

**Below Minutes of
Meeting are still
subject to approval of
the 2014 CEB
Congress!**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
CONFEDERATION OF EUROPEAN BASEBALL (CEB)
ORDINARY CONGRESS
HELD ON FEBRUARY 16, 2013
BLED, SLOVENIA**

The Congress was called to order at 2:30 PM on February 16, 2013 by the President, Mr. Petr Ditrich, all members of the Executive Committee were present. In accordance with the Agenda, the following actions were taken:

- 1) **ROLL CALL AND DELEGATE ACCREDITATION**: The Secretary General called the roll of Member Federation. Authorized delegates of thirty-three (33) Member Federations presented their Accreditation (See attached Roll Call List). Twenty-eight (28) Members were confirmed financial by the Treasurer (Belarus, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Romania and Serbia were not financial). Five (5) Member Federations (Estonia, Georgia, Ireland, Latvia and Moldova) were absent. Belarus was present with a representative of the newly founded federation willing to apply for membership in CEB.

The Secretary General declared that, in accordance with Articles 28 and 76 of the CEB Statutes, a quorum for conducting business was present. In addition to the Executive Committee and Delegates, the Chairmen of the Technical, Legal and Media Commissions, as well as the Office Administrator were present.

- 2) **PRESIDENT'S WELCOME OF GUESTS**: The President acknowledged, with appreciation, the presence of Mr. Riccardo Fraccari and Mr. Don Porter, the respective IBAF and ISF Presidents, Mr. André van Overbeek reelected President ESF, Mr. Jason Holowaty of MLB, Little League representatives Ms. Beata Kaszuba and Mr. Daniel Velte, Mr. Abe Key President of Pony League, and Jan Bagin. The President thanked the Federation of Slovenia for hosting the current Congress, which was a very special one due to the joint effort of CEB and ESF.

The President then invited the IBAF President Mr. Fraccari to address the Congress. Mr. Fraccari thereupon gave a few comments on the IOC presentation that was shown to all Delegates the day before. He emphasized the important roll Europe plays in the IOC vote in September and therefore called the European Federations to work hard and build a good relationship with the IOC Members in their countries.

- 3) **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** The Secretary General requested, but did not receive, any comments or corrections to the Congress Agenda. The Agenda was thereupon **approved by a unanimous vote of the Congress delegates.**

- 4) **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MEETING OF LAST CEB CONGRESS:** The Secretary General requested, but did not receive, any comments or corrections from the Congress delegates in respect of the Minutes of Meeting of the last CEB Congress, held in Rotterdam, Netherlands on March 17, 2012. **The said 2012 Congress Minutes of Meeting, previously submitted to the Federations (and attached hereto) were thereupon approved as written, by a unanimous vote of the Congress Delegates.**

- 5) **PRESIDENT'S 2012 ACTIVITY REPORT:** The President referred the delegates to the activity report published in the 2012 CEB Yearbook. He stated that 2012 had been a hard year for the Executive Committee due to the resignation of Mr. Martin Miller, but he pointed out that the main goal to save money could be achieved. Also he believed this congress to be a great success and the result of a good cooperation between CEB and ESF.

- 6) **AWARD OF COMPETITION HONORS:** The Executive Committee read the list of competition honors for 2012, as reflected in the list attached hereto, and presented the awards to the Federation representing the Federation or Club team winner of the respective tournament.

7) **ANNUAL AWARDS:** The President announced the following winners of the 2012 CEB Annual Individual Awards:

Scorer of the Year – Dennis Duin (NED)

Umpire of the Year – Frantisek Pribyl (CZE)

Coach of the Year – Marco Mazzieri (ITA)

Federation of the Year – Spain

(8) **NEW MEMBER/S:** The Secretary General advised the Congress that there were no new applications for CEB membership, although the new federation of Belarus has expressed interest to substitute the old federation as a member of CEB.

