

No. 2 / MARCH 2015

# WAKO

## KICKBOXING

### MAGAZINE



EUROPEAN  
CHAMPIONSHIPS

WAKO PRO NEWS

WORLD CADET  
AND JUNIOR  
CHAMPIONSHIPS

PAN-AMERICAN  
CHAMPIONSHIPS





# WAKO KICKBOXING



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*Nasser Nassiri*



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2. Angola
3. Benin
4. Botswana
5. Burkina Faso
6. Burundi
7. Cameroon
8. Cape Verde
9. Central African Republic
10. Chad
11. Congo
12. Egypt
13. Equatorial Guinea
14. Eritrea
15. Ethiopia
16. Gabon
17. Gambia
18. Ghana

19. Guinea Bissau
20. Mauritius
21. Ivory Coast
22. Kenya
23. Lesotho
24. Liberia
25. Libya
26. Madagascar
27. Mali
28. Malawi
29. Mauritania
30. Morocco
31. Mozambique
32. Namibia
33. Nigeria
34. Sao Tome and Principe
35. Senegal
36. Seychelles
37. Sierra Leone
38. Somalia
39. Sudan
40. South Africa
41. Swaziland
42. Tanzania
43. Togo
44. Tunisia
45. Uganda
46. Union of the Comoros
47. Zambia
48. Zimbabwe

1. Afghanistan
2. Bangladesh
3. Bahrain
4. China
5. Hong Kong
6. India
7. Iran
8. Iraq
9. Jordan
10. Kazakhstan
11. Kuwait
12. Kyrgyzstan
13. Laos
14. Lebanon
15. Malaysia
16. Mongolia
17. Nepal
18. North Korea
19. Oman
20. Palestine
21. Philippines
22. Saudi Arabia
23. Singapore
24. South Korea
25. Syria
26. Taiwan
27. Tajikistan
28. Thailand
29. Turkmenistan
30. Uzbekistan
31. Vietnam
32. United Arab Emirate
33. Yemen

# IN THE WORLD



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*President*

*Borislav Pelevic*

1. Armenia
2. Austria
3. Azerbaijan
4. Albania
5. Belarus
6. Belgium
7. Bosnia and Herzegovina
8. Bulgaria
9. Croatia
10. Cyprus
11. Czech Republic
12. Denmark
13. Estonia
14. Finland
15. France
16. Georgia
17. Germany
18. Great Britain
19. Greece
20. Hungary
21. Ireland
22. Israel
23. Italy
24. Latvia
25. Liechtenstein
26. Lithuania
27. Luxembourg
28. Macedonia
29. Moldova
30. Monaco
31. Montenegro
32. Netherlands
33. Norway
34. Poland
35. Portugal
36. Romania
37. Russia
38. Serbia
39. Slovakia
40. Slovenia
41. Spain
42. Sweden
43. Switzerland
44. Turkey
45. Ukraine



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1. Argentina
2. Barbados
3. Bermuda
4. Bolivia
5. Brazil
6. Canada
7. Chile
8. Colombia
9. Ecuador
10. El Salvador
11. Guatemala
12. Mexico
13. Paraguay
14. Peru
15. Puerto Rico
16. Trinidad and Tobago
17. Uruguay
18. U.S.A.
19. Venezuela

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*Acting President*

*Peter Thompson*

1. Australia
2. New Zealand

# EDITOR'S LETTER



## IMPRESSUM

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All members of the Editorial Team are volunteers without payment. All lines and photographs are free of charge.

**Dear WAKO friends,**

As we promised in the previous edition of the WAKO Magazine, you are now holding a new one. It covers WAKO events of the second half of 2014 and the beginning of 2015. Last year was extremely abundant in Championships, Cups and WAKO PRO matches.

We bring you a report from the Kickboxing Pan-Am Championship and the General Assembly of the Pan-American Confederation, two big and key events on the American continent. Two European Championships were also held: in Spain (Bilbao) in ring disciplines, and in Slovenia (Maribor) in tatami disciplines.

Of course, the biggest and most beautiful event was the World Cadet and Junior Championship in Italy (Rimini) with 2056 young competitors in all disciplines. The General Assembly of WAKO Federation was also held in Rimini. A few World and European Cups are dealt with in this edition as well. We bring you reports from the WAKO PRO matches which are very interesting.

From this edition on, the WAKO Magazine introduces new columns:

- The most successful presidents
- Great WAKO champions
- The best judges

And from the next one we will have one column more:

- The best coaches

Unfortunately, the previous year was also sad for all of us. Our president Dr. Ennio Falsoni is still in a very serious health condition, although there have been slight improvements. **Our dear friend, Orel Pavel, the President of the Kickboxing Federation of Ukraine has passed away.**

This year had a very difficult and sad opening. **Suddenly, at the beginning of January Dr. Leyrer Richard, WAKO Vice-President and a great friend, one of the pioneers and a legend of WAKO Kickboxing, passed away.**

We will never forget the immense contribution these two men had in the development of kickboxing in the world, and we will do everything to follow in their footsteps, solely for the benefit of WAKO Kickboxing.

