

**EWF CONGRESS  
MEETING MINUTES**

February 17th, 2024  
Sofia (BUL), Novotel Hotel

**EWF Congress started at 09.00 a.m.**

At the main table sat the following EWF and IWF Officials and the representative from the host country, as guests:

EWF President – Kt. Antonio Conflitti  
EWF General Secretary – Dr. Milan Mihajlovic  
EWF Treasurer – Dr. Astrit Hasani

IWF President – Mr. Mohammed Jalood  
IWF General Secretary – Dr. Antonio Urso  
IWF 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Ms. Ursula Papandrea  
Bulgarian Weightlifting Federation President, Mr. Arif Majid

**1. Delegate Power Control / Roll call**

Thirty-nine NFs attended the EWF Congress at the Novotel Hotel congress room, according to the evidence registered by the designated person, the EWF Vice President, Mr. Patrick Fassot.

The General Secretary, Dr. Milan Mihajlovic, and the Assistant of the EWF General Secretary were tasked with counting the votes and taking the minutes of the meeting.

**2. Welcome**

The delegates were welcomed by the EWF President, Kt Antonio Conflitti. He also greeted the IWF President, Mohammed Jalood, the IWF General Secretary, Dr. Antonio Urso, the IWF 1st Vice President, Ms. Ursula Papandrea; all IWF Vice Presidents and EB members, Mr. Pyrros Dimas, Mr. Attila Adamfi, Mr. Petr Krol, Mr. Matthew Curtain, Mr. Florian Sperl, the Chairman of the IWF Athletes Commission, Mr. Forrester Osei, the Bulgarian Weightlifting Federation President, Mr. Arif Majid. The IWF President then addressed the Congress and praised the EWF management for their excellent work on modernizing weightlifting and highlighted the importance of eliminating doping for the future of our sport. The IWF General Secretary, Antonio Urso then congratulated the EWF and the BWF for the excellent organization of the championships. The IWF 1st Vice President Ursula Papandrea thanked the EWF for accepting the USA Weightlifting Team to attend the European Championships in

Sofia - Paris 2024 Qualifier. The Chairman of the IWF Athletes Commission, Mr. Forrester Osei congratulated EWF for being the first continent to elect the Athletes Commission.

### **3. Welcome and info details regarding the Championships**

The BWF President Arif Majid reported on the championships and the positive feedback he got from the participants. The IWF 1st Vice President Ursula Papandrea reiterated her gratitude for the welcome the USA team has received in Sofia.

### **4. Confirmation of the Selected Technical Officials**

The EWF TC Chairwoman Tina Beiter read the list of the Selected Technical Officials and expressed her satisfaction with their work, mentioning that in this competition we had also ITOs from the USA.

### **5. Approval of the Minutes of the previous EWF Congress**

The EWF General Secretary, Milan Mihajlovic emailed the minutes from the previous Congress in due time. As there were no comments, the minutes were approved. 38 delegates voted to approve the minutes, and 1 abstained.

### **6. Report of the EWF President**

EWF President, Antonio Conflitti reminded everyone that his report was sent by e-mail. He highlighted innovative events the EWF organized last year, such as the EWF Cup in Ancient Olympia. Regarding the fan zone in Chisinau, he suggested that also other host countries are invited to use this model in future competitions. One of the most prominent projects was the participation of EWF in EYOF where weightlifting was successfully promoted in an innovative mixed team format presentation event. According to the EWF President Conflitti, being in the program of EYOF would be important for the future of our sport. Another mixed-team event that was organized by EWF was the EWF Cup held in Ancient Olympia. The EWF received great feedback from the participants of this new concept competition. The EWF President thanked all host NFs who organized events in the year 2023.

There was an intervention by the EWF 1st Vice President Agapitov that mentioned the IWF Gender Policy which had already been discussed in the Medical Committee meeting and the Executive Board meeting, and he asked what action the President had taken to protect the women in our sport. He stated that most Member Federations were surprised by the sudden policy which was already implemented at the Junior World Championships in Mexico.

