annual Meeting

At the deadline for receipt of proposals only the EWG had submitted a proposal concerning the future of the EWG. This was included as an Annex to the final call. We will come back to this proposal later on.

In addition to the invitation and final call, other preparations for the Annual Meeting require considerable effort, including compilation of reports and elaboration of presentations.

We aim to perform a professional meeting and to supply all information of the actions taken and on-going matters handled by the EWG.

The IOF General Secretariat provides us with valuable and much appreciated practical assistance.

Finances!

As usual a minor budget of 1.000 Euros was granted from the IOF Council to cover administration costs of the EWG.

In accordance with the general rules of IOF the cost of travel and subsistence of members of EWG is covered by the relevant national federations, which is a considerable amount of money.

f) Future status of EWG?

As previously mentioned Erik and I were invited – after some requests - for a meeting with IOF Presidency at the end of October last year to discuss the future of the EWG, seen in the light of the decisions taken by the European Federation at last year's Annual Meeting.

Unfortunately the outcome of the meeting was extremely limited and poor. There was no support for our wish to play a stronger role in the development process, despite our strong arguments and motivation to support our expected common goal to develop regional orienteering.

Thus, in our view some action is called for, especially as it was clearly and **bluntly** stated by the President of the IOF, that the regional working groups are not part of the formal IOF structure - but "is that of an IOF working group".

In other words, EWG is responsible for their work directly to Council, and not to the European Federations!

Our belief before the meeting was that EWG was a democratic unit accountable to the assembly that had elected it. However, the IOF President explicitly stated that we were accountable to him!

This being the case, it is the strong opinion of the EWG that it does not make sense to elect a group at the European Annual Meeting. Instead the IOF-council should appoint the persons who they think can best constitute the group, applying the same procedure as with the commissions.

Further in our view it does not make any sense to have working rules for the cooperation of the European Federations voted on and adopted by the Annual Assembly.

As a result of the above-mentioned considerations the EWG has submitted a proposal to the Annual Assembly – which means you - to adopt a resolution to dissolve the EWG in its current format. If adopted there will be no election of EWG members at this year's meeting.

The EWG kindly request you to support this proposal, hopefully opening the eyes of the IOF Council, that an increased attention to regional matters is needed in order to create a better working situation and a full acknowledgement.

However, in order not to disrupt the collaboration between the federations, some members of the EWG will, on an individual basis and if approached by the IOF, accept being appointed as an interim management body until the IOF President's Conference in 2013.

g) Finally and thanks

At the end of this report, I would like to thank the members of the EWG, Tatiana, Juraj (who is not present today), Dusan and Vincent as well as our efficient and hard working secretary, Erik, for their dedicated work during not only the last year, but many years in the past.

Your support, your friendship and your dedication are indeed one of the most valued assets in international orienteering, and you are indeed bringing our visions further on.

I am sorry that it has not been within the sight of the IOF-Council to recognize that until now.

7. Appointment of event organisers

The current and proposed championship events appear from the table below.

EVENT		EOC	ETOC	EYOC	ESOC	EYSOC	EMTBOC
2012	Organizer	SWEDEN	SWEDEN	FRANCE	UKRAINE	UKRAINE	
	Time	14 - 20 May	14 - 20 May	29 June - 1 July	20 - 26 February	20 - 26 February	
	IOF Event Adviser	Jørgen Holmboe (NOR)	Jørgen Holmboe (NOR)	Tiziano Zanetello (ITA)	Juraj Nemeč (SVK)	Juraj Nemeč (SVK)	
2013	Organizer			ISRAEL	LATVIA	LATVIA	POLAND
	Time			most likely October	11 - 18 February	11 - 18 February	16 - 23 June
	IOF Event Adviser			Dusan Vystavel (CZE)	Tatiana Kalenderoğlu (TUR)	Tatiana Kalenderoğlu (TUR)	Tage V. Andersen (DEN)
2014	Organizer	PORTUGAL	PORTUGAL	HUN, MKD, POL, ROU	RUS	RUS	
	Time	9 - 16 April	9 - 16 April				
	IOF Event Adviser	André W. Schoepfer (SUI)	André W. Schoepfer (SUI)				
2015	Organizer						
	Time						
	IOF Event Adviser						
2016	Organizer						
	Time						
	IOF Event Adviser						
Events	Sprint, Middle, Long, Relay		Individual, Team	Sprint, Long, Relay	Sprint, Middle, Long, Relay and/or Mixed Relay	Sprint, Middle, Long	Sprint, Middle, Long, Relay
Classes	W21, M21		Open, Paralympic	W16, M16, W18, M18	W21, M21	W17, M17	W21, M21
Participation - individual events	6 athletes per class		6 athletes per class	4 athletes per class	6 athletes per class	4 athletes per class	6 athletes per class
Participation - relay events	2 teams of 3 athletes per class		2 teams of 3 athletes (comprised of at least one Paralympic class and one Open class competitor)	team score	Relay: 2 team of 3 athletes / class; Mixed Relay: 3 teams of 2 athletes		2 teams of 3 athletes per class
Number of medals	36		24	60 + 2 team prizes	42	18	36