The next edition of the WAKO Magazine is due to be released at the beginning of autumn. We are looking forward to meeting you and appreciate any support and collaboration.

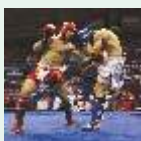
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WAKO Vice-President  
WAKO EUROPE President

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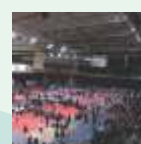
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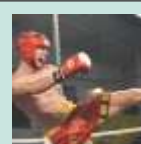
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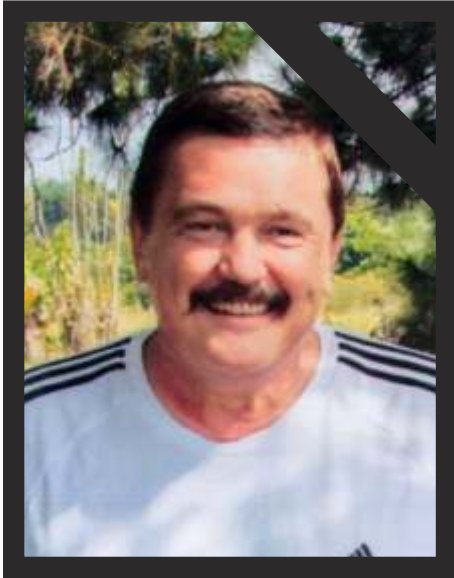


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# IN MEMORIAM



## Dr. Richard Leyrer (1949 - 2015)

*A page in memory of our dear colleague, our dear friend and one of the most marked persons in the WAKO history.*

Dr. Richard Leyrer was one of the pioneers of kickboxing and WAKO.

He was always giving all of himself for kickboxing, for athletes, for Hungarian federation and of course WAKO.

He was building up what we now have, the best, the strongest and only one recognized worldwide Kickboxing Federation.

Let us remember Dr. Richard Leyrer for the great things he did and what a great man he was.

The funeral was attended by over 800 people, among who were four ministers

from the Hungarian Government, the Ministry of Sports and the former President of the Hungarian Republic.

This simply proves the respectability he had as a sports leader.

WAKO honours you and your achievements.

***Let him rest in peace.***





# THE BIG HEART OF BILBAO

European  
Kickboxing Championships  
for ring disciplines  
was hosted in Bilbao, Spain



# BILBAO



European Kickboxing Championships for ring disciplines has just finished. The total score was **482 competitors from 34 countries.**

As a difference from what we had the previous years, this Championships presented only ring disciplines, without tatami. The reason was a request from the organizer, because of the less time for the preparation of the Championships they had, to stay only on ring disciplines: full contact, K-1 and low kick. It was like it was announced, but for sure we lacked one tatami.





*The joy of the winner:  
The best judge of the  
Championship selected by  
Referee Committee,  
Mr. Zoran Simurina (Serbia)*



The first day of the competition started with good balance: the fights were quite arduous, the quality was high, the judging was satisfactory. The opening ceremony was short with an alignment of the participating countries, the referees and judges. The show was completed with a spectacle showing a big man juggling a 200 kg cargo in front of the audience.

The eliminating fights took place during the second day where three knockouts did not spoil the general impression of the quality of the fighters.





The adrenaline from the rings spread contagiously on the auditorium. The best fight during the second day was between **Mateus Pluta** (Pol) and **Pjotr Ramankevic** (BLR), where the audience was on their feet, and the supporters of both fighters were screaming, loudly supporting their fan. The atmosphere was amazing.

The good impression was ruined after the semifinals in low kick. Because of the forcing low kicks the beauty of the discipline was lost, and we couldn't enjoy good arms techniques.



The second excellent fight which marked the second day was between **Bojan Dzepina** (Srb) and **Sergej Maslobojev** (Lit) in K-1 discipline. Every punch could have been a knockout. After a few incurrings the Litvanian fighter performed, Dzepina got a knee in the head and the arch was broken, so there was no help for him. The fight was over.

The third day started with semifinals. It was evident that only a few fights did not have Russian fighters on the schedule. Their numerous ascendancy indicated the total result of the fights.

The best fight of the day was in low kick between a domestic fighter **Angel Valoivieso** and a Russian





**Aleksandr Drobinin.** The spectators were loud and excited, and the fighters did their best. The Spanish fighter, at last, found the key against the strong Russian. That was the reason for an all-night celebration.

The Championships lasted five days. It was very successful. Bilbao presented a lot of

hospitality. We had fantastic hot weather at that time and the host with a big heart for all WAKO people.