The question was also if there were communications with Pan American and Venezuelan federations regarding the USA team's participation at the European Championships.

He also questioned the suspension of Russian and Belarus athletes and asked if any of the EB members attempted to protect their right to compete, for example, they could have been invited to participate in the EWF Cup.

The EWF President Conflitti reminded EWF's 1st Vice President that the item being discussed was his report. After a 10-minute break, delegates proceeded to vote on approving the EWF President's report.

The report of the EWF President was approved. 38 delegates voted to approve the report, and 1 against.

### **7. Report of the EWF General Secretary**

The EWF General Secretary, Milan Mihajlovic reminded the delegates that his report was sent by e-mail. He stressed the visit to the African Weightlifting Championships where Azerbaijan participated and also mentioned to the delegates some of the most important events in the previous year, such as the EYOF demonstration event. He also reported on the EWF visit to Skopje where a discussion was held about including weightlifting in the EYOF 2025 program, as well as his participation in the Paris test event. He also mentioned the European Championships in Chisinau, with perfect organization and innovations, as a fan zone and introduction of EWF Web TV. Many efforts were made to present events, athletes, national teams, and results in an innovative way on social media, and the feedback was a positive one. EWF activities on social media had very good reach without pre-paid promotion. Another important project is the EWF TV which still needs to be further developed. An archive that would include the history of EWF is being prepared, eventually, it should be developed into a virtual EWF museum. Due to the massive nature of the project, the General Secretary counts on cooperation from Member Federations.

The EWF President Conflitti announced EB's decision to establish a Historical Commission.

The report of the EWF General Secretary was unanimously approved.

### **8. Report of the EWF Treasurer**

The EWF treasurer started the speech by greeting everyone and thanking the IWF President for his presence. He stated that EWF was very happy to see the IWF President attend the IOC Session in Mumbai where IOC President Dr. Bach confirmed the IOC has been impressed by the work of the IWF.

In addition, he thanked the entire EWF EB for a great job especially since that was a year full of activities.

Then, the treasurer presented his report and the independent Auditors' report.

All voted Yes.

The President then asked for approval of the Independent Auditor for 2024 and all voted Yes.

### **9. Report of the EWF Technical Committee Chairwoman**

EWF TC Chairwoman Tina Beiter reported on many activities by the TC, such as ITO webinars. She singled participation in the Italian Championships where they tested a new competition

management software. Chairwoman Beiter also mentioned recent incidents with coaches and aggressive behaviours toward ITOs, which will be regulated soon.

Akakios Kakhiashvili, the GWF President praised the EWF for a better flow of information and suggested changes to the victory ceremony. He said that if there are three winners, the national anthem should be played three times. It was also proposed to organize competitions in snatch, and competitions in clean and jerk.

IWF President Jalood invited Mr. Kakhiashvili to send a proposal to IWF TC. He also informed the Congress about work on new categories and a new qualification system that will be the subject of discussion in the next IWF Events.

The report of the EWF TC was approved. 38 delegates voted to approve, 1 abstained.

### **10. Report of the EWF CR&S Committee Chairman**

The EWF CR&S Committee Chairman Colin Buckley reported on the main activities of the CR&SC, which included launching the coach licensing program, training camps, and the initiative to set up a masterclass course for international coaches.

The information gathered through the coach licensing program suggested a need to support national federations in the education of coaches - both in training methods and in anti-doping. He stressed the importance of setting a minimum standard for international coaches. Currently, L1 and L2 courses are available, and the next step would be to create a continental academy (L3).

The IWF Coaching and Research Committee Chairman Petr Krol emphasized the importance of the coach licensing program and its main goal to protect the athletes.

EWF EB member Alexandru Padure mentioned that project documentation is needed to present to national sports authorities and to support MFs' attempts and directions of reform. At the same time, he mentioned that the project implementation should be accelerated.

Petr Krol also added that a draft of the bylaw has been sent to the respective committee.

IWF President Mohammad Jalood stated there is a possibility to withdraw a license from a coach if many of his athletes have positive doping tests, which is a major breakthrough.

