

Zagreb, May 5th, 2022

To: All Member Federations

Dear Friends,

On May 12th, three months will have passed since our Ljubljana congress, where we all together elected the new leadership of our Organization. These last three months have been very intensive as we worked very hard on setting the foundation of our organization, for the years to come.

The Board and I would like to inform you about the different steps that have been taken pertaining to the Organizational structure and other areas of interest.

Meetings and WBSC Europe Structure

Immediately after the congress in Ljubljana, we held our first meeting on Sunday, February 13th. One of our first decisions was to grant the 2025 Baseball European Championships to Israel.

At the same meeting all the new elected officials were updated on what is expected of them and to gather their thoughts as to commissions and other issues for the structure of WBSC Europe.

Unfortunately, just a couple of days after that, we had to have our first video Executive Board meeting about the war in Ukraine, and face a very difficult decision to suspend 2 of our member federations, Russia and Belarus from all the competitions in 2022.

Our first full Agenda Board meeting was held in Lausanne on April 8-9th, hosted by the WBSC. The Agenda included the proposal of the [new structure of WBSC Europe](#). As promised and planned during the Congress in Ljubljana, we implemented the concept of inclusion of our different members in various positions in our commissions and departments. Following the meeting all of the proposed members of these WBSC Europe entities accepted their new positions and have begun creating a working environment and planning the future ([working plan](#)).

Board and Commissions

At this time our Baseball and Softball Commissions are concentrating on the summer tournaments that begin in less than a month.

We are also working on unifying some of the procedures and documentation in the various Departments, player transfers, bidding process, tournament rules., etc.

Our financial status is of the utmost importance and I have personally been discussing finding financial support of our Federations. We made some progress in that department, already have couple of contracts which will give us some money and financial ability in next period.

WBSC Cooperation

Together with the WBSC we are working on a number of projects. The most important one is the future Champions Baseball League which will start in 2023 with 8 top teams from Europe. This year the Club World Championship that will be held in Mexico in November, the European Champion will represent our continent.

Together with the WBSC, IOC and the local organizers of our Championships and Cups, we will be assisting with funding for Ukrainian teams participating in this year's 6 national teams championships in Baseball and Softball. We are very optimistic that we will be able to raise the funds and make it happen for the boys and girls from Ukraine to participate in this year's competitions.

WBSC Europe Office

In order to allow WBSC Europe to operate the Board has decided to continue the employment of Elda Ghilardi and Kristina Uroic. The main branch office will be in Zagreb as there is no cost for the WBSC Europe and the city of Zagreb have extended this opportunity until 2026.

Some sample plans moving forward

In near future this is our plan for growing our games around our continent.

1. Regional Academies baseball / softball for U18 players

- Baltic
- Scandinavian
- Balkan
- Middle Europe
- Final academy on Tenerife or Southern Spain

Timeline – July -2023.

Duration – 15 days

Number of players – 45 in each academy (3 teams)

Final academy

Timeline – November – 2023.

Duration – 10 days

Number of players – 45 top players from academies (3 teams)

Funding – EU Erasmus program

Partners – WBSC, MLB

2. League of Nations – Baseball / Softball

- European ranking based only on results of U18, U23 and senior teams in last 4 years
- First 20 teams of ranking will play 5 tournaments, 4 teams in each tournament, in groups A, B, C, D, E (top 4 tournament, group A, potential for TV and sponsors)
- 3 day tournaments, double elimination
- Teams gain points for WBSC ranking

Timeline – September, every 4 years, premier tournament in 2026.

Funding – EU Erasmus program, National federations, TV rights

3. European championship – Baseball / Softball

- Baseball – 16 teams
- Softball – open championship

Timeline - every 2 years

Funding – National Federations, TV rights

4. Baseball 5

- European championship in categories that follows WBSC tournaments
- we believe that we can use B5 also as promotions add on our main tournament.

5. Other business in partnership with WBSC

- There is a huge interest in new statistic scoring system, MYWBSC, from our members. The cost of 2.000 Euros per year, for the rights to use that program is highly expensive for our Member Federations. We will try to find a more affordable opportunity for our members, which will also help both WBSC and us to have more trained scorers in future.
- Development funds. WBSC has promised to distribute funds for Development in the Confederation.

- EU funding – we will have a special committee working on this issue.

Kind regards,



Kruno Karin
President
World Baseball Softball Confederation Europe