

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

Friday 11th July 2014, 8.00 – 11.00, Grand Hotel Astoria, Piazza Italia 1, Lavarone

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## **1. Opening and Roll call**

The Secretary of the European Working Group (EWG) Lenka Klimpova (LK) opened the meeting at 8.10 by welcoming the representatives of the European federations and other guests attending the meeting.

## **2. Establishment of the number of votes present**

At the beginning of the meeting 24 votes calculated.

The voting procedure is that if somebody leaves or comes we change the number of voting countries. Each country has 1 vote. Provisional members are not allowed to vote. Decisions are taking by simple majority. The vote of the chairman of working group is decisive.

## **3. Election of chairperson, minute taker, and three tellers**

Chair of the meeting: Lenka Klimpova (CZE)

Minutes taker: Tatiana Kalenderoğlu (TUR)

Tellers: Michael Sorensen (DEN), Juraj Nemec (SVK), Zoran Milovanovic (SRB)

Names were approved.

## **4. Approval of the agenda**

The agenda was approved.

## **5. Approval of the minutes from the OFE Annual Meeting in Vuokatti, Finland (see <http://orienteering.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/OFE-minutes-2013.pdf>)**

The minutes were approved.

## **6. Report on actions taken by the European Working Group (EWG) by Dusan Vystavěl**

### ***6.1. General information about EWG work***

It was the second year of our work. Since the Annual Meeting in Lausanne, the European Working Group worked in following constitution: Dusan Vystavel as the Chairman, Vincent Frey, Veysel Guler, Alexey Kuzmin and Juraj Nemec as the Members. Lenka Klimpova worked as the Secretary. Most of you know her from the last meeting in Vuokatti and you also know that she is very effective. I was very happy that she helped me.

I must also say that the IOF Office helped us very quickly with some questions which we asked them.

## **6.2. On-going matters**

This year was not as complicated as the previous one; we have had more time for regular work. Main goal for us was to prepare a proposal for changes in the EOC programme. We spent a lot of time in the email discussion on this matter and Vincent as a member of EWG as well as the FOC will propose two changes in the EOC programme. We hope that these changes will be valid from the next championship which will be held in the Czech Republic, Jeseník in May 2016.

## **6.3. European Championships**

In the time between the Annual Meetings there were the following championships:

For Youth:

- 2013 EYOC in Foz do Arelho, Portugal
- EYSOC in Polva, Estonia
- 2014 EYOC in Strumica, Macedonia

For Elite:

- ESOC in Tjumen, Russia
- EOC and ETOC in Palmela, Portugal

Of course, we must say thank to all organizers because all of them worked very hard, in 99 % as volunteers in their free time.

EOC and ESOC were also included to the World Cups in FootO and SkiO and due to that they were supervised mainly by the IOF. The ESOC in Russia was organized in very high level and especially live TV coverage was the big step in promotion orienteering in our Olympic way. Unfortunately, in the EOC in Portugal there were a lot of mistakes. But everything wrong is good for the next. I think that all of us learned for the future how to prevent similar mistakes.

The championships for youth are organized as non IOF events and this was the fact that these races were seen the main for the EWG. I was personally present at all these youth championships and I must say that all three events were organized in high level, without technical problems and with very high spirit, which is especially important for these youth competitors. I must say also big thanks for all Event Advisers – David Ales, Per Frost and Janos Sumegi with his assistant Szava Zigmund.

*EYOC 2013 – Portugal, Foz do Arelho*

Excellent accommodation on very high quality hotels at the seaside, fantastic area for sprint race in the historical medieval town Obidos and long and relay races in a nice pine forest with sand on the ground and many terrain details. Really good place for relax, but participants enjoyed also the races.

*ESYOC 2014 – Estonia, Polva (Pannjarve)*

It was incredible how organizers managed this event! Due to, as in whole central Europe, tragically low snow covering – and also in Polva – organizers had to move the event 180 km north to Pannjarve and all races were done there according to the plan. Especially the final relay race was

organized on the last snow in Estonia and it was good luck that this relay race was on Sunday, on Monday it would be impossible. As the organizer of many events, I cannot imagine to organize event 180 km from my home. Really big, big thanks to Estonian organizers!

#### *EYOC 2014 – Macedonia, Strumica*

Wow, excellent event again! Really! When in 2012 we appointed Macedonia as the EYOC organizer, many of us could not imagine how this competition would be. But reality was much better than our expectations. Very good accommodation, good maps, demanding courses and last but not least friendly organizers – there were the main attributes of these events. I think that for example opening ceremony will stay in the mind of all participants for very, very long time.