The report of the EWF CR&S Committee was unanimously approved.

### **11. Report of the EWF Medical Committee Chairman**

The EWF Medical Committee Chairman, Mr. Tryggve Duun informed the Congress that the EB voted to elect a new member of the EWF Medical Committee, Dr Iryna Shakarenko from Ukraine.

He reported on the main activities of the EWF Medical Committee and pointed out the Committee's effort to prepare a set of medical healthcare guidelines for future EWF championships. Some of the issues the Committee has been dealing with include a lack of medical staff at competitions, so he suggested setting up a regular meeting between the Medical

Committee and LOC before each competition. EWF MC Chairman reported on the Committee's work on the IWF Gender Policy and stated that the EWF Medical Committee is ready to implement the IWF Gender Policy.

The Polish Weightlifting Federation delegate Monika Kalas Paterek commented on the lack of medical staff at competitions, and said a medical team is always required in Poland for any level of competition and should be taken as this example.

The EWF EB member Davit Kipshidze suggested communicating the Gender Policy in simple language, to raise the understanding.

The IWF President Mohammad Jalood has hailed the work of the EWF Medical Committee.

The report of the EWF Medical Committee was approved. 38 delegates voted to approve, 1 abstained.

## **12. Approval of the Athletes Commission**

The EWF President Antonio Conflitti presented athletes appointed to the Athletes' Commission, as follows:

- 1) Despina Polaktsidou (GRE);
- 2) Jenny Tong (GBR);
- 3) Sean Kevin Brown (IRL);
- 4) David Litvinov (ISR);
- 5) Arturs Plesnieks (LAT);
- 6) Anais Michel-Cozzela (FRA), absent.

The Congress approved the appointment of the Athletes' Commission. 39 delegates voted to approve.

EWF Athletes' Commission member Jennifer Tong, on behalf of the EWF AC, thanked the Congress and the Committees for all their efforts.

## **13. Report of the EWF Anti-doping Commission Chairwoman**

The EWF Anti-Doping Commission Chairwoman Denise Offermann reported on the Commission's activities. She highlighted the anti-doping seminars that the Commission holds in partnership with the EWF Fair Play Commission, before every continental championships to educate the athletes and the support personnel. She mentioned the IWF MF's classification webinar soon to be available for national federations, in order to can understand better the new IWF Anti-Doping Policy in force starting from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January. Information about Anti-Doping was also updated on the EWF website. Information related to this point and to the general Anti-Doping and Fair Play activities were presented shortly by the Fair Play Commission Alexandru Padure, as well.

The Finnish Weightlifting Federation President Karolina Lundahl asked who the webinar is for and Offermann said it is for educational purposes and could be followed by everyone from the MFs being a presentation of obligations and responsibilities in the context of the new IWF AD Policy in force. The webinar is to be translated into several languages.

The report of the EWF Anti-Doping Commission was approved. 38 delegates voted to approve, and 1 voted against.

Before moving on to item 14, EWF President Antonio Conflitti invited the Technical Delegate for Paris 2024, Mr. Matthew Curtain to give a short report on the progress.

Mr. Curtain presented updated information about the weightlifting event to be held at the Paris Olympics.

#### **14. EWF WEB TV**

EWF EB Member Alexandru Padure who is in charge of the EWF Web TV updated the Congress on the project. The platform was only launched in the second half of last year and there were several issues it faced. The greatest challenge proved to be the quality of the produced materials, as very high resolution is necessary. The EWF Web TV team is aware of the challenges and ready to address them. Padure invited Member Federations to suggest anything they felt would help the development of the platform. He stressed that there has been no paid promotion so far, and the platform itself featured only one paid event. Further steps will be taken in the near future in order to improve it. Mr. Padure praised the activity of Mr. Vladan Mihajlovic, involved in the EWF Web TV project as well.

The EWF Vice President Davit Kipshidze asked about basic statistics regarding the platform, and the reach and profit from the paid event, as well as from the free content. Information was presented to the Congress.