The Championships were organized by a promoter Borja Mendioroz Domezain and the president and ex-champion Joxe Vte. Eguzkiza and their team. Thanks to all of them.

M.P.



*Judges and referees seminar:*

*Vadim Ukrainchev,  
Jury Laktihof,  
Borislav Pelevic and  
Sami Savo*



# FIGHTING AND ENJOYING IN SLOVENIA

**Slovenia** was the host of the second part of the **European Championship 2014 for seniors**, in the following disciplines: **Point Fighting, Light Contact, Kick Light and Musical Forms.**

WAKO European Championship 2014 for seniors took the first part in Bilbao, Spain (ring disciplines) and the second in Maribor, Slovenia, from 15th till 23rd November. A perfect organization pleased everybody who was in Maribor those days, because it was an opportunity to enjoy great fights and great hospitality.

On the Championship we had 564 competitors from 33 European countries, which gives a total score of over 1000 sportsmen in the senior category (including Bilbao), who took part in the whole European Championship for 2014. The countries which attended the event were Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark,

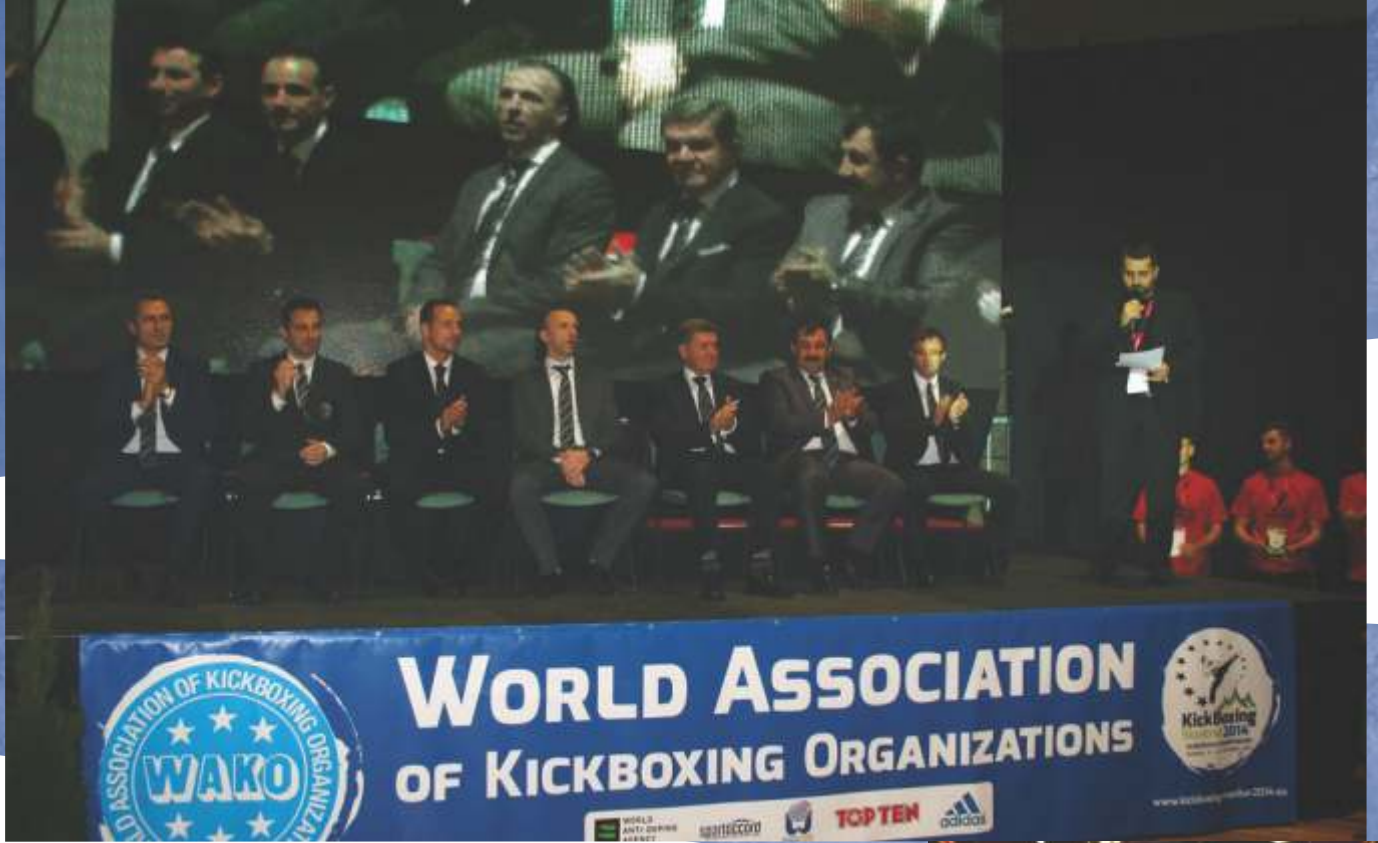


# MARIBOR



Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Macedonia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine...