The very good step was that Macedonian organizers felt that they were not so strong in technical things and due to this fact they asked volunteers from orienteering developed countries to help. There were a lot of experienced organisers from neighbour country Bulgaria, which helped with map making and time taking.

In this event volunteers from 7 countries worked. Big delegation from Romania, as the future EYOC organizer, was present as the observers. It was very good for orienteering that 11 countries won medals at this EYOC, and next 6 won the podium places. It is really excellent that 17 European countries won minimum one podium place! As a good European Chairman I was also happy that in Sprint race we have seen a first ever gold medal for Portuguese runner, despite the fact it meant my son fall down from the third position to the fourth one. Thanks to the organizers and special thanks to Zoran Milovanovic who helped Macedonian organizers a lot and was a good teacher and developer of orienteering.

#### **6.4. Updated EWG rules**

In the period from the last meeting we also worked on the following new rules or updating the current:

- the Rules for the EYMTBOC, which the last OFE Meeting approved as the new event,
- the Rules for Temp-O Event within the ETOC, implementation of this race was also approved by the last OFE Meeting

#### **6.5. Preparation of the Annual Meeting**

The final call and agenda for this year meeting was sent according to the working rules – one month before this meeting. In previous years there were some complaints that the delegates missed the background materials of applicants for European events, therefore Lenka pushed hard asking the new applicants to send their materials in advance

About the finances: As usual minor budget of 1000 Euros was granted from the IOF to cover administration costs of the EWG.

#### **6.6. Finally and thanks**

At the end of this report, I would like to thank to the members of the EWG, Vincent, Veysel, Alexey and Juraj as well as our secretary, Lenka, for their dedicated work during last two years.

## **Discussion and comments after the Report:**

DEN: Thanks DV for the report. The question is what did we learn from mistakes in Portugal?

Dusan Vystavel (DV): Many of you received SEA and organiser's report which shows that cooperation between organisers and SEA must be much better. The FOC asked us for recommendation for the EA for the next EOC. Communication between SEA and Czech organisers is going well. The EOC should be very high level event.

LK: One example: One should expect more online viewers, especially during the EOC. Viewers had problems to connect and follow the race. It influences the image of championships for those who are not present there. It should not happen.

DEN: Surprised that other federations are too silent. I understand that you realize technical problems, but how are you going to improve it? Who is checking the report? When the championship is over, it is too late. Maybe we should ask the EWG to summarise the problems. What should we do in future to avoid it?

Vincent Frey (VF): The FOC is checking all the reports and taking necessary steps. This is a job for the FOC, not for the EWG.

NOR: It is not only problem how to follow SEA work, one of the problem is that you as the EWG appointing not too much experience organisers. Portugal has experienced organisers, but this time it was an unexperienced group.

Juraj Nemeč (JN): The EWG is controlling the EOC and the EYOC. But if a EOC is organised as World Cup as well, the major control is from the IOF. If we want to have a separate event, it will increase the number of major events and all federations nowadays are against it. If we want to keep a EOC as WCup event, then we have very limited capacity to influence the event, because it is the IOF event.

LK: It is this forum, the OFE assembly, who decides on EOC organisers, at least in FootO.

DV: For last three EOCs it was only one application bid.

DEN: Do you see that in the future of EOC as a part of World Cup the FootO Commission will decide the organisers of future EOC? In that case we won't be able to oversee bidding process.

NOR: Now it is a new group which will check the structure of WCup and the EOC within it.

## **7. Proposals**

### **7.1 From the EWG on changes in EOC programme:**

*A) Implementation of Sprint Relay into the programme of the European Orienteering Championships (presented by Vincent Frey)*

The EWG suggests implementing Sprint Relay into the programme of the European Orienteering Championships from 2016 onwards (suggest was made by organisers of EOC2016 to EWG).

The format should be the same as for the WOC Sprint Relay.

Motivations:

- Sprint relay is a newly developed format and it has been included into the World Orienteering Championships programme from 2014,

- This proposal is endorsed by the FootO Commission and by the Athletes' Commission.

The EOC 2016 organizers are ready to implement this proposal into the EOC 2016 program.

*B) Implementation of a combined qualification race for the Long Distance and Middle Distance races into the programme of the European Orienteering Championships (presented by Vincent Frey)*

The EWG suggests implementing a combined qualification race for the Long Distance and Middle Distance races into the programme of the European Orienteering Championships from 2016 onwards.

Qualification principle: The 51 best runners from the qualification race that want to run that distance are qualified for the first A final. All the other runners will run the B final. The 51 best runners from the qualification race that want to run that distance and the 10 best runners from the first B final are qualified for the second A final. All the other runners will run the B final.

