



# EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION

## PRESIDENT'S NOTICE

### QUARTER REPORT, ISSUE 1

May 11, 2017

TO: ESF National Federations

Dear friends,

*In the upcoming days it will be 100 days since the elections of the new ESF leadership I would like to take this opportunity to give an update on our activities and operations. I will be updating on a quarterly basis with the intention to keep you informed on a regular basis of what is being done within the ESF.*

*The ESF Executive Council will continue the time line of meetings as was done in the past. This means one Spring Meeting, One Autumn Meeting and Pre and Post Congress Meetings. The Minutes of all EC ESF Meetings can be found on the ESF web site in the Documents/Minutes section [here](#).*

#### **ESF Working Plan:**

*The EC's from the past eight years have been working diligently to change the face of the ESF and to brand our sport of softball throughout Europe and our image throughout the world. This document will give you and our members the outline which I am proposing for the next four years and will hopefully take us to the next level of recognition and progress.*

*The ESF Working Plan includes descriptions of responsibilities of all EC members and also the ESF Organizational structure. Based on previous experience I strongly believe that defining our objectives including operational procedures will help us to achieve our goals.*

*As you will notice after reading the ESF Working Plan 2017 – 2021, our main objectives are development and marketing. Development is the basic responsibility of a Regional Confederation and marketing is one of the key tools to achieve this goal effectively. This is the reason of the initiation of our new brand called Softball Europe, which will grow to become a household name and a game that will be recognized by children and adults throughout Europe.*

*The EC ESF approved the ESF Working Plan at the first meeting in April and was sent out to NF's and you can find it on ESF website [here](#).*

#### **President's Meeting:**

*I have conducted several meetings over the past 3 months and I would like to share with you the content and results of these meetings.*

*I was invited by WBSC SD to the Men's Fastpitch Development Commission meeting, which was held during the Challenge Cup in Auckland, New Zealand in February. The aim of the meeting was to prepare a plan for men's Fastpitch development until 2021, with a focus on promotion and visibility of the sport – and it was determined that*

**President** tel: +420 603 583 362  
e-mail: [gwaage@europeansoftball.org](mailto:gwaage@europeansoftball.org)

**ESF** tel: +972 52 275 1367  
e-mail: [sg@europeansoftball.org](mailto:sg@europeansoftball.org)

one key to success would be to hold a number of top men's Fastpitch events. You can find the summary of this meeting at ESF website [here](#). European fans can be looking forward to top men's Fastpitch events in 2018 and 2019.

I visited the CEB Executive meeting in Zagreb after I was invited by CEB President Didier Seminet. This was a great opportunity to see the efforts of CEB to grow baseball in Europe and we also had the chance to discuss joint projects. One of the likely projects is the ELITE 6, which will be our European presentation of our preparations for the upcoming Olympic Games 2020.

Elite 6 softball female European teams and elite 6 baseball male European teams will compete at showcase in 2018. EC ESF has already approved this event and the ESF and CEB have nominated persons responsible for arrangement. All details are [here](#).

During the EC meeting in Rotterdam in April, the EC met with KNBSB President Ron Schel and KNBSB leaders. We had an exclusive opportunity to talk about establishing co-operation between KNBSB and ESF. The relationship between the KNBSB and ESF is exceptional and I strongly believe that together with other 'strong players' of European softball market we can make great steps forward. I would like to continue with tradition initiated by former ESF President André van Overbeek to rotate EC ESF meetings at different European countries and create an exclusive chance to talk with such NF's about their specific needs and options of co-operation.

I had the chance to talk with Softball Presidents of Serbia, Lithuania and Slovakia as with the leaders of Softball in Ukraine during the International Tournament in Prague in April. I will use these opportunities to talk with representatives of European softball with the intent to define specific needs of each one. An example of the outcome of these meetings was support to build fields in Lithuania and Ukraine.

In the near future I am planning to travel to Trnava, Slovakia, during the second Euroleague tournament, to talk with Slovakian, Croatian and Hungarian representatives. Also I am expecting to talk with each NF's representatives of participating teams at European Championship in Bollate, Italy. It will also be an exclusive opportunity to talk with FIBS President Andrea Marcon about close co-operation opportunities including meetings with the respective NOC members.

The joint meeting with CEB about the future in Europe will be held in mid May in Prague. The meeting with WBSC President Riccardo Fraccari is planned in Lausanne at the end of this month. You will be informed about the results of these meetings.

### **Competitions:**

ESF competitions 2017 are ready! TC's and UIC's met in mid March in Rome per the regular 2 years' cycle – see [here](#). The meeting was headed by Mike Jennings, newly appointed as the Technical and Competition Director. This position is described in the ESF Working Plan and substitutes the ESF the Technical and Competition Vice President. Mike Jennings is responsible for all Technical and Competition issues including the preparations for all inspections, tournament assignments, development of competitions for all events and categories of softball and responsible for all committees related to running ESF Competitions. Mike reports directly to ESF President.

All game schedules are already on the ESF website and we can call Play Ball! Let me wish all National Federations a successful year on the European or the World fields and see you somewhere.

If you have any questions, suggestions, feel free to contact me anytime.

Best regards



Gabriel Waage  
ESF President