(9) **2012 FINANCIAL AND AUDIT REPORT:** The Treasurer reported that due to the early Congress date it had not been possible to receive the 2012 Audit Report of Price Waterhouse Coopers in time. He advised the Congress that Price Waterhouse had informed him in writing that he may still present the figures and request approval providing the official PWC approval.

The Treasurer then presented the CEB 2012 Financial Report, including that of the Development Commission. He indicated that CEB continues to encounter financial difficulties, but that possibilities for cost savings have been discussed and will be decided by the new Executive Board.

Following the Treasurer requested the Congress' approval of the 2012 Financial Report. **The Congress voted unanimously in favor.**

(10) **2012 DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION REPORT:** There being no questions respecting the DC Report previously sent to Federations, the Delegates, upon request of the President, unanimously approved the report.

(11) **2012 TECHNICAL COMMISSION REPORT:** There being no questions respecting the TC Report previously sent to Federations and the sports meeting held the day before the congress, the Delegates, upon request of the President, unanimously approved the report.

(12) **2012 TOURNAMENTS:** There being no questions respecting the TC Report previously sent to Federations, the Delegates, upon request of the President, unanimously approved the report.

(13) **2012 MEDIA COMMISSION REPORT:** The Chairman of the PR&Media Commission, Mr. Riccardo Schiroli, made a brief presentation regarding the 2012 activities. Due to financial restrictions nothing could be done. He reported that in his point of view CEB does not need a Media Commission as long as money is a problem. To achieve a better visibility of baseball in Europe CEB needs professionals to work on the exposure and this will cost money. Because of his experiences in the past four years he decided not to be available for any extension of his term on the Media Commission.

(14) **2013 PROPOSED BUDGET:** The Treasurer made a brief explanation of the proposed 2013 Budget, which was presented in writing to the Delegates beforehand.

Alexander Ratner (Russia) asked when the financial situation of IBAF is expected to get better, so that they can help the continental federations again. The IBAF president Riccardo Fraccari explained that they are on a good way to make their international competitions more valuable and further on be able to sell them as a product. Like this participating teams could, for example, be paid their travel expenses. This should be a goal for the continental federations also. There being no further questions the Treasurer requested the approval of the proposed budget. **The Congress voted unanimously in favor.**

Osvaldo Vavra (Croatia) thanked the members of the Executive Committee for their work done in the past four years and requested the release and discharge of the CEB Executive Committee from any further responsibility for CEB's 2012 financial activities. **This request was unanimously approved by the Congress.**

-- COFFEE BREAK -

(15) **ELECTION OF CEB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** The CEB Legal Commission, Mr. Lars Sundin and Mrs. Ryan, took control of the Congress for purposes of carrying out the election of the Executive Committee. Thereupon the Chairman of the Legal Commission advised the Congress of the manner, as specified in the By-Laws Regarding Elective Positions, in which the election would be conducted. After calling the roll and determining that delegates for 28 financial federations were present for purposes of the election, the elections were carried out with the following results:

President: Jan Esselman and Vojko Korosec both held a brief presentation on their candidacy. A secret ballot vote was then held between the two candidates with the following results: 28 votes were cast, 15 for Jan Esselman (Netherlands), 7 for Vojko Korosec (Slovenia) and 6 were blank. The Chairman of the Legal Commission declared Mr. Esselman elected as CEB President, having received an absolute majority of votes.

First Vice President: The Legal Commission was advised by the Italian and Sanmarinese Federations that their respective candidates for the 1st Vice President position were withdrawn. Being the only remaining candidate on the position of First Vice President Mr. Peter Kurz (Israel) was deemed elected. The Chairman of the Legal Commission asked for approval of the Congress, which he received by a unanimous vote.

Second Vice President: The Legal Commission was advised by the Danish and Sanmarinese Federation that their candidates for the 2nd Vice President position were withdrawn. A secret ballot was then held between the two remaining candidates with the following results: 28 votes were cast, 14 for Jürgen Elsishans (Germany), 12 for Alexander Ratner (Russia), 1 was blank and 1 invalid. The Chairman of the Legal Commission declared Mr. Elsishans elected as CEB Second Vice President, having received an absolute majority of votes.