Motivations:

- to balance the inclusion of Sprint Relay and to keep the EOC programme as compact as possible,
- this proposal is endorsed by the FootO Commission and by the Athletes' Commission.

The EOC 2016 organizers are ready to implement this proposal into the EOC 2016 program.

#### **Discussion and comments after the EWG proposals:**

GER: We are concerned to have a complicated new distance in the EOC program. Quality issue will arise. Qualification race is easier to organise, almost like a test before final. It is easier to fail while organising Sprint Relay.

AUT: How many teams from each country will you allowed to start?

VF: We did not discuss it yet. Probably it will be one for a country.

DEN: The format of sprint relay was well accepted by athletes in the WOC. But adding one more distance to the current EOC program will make it too long. But if we remove qualifications, then it will be only 5 races. Danish proposal:

- Sprint Q + F, 6 runners per nation
- Middle 3-5 runners per nation (according to WOC qual system plus 2 runners)
- Long 3-5 runners per nation (according to WOC qual system plus 2 runners)
- Mix-relay 2 teams of 2+2 runners per nation
- Relay 2 teams of 3 runners per nation

DV: Regarding the Danish proposal we have to say that organiser of the 2016 EOC, the Czech Republic, applied for the old (current) program. Whatever decision we make it will be valid from 2018.

LK: CZE organisers support the proposals by the EWG. It was suggestion of CZE organisers that they can organise sprint relay in 2016, but to be able to do that they have to remove one qualification.

FIN: I think to have sprint relay in EOC is a great idea. I support the idea to skip all qualification races, so it will be easier for local organisers. Even the smallest countries will have 3 runners for each distance and at the same time they can form a full relay team. Shorter package and easier to

organise. Actually not to organise qualification races should be easier for organiser. I also discussed it with top athletes yesterday and they confirm that they also see it as a possibility.

NOR: It depends which athletes you ask. You cannot count on separate opinion.

DEN: Many countries have runners specialised for different disciplines and we do not think that one combine qualification is a good idea.

CZE: I am one of the organisers of the EOC 2016. It is difficult to make changes now. We prepare live coverage for 70 runners. If there will be no qualification, too many runners will participate. We are not ready to organise competitions without qualifications, it is already planned and prepared. Two teams for sprint relay are too many.

LTU: We support Danish proposal, too risky to organise one qualification race for long and middle. This sounds very wrong. Two years should be enough time to change the program.

CZE: For us it is impossible.

FIN: We are used to organise competitions with live TV for many our races. More than 30 hours every year for the last 10 years. 30 best runners will start last, so it is possible to organise live TV only for them. I do not see a problem to restructure TV coverage for the future TV EOC coverage. One team is OK for sprint relay.

BUL: It is correct to have only one team for sprint relay.

DV: Next month during World University Orienteering Championships will be a sprint relay and there will be only one team per nation.

VF: The concern of CZE organiser is to have 100-120 runners for live TV.

ITA: Why not to have one year forest and one year sprint championships for EOC?

LK: We are not able to do it because of the IOF rule that the program of regional championships must be in line with the WOC program. If you want to change that, you had to do it yesterday while GA. We cannot do anything about it now.

CZE: We were talking about live coverage of the strongest runners. Yesterday it was another order of start list. Nobody knows how it was made.

RUS: It is a good idea about dividing the WOC and EOC to sprint and forest years. We all shall think about it and make a proposal for GA. National federations must make a proposal, it can be solution.

SLO: We are a small nation, but this debate surprized me. We should not take it lightly. It is an important decision. To have 120 runners in start list, how long the runners will wait? About start interval, here we saw a lot of following in the forest.

VF: We cannot take any decisions on splitting WOC here.

JN: We have to be aware that the EOC 2016 was already awarded to the Czech Republic and if they say no, they will organise what they applied for. We cannot force them to implement the changes now. We must give CZE this chance, they were appointed last year.

DEN: I see that many countries say yes to sprint relay, and no to qualification races.

LK: The problem is that if you say no to one joined qualification, then two qualifications must stay. That will increase the competition days and as far as I know it is not acceptable by CZE organisers.

FIN: It may be true that it will be quite many runners in finals without qualifications. But then it is better to have two qualifications than one, because in Finland we have runners who concentrate only on middle, or long distances, one combined qualification won't be fare.

SUI: I am really astonished that we were discussing such matters. But we need to discuss it within the federations as well. We cannot say to appointed organisers what to do.

RUS: We have a chance of online voting of federations, the EWG can discuss with organisers possibilities of making or removal of qualifications and then inform federations and make a real decision through online voting.

