

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

Tuesday August 4th 2015, Inverness, Scotland

1. Opening and Roll Call

The Secretary of the European Working Group (EWG) Lenka Klimplová (LK) opened the meeting at 8.37 by welcoming the representatives of the European federations and other guests attending the meeting.

Martin Ward (GB Federation)

Martin Ward addressed to the representatives of the European federations a welcoming speech.

2. Establishment of the Number of Votes

At the beginning of the meeting 16 votes calculated.

A representative of Russia joined the meeting from the discussion on the agenda point no. 6. After then, 17 voted calculated. See the list of attendees below.

Decisions are made among the federations present at the meeting during that item. Each European member of IOF has 1 vote. Provisional members are not entitled to vote. All decisions will be taken by a simple majority. If a voting gives an equal number of votes for each alternative, the casting vote of the chairman's federation will decide.

3. Election of Chairperson, Minutes Taker, and Three Tellers

Chairperson: Lenka Klimplová (CZE)
Minutes taker: Jan Exner (CZE)
Tellers: Michael Sorensen (DEN)
Juraj Nemec (SVK)
Tatiana Kalenderoglu (TUR)

Names were approved by acclamation.

4. Approval of the agenda

1. Roll call of participating federations
2. Establishment of the number of votes present
3. Election of chairperson, minute taker, and three tellers

4. Approval of the agenda
5. Approval of the minutes from the OFE Annual Meeting 2014
6. Report on actions taken by the European Working Group
7. Proposals from the member federations
8. Appointment of event organisers
9. Decision concerning the next meeting (venue, format)
10. Any other business

The agenda was approved by acclamation.

5. Approval of the minutes from the OFE Annual Meeting 2014 in Lavarone, Italy

The minutes were approved by acclamation.

6. Report on actions taken by the European Working Group (EWG) by Dušan Vystavěl

General information about EWG work

Dear Orienteering Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, we have the honour to start series of meetings and conferences of the International Orienteering Federation (IOF) that will be held during the World Orienteering Championships here in Inverness.

Before I start with my ideas and proposals concerning one of the main points of our programme – future and the following course of the European Working Group (EWG) – I would like to stop for a while at the events of European character that took place since our last meeting in Lavarone.

The European Working Group has been working in only a slightly modified composition compared to its previous election period - Dušan Vystavěl as a chairman, Lenka Klimplová as a secretary and Vincent Frey, Juraj Nemeč, Alexej Kuzmin and newly also Przemek Patejko as a members. Even the division of competences and tasks between EWG members was similar to the previous period. Discussions between EWG members concerning different topics took place mostly by e-mails, eventually by phones. The novelty in negotiations towards the IOF and its committees was my - as EWG chairman - participation in the IOF joint meeting in January in Frankfurt. Concerning the future direction of EWG, a Skype meeting with Tom Hollowel and Astrid Waaler Kaas as a IOF Vice-President responsible for Europe took place.

The European Championships, which were held in last period, were well organized and no serious technical problems appeared. The European Ski Orienteering Championships was held in late January in Lenzerheide in Switzerland. At this point, I would like to express my thanks to the organizers for having organized the event, even though only an unexpected minimum of snow was

in the area. Nevertheless there was a lot of snow for the European Youth Ski Orienteering Championships, which was held together with the Senior and Junior World Ski Orienteering Championships in Budor, Norway. All the events had a very high quality. I would now like to thank the organizers for an absolutely great preparing of prize-giving ceremony. Diplomas, medals and examples of local specialities were very nice prepared. I think that the prize-giving ceremonies of the European Championships should look like that. Also I haven't heard any negative comments on the European Mountain Bike Orienteering Championships held in Idanha-a-Nova, Portugal in the beginning of June.

I will now concentrate on the European Youth Orienteering Championships (EYOC), which is kind of our flag-ship. EYOC was held in the traditional period at the end of June in the Romanian town Cluj-Napoca. The value of the event was multiplied by the fact that Cluj-Napoca was the European Youth Capital City for 2015 and EYOC could have been placed on a whole-year programme of events in this "capital city". 387 athletes and 83 team members from 32 countries all around Europe participated in the Championships. As these numbers show, it was not a small event. Romanian organizers succeeded with honour. Except for one small technical problem in the end of both girl courses in long distance race, there were no problems or protests. And especially the relay race in a beautiful semi-open terrain with many terrain details and many changes in results was superb. I would like to thank the organizers for the organization without any problems even during a heavy three-days rain before the first event. Once again „v mulcemesk Romania, v mulcemesk Cluj-Napoca“.

