



EUROPEAN SOFTBALL FEDERATION

PRESIDENT'S NOTICE

QUARTER REPORT, ISSUE 10

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TO: ESF National Federations

Dear friends,

as usually, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on our activities and operations with the intent to keep you informed of what is being done within the ESF.

European MASTERS:

From October 30th until November 2nd, the very first European Masters Cup was held in Sant Boi de Llobregat, Spain. The Masters Cup is a tournament for men and women that are 35 years or older – more [here](#).



years to Sant Boi and surroundings.

ESCA camp:

A few weeks has passed since we said our goodbyes at the ESCA camp in Diessen. The past few days I have had time to reflect on what was a busy week for all of us. To everyone who attended this camp (staff, players, and coaches) thank you so much for sharing your valuable time and being part of ESCA 3 – more about ESCA [here](#).

I sincerely believe we accomplished our number 1 goal of "Getting Better Together"!!! Although the opportunity was used at the closing ceremonies to thank everyone for their efforts, I would like to extend a special thank you Craig Montvidas for all your efforts to improve our game.

It was an amazing event and a very big success. I am personally really happy that we finally created room for these players, who were able to meet each other again after years. It is another role of the ESF to create space for all ages, who would like to play our sport. Let me thank the Spanish Federation and the organizers from the Barcelona region for hosting this event. Because of the very positive feedback, we would like to establish this event similarly to EMRYT. It means that this tournament will take place every year at the same time and same place. We are in dialogue with the Spanish Federation and the organizers to allocate this event for the next 3



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Outcomes from WBSC Congress, WBSC Europe and ESF Meetings:

A few important meetings happened over the past 2 months. The most important was the 3rd WBSC Congress in Sakai, where I was pleased to see many of you were present – news [here](#). Let me touch on two things here, which I am still thinking about even though the Congress is over. The first thing is the number of teams competing at Softball World Cups. Even though World Cups are surely our pinnacle events and the quality of the games is important to promote our sport as a top event, World Cup itself has also other values, like globalism and advertising of softball. World Cup is the strongest tool to spread the name of softball over all continents and largely over societies, sponsors, fans and stakeholders. Almost all other team sports, like basketball, volleyball, handball and others increase the number of teams. Unfortunately, softball is going in the opposite direction and are decreasing the number of the teams for World Cups. This decision shows a losing of interest for our sport. I can understand that it is not easy to find organizers, but I am sure we can do it when we cooperate.



Which brings me to my second issue I would like to share with you. The proposal to decrease the number of teams was only brought to us during the WBSC board meeting, therefore we had no opportunity prepare arguments, based on relevant sources and considerations, in order to reach a common agreement about the future goals and hereby easier acceptance of the decisions of the board. In general, we did not receive any materials in advance for any of the meetings, which made it impossible to come informed and prepared.

The WBSC Europe Board Meeting discussed mainly about common events, as Super6 and Baseball5 and our Constitution. Several views and opinions have been put forward regarding the structure of WBSC Europe. I sincerely hope that all will be finalized in Vilnius and I believe that the strategic common goals will take precedence over personal or NFs ambitions. It is very important that the final Constitution will present a unified Europe, that are working together for common goals. Surely, we will not agree about everything, which is understandable due to big differences in the European countries. But it is crucial that we are able to agree about strategic matters and stand together as one body. Otherwise, the European position in the world will be weakened. We will call a Presidential Meeting in Vilnius to discuss this topic.

ESF or European Softball Division had an executive board meeting last weekend in Rome. We met with FIBS representatives and with NOC President Giovanni Malago, which was very important politically, to show our support. We discussed about the competition situation for 2020 – see below – and how to run our competitions in a better professional way. We moved on medialization of our events and about structuring. We also had on the table proposals by NFs, which will be finally discussed at the Technical and Competition Meeting in Vilnius. We brought up again the eligibility of players and also teams, which finally be discussed at special panel in Vilnius.





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Competitions 2020:

The [European Calendar of 2020](#) is approved. European Championships and Cups have their organizers, or candidates. Now it is time to fill in those tournaments with teams. The registration process is now open and the deadline for entries is December 31 – more [here](#).

Congress Invitation:

Let me invite you to Vilnius for the Congress, which will be held on February 8, 2020 – more [here](#). I would like to recommend you to be a part of all Commissions, which is an integral part of the Congress. Except of the mandatory Commissions like Finance, Competition and Development, we will call a special Panel discussion on the topic of eligibility of the players and teams. The Netherlands and Italy will lead the discussion about eligibility of the players, members of the clubs and effectivity of PUPs for our Cups competitions. I was asked by many NFs about US players with European passport. I will bring some arguments about this issue based on experience of other European Federations. Do not miss these very important meetings. Program for Friday's Meetings will be sent in the beginning of January.

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

Best regards,

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