CZE: Is it better for runners if there won't be a free day and this day will be a second qualification? It is a question for us and we need to have an answer from federations.

*Short break*

LK: The EOC 2016 organisers are ready to organise long final and qualification, but for the middle we suggest quota for the runners running in final. Plus they are ready to make sprint relay. If we do not make any changes now, then organisers will go with old program.

FIN: Pity that we did not receive wider information beforehand, I am afraid that there will be some results we did not count to. I think it will be wiser to have qualification in middle, because it is a higher demand for the middle distance. But the best solution is to postpone making a decision now and maybe in two month to make a wise careful decision, to ask athletes and coaches.

JN (SVK): I have to clarify once more: this is a new proposal, if we say no, then we go with original program. And then separately vote for sprint relay in 2018. In any case there will be two votes. If you feel it is too fast, then we have enough time to make decision for 2018.

LK: It is a package.

Voting:

*We have a proposal for 2016 to implement sprint relay and one combined qualification (one qualification shall be removed).*

Voting for 9 - Yes, 13 - No. The result is that the program for 2016 will stay the same as 2014.

Next voting:

*To implement sprint relay to the program of EOC from 2018 onwards*

Yes - 22, No - 0, abstention -2

LK: The organisers of 2018 so far should count for 3 qualification races, three final races, one relay and one sprint relay. But it will be under discussion.

RUS: I think we must decide that the program of 2018 shall be revised, otherwise it is too long, it must be changed. I would like to make a suggestion to revise this program. I want ask assembly to give the EWG the rights and task to work on a revising the program of EOC.

Voting:

*To give the EWG rights and task to work on a revising the program of EOC.*

Approved by majority of the voting members.

## **7.2 From member Federations**

*A) Implementation of the European Junior MTBO Championships (EJMTBOC) (a proposal submitted by the Hungarian Orienteering Federation)*

The Hungarian Orienteering Federation suggests the establishment of the official EJMTBOC to be organized every second year in conjunction with the European MTBO Championships and the European Youth MTBO Championships from 2015 onwards.

Classes: M-20 and W-20

Disciplines: Sprint, Middle, Long, Relay

In practice, the EJMTBOC would be only an additional class on an existing event, that fills the age gap on the jointly organized EMTBOC and EYMTBOC event in odd years.

Motivation:

- European junior events in MTBO have been already organized on European Championships since the first one in 2006 in Poland. The status of the official European Junior Championships would give an existing competitions higher prestige and possible media interest.
- The joint organization of the EMTBOC, EJMTBOC and EYMTBOC has proven to be a highly cost effective way of organizing top level competitions, and participating on them, even during its unofficial era.
- Most international level juniors are expected to travel anyhow to compete in the unofficial European Junior MTBO Cup during the European MTBO Championships, so the actual extra expense would be negligible.
- Making the junior competitions the official European Championships could bring financial resources for participation in this event from sponsors and national sport authorities.

### **Discussions and comments the Hungarian proposal:**

NOR: Each time we are voting for the new championships. We have limited recourses to send athletes for the new championships.

HUN: Traditionally in MTBO we combine Elite and Junior competitions together, because it is most cost effective for organisers and sportsmen. It is already in practice, we only ask for official recognising of this Junior event.

AUT: We are traditionally a strong nation in MTBO. There are not many big MTBO competitions and we already sending our junior together with Elite anyway. We strongly support the proposal.

Voting: Majority of the votes in favour of the proposal. The EJMTBOC will be organized from 2015.

*B) A EOC 2018 organiser to be decided via online voting in February/March 2015 (a proposal submitted by the Swiss Orienteering Federation)*

LK: Normally we should vote on organiser next summer 2015, but the possible organiser of EOC 2018 asks for the possibility to be appointed earlier than in summer 2015 via online voting in March 2015, after deadline for applications.

SUI: We will be really happy to have this decision to have more time to discuss the event with possible sponsors.

DEN: The WOC program is not decided yet, it is fast working group, but not that fast. I am concerned about the quality of the bids for our future events. Is there any way that we can be better and improve quality of the bids? How do we ensure that the quality and TV coverage will be of the proper quality? May be it is possible to give a responsibility to one of the members of the EWG, if not to go to the possible event site, but to control bid quality and preparation through phone, for example. To ask future possible organisers some questions. I will be happy to give you a questionnaire. What if we ask neighbour federations to appoint the "additional controller"?

AUT: I rather liked to have overview of the bids like from MTBO commission yesterday for two applications for WMTBOC. It is easy to see strong and weak points then.

Voting: Organiser of the EOC 2018 will be elected by online voting in February or March 2015. Approved by majority of voting members.

