

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

Tuesday, 24 August 2016, Strömstad, Sweden

1. Opening and Roll Call

The Secretary of the European Working Group (EWG) Lenka Klímplová opened the meeting at 11.35 by welcoming the representatives of the European federations and other guests attending the meeting.

2. Establishment of the Number of Votes

At the beginning of the meeting, 20 votes were calculated. See the list of attendees attached. Decisions are made among the federations present at the meeting during that item. Each European member of the International Orienteering Federation (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 Klímplová (CZE)
Minutes taker: Jan Exner (CZE)
Tellers: Tatiana Kalenderoglu (TUR)
Mikko Salonen (FIN)
Nik Suter (SUI)

Names were approved unanimously.

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 2015
6. Report on actions taken by the European Working Group

7. Proposal from the EWG
8. Election of Chairman and members of the EWG
9. Decision concerning the next meeting (venue, format)
10. Any other business

The agenda was approved unanimously.

5. Approval of the minutes from the OFE Annual Meeting 2015 in Inverness, Scotland

The minutes were approved unanimously.

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

Dear orienteering friends, ladies and gentlemen,

In this short report, I would like to summarise and evaluate the actions of the EWG in the past period. I will focus on our activities and main goals as well as on the 2016 European Championships.

1. Activity and main goal

EWG's activities have been little different in the last period since our meeting in Inverness compared to what they were before. EWG has lost a substantial part of its powers since all issues concerning different European Championships fell under different discipline commissions. The main goal of last year was therefore to find a new main activity of the EWG and its new format.

We have focused our activity on this goal and it was a very difficult task. Honestly, I have to say that we were not successful. But I can say some words about this.

The basic point was asking opinions of different member federations. With this goal in my mind, I visited the meeting of the representatives of the South East European Orienteering Working Group and then I initiated the meeting of the Central European countries' representatives. The other discussions were conducted via emails.

The outcome of these discussions can be summarised as follows:

We still need the opportunity to meet each other once per year, but we need a new format – less formalities and more emphasis on sub-regional groups, which function in different forms all around Europe. These smaller groups can better react to the problems we are facing today. Let's take Slovenia as an example. The Slovenians can organise several important international events to which everyone looks forward. Nevertheless, the Slovenian national team did not participate in this year's European Championships in Jeseník, the Czech Republic. And even when I look at the Bulletin 4 of this World

Championships, I can't see any Slovenian flag. There is probably some mistake. And that's the task that can a sub-regional group solve more elegantly than the EWG.

2. European Championships 2016

I would like to shortly mention this year's European Championships, which were as follows:

- *ESOC and EYSOC in Obertilliach, Austria,*
- *EOC and ETOC in Jeseník, Czech Republic,*
- *EYOC in Jarosław, Poland,*
- *EYMTBOC in Agueda, Portugal.*

All competitions were of a high quality. There were only little technical problems with results in Poland. I would like to thank to all the organisers from Austria, Czech Republic, Poland and Portugal, who participated in the organisation of these regional Championships.

3. New activities of the EWG in last period

During this year, I managed to get into contact and started cooperation with two European multi-sport organisations – the European University Sports Association (EUSA - <http://www.eusa.eu>) and the European Deaf Sports Organisation (EDSO - <http://www.edso.eu>).

EUSA is the sports organisation of European universities, which was created in 1999. Contrary to the International University Sports Federation (FISU), EUSA only concerns summer sports and covers 19 of them at the moment. There are different Championships in odd years and the EUSA Games in even years. Celebrating the 20th anniversary from its creation, EUSA wants to broaden its operation to 20 sports – and orienteering has been selected as the 20th sport. Also thanks to the successful organisation of the World University Orienteering Championships 2014 in Olomouc, the Czech Republic, I have been proposed and then approved by the EUSA's executive body as an orienteering technical delegate. Together with the EUSA's Sports Director, Mr Patrik Peroša, and the IOF Foot-O Commission's Chairman, Mr. Aron Less, we have created in Jeseník two basic documents – Rules and Minimal Technical Requirements. For your information, the competitions will be held in "the World Games format" and they will include sprint, sprint relay and the middle distance race. There will also be an O-Labyrinth as an extra race. We have three unofficial candidates for the first Championships in 2019 so far. In 2020, the EUSA Games will be held in Belgrade, Serbia, and therefore we have already approached the Serbian Orienteering Federation with the offer of organising the competitions. They reacted very quickly – also thanks to Mr. Zoran Milovanović, the IOF's regional coordinator. The Partnership Agreement between IOF and EUSA is ready and will be signed in this autumn.

EDSO is another European multi-sport organisation, which might be quite unknown to you. Have you known that orienteering has been on the Deaflympics' programme since 1997? Or that next year, the competitions will be held in Samsun in Turkey? Be it as it may, the recently ended European Championships in Olomouc, the Czech Republic, showed new possibilities of further cooperation. For example, we were asked to help with the revision and actualisation of orienteering rules in the EDSO's competitions. That is all as to the EWG's activities in the last period.