Concerning EYOC, I would like to talk about one more issue that I will also address later in my speech. I am talking about the fact that the EWG has in the present time no powers to act in the cases where the organizers do not follow some of the basic organizational principles. What concretely happened? In my speech in Lavarone last year, I thanked the Macedonian organizers for a great organization of the EYOC. Nothing changes on the fact that the EYOC was very nice. Nevertheless, the organizers – local club in the town of Strumica cancelled the EYOC webpage and they used the address <http://eyoc2014.mk> for their next event "Strumica Open" this year. Nothing has changed and the organizers have not reacted despite my multiple protests. Now, it is not possible to find last year's results on Internet and this is bad. After thanks last year, a yellow card for Macedonia this year. And why am I addressing this issue? If the EYOC were organized as a IOF event, there would exist a contract between IOF and the organizers, which would govern their obligations.

Another novelty in EWG activities was a seminar of organizers and candidates on EYOC's organization in March. We organized this seminar in cooperation with the Foot-O Commission and the seminar followed a Clinic for a new IOF Event Advisors that was held in Prostějov in the Czech Republic and lead by Unni Strand Karlsen and Aron Less. The organization of these two events appeared as very good and inspirational for all participants. I would like to thank the Chairman of the Foot-O Commission Aron Less for his help with the organization and content of the seminar and to the 2014 Assistant of the Event Adviser Szava Zsigmond for her great lecture regarding the experience from the previous Championships in Macedonia.

The organizers of EOC 2018 (Switzerland) and ESOC 2017 (Finland) have already been appointed by the EWG based on the mandate the EWG got from the OFE Annual Meeting 2014.

That is it as to the activities of EWG for last period and this year's European Championships.

Let's come back to one of the crucial questions of this year's OFE Meeting – mode of operation and next activities of EWG.

Having in mind the fact that the World Cup races are practically superior to the events of the European Championships and the powers of EWG concerning EOC were seriously restricted by the decision of higher authorities, the activities of EWG lack practical sense. Youth Championships in MTBO and Ski-O have been organized together with junior and senior Championships and they have been supervised by the discipline commissions. This is the actual state of affairs. Only one event remained under the responsibility of EWG – EYOC in foot-o. Regarding the fact that I have participated either as the Event Adviser, national controller or most recently as the Chairman of EWG in at least a half out of 15 EYOCs and I think I can afford to express my opinion that the status of regular IOF event would suit this event and it should become an event under supervising of Foot-O Commission.

When we look at recent Working Rules, we find out that there is not much left out of the declared EWG and OFE powers. In our opinion, we have three possibilities:

1. To keep the actual state of affairs. To keep the actual Working Rules and formally appoint EOC organizers and set its programme in OFE meetings. Nevertheless, by taking this step, we would come back to 2012, to the situation pointed out in Lausanne by former EWG Chairman Helge Soogard – EWG is elected by OFE, but without corresponding powers and responsibilities.

2. To dissolve EWG. It is a brave opinion, but it is one of the possibilities. At this point, we are, on the other hand, facing one serious problem that practically puts this solution out of the question. To cancel something is always quite easy. It is nevertheless much more difficult to re-establish it after some years. IOF needs to have a regional structure.

3. To fully work on the remaining point in the Working Rules – orienteering development, especially amongst youth runners. This way has the strongest support following the outcome of all our discussions regarding the future course of EWG. Some steps have already taken place in order to reach this goal:

As I have already mentioned, the seminar of organizers and candidates on organizing EYOC was held in March.

we are working on the organization of Event in one of the Sub-region. Planned Central-European Youth Cup in foot orienteering next year will be not only with competitions, but also with common route choice analysis, elite athletes' lectures and so on. This event would be organized in the Central-European countries (which would circulate every year) but it would be open for anyone.

