

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

Tuesday, July 9th, 2013 in Vuokatti, Finland

1. Opening and Roll call

The Secretary of the European Working Group (EWG) Lenka Klimpova (LK) opened the meeting at 19.15, welcoming the representatives of the European federations and other guests attending the meeting.

2. Establishment of the number of votes present

19 federations were present at the meeting, namely AZE, BUL, CZE, DEN, EST, FIN, FRA, GBR, GER, HUN, MDA, MNE, NOR, RUS, SRB, SUI, SVK, SWE, TUR.

10 federations are needed for a quorum.

(BLR came at the end of the meeting.)

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

Lenka Klimpova (CZE) was elected to chair the meeting, Tatiana Kalenderoğlu (TUR) to take the minutes, and 3 as tellers - Zoran Milovanovic (SRB), Sergio Grifoni (ITA), Michael Sorensen (DEN).

4. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

5. Approval of the minutes from Lausanne, Switzerland 2012

The minutes were sent to the member federations at the end of August 2012 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 were approved.

6. Report on actions taken by the EWG

The Chairman of the EWG Dusan Vystavel presented the key issues below:

6.1. General information about the EWG work

In the time between the Annual Meetings the family of orienteers in Europe gained one new nation – Azerbaijan became the 40th country. From these 40 countries, 36 are Members and 4 are provisional Members. Last year in Lausanne there was elected the new composition of the European Working Group. From the previous group only Vincent Frey, Juraj Nemec and Dusan Vystavel stayed in the group, and two new members were elected. It means the EWG worked in the following composition: Dusan Vystavel as the Chairman, Vincent Frey, Veysel Guler, Alexey Kuzmin and Juraj Nemec as the Members. It was very good that at the beginning of our period we had split the responsibility between all the EWG Members: Vincent and Dusan for FootO, Juraj for SkiO, Alexey for MTBO and Veysel for TrailO.

It has proved to be a good model that the Chairman and Secretary are from the same nation, mostly for easy communication. Therefore at the Meeting in Lausanne, the newly elected chairman Dusan Vystavel asked for one month more time to choose the Secretary, and he chose Lenka Klimpova which was an excellent choice as she has helped with the EWG work a lot.

The communication between the EWG members has as usual been handled by e-mail, some occasional conversations when meeting at international events, and at the official meetings during WOC week and during the IOF joint meeting in Helsinki in January. In this joint meeting there was also a meeting between the EWG and Council representatives.

Dusan and Lenka met also several times a year in the Czech Republic to discuss and coordinate on-going matters, as well as to plan the preliminary agenda for the Annual Meeting.

The cooperation with the IOF Office has been excellent. Barbro, Anna and Riikka have given us a lot of good advice and helped us with all questions which we asked them.

6.2. On-going matters

The first step was easy – to officially appoint Macedonia as the EYOC 2014 Organiser.

But the second step was much harder – to decide on what to do about organising EYOC 2013.

At the 2012 Annual Meeting of OFE in Lausanne, the European Working Group was granted a mandate to replace ISR as the organiser of EYOC 2013 with another federation, if the security situation in the region should deteriorate. During November 2012 the situation in the Middle East Region really worsened and the EWG started discussion about this issue. The EWG had been discussing the security situation in Israel, and considering the option to use its mandate and replace Israel as the organiser with another federation. Israel, however, appealed against such decision. As their arguments were strong, we decided to postpone our decision until the 20th of December. During December several e-mails between the EWG Chairman and ISOA President Eytan Amiaz were exchanged. The EWG asked ISOA for some formal guarantees and safety assurances, and for organising joint transport for all teams from Tel Aviv International Airport to the Event Centre and back. Israel was given as much time as possible (20 days), but unfortunately ISOA did nothing which could dispel our fears. During this time we also made a survey of European countries to see if they planned to send teams to Israel. Roughly 2/3 of the countries replied that they would not send a team to Israel, mainly because of high security risks. The second large group of states answered they would send a team, though not a full one because some parents would not let their children go and compete in Israel. Some of these countries

therefore strongly supported the change of the EYOC 2013 venue. Due to these facts the EWG confirmed the replacement of the EYOC 2013 organiser and started preparing the process for the call for a new organiser. More information here: <http://ewgorienteering.org/>