Acronyms

EOC European Orienteering Championships
 ETOC European Trail Orienteering Championships
 EYOC European Youth Orienteering Championships
 ESOC European Ski Orienteering Championships
 EYSOC European Youth Ski Orienteering Championships
 EMTBOC European Mountain Bike Orienteering Championships

Names of federations in RED signify federations applying for being appointed by the Annual Assembly of European Federations

a) Applications received

The following applications for organization of future championships were received within the deadline:

- a) EYOC 2014: HUN, MKD, POL, ROU
- b) ESOC & EYSOC 2014: RUS

The applicants presented their bids by means of MS-PowerPoints. The presentations are included to these minutes in Annex 1.

b) EYOC2014

The votes were as follows:

HUN: 1
 MKD: 10
 POL: 8
 ROU: 2

Conclusion: Macedonia was selected as organizer of EYOC2014.

c) ESOC2014 and EYSOC2014

Russia was selected as organizer of ESOC2014 and EYSOC2014 by acclamation.

d) Procedures for selection of organizers

SUI repeated their request from last year that the final call for the annual meeting should include a brief presentation of the applications to ensure a better understanding among the delegates about the concepts of the proposed championships.

EWG noted the request.

8. Proposals from member Federations and the EWG

The only proposal submitted was from EWG who proposed the EWG dissolved in its current format, i.e. that the members of the EWG should be appointed by council and not elected by the Annual Meeting, as the EWG is responsible to the Council and does not represent the European federations.

The proposal and the rationale behind had been distributed to the federations together with the final call.

The rationale for the proposal was elaborated by the EWG Secretary and after some debate put to vote.

The votes were: YES: 7 votes and NO: 14 votes.

Thus, the proposal did not carry.

9. Elections

As a consequence of the result of the vote on the proposal in 8 above, elections of the EWG were conducted in accordance with the rules.

The elections were as follows:

Chairman: Dusan Vystavel (CZE)

Secretary:

4 members: Vincent Frey (FRA)

Alexei Kuzmin (RUS)

Veysel Güler (TUR)

Juraj Nemec (SVK)

All members were elected by acclamation.

As the meeting did not find a candidate for the position as Secretary the newly elected EWG was authorised to find a suitable candidate within the next month.

10. Decision concerning the next meeting

The next meeting will take place in association with WOC 2013 in Finland. The exact date and time will be fixed later depending on the IOF meeting schedule.

11. Any other business

a) EYOC2013 in Israel

SUI informed that they would not send a team to the 2013EYOC in Israel. This was noted by EWG.

As a result of being elected as Chairman of the EWG, Dusan Vystavel will step down as SEA of the event. EWG will appoint a replacement asap.

The meeting granted a mandate to EWG to replace ISR as organizer of EYOC2013 with another federation if the security situation in the region should deteriorate.


The decision about a possible replacement would be taken before the end of October this year.

b) Adventure Race

Spain presented a report on their experiences with Adventure Sport.

Meeting closed at 22.00.

Minutes by:


Erik Nielsen (DEN)

European Working Group – Contact Details

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ANNEX 1: Bid Presentations

a) EYOC2014

Hungary: Page 9

Macedonia: Page 10

Poland: Page 13

Romania: Page 15

b) ESOC2014 & EYSOC2014:

Russia: Page 16