What other goals for orienteering development in Europe can we think about? Getting more new countries? This is not the way. In IOF, we already have 40 countries, which cover nearly all the European countries except Albania and some more small countries. Nevertheless, orienteering maps exist in all these countries with the exception of Vatican.

Another question to discuss is to help Germany. It might be an idea without any sense to help the country with one of the best economies in the World. Nevertheless, orienteering in Germany is not so developed. Biathlon is an excellent example of the fact that it was actually the entrance of

Germany that made this originally not very popular sport to a global show. Some forms of cooperation, exchange of experiences, methodology seminars or cross-border competitions – in the first place from the part of neighbouring countries (Switzerland, Czech Republic or France) would be useful.

These are some of my ideas concerning this topic.

Because the differences persist in opinions of EWG members concerning the way to go, we are not presenting you these ideas as a proposal, but rather in a form of an open letter to start discussions on this topic.

We would appreciate if you, as delegates of your federations, would help us in looking for goals and challenges for our activities, in particular in the area of development of orienteering in Europe.

Thank you for your attention.

Dušan Vystavěl

Astrid Waaler Kaas (IOF Vice-President): *Dear orienteering friends, the Council got a letter from EWG asking what we are now going to do because when we established the Regional and Development Commission, EWG wonders whether it has any tasks left to do. Tom Hollowell and me, we had a Skype meeting with Dušan and Lenka to discuss this. And then you have discussed it within your group. We are now looking into our competition programme and we really think that it is very important that IOF via all disciplines has full responsibility. Today, it's a bit confusing because EWG must say something but at the same time it has no responsibility. For sure, when we talk about our new competition programme, regional championships will be an important part of our agenda. It is very important for the Council that we have a regional structure. We really want to have EWG, we see the benefits of the European federations meeting. We had our first meeting yesterday within our new commission dealing with regional and youth development and we see that the development of orienteering in Europe is extremely important and we need your help. As you have heard, Dušan have some ideas on what next steps could be, like e.g. stronger countries helping to weaker countries. In our new commission, we are interested in getting new countries but we are even more interested in building on what we already have in Europe. We have a lot of countries that we would like to see getting stronger. And that I think is the work of all of you. We think that there should be EWG and that we focus on developing the sport of orienteering in Europe. That would be a great help for this new commission.*

LK, before opening the discussion, presented the open letter.

Open Letter on a future of the co-operation between Orienteering Federations in Europe (OFE) and the European Working Group (EWG)

An open letter to Orienteering Federations in Europe

A future of the co-operation between Orienteering Federations in Europe (OFE) and the European Working Group (EWG)?

In last past months, the EWG has dealt with the question about the remits of this group and remits of the OFE (Orienteering Federations in Europe) Annual Meeting.

Until now, we have been working under the following rules, see: <http://orienteering.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/Working-Rules-for-the-OFE2.pdf>

As stated in the paragraph 1 of these rules, the purpose of the co-operation between the European federations is:

- *by delegation of the International Orienteering Federation (IOF) to ensure the organisation of European Championships for different age classes in orienteering disciplines recognised by the IOF;*
- *to prepare rules for the European Championships;*
- *to promote regional co-operation for the further development of the sport in Europe*

However, as it seems now, Senior European Championships rules and appointments of organizers are very much determined by decisions of respective commissions (FOC, MTBOC, SkiOC, and bit less of TOC), because these events are a part of World Cup. The EWG cannot e.g. appoint Event Advisers for these events as it is done by the Commissions.

The EWG seems not to have a full control over these events due to such strong involvement of the Commissions. The logical outcome should be that respective Commissions should take all responsibilities for decisions regarding these events (appointments of organizers, appointment of SEA, decisions on competition rules, assessment of events, recommendations for future organizers, etc.).

Regarding European Youth Championships in SkiO and MTBO and European Junior Championships in MTBO, these events are usually joint events with senior/master (in some cases with junior world) championships, so the OFE formally decide about these championships but the real power is again with the respective Commissions.

In reality, only the EYOC is left in remits of the OFE. But now with the new Commission for Regional and Youth Development (RYDC), a part of the EWG is thinking that a logical step is to pass responsibilities for these youth championships to this new Commission or to the FootO Commission (similarly as the FOC decides e.g. on JWOC).