The second day of the Championship we finished all 1/8 and ¼ finals, and the first half of musical forms (soft and hard styles-without weapon), and the third day was reserved for finishing all semifinals and the second half of musical forms (soft and hard with weapon).

In the evening, with more than 150 coaches, referees and WAKO officials present, Mr. Kristof Szucs, the Integrity Advisor from SportAccord gave a very interesting lecture on the topic "Corruption in Sport-fight against match fixing".

The fourth day was dedicated to finishing the first part of the final fights, while in the evening we had Gala with six top final fights (two in each discipline), with a very interesting program watched by over 1500 spectators.

At the last day of the competition, all final fights and team fights were finished. The Referee Committee and chief referees had a sweet duty to choose the best fighters in each discipline, so now we have a TOP 8 list:

**PF female**

Petra Loncar (CRO)

**PF male**

Marc Mcdermot (IRL)

**LC female**

Gaynor Morgan (GBR)

**LC male**

Damiano Tramontana (ITA)

**KL female**

Veronica Cmarova (SVK)

**KL male**

Mukremin Guler (TUR)

**MF female**

Inna Berestoya (RUS)

**MF male**

Kevin Cetou (FRA).

This was an opportunity to choose the best referees, so the Organizing Committee and the chief referee had no doubt who was the best:



**Female**

Gina Engelhart

**Male**

Mitko Kostadinov.





Mr. Istvan Kiraly, the head coach of the Hungarian national tatami team with his fighter



Roy Baker,  
Espen Lund and  
Borislav Pelevic with  
Mr. Kristof Szucs,  
the Integrity Advisor from  
SportAccord

The final Gala night was fabulous with over 2000 spectators, an all-night beautiful fights and a quality programme, so all the participants and spectators left the sport arena pleased and full of impressions.

Once again Slovenian Kickboxing Organization showed a high quality of work in WAKO, this time thanks to the promoter and a big champion Tomaž Barada and the President of the Slovenian Kickboxing Federation Vladimir Sitar with their team.

*Text and photos:  
Romeo Deša*

# MARIBOR



New Year, new plans for the future, new challenges for WAKO, directly from **Espen Lund**, the Acting WAKO IF President.

# Recognition by IOC - the main goal for WAKO



Powered by Sport Events Denmark

## → 1. Introduce yourself to the readers. Who is Espen Lund in WAKO?

Since 1984 I have been, as an athlete in Norwegian kickboxing federation for 11 years, dedicated more to training others rather than building my own fighting career. The only thing I maybe regret is that I didn't fulfill my fighting career; I never participated in international Championships.

I was the President of Norwegian Kickboxing Federation from 1996 until 2005 when I resigned and have dedicated my work from 1999 to WAKO IF, focusing only on that. Of course, from 2011 I have had the pleasure of being a member of SportAccord Council as well and responsible for AIMS. It has been an interesting job to learn about sport management and how it is practised in other

IFs. I have always stayed engaged in Norwegian Olympic Committee especially within international relations. Now I am WAKO IF Acting President until the next ordinary elections. These are my fields of work concerning sport. Of course, this has brought me a lot of experience in the field of sport politics. I have realized how important it may be for kickboxing when you are fighting for your sport to find a place under the sun.

## → 2. What is the main goal WAKO has in the plans for the future?

Speaking about the goals which is WAKO facing today, the main goal in my opinion is to get IOC recognition. Why? This is so important because it is about the credibility of the sport, many of the athletes on the national level will have an opportunity to promote their sport in their countries. The members of WAKO will upgrade their position on the national level, as a consequence of this recognition on international level. Like when we became a member of SportAccord in 2006, it opened possibilities for the members of WAKO to increase their positions nationally. And that national position of the sport is the key of success. To be a part of the Olympic family and have a possibility to, at least, have a dream of the Olympic Games is a great success. But, with recognition comes more work. So there are always consequences in both directions.

To participate in the Olympic Games is a far away dream, so let us focus on getting recognized first, as a closer goal. Step by step, level by level. In the IOC there is a process about developing the Olympic movement, and now the Olympic Agenda 2020 is decided. This reform process will develop the Olympic Games and other IOC activities to satisfy today's market. The only thing that we can do is try to be a part of the movement, to be accepted, to be understood, to be respected. When we are inside the Olympic movement, we will have a possibility to affect things and processes.

According to this aim to be part of the IOC, there come new standards of work in WAKO which will come automatically. We have to improve ourselves in many areas. That is in integrity issues as within match fixing, sport betting and manipulation. We must have zero tolerance in this field. We need to work more professionally, we need to not only focus on anti-doping, but work preventive. We need to focus on youth development, education and many other areas. We need to improve not only the system and mechanisms, but we also need to show personal improvements on the national level work. In our phases of development though, we must always have rooted in our



backbone to work on behalf of the members and the athletes. They are the reason why we are there.

