

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
CONFEDERATION OF EUROPEAN BASEBALL (CEB)
ORDINARY CONGRESS
HELD ON MARCH 17, 2012
ROTTERDAM, HOLLAND**

The Congress was called to order at 2:00 PM on March 17, 2012 by the President, Mr. Martin Miller, 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 twenty-five (25) Member Federations presented their Accreditation (See attached Roll Call List). Twenty-three (23) Members were confirmed financial by the Treasurer (Belarus and Bulgaria were not financial). Twelve (12) Member Federations were absent. The Secretary General declared that, in accordance with Articles 28 and 76 of the CEB Statutes, a quorum for conducting business, including consideration of modifications of the Statutes, was present. In addition to the EC and Delegates, the Chairmen of the Technical, Legal and Marketing Commissions, as well as the Office Administrator were present.

APPROVAL OF 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 Brussels, Belgium on March 12, 2011. **The said 2011 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.**

- (2) **PRESIDENT'S WELCOME OF GUESTS:** The President acknowledged, with appreciation, the presence of the CEB Honorary Secretary General Mr. Gaston Panaye, Mr. Riccardo Fraccari and Mr. André van Overbeek, the respective IBAF and ESF Presidents, Mr. Jason Holowaty and Mr. Russel of

MLB, Little League representatives Ms. Beata Kaszuba, Mr. Pat Wilson and Mr. Daniel Velte, Mr. Abe Key President of Pony League, Frans Van Aalen, Ruud van Zetten and Jan Bagin. In addition, the President introduced and requested the President of the International Baseball Federation, Mr. Riccardo Fraccari, to make a brief presentation. The President congratulated the Dutch Federation on the celebration of its 100th anniversary and thanked the Federation for hosting the current Congress.

The President then invited the IBAF President Mr. Fraccari to address the Congress. Mr. Fraccari thereupon gave a few short comments.

- (3) **PRESIDENT'S 2011 ACTIVITY REPORT:** The President congratulated the Dutch Federation and National Team for winning the IBAF World Cup. He then emphasized the positive intent of the European Softball Federation and CEB to work cooperatively to achieve the goal of the "two disciplines of one sport" to reenter the Olympic framework. The President expressed his desire to ultimately see one joint baseball-softball organization on a world as well as continental basis.
- (4) **NEW MEMBERS:** The Secretary General advised the Congress that there was one new application for CEB membership, namely that of Estonia. The Secretary General further advised the Congress that, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the CEB Statutes, the Estonian Federation had complied with all of CEB's requirements for membership and that, accordingly, the EC had unanimously voted to recommend to the Congress, the admission of Estonia. The **Congress delegates thereupon voted unanimously to admit Estonia to CEB Membership (the 38th Member).**
- (5) **AWARD OF COMPETITION HONORS:** The Secretary General read the list of competition honors for 2011, as reflected in the list attached hereto; the President presented the awards to the Federation representing the Federation or Club team winner of the respective tournament.
- (6) **ANNUAL AWARDS:** The President announced the following winners of the 2011 CEB Annual Individual Awards:

Federation of the Year – The Netherlands

Umpire of the Year – Marco Taurelli

Coach of the Year – Brian Farley

Scorer of the Year – Pablo Carpio)

- (7) **2011 FINANCIAL AND AUDIT REPORT:** The Treasurer presented the 2011 Audit Report of Price Waterhouse Coopers (see attachment). He advised the Congress that Price Waterhouse had no negative comments regarding the Report. Thereupon the Treasurer requested and **received (unanimously) approval of the PWC 2011 Audit Report by the Congress Delegates unanimously approved the 2011 Report**

The Treasurer then presented the CEB 2011 Financial Report, including that of the Development Commission. He indicated that, as described at last years Congress, CEB continues to encounter financial difficulties, but as promised at the last Congress the EC met during the course of the past year, discussed at length and identified cost saving, economizing actions now being proposed by the EC in the Statute modifications to be voted upon during the course of the current Congress.

Following the Treasurer's response to a question raised by the Portuguese Delegate regarding administrative costs, the Treasurer requested the Congress's approval of the 2011 Financial Report and release and discharge of the CEB Executive Committee from any further responsibility for CEB's 2011 financial activities. **The Congress voted unanimously in favor of each request of the Treasurer.**

- (8) **2011 MARKETING COMMISSION REPORT:** There being no questions respecting the MC Report previously sent to Federations, the Delegates, upon request of the President, unanimously approved the report.
- (9) **2011 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.
- (10) **2011 TECHNICAL COMMISSION REPORT:** There being no questions respecting the TC Report previously sent to Federations, the Delegates, upon request of the President, unanimously approved the report.

(11) **LEGAL COMMISSION REPORT:** The Chairman of the Legal Commission made a brief presentation regarding the 2011 activities of the Legal Commission working together with the Secretary General, including review of the draft Host Agreement and Ball Tender document, amongst others, investigation and hearing of certain disciplinary matters, review of proposed insurance provisions, advising on dispute issues which arose during the year.