In a short time we received 5 bids for organising EYOC 2013. In internal discussion inside the EWG, we made a short list of two countries – Poland and Portugal. The EWG Chairman made inspection visits to both countries. Both visits were very well prepared from the organisers' sides and when comparing the offers, the Portuguese bid was the more promising. The EWG decided that the new organiser of the EYOC 2013 will be Portugal. The Portuguese orienteers worked very fast and within 14 days they had prepared the first Bulletin. Now, in July, all matters are going as scheduled. The Event Adviser's Visit is planned for the weekend 13-14th July.

6.3. European Championships

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

- the ESOC and EYSOC in Madona, Latvia
- the EMTBOC in Zamosc, Poland

We must say thanks to both organisers. The Ski Championships in Latvia were successful and without problems. Unfortunately, there were a lot of problems at the MTBO Championships. Poor maps (the same place mapped in different styles on different maps) and a very small number of organisers (circa 25) were the main problems. But the MTBO Commission immediately began steps for repairing this situation, as Poland will be hosting the World MTBO Championships in 2014.

At today's meeting, organisers for EYOC 2015, ESOC and EYSOC 2015, EMTBOC 2015 and EOC and ETOC 2016 will be appointed by voting on the basis of applications submitted and presentations given by applicants.

6.4. Updated EWG rules

The EWG also worked on rules. Namely, the EWG wants to ask the European federations for a change in the Working Rules for the co-operation between OFE – implementation of Online Decision-making. Details of this proposal will be presented by Vincent in the next point of the agenda.

6.5. Preparation of the Annual Meeting

By the deadline on May 19th, no proposal had been submitted by any European federation. The EWG submitted 4 proposals concerning OFE matters. These were included as Annexes to the final call and will be presented in the next point of the agenda.

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

About the finances: As usual a small budget of 1 000 Euros was granted from the IOF to cover administration costs of the EWG. In accordance with the general rules of the IOF, the cost of travel and subsistence of members of the EWG are covered by the relevant national federations - this is a considerable amount of money.

6.6. Conclusion and thanks

At the end of this report, Dusan Vystavel thanked the members of the EWG - Vincent, Veysel, Alexey and Juraj as well as the secretary Lenka - for their dedicated work during the last year. Also he thanked the IOF Office, IOF President and Vice President for their support and advice.

For the current EWG members there is one more year of work. The group is established very well and co-operates very closely. We can also expect excellent European Championships in the future period.

Discussions and comments after the Report:

SWE: Thanked the EWG for excellent handling of the situation with the EYOC in Israel.

RUS: Commented about the EMTBOC 2013 situation.

It was discovered too late that the organisers were not experienced enough to organise such competitions.

Maybe it is time to have an agreement to have an event preparation schedule which must be followed in time more strictly. If a major problem occurs, the event must be taken to another country. Otherwise, we can have similar situations when our big competitions might have several big mistakes. It is too easy to blame the organisers in POL for not doing enough work. We do not have enough good organisers who are ready to organise such a big event and with an adequate number of volunteers. It becomes very difficult to find organisers. We should find a way to solve this problem.

7. Proposals from federations and the EWG

There were no proposals received from federations.

There were 4 proposals from the EWG:

7.1 Implementation of TempO into the programme of the European TrailO Championships

The EWG proposes implementing TempO into the programme of the European TrailO Championships from 2014 onwards.

Classes:

- Only one Open class
- Maximum of eight (8) competitors from each federation
- The current European Champion may be entered in addition to the normal maximum of eight

Motivation:

- TempO is a newly developed format of TrailO and it has been included into the World TrailO Championships programme from 2013.
- TempO is a format that is attractive to young competitors.