Anyhow, if we do not get recognition on the next occasion, we are in the process of developing WAKO in the direction of the Olympic movement. Some of the IOC standards have to become our model of good practice.

We have to create mechanisms within WAKO to be prepared for the IOC recognition.

→ **3. When a big aim is in front of an organization, you should share the tasks within it. Do you think that the Board of Directors, committees and other structure bodies in WAKO can bear the share in this work?**

You know, people have different agendas and I'd rather say that this is the matter of education of all of us. We have been struggling a little bit to put the tools in place in order to make commissions work. On the next occasion I want to implement the tools and give more power to the committees, but for us to control. To be quite clear, what is our responsibility, what we expect has to be defined so we can act, not only talk. I think people that know me as a part of the organization for many years know that I am a doer, certainly not only a talker. But, I need to take care and be aware that the issue is a part of a political process where you have to harmonize many agendas. I have to balance between speeding up the process and listening to the people. It would not be good to see each other next year and talk about the same things. We need to show results.

→ **4. What are the main challenges today in WAKO?**

As in all other sports, we have our challenges both relating to positioning and different cultures. To respect and understand the variety all over the world is a challenge. The main challenge is to raise

the level of work on all continents. The challenge is money. To create activities, costs money. Some continental divisions have many activities, others do not. But we all need to understand that the conditions are very different in various parts of the world. Recourses, in general, are the main challenge. That's why we must also have focus on being commercial and interesting in order to increase our income if we try to create mechanisms to support the continents better, not only give the money but to support activities. More resources (people with skill) make it easier to build up the sport, the activities. But, if we are going to give them, let's say some help, we need to create tools. We should not depend on individual persons, but on a system. That is important. We are one family trying to help each other in a universal sport, no matter what the borders are and the culture may be. Sport is universal. That's why I dedicate myself – this is my kind of solidarity, to developing the sport – but I am only a single person in a big machinery.

Use the best practice of national federations. Find the easiest way to develop sport locally. Make events. Organize activities. Train people to have better technical skills, medical skills, referee skills, coach skills, etc. This is something we are working on. I like to say: everything is possible. Time schedule and plan “what to do” has to be done every year, both on the short and the long term bases. But we need to take it step by step. This is not unique for WAKO only. These are the challenges all sport federations have.

We have developed our activities in many aspects. Among them is for sure judging and refereeing. More national activities and more seminars created environment that now we have to say that level of this activities in WAKO is satisfying. Judges are travelling all around getting international experience. Much more now than before. The education of judges and referees is an ongoing process. Open scoring can give us a thorough knowledge they have and we can comprehend where the problems are and what is going on. Maybe this, at the same time, stresses judges knowing that they are exposed. However, this is a part of that job. They simply need to do their best, and they do.

May I end by saying this: I dedicate my work to Ennio Falsoni, a person who has dedicated himself to this sport for over thirty years and it is his results that I respect. And now I am also trying to make the dreams of Richard Leyrer come true one day. The two people that should see their dreams come true. Ennio will, Richard will not, only in the spirit.

M.P



# TOMAŽ BARADA

## - THE NEW VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE SLOVENIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

Mr. Tomaž Barada from the Slovenian Kickboxing Federation and the promoter of the excellent European Championship in Maribor 2014, has been elected a Vice President of the Slovenian Olympic Committee. This is a fantastic news from kickboxing, which again proves that WAKO has high level resources and sports leaders. Tomaž Barada is a former WAKO champion and a multiple WAKO PRO champion in addition to being very involved in taekwon do. A legend!

On 16th of December the Slovenian NOC had their election of a new complete Board for a period of four years. The General Assembly elected a new president Mr. Bogdan Gabrovec, an eight-year NOC Vice-President and the President of the Slovenian Judo Federation. The NOC also elected three new Vice-Presidents: Janez Soderžnik (he was the President of the Sports Association Ljubljana – the capital city), Iztok Čop (a gold medalist from the Olympic Games - rowing) and Tomaž Barada

*By Espen Lund  
WAKO Acting President*



**In the picture from the right...  
Tomaž Barada, the President Bogdan Gabrovec, Janez Soderžnik  
and Iztok Čop.**

**I congratulate the new Slovenian Board and especially  
the new President, Bogdan Gabrovec and the new Vice-  
President Tomaž Barada.**



## GREAT WAKO CHAMPIONS

# WHOLE LIFE DEDICATED TO SPORT

## TOMAŽ BARADA

One of the most popular sportsmen in Slovenia, and one of the best known kickboxers in WAKO is certainly Mr. Tomaž Barada, a man who holds

WAKO record of 84 kickboxing fights without a loss and now a well-known trainer.