## 8. Appointment of event organisers

### EYOC 2016 – applicant: Poland

Presentation by possible future organiser. See: [http://orienteering.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/EYOC\\_2016\\_Poland.pdf](http://orienteering.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/EYOC_2016_Poland.pdf)

Voting: Yes 22, no 0. Poland was approved as organizer of EYOC 2016.

### ESOC 2016 and EYSOC 2016

No official applications, Finland and Bulgaria withdrew their applications.

FIN: We have everything very detailed planned for 2016, but we were asked by SkiO Commission if possible to move our application from 2016 to 2017. Hope we can make online voting in January. We are applying for ESOC 2017, JWSOC 2017, EYSOC 2017 in Imatra. See presentation: [http://orienteering.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/ESOC\\_EYSOC\\_2016\\_Finland.pdf](http://orienteering.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/ESOC_EYSOC_2016_Finland.pdf) (note that the year should be 2017)

JN: The ESOC 2016 has an organiser and waiting for the approval from the Council. It will be announced soon.

AUT: We submitted our official application to the SkiO Commission about once month ago. Originally Austria applied for JWSOC and then we talked about adding EYSOC. The area planned to use is one of the major event biathlon area and stadium. We have a good relationship with Austrian TV. Not much time left, so I would like to have an indication, as yes, you can go for this. We saw the Finnish bid only after we put our own bid, so I was a bit surprised.

JN: This year SkiO Commission received a few bids for 2016, which is good, but it took additional time to handle it.

LK: The EWG would like to ask you for the right to appoint the organiser of the ESOC 2016, when the application time is officially closed (August 2014).

Voting: Approved by the majority of votes.

LK: Our suggestion: if the ESOC 2017 has only one application, it shall be approved by the EWG. If there is more than one applicant, we will send bids for online voting. The same goes for the EOC 2018 – if it has only one application, it shall be approved by the EWG; if there is more than one applicant, there will be online voting.

Voting: Approved by the majority of votes.

FIN: Even if there only one applicant I would like to have presentation through internet as well.

**EYMTBOC 2016 – applicants: Portugal**

Voting: Approved by the majority of votes.

### **9. Election of Chairman, Secretary and members of the Working Group**

The Czech Orienteering Federation has nominated Dušan Vystavěl for the EWG Chairman and Lenka Klimplová as the EWG Secretary.

The Russian Orienteering Federation has nominated Alexey Kuzmin as the EWG member

The Slovak Orienteering Federation has nominated Juraj Nemec as the EWG member

The French Orienteering Federation has nominated Vincent Frey as the EWG member

Poland proposed a new EWG member Przemek Patejko.

Voting: The proposed EWG chairman, members and secretary were approved by acclamation.

### **10. Decision concerning the next meeting (venue, format)**

The meeting will take place in Scotland in conjunction with the WOC 2015.

### **11. Any other business:**

- The Swiss federation presented a proposal for the EOC 2018, 8-14th of May 2018. In Switzerland they are used to plan 5 years in advance. Sponsors do not like to give money at one time, they also prefer to spread their payment by years. See the Swiss presentation: [http://orienteering.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/EOC\\_2018\\_SUI.pdf](http://orienteering.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/EOC_2018_SUI.pdf)
- JN: SkiO Commission feels that we need to do something for runners who reach 21 year and many young sportsmen leave after that. Please consider possibility to have class U23 in SkiO at least and we hope that initiative from SkiO Commission will be discussed within federations.

The meeting was closed by Dušan Vystavěl, the EWG Chairman.

## Overview of European Championships

EVENT		EOC	ETOC	EYOC	ESOC	EYSOC	EMTBOC	EYMTBOC	EJMTBOC
2015	Organizer			ROMANIA	SWITZERLAND	NORWAY	PORTUGAL	PORTUGAL	PORTUGAL
	Time			25–28 June	19–25 January	7 - 15 February	8-14 June	8-14 June	8-14 June
	Place			Cluj Napoca		Hamar	Idanha-a-Nova, Portugal	Idanha-a-Nova, Portugal	Idanha-a-Nova, Portugal
2016	Organizer	CZECH REPUBLIC	CZECH REPUBLIC	POLAND	NO APPLICANTS	NO APPLICANTS		PORTUGAL	
	Time	21–28 May	21–28 May		To be appointed by the EWG	To be appointed by the EWG in fall 2014			
	Place	Jesenik	Jesenik						
2017	Organizer				To be appointed via online voting / EWG in spring 2015				
	Time								
	Place								
2018	Organizer	To be appointed via online voting / EWG in spring 2015							
	Time								
	Place								