IWF President Mohammad Jalood thanked the Web TV team, expressing satisfaction with EWF promotional activities.

#### **15. EWF Electoral Congress - key dates and procedures**

The EWF General Secretary Milan Mihajlovic is to start working on the agenda for the electoral congress, and relevant information will be shared timely.

#### **16. Assignment 2025 Senior EWF Championships**

The EWF General Secretary Milan Mihajlovic informed Congress about the EWF EB decision that the 2025 Senior European Championships will be held in April in Moldova.

#### **17. Assignment 2025 Junior & U23 Championships**

The EWF General Secretary Milan Mihajlovic informed Congress about the EWF EB decision that the 2025 Junior and U23 European Championships will be held in October in Albania.

## **18. Assignment 2025 Youth & U15 Championships**

The EWF General Secretary Milan Mihajlovic informed Congress about the EWF EB decision that the 2025 Youth and U15 European Championships will be held in August in Poland.

## **19. EWF Constitution amendments**

The EWF President Antonio Conflitti presented to Congress the amendments to the EWF Constitution.

In the Technical and Competition Rules and Regulations item 3.1.2.3 was added.

With the completion of the second step of the registration of the athletes and the team personnel, the national federation will, within 4 days, transfer the payment for the accreditation, for each member of the team. The funds that will be transferred at this stage for the accreditation, will not be returned to the paying federation, even if it decided not to participate in the competition. 38 delegates voted for, 1 abstained.

Item 3.1.3.1.1 was added.

Apart from the Senior European Championships, the European Weightlifting Federation will bear the expenses for accommodation for the members of the EWF Executive Board if an executive board meeting will be convened during the days of the competition.

39 delegates voted for.

Item 9 was added.

In the case of unusual misconduct, out of the IWF TCRR, the EWF President, General Secretary, and Jury President on duty, may withdraw the accreditation up to suspend it of the athlete or any accredited person until the incident is investigated by the EWF President, General Secretary, and Jury President on duty, or until the end of the competition.

The Bulgarian Weightlifting Federation President Arif Majid commented it is necessary to have written guidelines to explain what is unacceptable before accreditation is just revoked.

The EWF EB member Colin Buckley said one of the next stages of coach licensing is to work with the Fair-Play Commission.

The EWF EB member Oren Shai explained that no one can predict all kinds of behavior, which is why the President or the General Secretary can interpret the situation.

The IWF Athletes' Commission Chairman Forrester Osei said the amendment is necessary and should be implemented.

The IWF TD for Paris 2024 Matthew Curtain added that the article intends to promote and protect the integrity of the sport.

The IWF CR Committee member Nedim Masic explained that Congress must vote to approve the amendment to protect everyone involved. He suggested the same rule be adopted in the IWF.

Polish Weightlifting Federation delegate Monika Kalas Paterek asked who would investigate an incident once it occurred.

The EWF Athletes' Commission member Jennifer Tong said a code of conduct would be more appropriate in this case, and any incident should be investigated by the disciplinary commission. Icelandic Weightlifting Federation delegate Erna Hedinsdottir said that for immediate action control should be in the hands of the Jury president.

The IWF President Mohammad Jalood agreed that the Jury president should be included in making any decision.

The IWF First Vice President Ursula Papandrea added that the code of conduct and ethics code should be familiar to everyone.

The IWF President Mohammad Jalood reminded Congress that the IOC has the right to revoke any accreditation.

The EWF Treasurer Astrit Hasani believes the article is just a preventative matter and does not see any problem with it.

38 delegates voted for, 1 abstained.

## **20. EWF new logo**

A draft of the new logo was presented. Voting on the new logo will be held when alterations to the constitution are prepared.

## **21. 2023 Best EWF Athletes**

The selection process of Best EWF Athletes was conducted in cooperation with AIPS Europe and the awards were given during the opening ceremony.

The EWF Fair-Play Commission Chairman Alexandru Padure is to prepare an application form for Fair-Play for future awards.