(12) **2012 TOURNAMENTS:** Jan Esselman, advised the Congress that this matter had been previously presented to the delegates at the Technical Commission meeting

A representative of the Dutch Federation, Mr. Fritz Mulder gave a brief explanation regarding plans for the 2012 European Championship to be held in The Netherlands 7-12 September 2012.

(13) **2012 PROPOSED BUDGET:** The Treasurer made a brief explanation of the proposed 2012 Budget, which was presented in writing to the delegates. The Treasurer indicated that the Budget was dependent upon and assumed acceptance by the Delegates of the cost saving measures reflected in the modification of the Statutes proposed by the EC for approval by the Congress. This being said, it was decided that the matter of Statute modifications should be immediately considered and voted upon before proceeding further with approval of the proposed budget.

(14) **MODIFICATION OF CEB STATUTES:** The Secretary General reiterated that the modifications of the CEB Statutes were unanimously recommended by the Executive Committee (EC) as cost saving measures, to be considered and approved by the Congress (the Federations having been previously advised of the proposed modification). It was estimated by the Treasurer that there would be an initial savings of €23,000 if the modifications were approved.

The required two thirds (15) of the CEB Members being present and having a right to vote at the Congress to consider and vote on Statute modifications, the Congress delegates voted nine (9) in favor of the modifications, ten (10) against, with four (4) abstentions. **Having failed to receive the necessary two-thirds (10) vote in favor, the EC proposed modifications of the Statutes were not approved.**

(15) **INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF CONGRESS FORMAT:** The Congress Delegates were asked to informally express their opinion regarding the suggestion that the CEB Congresses be held every other year rather than annually – for the purposes of saving costs. A number of Delegates were heard from, including: San Marino – every other year to save both CEB and the individual federations money; Croatia – every year, the cost of attendance is funded by the Croatian Olympic organization; Russia – every year to give federations opportunity to discuss issues; Portugal – there maybe a legal impediment against semi-annual Congresses due to the necessity of the Congress to approve the financial reports; Greece – no real savings from a monetary standpoint to hold the Congresses every other year; Switzerland – CEB should hold Congress every year in the same place and timeframe as the ESF – that would be a cost savings. The President summed up the discussion stating that the general impression of the comments seemed to favor continuation of the annual CEB Congress approach.

(13) **CONTINUATION OF 2012 BUDGET DISCUSSION:** Following the rejection by the Congress of the proposed CEB Statute modifications, the Treasurer proceeded to describe the suggested adjustments, of the previously proposed 2012 Budget, which were required as a result of the modification rejection.

In the course of the discussion of the adjustment, the Delegate and IBAF EC member Luis Melero of the Spanish federation addressed the CEB President and stated that the rejection by the Congress of the EC proposed Statute modifications constituted a vote of non-confidence in the President and, when taken together with the President's prior support of John Ostermeyer for IBAF President, the Spanish Delegate demanded the immediate resignation of the CEB President. The CEB President thereupon asked the Congress Delegates generally whether they supported the call for his resignation. There was no response whatsoever to the President's inquiry. Whereupon, the President, Mr. Martin Miller, advised the Congress that in light of the apparent lack of support by the Congress Delegates for his continuation in office, he declared his immediate resignation from the office of President and left the Congress hall.

The Secretary General then requested clarification as to who would be replacing Mr. Miller. When informed that, in accordance with the Statutes, the

First Vice President, Mr. Petr Ditrich would be replacing Mr. Miller, the Secretary General, Sam Pelter, advised the Congress Delegates that, in good conscience, he could not serve under Mr. Ditrich, and thus tendered his resignation as Secretary General, effective immediately.



Mr. Martin Miller, President



Mr. Sam Pelter, Secretary General

After a 45 minutes break, in which the Executive Committee discussed the further proceedings, the 2012 Congress continued.

A Roll Call was carried out by Petr Ditrich: all 25 federations present, 23 entitled to vote.

Resignation of Martin Miller and Sam Pelter

2nd Vice president Alexander Ratner explained to the congress delegates that the *CEB By-Laws Regarding Elected Positions* regulate that in case of a vacancy of the president's position an Extraordinary Congress needs to be held within 120 days. The EC has discussed the situation and come to the conclusion that an Extraordinary Congress would cause extra costs for CEB as well as to its member federations (both of which are to be avoided) and that because of the financial situation of most of our member federations it would be unsure to even reach a quorum for elections in an Extraordinary Congress. Furthermore, a newly elected president would then have only a seven month term till the next official elections of the board in 2013. For this reason, the EC decided to ask the Congress delegates for approval to postpone the election of a new president until the 2013 Congress in which the entire board's term

will be ending. 1st Vice president Petr Ditrich will take over the president's responsibilities until that date. The Congress voted twenty in favor, nobody against and three abstentions.