- *Only one Open Class* corresponds to last part of WTOC rule 5.1.
- *Maximum of eight (8) competitors* corresponds to WTOC rule 6.6 and Appendix 5 rule 4. Note: in ETOC a federation is allowed to enter twice the number of competitors as in WTOC.
- This proposal is strongly endorsed by the TrailO Commission.

All references to rules above are from the “IOF Trail Orienteering Competition Rules 2013” document.

Discussions:

EWG: TempO is a part of WTOC already from this year. It is nice for young people as well. There is only one open class in which all competitors compete together.

ITA: Due to economic crises in Europe, I would rather be careful to add a new competition to the schedule.

LK: It is not adding new competitions, but adding a new format to existing competitions.

Voting: 17 votes in favour. **The proposal has been approved.**

7.2 Implementation of the European Youth MTBO Championships (EYMTBOC)

The EWG proposes establishing an official EYMTBOC to be organised every year from 2015 onwards.

Classes:

- M-17
- W-17

Disciplines:

- Long
- Middle
- Sprint
- Relay

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

Discussions:

EWG: We should vote twice. First for implementation from 2015, then if this is positive, it might be a possibility to have it from 2014. We have support from the MTBO Commission.

DEN: It is going to be a new championship and we are complaining about lack of organisers.

Also the classes which are proposed do not correspond to the classes we use in FootO.

EWG: The MTBO Commission came with suggestion for classes. WM17 group was made for the same reason as in SkiO, it has served there quite well for the last 10 years, better than two groups like in FootO (WM16 and WM18). In MTBO and SkiO the situation is different, not as many sportsmen as in FootO are taking part. That's why one age group has proved to be enough.

It won't be new competitions; it will be held in conjunctions with another MTBO event, just add two new classes. Also these competitions were already held under the name "European Cup" in conjunction with other MTBO events. It is the only discipline in orienteering which does not have championships for youth.

RUS: The organisers of the WMTBO championships in 2014 have said that they are ready to organize the youth championships as well.

GER: My question is related to start fees. Usually entry fees for major events are too high. What will the prices be here?

EWG: We can recommend that the prices will be kept at the lowest level for youth. All big events must be covered by contract to guarantee the quality, but it is for the future.

ITA: In practice EMTBOC "would be" organised in conjunctions with other major competitions, but is it mandatory? But what if organisers do not want to organise both, or should the organiser apply for both events separately or both in one? It must be clarified.

EWG: Instead of "would" must be "shall".

SWE: We think it is really important that we have these youth competitions.

FIN: Will it be organised every year? Or every two years?

EWG: We propose the EYMTBOC will be organised every year. If not with the EMTBOC which is every second year, then with the World Championships, or if these are outside Europe, then together with a World Cup round organised in Europe.

SRB: I would propose to avoid decision for 2014 and only vote for 2015.

DEN: Proposed that the EWG withdraw this proposal.

SUI: We have to treat all kinds of orienteering in the same way. MTB orienteers have smaller budget. The more new events we have, the more troubles we have to get financial support and send teams to new events. For financial reasons there is a question mark.

The EWG took a break to discuss the matter and decided not to withdraw this proposal.

Voting: 16 votes in favour, 2 votes against. **Approved, establishing the EYMTBOC from 2015.**

7.3 Implementation of a Relay into the programme of the European Youth SkiO Championship (EYSOC)

The EWG proposes that a 3-leg relay in both Men's and Women's category will be included in the future EYSOC programme.

The EYSOC relay will be separate from the JWSOC relay. If nation(s) do not have enough skiers to fill a team in JWSOC they may let an athlete accredited to EYSOC start in the JWSOC relay. In this case the person has to be accredited to start also in JWSOC. This additional accreditation must be done in the entry.

The change should be implemented from EYSOC 2014 onwards.

Discussions:

SVK: We believe it will improve the quality of both JWOC and EYSOC, especially when organised together.

NOR: It might be a challenge for the organisers, but we can't promise that even we will be able to send athletes to all championships.

Voting: 18 in favour. **Proposal has been approved.**

7.4 Change of the Working Rules for co-operation within OFE: Online Decisions

The EWG proposes implementing online decision-making in urgent situations.