Tomaž Barada was born in Maribor (1973), and after his mother's death he moved to Vuzenica (a small town in Slovenia), to live with his aunt. He attended a primary school in Vuzenica, and started practising sport as a six-year-old boy. He started with gymnastics first, and he liked it.

Having finished primary school, he moved back to Maribor and there he started to practise tae kwon do and kickboxing. He was a very promising sportsperson, which was evident from his results. He gained several titles during his career.

He became an ITF (Tae Kwon Do) European Champion six times, three times ITF World Champion and three times announced as the King of Tae Kwon Do in Tokyo.

**He also became a WAKO European Champion six times and a WAKO World Champion five times.** This was a great success. With height: 175 cm (5' 9") and weight: 68kg (for tournaments 63kg) 150 lb (139 lb), he stayed unbeaten in his category. He wears a Black belt 6th DAN.





### Kickboxing

- 1994 - European Champion, IAKSA, Italy
- 1995 - World Champion, WAKO, Germany
- 1996 - European Champion, IAKSA, Austria
- 1996 - European Champion, WAKO, Italy
- 1997 - World Champion, IAKSA, United Kingdom
- 1998 - World Cup Champion, Mailand
- 1998 - Best Fighter of the Tournament, Mailand
- 1998 - European Champion, IAKSA, Turkey
- 1998 - USA Championships winner, IAKSA, Florida
- 1998 - Best Fighter of Tournament, IAKSA, Florida
- 1999 - European Champion, WAKO, Italy
- 2000 - World Champion in Light Contact WAKO PRO, Slovenia
- 2001 - World Champion in Light Contact WAKO PRO, Slovenia
- 2002 - World Champion in Light Contact WAKO PRO, Slovenia
- 2003 - World Champion in Light Contact WAKO PRO, Slovenia
- 2004 - World Champion in Light Contact WAKO PRO, Slovenia

### Tae Kwon Do

- 1990 - Vice World Champion, Canada
- 1993 - European Champion, Netherlands
- 1994 - European Champion, Poland
- 1994 - Vice World Champion, Malaysia
- 1996 - European Champion, Italy
- 1997 - European Champion, Slovenia
- 1997 - King of Tae Kwon Do, Japan
- 1998 - European Champion, Greece
- 1999 - European Champion, Italy
- 1999 - Vice Team Champion, Argentina
- 1999 - World Champion, Argentina
- 1999 - King of Tae Kwon Do, Argentina
- 2001 - King of Tae Kwon Do, Uruguay
- 2001 - World Champion, Italy
- 2003 - World Champion, Poland

Currently retired, he holds the WAKO record of 84 consecutive wins. He retired in 2004 after defending his WAKO pro title for the final time.

Tomaž Barada runs now his own »Barada Sport Center« in Maribor and trains young people tae kwon do and kickboxing.

He is married and has two daughters.

B.P.





# PAN-AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Great kickboxing in Argentina



On the 2014 WAKO PAN-AMERICAN Championships which was held from 4 to 7 December 2014 in Corrientes, Argentina, Mr. Borislav Pelevic, WAKO Europe President and WAKO IF Vice-President and Mr. Nasser Nassiri, WAKO Asia President and WAKO IF Vice-President were special guests on the General Assembly.





The referee Miss Jacqueline Walters (Canada) declares a winner



The Championships was organized by Mr. Juan Corrales and his team with the assistance of Mr. Paulo Zorello, one of the pioneers of kickboxing in the world, a former World Champion, now the President of WAKO Pan-Am Confederation.

The competition was greatly organized; there were

450 participants, from nine countries. The quality of the fights was very good, and the fighters from Latin America are in the equal quality range as European fighters.

Brazil won most of the medals, which was the best country on competition as well, the second and the third

place were Chile and Argentina.

Mr. Borislav Pelevic, with Mr. Jan Frana (Czech Republic), one of the best international referees, held a seminar for 45 judges and referees from Pan-America, for ring sports.





In agreement with the Acting Chairman of WAKO referee Committee Mr. Vadim Ukraintcev, after the competition Mr. Borislav Pelevic announced four referees for the international referee C class (two from Brazil, one from Argentina and one from the USA) and a referee from Canada, Miss Jacqueline Walters now is B class. Mr. Tim Mazurkiawicz (USA) has already been an international referee A class.



**A historical agreement for WAKO:**  
Rob Zbilski (USA), Borislav Pelevic, Paulo Zorello,  
Nasser Nassiri and Chip Post (USA)

On the Pan-Am General Assembly there were members from nine countries plus two proxies. In total, eleven. There were a few amendments to the Statute which were adopted and bylaws were adopted too. The re-elected President is Paulo Zorello.

On the General Assembly were present Mr. Borislav Pelevic and Mr. Nasser Nassiri. President Paulo Zorello thanked them for their dedicated work and support.