Third Vice President: The Legal Commission was advised by the Irish and Sanmarinese Federation that their candidates for the 3rd Vice President

position were withdrawn. A secret ballot was then held between the two remaining candidates with the following results: 28 votes were cast, 20 for Petr Ditrich (Czech Republic) and 8 for Rod Moore (Denmark). The Chairman of the Legal Commission declared Mr. Ditrich elected as CEB Third Vice President, having received an absolute majority of votes.

Treasurer: Being the only candidate on the position of Treasurer Mr. René Laforce (Belgium) was deemed elected. The Chairman of the Legal Commission asked for approval of the Congress, which he received by a unanimous vote.

Secretary General: The Legal Commission was advised by the Maltese Federation that their candidate for Secretary General was withdrawn. Being the only remaining candidate on the position of Secretary General Mr. Xavier Mateu (Spain) was deemed elected. The Chairman of the Legal Commission asked for approval of the Congress, which he received by unanimous vote.

Members at Large: The Legal Commission advised the Congress that according to the By-Laws Regarding Elective Positions each Member at Large position needed to be voted for separately. The Legal Commission was advised by Mario Debono (Malta) and Rainer Husty (Austria) that their candidacy for the Member at Large position was withdrawn. A first secret ballot was held between the twelve remaining candidates with the result that none got the needed majority. Following Sam Pelter (Israel) proposed to change the By-Laws and vote for all five Member at Large positions at the same time in order to shorten up the voting procedure. The Chairman of the Legal Commission requested the approval of the change. **The Congress voted unanimously in favor.**

Following this decision the first vote was invalidated and a new voting procedure for the Members at Large started.

A first secret ballot was held between the twelve remaining candidates with the following results: 11 for Valentinas Bubulis (Lithuania), 10 for Frantisek Bunta (Slovakia), 4 for Attila Borbely (Hungary), 17 for Mats Fransson (Sweden), 6 for Panangelos Kanistras (Greece), 12 for Rainer Krankl (Austria), 16 for Michael Manning (Ireland), 8 for Rod Moore (Denmark), 11 for Monique Schmitt (Switzerland), 13 for Didier Seminet (France), 11 for Bjorn Christian Thode (Norway), 11 for Angelo Vicini (San Marino). The Chairman of the

Legal Commission declared Mr. Fransson and Mr. Manning elected as CEB Member at Large, having received an absolute majority of votes.

A second secret ballot was held between the ten remaining candidates with the following results: 9 for Valentinas Bubulis (Lithuania), 9 for Frantisek Bunta (Slovakia), 4 for Attila Borbely (Hungary), 6 for Panangelos Kanistras (Greece), 9 for Rainer Krankl (Austria), 5 for Rod Moore (Denmark), 9 for Monique Schmitt (Switzerland), 13 for Didier Seminet (France), 10 for Bjorn Christian Thode (Norway), 7 for Angelo Vicini (San Marino). The Chairman of the Legal Commission informed that no candidate had received an absolute majority of votes.

A third secret ballot was held between the ten remaining candidates with the following results: 10 for Valentinas Bubulis (Lithuania), 10 for Frantisek Bunta (Slovakia), 3 for Attila Borbely (Hungary), 5 for Panangelos Kanistras (Greece), 10 for Rainer Krankl (Austria), 5 for Rod Moore (Denmark), 10 for Monique Schmitt (Switzerland), 14 for Didier Seminet (France), 8 for Bjorn Christian Thode (Norway), 6 for Angelo Vicini (San Marino). The Chairman of the Legal Commission informed that no candidate had received an absolute majority of votes. Following Attila Borbely (Hungary) was struck out having received the least number of votes and Rod Moore (Denmark) withdrew his candidacy.