At the end of my presentation, let me briefly evaluate the whole four-years period of the functioning of the EWG composed of me as the Chairman, Mr Vincent Frey, Mr Alexey Kuzmin, Mr Juraj Nemeč, Mr Veysel Guler/Mr Przemek Patejko as the Members and Lenka Klímplová as the Secretary General as well. We had a very difficult task right in the beginning – to solve the question with organiser of the European Youth Orienteering Championships 2013. I think that we solved good. The following years have not been so dramatic, but some technical problems occurred in the organisation of different European Championships' disciplines. Nevertheless, the IOF has reacted on these deficiencies through its commissions.

I would like to thank to all my colleagues in EWG for their cooperation in the past period. And I would like to thank you – member federations – for your trust when you elected me as the EWG's Chairman. I would also like to thank the IOF Office, both to the past one in Helsinki, Finland, and to the new one in Karlstad, Sweden.

Thank you for your attention.

Dušan Vystavěl

7. Proposal from the EWG

EUROPEAN WORKING GROUP IN THE FUTURE

This is a proposal of the new working conception of the Orienteering Federations in Europe (OFE) and the European Working Group (EWG). This proposal is presented by the EWG for the OFE meeting at the occasion of the 2016 World Orienteering Championships in Strömstad, Sweden.

The main reason of this proposal is to accommodate the working conception of the OFE and the EWG to the current situation, in which the OFE Annual Meeting and the EWG have lost many of their tasks and competences. On the other hand, there is still a need to meet at least once a year and discuss mainly but not only questions of common development.

- 1. The OFE Annual Meeting would be held (in the same manner as the meeting of Regional Groups) once a year at the same time as the General Assembly of the International Orienteering Federation (IOF) or the IOF Presidents' Conference.*

2. *Once in two years, the OFE meeting would be electoral (in the same years as the IOF General Assembly).*
3. *The EWG Chairman would be the only one elected member of the EWG. The EWG Chairman could be accompanied by the Secretary to facilitate mostly organisation issues. For practical reasons, it is suitable that the Secretary comes from the same federation as the Chairman.*
4. *The President and the Secretary would prepare Annual Meeting of European Federations in cooperation with the World Orienteering Championships (WOC) organising federation.*
5. *Representatives of each Regional Group nominated by them would be other members of the EWG.*
6. *The working focus would shift to:*
 - a. *Regional Youth Development Commission (RYDC)*
 - b. *Regional Groups*

The division of tasks, work and responsibility amongst Regional Groups and the OFE and the EWG would be as follows:

- *Each Regional Group should be tasked with creating a strategic development plan in cooperation with the EWG and the RYDC.*
- *The EWG can help with funding and implementation of the plans, for example via cooperation between Regional Groups or by taking on specific development tasks (for example Erasmus + project leadership).*
- *The EWG President and the Secretary would be responsible for following up with each Regional Group plans and liaise with the RYDC.*
- *The EWG would become responsible for the regional development in Europe.*
- *The OFE Meeting should focus on reporting about developments in Europe.*

Proposal was withdrawn by the EWG.

Representatives of the following countries participated progressively in the discussion: Denmark, Russia, Finland, Latvia, Norway, Sweden, Ukraine, Estonia, Russia, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Russia and Norway.

8. Election of Chairman and members of the EWG

Nomination for EWG Chairman: Alexey Kuzmin (RUS). No other nominations were received.

Representatives of the following countries participated progressively in the discussion: Russia and Latvia

Vote (18 votes)

For: 2

Against: 2

Abstention: 14

The nomination was not approved.

9. Decision concerning the next Meeting

- In association with WOC 2017 in Estonia
- Exact date and time to be fixed according to IOF meeting schedule

The proposal was approved by acclamation.

10. Any other business

The following two projects were presented:

- 1) Project Age of Orienteering
- 2) Open Access to Orienteering

List of attending federations

	Country		YES (1) / NO (0)
1	AUT	Austria	1
2	AZE	Azerbaijan	0
3	BEL	Belgium	1
4	BLR	Belarus	1
5	BUL	Bulgaria	0
6	CRO	Croatia	0
7	CZE	Czech Republic	1
8	CYP	Cyprus	0
9	DEN	Denmark	1
10	ESP	Spain	0
11	EST	Estonia	1
12	FIN	Finland	1
13	FRA	France	1
14	GBR	Great Britain	1
15	GEO	Georgia	
16	GER	Germany	0
17	GRE	Greece	
18	HUN	Hungary	1
19	IRL	Ireland	0
20	ISR	Israel	0
21	ITA	Italy	1
22	LAT	Latvia	1
23	LIE	Liechtenstein	0
24	LTU	Lithuania	1
25	MDA	Moldova	0
26	MKD	Macedonia	
27	MNE	Montenegro	0
28	NED	Netherlands	0
29	NOR	Norway	1
30	POL	Poland	0
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	0
38	SWE	Sweden	1

39	TUR	Turkey	1
40	UKR	Ukraine	1
TOTAL			20