Therefore we would like to discuss with you, representatives of the Orienteering Federations in Europe, a possibility to change the working rules and pass responsibilities for European championships to respective discipline commissions (and/or RYDC) and keep the only purpose of co-operation between the OFE *“to promote regional co-operation for the further development of the sport in Europe”* in co-operation with and under the auspice of the Commission for Regional and Youth Development which should give us clear remits and tasks.

As this proposal has not been supported by the majority of the EWG members, we come up with this open letter to start up discussion at the OFE Annual Meeting and, if possible, to make a decision about the future course of the EWG and OFE co-operation.

The EWG will, of course, continue working on co-operation between European federations and look for new ideas and projects.

Dušan Vystavěl, the EWG Chairman

Vincent Frey, the EWG Member

Lenka Klímplová, the EWG Secretary

Prostějov, 2015-07-03

Contact email: lenka.klimplova@gmail.com

Discussion and comments after the report and the letter:

SWE: We would like to thank you for your work done this year. We also think it would be good to take away the first two points and to only work with regional cooperation.

NOR: Like Sweden, we also support the open letter regarding EWG responsibilities. It would be great to have EWG with respective responsibilities.

DEN: We have now heard two countries supporting the letter, but I understand that whole EWG does not agree. We should get some arguments against it as well.

LK: The two members who were against it are not here. Maybe Juraj Němec, who was not that supportive when it comes to the proposal, could present some arguments against it.

Juraj Němec: It's a decision of the European federations, it's about what they want. It is not up to us who were elected to represent this group. We are representing European federations and we must decide on what we want and the powers we want to have within IOF.

FIN: We also agree on that proposal. It was nice to hear Dušan's speech when he said that we should have raised the level of orienteering in some existing countries. Development is something

really important, something we should concentrate on in the future. We should also make stronger these middle class countries, which would be great for orienteering.

DEN: I have been working for many years for political organisations and we are a political organisation. The decisions within the IOF are taken by politicians, not by working groups, not by committees. If we take one decision away from a political body, we must put that decision into another political body. We cannot take decisions away from a political body and put it into some committee. All decisions concerning WOC are taken by the Council which is a political body. If we accept that the Council is a political body, we must be aware that if we take a decision from this body, we give it to the Council.

LK: Or to the commissions.

DEN: I don't think that the disciplinary commission will take political decisions and I don't think they should. I think they will give an advice to the Council and that is what they do. The Foot O-Commission will deal with number of applications, they will send out people to assess the short-listed countries and that person will make a proposal to the Council. Will that be the future of regional championships that the Foot-O Commission or some assessor will evaluate the situation and will come with the proposal to the Council? I think so. And think it is a good way. I don't think the situation will be the same with other regional championships. European Championships is so close to WOC and so important for the future of WOC that I think the situation is good now. Concerning the development, we agree that this is a right way to go as the situation is right now.

SUI: We are also for this proposal. It is a good way to go. The decisions should be taken within the Council so that we only have the third point here – to develop our sport. The decision on EOC must be within different group. It does not make much sense to take this decision within this group.

LK proposed voting on the change of the Working Rules and to take away all that concerns EOC – the first two points from the Working rules (see the attached file with marked changes).

Voting: 16 YES, 1 abstention

LK calls for proposals from the member federations as to the future of EWG and development of orienteering in Europe.

DEN: I would like to follow on Astrid's speech. Astrid explained that we had yesterday our first meeting in the new Development Commission. We had the letter before our meeting and we were aware of its content. We are trying to coordinate the work of EWG and the new commission. We will talk with Dušan and Lenka how we can do this. In our new commission, we have seven huge goals concerning orienteering development. For instance, if someone is going to help Germany, I think we must all be involved in it. Also when it comes to youth development, we have seven goals and each of them will take time to fulfil. We are really looking forward to starting of the cooperation with the new EWG. The new commission will coordinate all the regions, not only Europe, and we want to find a common way.

Jural Němec: *For the next meeting, we must prepare a new version of the Working Rules and must vote on them then.*

7. Proposals from the Member Federations

No proposal from EWG. One proposal from member federations.