Decision: no Extraordinary Congress will be held in 2012. Petr Ditrich will act as president till February 2013

(13) Continuation of 2012 Proposed Budget

Treasurer René Laforce proposed the same budget again that was elaborated during a quick meeting of the EC after the Statute Modifications have been declined. The budget shows a total loss of -17.900 EUR. The delegate from Malta, Mario Debono, asked if the Statutes prescribe to hold EC meetings in person or if those meetings would also be possible through conference calls. The delegate from San Marino, Maurizio Gasperoni, proposed to reduce the loss due to the fact that for this year the Executive Board will consist of only 9 instead of 11 members. René Laforce agreed that a smaller budget would do and presented to the Congress the budget that was designed to be used considering the previously proposed Statute changes (with a total loss of -6.800 EUR). The Congress voted twenty in favor, one against and two abstentions.

Decision: the budget with a loss of -6.800 EUR is approved

(16) Venue 2013 Ordinary Congress

CEB received two applications to host the 2013 CEB Congress, namely Austria (Vienna) and Russia (Moscow). The Dutch delegate, Robert Eenhoorn, raised the question that it had been decided the previous year to hold a joint congress together with the European Softball Federation. Immediately afterwards, André van Overbeek - President of the ESF- was invited to speak. He explained that the following details:

- At the joint CEB/ESF meeting in Milano in November 2011 both Executive Boards discussed which place and date would be suitable to hold a joint congress in 2013
- It was agreed upon to propose Vienna (Austria) to both congresses
- In December he, André, received a call from Alexander Ratner asking him if Austria already had sent in its host application, which he answered with "no"

- The ESF then received two host applications. One from Austria and another one from Russia. During the ESF Congress both applicants withdrew their candidacy
- The ESF has now decided to hold its 2013 Congress in Ljubljana (Slovenia) in the beginning of February
- The possibility exists to postpone the ESF Congress 2-3 weeks to the end of February but it will definitely be held in Slovenia
- CEB may follow

Robert Eenhoorn commented that the agreement was made to have a joint congress in 2013 so CEB now has to follow the ESF decision.

The Slovenian delegate, Boris Vehovec, was asked if Slovenia is prepared to organize a joint Congress in 2013. He answered affirmatively.

Petr Ditrich asked for a vote to have a joint congress in Slovenia (unanimously approved by the Congress).

Decision: CEB approved to hold a joint Congress with ESF in Ljubljana (Slovenia) in 2013. The final decision about this issue (including the date) will be taken by the ESF board during their meeting on April 13th, 2012

IBAF president Riccardo Fraccari addressed the congress. He pointed out the importance of the vote for a joint Congress. He recalled that at the ISF Congress in Oklahoma in October 2011, 61% of all member federations voted for the preparation of a joint bid with the International Baseball Federation before the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to gain a place at the 2020 Olympics. At the IBAF Congress in Dallas in December 2011, 100% of all member federations supported the joint bid. Today CEB member federations voted unanimously for a joint congress, which is an important sign to the IOC that both federations really want to work together. We all have financial problems and it would be a shame if – after the unanimous vote – the Executive Boards of CEB and ESF don't find a way to carry out a joint congress.

André van Overbeek assured that he will try to convince his board to move back the ESF Congress 2-3 weeks to the end of February in order to facilitate a joint congress, but again emphasized that this is not his sole decision but the decision of the whole ESF board.

Mario Debono asks the Executive board why the ESF needs to move its congress to a later date and why we cannot simply go to Ljubljana in the beginning of February.

René Laforce answers that the reason is that according to the respective Statutes the ESF financial year ends on 31 October and the CEB financial year ends on 31 December. For CEB it is not possible to have all financial matters with Price Waterhouse Cooper solved until the beginning of February.

The French delegate, Didier Seminet, proposes to change the CEB Statutes to match the ESF ones.

(17) New Business

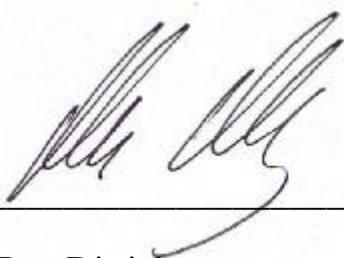
Petr Ditrich asked for any further topic to deal with.

The British delegate, John Boyd, publicly expressed his gratitude to Martin and Sam and thanked both for all the work they have done for European Baseball during the past years.

Riccardo Fraccari reminded the delegates that a year of hard work confronts the International Baseball and that it is really necessary to work together. The biggest focus will be on the IOC Executive, who will make a final decision regarding the 2020 Olympic Games in 2013.

Petr Ditrich invited all delegates and guests to the 100th anniversary celebration of the Dutch federation starting at 3pm this afternoon at the Erasmus university next door.

There being no further business, Petr Ditrich declared the Congress concluded and closed.



Mr. Petr Ditrich,
Acting President



Ms. Rhena Landefeld,
Office Administrator