## **22. Presentations by sponsors**

Mr. Andreas Andren, representative of Eleiko barbell company addressed the Congress delegates presenting their products.

An intervention was done also by the representative of the ZKC barbell company.

## **23. Other issues**

The Georgian Weightlifting Federation President Akakios Kakhiashvili thanked for some equipment donations to his club established in a challenging area. He then asked why the 2025 Senior EWC was not awarded to Georgia. EWF General Secretary replied that such questions should be addressed to each EB member separately.

The Finnish Weightlifting Federation President Karolina Lundahl thanked the EWF and IWF for modernizing the sport and uniting the European nations around a joint cause.

EWF President proposed the following individuals and gave explanations for EWF formal recognition, approved by EWF EB; EWF President and General Secretary handed out awards:

- 1) EWF GOLD COLLAR to Mr. Mohammed Jalood, IWF President. For outstanding achievements in leading the IWF through the worst moment in our sport's history, confirming weightlifting in the Olympic program, and establishing confidence with the IOC.
- 2) EWF GOLD STAR to Dr. Zurab Kakhbrishvili. For devotion and consistent availability in performing the sensitive role of Doctor on Duty at various European and international weightlifting championships with excellent professionalism.
- 3) EWF GOLD STAR to Mrs Tina Beiter, Chairwoman of the EWF Technical Committee. For ongoing and diligent contributions to the management of the EWF Technical Committee, ensuring that the knowledge of International Technical Officials is constantly updated.
- 4) EWF GOLD STAR to Mr. Colin Buckley, Chairman of the EWF Coaching & Research Committee. For outstanding efforts on the introduction and development of the IWF Coaching License program - EWF pilot project.
- 5) EWF SILVER STAR to Mr. Damjan Canzek, President of the Slovenian Weightlifting Federation. For the invaluable effort done to assist the EWF, which enabled us to participate in the EYOF as a demonstration event for the first time in our history.
- 6) EWF BRONZE STARS to Zbigniew Gorlewski and Gerhard Peya. For the ongoing and exceptional work in updating the historical archives of European weightlifting.

IWF President and General Secretary awarded EWF President and General Secretary with an IWF plaque.

Eshaq Ebrahim Eshaq, AWF EB member and Bahrain Weightlifting Federation President awarded EWF President, General Secretary, and Bulgarian Weightlifting Federation President with a BWF NOC plaque.

Turkish Weightlifting Federation delegate Hasan Akkus praised the organization of the competition. He addressed the Congress regarding his letter sent before the Congress, and he announced that all charges against him had been dismissed and urged the leaders of the NFs not to believe falsehoods about the case.

**The Congress ended at 03.00 p.m.**


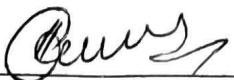







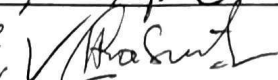




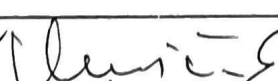





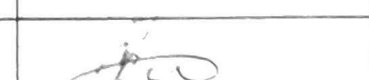

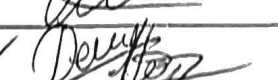





The minutes were taken by Tamara Jovic, EWF General Secretary Assistant.


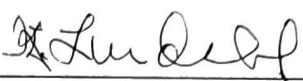
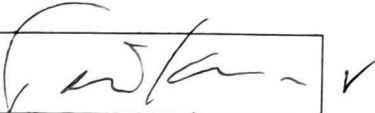
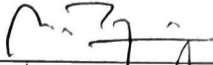






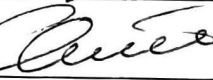

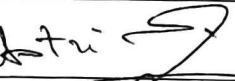







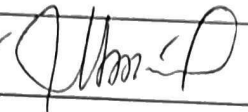





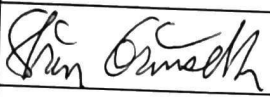
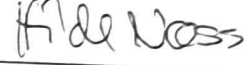