The inclusion of Sprint relay to the official programme of the European Orienteering Championships 2016 (Czech Orienteering Federation)

Czech Orienteering Federation proposes the inclusion of Sprint relay to the official programme of the European Orienteering Championships (EOC) 2016, which will be organized from 21st to 28th May 2016 in Jeseník, Czech Republic.

The programme of the European Orienteering Championships 2016 is proposed as follows:

Saturday 21st May 2016, Sprint relay

Sunday 22nd May 2016, Sprint Q, Sprint F

Monday 23rd May 2016, Long Q

Tuesday 24th May 2016, Long F

Wednesday 25th May 2016, free day

Thursday 26th May 2016, Middle Q

Friday 27th May 2016, Middle F

Saturday 28th May 2016, Relay

One team from each member federation of the International Orienteering Federation (IOF) can participate in the Sprint relay race.

The inclusion of Sprint relay to the official programme of EOC 2016 is supported by the EOC organizers, the EOC SEA, the IOF Foot Orienteering Commission, the EWG and the Coach Reference Group. Sprint relay competition has already been put on the list of TV coverage of the Czech Television (Director Karel Jonák) since it has a suitable format for TV production.

Voting: 16 YES, 1 abstention

The proposal was approved.

8. Appointment of Event Organisers

EYOC 2017: Slovakia

See the enclosed presentation.

Voting: 16 YES, 1 abstention

EYSOC 2017: Finland

Voting: 17 YES

EMTBOC / EYMTBOC / EJMTBOC 2017: France

See the enclosed presentation.

Discussion:

Alexej Kuzmin: *What are the local rules of access to open parts, open forests?*

FRA: *You can only access a forest via a path. We will provide all participants with necessary information regarding this.*

AUT: *How does the date go together with the World Championships that is usually also held in August?*

FRA: *There will be two weeks before the two Championships. MTBO commission agrees with it.*

DEN: *It is your decision. I can just imagine the Danish team would rather go for the World Championships two weeks later than for the European Championships.*

Voting: 15 YES, 2 abstentions

EYMTBOC 2018 : AUT and DEN (a part of WMTBOC 2018 applications)

In practice, the EYMTBOC would be organized in conjunction with the EMTBOC in odd years, and with the WMTBOC in even years (provided that the WMTBOC is on the European continent; in case the WMTBOC is out of Europe, the call for organizing EYMTBOC will be attached to a World Cup round organized in Europe).

AUT: *The decision on WMTBOC has already been made, we will hear about it on Thursday. The Championships would be organised approximately 150 kilometres far from Vienna near the Czech borders. Everything would be in one place. Competition areas would be close by, they are hilly but not so steep with good ride-ability. Regarding the bikes, you are only allowed to ride on a path. I think it is a very nice area.*

DEN: *We are proposing to organise the event in the northern part of Denmark which is quite a flat idea. It is nicely situated regarding the highways and national airports. For the long distance, it's a bit further but it is the best mountain bike terrain we have in Denmark. Other events would be held nearer. The event centre would be in former military barracks that are actually being rebuilt. The city is crazy about it.*

ETOC 2018: no applicants so far

9. Decision concerning the next Meeting

- In association with WOC 2016 in Sweden
- Exact date and time to be fixed according to IOF meeting schedule

The decision was approved by acclamation.

10. Any other business:

DEN: *We should try to evaluate why we are missing so many federations today. Quite many of the representatives are also team coaches and they are already with the runners. It could be also that some federations find this meeting not interesting. It could be that some are not here. Please evaluate the reasons and try to think about something you can do, maybe an evening meeting, some refreshments etc. to get more people here.*

LK: *It is very difficult because we need to schedule it with other meetings and commissions. In last three years, we got this time from the IOF office.*

BEL: *Small country with very small money – and now I am only speaking about Belgium – I am really not interested because we are not able to organise something. The last organisation in Belgium was a World Cup in 2002 and it was the last possible. Afterwards it became bigger and bigger and absolutely impossible for us to participate and organise.*

LK: *I hope that all of you will come to the meeting next year even though we will only have a development on our schedule. I hope you will still consider this meeting important.*