A new Board of Directors were elected, too. Now PAN-AM has two new Board members from the USA: Mr. Chip Post and Mr. Rob Zbilski. Thanks to the wise decisions of Mr. Paulo Zorello, the leaders of two American Federations have made a large and historical step for uniting the two groups in the future in only one American WAKO Kickboxing Federation.



The referee Mr. Tim Mazurkiawicz (USA) declares a winner



The ring referees

# PAN-AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS



## World Cup Diamond-2014 Kickboxing/WAKO



# An anniversary for success

From September 23 to September 28 in the LOK "Vityaz", a modern sports complex in Anapa (Vityazevo), the fifth anniversary World Cup Diamond-2014/Kickboxing WAKO in which 1188 fighters from 26 countries of the world participated took place. The first national teams of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, looked in the ring styles equal rivals in fights with traditionally strong kickboxers from Russia.

The panel of judges led by the chief referee of WAKO Mr. Lakhtikov (ring styles) and famous in the world of kickboxing as a professional from the "capital letter" in tatami styles – Brian Beck,

fulfilled at the high level. All the winners of the World Cup gained a nominal cup, a diploma and a medal.

The most worthy fighters, having passed rigid selection, qualified for the Gala final. The winners of the Gala finals won the first prize of the Cup – a diamond sign.

The best duel of evening fight was in the section K-1, where the Russian team was represented by one of the leaders of the Russian national team – Shamil Gadzhimusayev from Belgorod. Many fans from Russia were crazy about their hero, who dominated in the ring.



#### **The owners of a diamond sign – the best of the best:**

- Philip Salugin (Omsk, Russia) + 94 kg, light - contact
- Ararat Mkhtaryan (Moscow, Russia) - 54 kg, full-contact
- Astemir Borsov (Maikop, Russia) - 57kg, full-contact
- Shokhrat Yagmyrov (Turkmenistan) - 67kg, full-contact
- Mahomed Umalatov (Dagestan, Russia) - 51kg, Low Kick
- Ulanbek Kasymbekov (Kyrgyzstan) - 54kg, Low Kick
- Avazbek Amanbekov (Kyrgyzstan) - 57kg, Low Kick
- Ikbo Fozilzhan (Kyrgyzstan) - 63,5kg, Low Kick
- Syrgak SagynbaiUulu (Kyrgyzstan) - 71kg, Low Kick
- Altynbek Zhunussov (Kazakhstan) - 75 kg, Low Kick
- Kuang Abdyraimov (Kyrgyzstan) + 91kg, Low Kick
- Itsekhovskaya Victoria, (Anapa, Russia) - 52kg, K-1
- Sergey Byelik (Voronezh, Russia) - 51 kg, K-1
- Shamil Gadzhimusayev (Belgorod, Russia) - 63,5kg, K-1
- Rasoul Kadimagomedov (Dagestan, Russia) + 91kg, K-1

Yury Lakhtikov from Estonia was marked out by a diamond sign as the best judge of World Cup Diamond-2014!

The duels of the World Cup were broadcasted on the sites: [www.worldcupdiamond.com](http://www.worldcupdiamond.com) and [www.золотороссии.com](http://www.золотороссии.com).

Re-runs of the fights can be seen on the TV channel "Fight club".

Rishat Sayapov



## 1st Greek National University Championship of Kickboxing in Athens, Greece

# WAKO ACADEMIC

On November 12th 2014 the first Greek National University Championship in Kickboxing was held in the indoor stadium of the University of Athens, Greece. The Championship was organized by Pan-Hellenic Kickboxing Federation according to WAKO rules, in cooperation with the Sports Commission of Higher Education and the Ministry of Education and Sports.

It was a very important step for the sport of Kickboxing in Greece as it is the first non-Olympic sport which enters the academic

matches. There were all the styles of the sport (Low Kick, Full Contact, K-1 Rules, Light Contact, Kick Light and Point Fighting). The number of participants exceeded 120 athletes from all the Universities in Greece, which is a big number for the first Championship of this kind. Moreover, thanks to this collaboration, any student in the universities who is interested in Kickboxing will be able to practise it, through Pan-Hellenic Kickboxing Federation.

Moreover, at each University Championship for other sports, during the opening ceremony, there will be demonstration fights, one fight in each style (Low Kick, Full Contact, K-1 Rules, Light Contact, Kick Light, and Point Fighting).







WAKO Acting President, Espen Lund, commented:  
"This kind of activity and initiative is very important considering WAKO's aim to apply for FISU membership and participation. We hope such initiative can inspire other national

federations to establish coordination with national universities and/or exploit existing cooperation. Not to say, that these activities build up WAKO's brand and reputation. Thanks to the Greek Federation, its President Mike Triantafillou and his team."