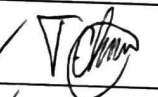






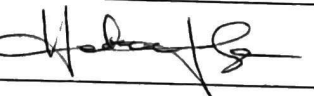

  
Dr. Milan MIHAJLOVIC  
EWF General Secretary







# ROLL CALL

## EWF CONGRESS – Sofia (BUL), 17.02.2024.

N	Country code	MF	First delegate name	Signature	Second delegate name	Signature
1.	 ALB	ALBANIA	ELEZ GJOZA		ARMANDO GJOZA	
2.	 ARM	ARMENIA	RASHIK ALAVERDYAN		ARAIK ALAVERDYAN	
3.	 AUT	AUSTRIA	GERHARD PEYA			
4.	 AZE	AZERBAIJAN	1. Kamran Nabizade 2. FIZDOVSI UMUDOV			
5.	 BLR	BELARUS				
6.	 BEL	BELGIUM				
7.	 BIH	BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA	NEDIM HASEF		ENISA HASEF	
8.	 BUL	BULGARIA	Arel Mujik			
9.	 CRO	CROATIA	BOŠKO ČUKIĆ			
10.	 CYP	CYPRUS	DEMISE OFFERMANN			
11.	 CZE	CZECH REPUBLIC	DUSAN KOVAL		PETER KROL	
12.	 DEN	DENMARK	TINA BEITER			
13.	 EST	ESTONIA				

14.		FINLAND	KAROLIINA LUNDAHL		Taruus Kuoppala	
15.		FRANCE	MICHEL RAYNAUD		ARNAUD FERRARI	
16.		GEORGIA	AKAKIOS KAKIASVILI		RUSUDANI MURADOLINA	
17.		GERMANY	JARRINA GERHARDI ✓	S. Ger ✓	FLORIAN SPERL	
18.		GREAT BRITAIN	Matthew Curtain		 JENNIFER TAYLOR	 TOLY ✓
19.		GREECE	PYRROS DIMAS ✓			
20.		HUNGARY	ATTILA ADAMFI ✓			
21.		ICELAND	ERNA HEDINSDOTTIR ✓	Erna Hedinsd.		
22.		IRELAND	Colin Buckley ✓			
23.		ISRAEL	Ohnan marina ✓		Oren Shai ✓	
24.		ITALY	GIUSEPPE MINISSALE ✓		FRANCESCO BONINCONTRO ✓	
25.		KOSOVO	ASTEIT HASANI ✓			
26.		LATVIA	Eduards Andruskevics ✓			
27.		LITHUANIA	SIMKUS MODESTAS ✓			
28.		LUXEMBOURG				
29.		MALTA	JESMOND CARUANA			

30.		MOLDOVA	MAXIM COJOCARU ✓ 		
31.		MONACO			
32.		NETHERLANDS	ERIC KWEKKEBOOM 		
33.		NORTH MACEDONIA			
34.		NORWAY	STIAN BRIMSETH 	HILDE NAES ✓	
35.		POLAND	WALDEMAR GOSPODAREK 	MONIKA KALAS PATEREK ✓	
36.		PORTUGAL	VITOR ESTEVAO ✓ 		
37.		ROMANIA	PADURE ALEXANDRU ✓ 		
38.		RUSSIA	Максим МАКСИМ ✓ 		
39.		SAN MARINO			
40.		SERBIA	TAMARA JOVIĆ ✓ 		
41.		SLOVAKIA	Tomáš Chovanec ✓ 		
42.		SLOVENIA	JANJAN CANZEL ✓ 		
43.		SPAIN	JUAN CARMA ✓ 	Monica Carrio ✓	
44.		SWEDEN	HELEN JOHAGE 	SEBASTIAN NURMI ✓	

45.	 SUI	SWITZERLAND				
46.	 TUR	TURKEY	Hakan Akbulut Koray	Koray	Calat Urali	
47.	 UKR	UKRAINE	RUSLAN ZHABOTINSKY	Ruslan	VIKTOR SLOBODANIK	
AM	 NIR	NORTHERN IRELAND				
AM	 SCO	SCOTLAND				
AM	 WAL	WALES				

39