BUL: *How many countries participate in EWG?*

LK: *Do you mean OFE? 37. Decisions are taken by a majority of attending countries.*

BUL: *Without a governmental policy, it is impossible for Germans to participate. It is the governmental policy that takes Germany away from this working group. Without governmental policy, it is impossible to develop orienteering all over the World.*

TUR: *A lot of countries cannot be here even though they would like to due to visa problem. Hopefully, we will be in a better situation next year. I hope this is a temporary problem. Yesterday, we had the first meeting of the Regional and Development Commission and it's such a huge task – we want to have a regional cooperation with EWG. Every country is really welcome to discuss this topic with us and in your region. We need to cooperate with countries that don't speak English. We also really need to do more online work.*

BUL: *Greece, Romania, Slovenia, Croatia are in the European Union. The problem is money. Without a governmental policy and money it is not possible to participate in EWG, in WOC or*

EOC. The problem is the poor countries that cannot participate. It is impossible to develop orienteering without governmental policy.

AUT: The problem might also be with a size of federations. I have a bit of inside in Germany and I know that the orienteering federation is part of much bigger federations and, as Bulgaria correctly pointed out, they have practically no money for orienteering. I think one of the steps could be to help Germany to form their own orienteering federation. It is a big country with a small number of orienteers.

SVK: We in Slovakia we only have one part-time person for orienteering, that's all. Everything depends on people. The problem is to travel for the IOF events. All is covered by athletes and the costs are growing.

SUI: Some information about EOC 2018. Switzerland is very happy and proud to organize EOC. Thanks for appointing us as organizers. We hope you will be there. The area is very hilly and nice. We now have time to organise a great EOC.

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	Lenzerheide	Hamar	Idanha-a-Nova, Portugal	Idanha-a-Nova, Portugal	Idanha-a-Nova, Portugal
2016	Organizer	CZECH REPUBLIC	CZECH REPUBLIC	POLAND	AUSTRIA	AUSTRIA		PORTUGAL	
	Time	21–28 May	21–28 May	30 June – 3 July	29 February – 7 March	29 February – 7 March		24 – 31 July	
	Place	Jesenik	Jesenik	Jaroslaw	Tyrol	Tyrol		Agueda	
2017	Organizer			SLOVAKIA	FINLAND	FINLAND	FRANCE	FRANCE	FRANCE
	Time			22 – 26 July	5 – 12 February	5 – 12 February	29 July – 4 August	29 July – 4 August	29 July August
	Place			Banská Bystrica	Imatra	Imatra	Orléans	Orléans	Orléans
2018	Organizer	SWITZERLAND							
	Time	8 – 14 May							
	Place	Ticino, Lugano							

List of attending federations

	Country		YES (1) / NO (0)
1	AUT	Austria	1
2	AZE	Azerbaijan	0
3	BEL	Belgium	1
4	BLR	Belarus	0
5	BUL	Bulgaria	1
6	CRO	Croatia	0
7	CZE	Czech Republic	1
8	CYP	Cyprus	0
9	DEN	Denmark	1
10	ESP	Spain	0
11	EST	Estonia	0
12	FIN	Finland	1
13	FRA	France	1
14	GBR	Great Britain	1
15	GEO	Georgia	0
16	GER	Germany	0
17	GRE	Greece	0
18	HUN	Hungary	1
19	IRL	Ireland	0
20	ISR	Israel	0
21	ITA	Italy	1
22	LAT	Latvia	0
23	LIE	Liechtenstein	0
24	LTU	Lithuania	0

25	MDA	Moldova	0
26	MKD	Macedonia	0
27	MNE	Montenegro	0
28	NED	Netherlands	0
29	NOR	Norway	1
30	POL	Poland	1
31	POR	Portugal	0
32	ROU	Romania	0
33	RUS	Russia	1
34	SRB	Serbia	0
35	SLO	Slovenia	0
36	SUI	Switzerland	1
37	SVK	Slovakia	1
38	SWE	Sweden	1
39	TUR	Turkey	1
40	UKR	Ukraine	0

TOTAL

17

Provisional members (without voting rights)