EWG proposes that for urgent issues only, online voting can be done. A Federation must have at least 2 weeks to reply. The answer must be sent from the official address of the Federation.

Discussions:

NOR: Only two weeks is too short, we need to extend the reply period. Each federation needs time to discuss a proposal.

Other problem: who is controlling the votes? You have to have answers from more than 50% of federations for a decision to be approved.

ITA: For sure you need to have minimum 51% in favour. And still I am not sure it is a very democratic way.

DEN: I do not really understand the need for this proposal. We can have votes during our annual meeting. In between meetings we trust that EWG can handle difficult issues, like they handled the situation with Israel.

EWG: Just to give an example, the EYSOC 2014 won't be organised by Russia because Russia withdrew. We had one candidate to replace Russia. But we have had to wait a few months until this meeting, because according to our Working Rules the EWG is not allowed to change the organiser itself. There are some urgent cases that happen like this. As an example of Israel, last year the Assembly gave a mandate to the EWG to make the decision, but without this mandate the EWG would not have had the chance to change the organiser. That's why we came with this proposal.

GER: We cannot foresee all that can happen. But the period must be changed to 4 weeks and absolute majority of the votes: 40 countries (36 countries voting), 19 countries must be in favour of the proposal for it to be approved (50% + 1 federation).

EWG: The proposal has been rephrased:

The EWG can ask the European federations for online voting in between the Annual Meetings on items which the EWG considers as urgent. The proposal must be sent to the federations via e-mail on the official e-mail addresses given to the IOF Office and the federations should have at least 4 weeks for the reply. Decisions are taken by absolute majority (50 % + 1 federation) cast in favour. Replies must be submitted from the official federation e-mails.

Voting: 16 votes in favour of the proposal in new wording. **Approved.**

8. Appointment of event organisers

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

a) EYOC 2015: BULGARIA, ROMANIA

Bulgaria gave a verbal description of the future possible event and the area, Veliko Tarnovo University. 3 types of accommodation. 200 km to Sofia and 100 km to Varna.

Romania presented its bid by means of MS-PowerPoints. The presentation was sent to the federations with the call for this annual meeting and can also be found here:

http://orienteering.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/EYOC2015_CLUJ-NAPOCA_ROMANIA_bid_presentation.pdf. Nobody from Romania was at the meeting to present the bid.

FIN: It is little bit sad that we are not getting any better presentation of the Bulgarian proposal. In order to make a decision we need more information. I understand that you are probably capable of organising that kind of competition. Also we need to have a presentation in our hands before the meeting, so that we can make a decision and not only vote at the meeting.

TUR: I totally agree with Finland. Last year we had 4 very strong presentations and we chose the best. Even in our smaller South East European region a proposal prepared like that wouldn't go through. We should think more seriously about ourselves.

EWG: The applications were submitted to the IOF office in January, then in March we asked all the federations to submit their presentations, but we cannot force them. Romania sent the presentation and this was sent to all federations together with all documents for this meeting.

At the end of the discussion Bulgaria decided to withdraw their bid and prepare a strong application for the next year.

Voting: Romania approved.

Conclusion: Romania was selected as organiser of EYOC 2015.

b) EYSOC 2014: Replacement of Russia by ESTONIA

Russia had been selected as the organiser of EYSOC 2014, but this spring Russia withdrew. We have a new applicant – Estonia.

Explanation: EYSOC 2014 was planned to be one week before the ESOC in Tyumen. But the ESOC dates were changed, and the venue which was proposed for the EYSOC is not available on the new dates. That's why Russia had to withdraw its application for the EYSOC.

Estonia has applied for JWSOC and WMSOC, now a new event the EYSOC has been added.

Voting: Estonia was approved as organiser of EYSOC 2014 (17 votes in favour).

c) EYSOC 2015: NORWAY

No PowerPoint presentation. The EYSOC is going to be in conjunction with the WSOC. "It will be great!"

FIN: I sense that this year (2015) everything is "moved" to Norway! I propose we wait until the organiser of the European Championships and Masters will be clear. Then we can decide where to add the EYSOC.