A fourth secret ballot was held between the eight remaining candidates with the following results: 9 for Valentinas Bubulis (Lithuania), 10 for Frantisek Bunta (Slovakia), 6 for Panangelos Kanistras (Greece), 9 for Rainer Krankl (Austria), 12 for Monique Schmitt (Switzerland), 15 for Didier Seminet (France), 12 for Bjorn Christian Thode (Norway), 5 for Angelo Vicini (San Marino). The Chairman of the Legal Commission declared Mr. Seminet elected as CEB Member at Large, having received an absolute majority of votes. Following Angelo Vicini (San Marino) was struck out having received the least number of votes.

A fifth secret ballot was held between the six remaining candidates with the following results: 9 for Valentinas Bubulis (Lithuania), 8 for Frantisek Bunta (Slovakia), 4 for Panangelos Kanistras (Greece), 6 for Rainer Krankl (Austria), 12 for Monique Schmitt (Switzerland), 9 for Bjorn Christian Thode (Norway). The Chairman of the Legal Commission informed that no candidate had received an absolute majority of votes. Following Panangelos Kanistras (Greece) was struck out having received the least number of votes.

A sixth secret ballot was held between the five remaining candidates with the following results: 10 for Valentinas Bubulis (Lithuania), 10 for Frantisek Bunta (Slovakia), 6 for Rainer Krankl (Austria), 14 for Monique Schmitt (Switzerland), 9 for Bjorn Christian Thode (Norway). The Chairman of the Legal Commission declared Mrs. Schmitt elected as CEB Member at Large, having received an absolute majority of votes. Following Rainer Krankl (Austria) was struck out having received the least number of votes.

A seventh secret ballot was held between the three remaining candidates with the following results: 11 for Valentinas Bubulis (Lithuania), 6 for Frantisek Bunta (Slovakia), 8 for Bjorn Christian Thode (Norway). The Chairman of the Legal Commission informed that no candidate had received an absolute majority of votes. Following Frantisek Bunta (Slovakia) was struck out having received the least number of votes.

A eighth secret ballot was held between the two remaining candidates with the following results: 14 for Valentinas Bubulis (Lithuania), 11 for Bjorn Christian Thode (Norway). The Chairman of the Legal Commission declared Mr. Bubulis elected as CEB Member at Large, having received an absolute majority of votes.

The Chairman of the Legal Commission reconfirmed that the following five candidates were elected as CEB Members at Large: Mr. Fransson (Sweden), Mr. Manning (Ireland), Mr. Seminet (France), Mrs. Schmitt (Switzerland) and Mr. Bubulis (Lithuania).

- (16) **APPROVAL OF AUDITING FIRM:** The Congress Delegates were asked to formally approve the auditing firm *Price Waterhouse Coopers* for an ongoing period of four years. **The Congress voted unanimously in favor.**
- (17) **VENUE AND DATE OF 2014 ORDINARY CONGRESS:** The President, Mr. Jan Esselman, notified the Congress that in accordance with Article 24 of the CEB Statutes, the Czech Republic (the site of the 2014 European Senior Pool A Tournament) would be the venue of the 2014 CEB Congress at a time, during the first quarter of 2014, to be notified to the Federations.

(18) **NEW BUSINESS:** The Executive Committee received a request from the *Fédération Royale Belge de Baseball et Softball* that the Congress shall revise the schedule of National Team tournaments. The President, Mr. Jan Esselman, informed that a questionnaire will be sent out to the federations asking for their opinion and that the item will then be discussed by the new Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee received a request from the *Israel Association of Baseball* that the new qualifying system for CEB seniors should be discussed and voted for by the Congress, with the proposal to abolish the C-Pool and have three B-Pool qualifiers instead. The President, Mr. Jan Esselman, informed that this was no topic to put up for a vote at the Congress. To abolish the C-Pool and establish a third B-Pool tournament already in 2013 will not be possible. Anyhow this item will be carefully followed and discussed by the new Executive Committee.

There being no further business of the Congress, the President invited everybody to the gala dinner in the hotel and declared the Congress concluded and closed.

Mr. Jan Esselman
President

Mr. Lars Sundin
Secretary General