EWG: We do not think that the SkiO Commission will agree to split the JWSOC and EYSOC, because these two events are too close logistically, very much overlapped by coaches and athletes.

Voting: Norway was approved as organiser of EYSOC 2015 (17 votes in favour).

d) EMTBOC 2015: PORTUGAL

No presentation.

Voting: Portugal was approved as organiser of EMTBOC 2015 (18 votes).

e) EOC and ETOC 2016: CZECH REPUBLIC

The Czech Republic prepared and distributed printed brochures for each federation. The bid can also be seen here: http://orienteering.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/Candidature_for_EOCETOC_2016_CZE.pdf

"We are a strong and experienced team, who took part in the organisation of WOC 2008".

Voting: The Czech Republic was approved as organiser of EOC and ETOC 2016.

f) The EWG asked for a mandate to look for and appoint organisers of ESOC 2015 and EYMTBOC 2015

As the EMTBOC 2015 will be in Portugal, the EYMTBOC 2015 should be there too. The EWG needs to get a mandate to appoint Portugal as the organiser.

Voting: Approved, a mandate to appoint organisers of ESOC 2015 and EYMTBOC 2015 was given to the EWG.

Summary of all upcoming European championships are in Annex 1.

g) Procedures for selection of organisers

The EWG would like to emphasise the importance of having a good presentation. It relates NOT only to EYOCs, but also all other events. Just to say “it will be great” is simply not enough.

The EWG would like to encourage all applicants to prepare good presentations for their bids and send them in advance to the EWG Secretary in order that they can be included in the final call for the OFE Annual Meeting.

9. Decision concerning the next meeting

The next meeting will take place in association with the WOC 2014 in Italy. The exact date and time will be fixed later, dependent on the IOF meeting schedule.

10. Any other business

EWG: Changes in the programme of current EOC in foot-O: The current situation is that the EOC is a very big event and expensive for the runners and teams. In the last half year, discussions have started. No proposals yet. Opinions are very varied. This is what we are going to discuss at our next annual meeting. Now we have the EOC programme the same as the WOC programme, but maybe in the future we can split the EOC to classic (forest part) and sprint part.

FIN: Last year the proposal for splitting the WOC into forest and sprint was not an idea, it was a proposal. We can take it as a base.

EWG: To be able to change the programme of the EOC, we have to change a rule at the IOF General Assembly. According to the current rules the programme of regional championships must be the same as the WOC programme. The EWG cannot change it by itself.

GER: Even though I am in favour of splitting EOC, I am afraid that having the EOC each year will make it impossible for smaller countries to send athletes because of the budget. I would really recommend having EOC every second year.

The meeting closed at 20.50.

Minutes by: _____
Tatiana Kalenderoğlu (TUR)

ANNEX 1: Summary of upcoming European championships

EVENT		EOC	ETOC	EYOC	ESOC	EYSOC	EMTBOC	EYMTBOC
2013	Organiser			PORTUGAL	LATVIA	LATVIA	POLAND	
	Time			24-27 October	11 - 18 February	11 - 18 February	16 -23 June	
	Place			Caldas da Rainha	Madona	Madona	Zamosc	
2014	Organiser	PORTUGAL	PORTUGAL	MACEDONIA	RUSSIA	ESTONIA		
	Time	9 - 16 April	9 - 16 April	25-28 June	5 - 14 March	18 - 23 February		
	Place	Palmela	Palmela	Strumica	Tyumen	Polva		
2015	Organiser			ROMANIA	NO APPLICANTS	NORWAY	PORTUGAL	PORTUGAL ?
	Time			25-28 June		7 - 15 February		
	Place			Cluj-Napoca		Hamar		
2016	Organiser	CZECH REPUBLIC	CZECH REPUBLIC					
	Time	21-28 May*	21-28 May*					
	Place	Jesenik	Jesenik					

* The dates were changed due to the fact that the originally proposed dates overlap with dates of the Ice Hockey World Championships (in CZE, it is TV sport No. 1).