# GOLDEN GLOVE

A GREAT EVENT FOR ALL  
KICKBOXING LOVERS

The beginning of the working year in  
WAKO was reserved for  
the GOLDEN GLOVE tournament in Italy

A big competition which opened WAKO schedule for 2015 working year, took place on 17th and 18th January in the new Arena di Conegliano Zoppas. This was the ninth edition of the Golden Glove, an international event for all lovers of kickboxing.

In the arena there were eight squares and a giant screen that projected images of the previous editions. The huge stage saw numerous competing athletes (about 900 members), out of which half were foreigners from over eighteen countries: Switzerland, Austria, Holland, England, Czech Republic, Greece, Germany, Poland, Norway, Slovenia, Croatia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Ukraine...

A special praise for a wonderful success of the organization goes to those who have designed and created this event: Luca Terrin, the President of the Veneto Region FIKBMS (WAKO ITALY), Raffaele Di Paolo (FIKBMS board member), Euro Kickboxing Club of Nicola Traina (Member of WAKO Organizing Committee) and Oriano De Bei (Member of the Italian Referee Committee) and Giorgio Lico (Member of WAKO Organizing Committee).





The Golden Glove, with the title of WAKO EUROPE CUP, prepared a total prize money of 8,000 Euros and a sponsorship given by a global brand TOP TEN which has provided a gift to all winners—a pair of gloves, depending on the style.

A special representative of the President of WAKO EUROPE was Roy Baker, who said that he was excited about the return of this competition and was impressed by the quality of the organization. This year a computer system was used very successfully.

The system consists of a SPORTDATA impeccable staff, including the brothers Alex and Jhon Engelhardt, WAKO Netherlands, which made it possible to display in real time

on the web boards, the achievements, awards and live streaming. This technology truly represents the future in the sport.

The two-day competition began with two beautiful seminars held respectively by the team of Master Istvan Kiraly for pointfighting and Manuel Nordio and Ivan Sciolla for light contact, which were attended by about thirty athletes each.

On Saturday all categories of light and light kick and tag team of light and tag team took place; the team Kiraly dominated the five competitions of tag team taking home € 2,000 while in the individual disciplines the Italians achieved great results.

Sunday was devoted entirely to the point fighting, a discipline with the largest number of athletes, and ended with the grand champion, both male and female. The team Kiraly prevailed over all in this case as well. To underline the stunning finale to cardio palm of open female between Carmela Abbate and a Hungarian Dorina Szabo.

In short, the Golden Glove states unquestionably in the international circuit as one of the most important WAKO competitions, with the staff who enabled a smooth conduct of the competition with their excellent work.

GOLDEN GLOVE



# THE WORLD CADET AND JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS 2.056 YOUNG ATHLETES IN RIMINI

By Espen Lund  
WAKO Acting President

**The World Cadet and Junior Championships in beautiful Rimini, Italy, has come to an end.**

In total 2.056 enthusiastic athletes from 60 countries united to show the power of the youth. Before I say anything else I want to thank the promoters Gianfranco Rizzi and

Barbara Falsoni and their team, the Organizing Committee and all the referees and judges. The event was fantastic and the Sport hall was just spot on. Even though it was such a big event the facilities were great and yet it was intimate enough to strengthen the kickboxing family. Not only was the sport hall good, but also the setup, the podium, the medals and trophies were great.





When being in a place like Rimini with many small hotels, it is always with some excitement how the logistics will be. The result was good due to precise and great planning. The logistics worked, the food was good and in general, when handling approximately 2.500 people I must say I am satisfied with the event, in total. We have a job to do to constantly publish the results and



to build enthusiasm for those who are not present.

The online streaming was important this year as well and led to publicity. In total 13.500 people streamed the Championship. It is a great number, but it also tells about the possibility we have using the social media in advertising. All continents in WAKO were present and some countries as expected, like Russia, Italy, Hungary and Ireland took a big bite of the cake. However, I think it is my duty to also mention those who really produced results, more than expected.

-**Turkey** has created a power that few countries can match. They control all disciplines and for the first time in history they got a gold in Light Contact.

-**Mexico** was a surprise. They entered with a big team and dominated partly in tatami and especially in Point Fighting.

Several medals and a good performance in the Team Fight show that Mexico will be a dominating country from Pan-Am. A great team, an infectious enthusiasm and a good spirit. Looking forward to see them again next year.

**-Bulgaria;** What has happened? Suddenly they were all over, producing medals. I was surprised especially in the Point Fighting and in the Team Fight you saw how good they have become. I will indeed watch carefully their development. Watch out!

**-South Africa;** a big team with great athletes. Always doing their best and so very polite in all they do. I really hope we will see more medals from them. Pat, you have a great team!

**-Madagascar;** I was so proud. For the first time a gold in a Championship. Not only one, but two. Their team and their President almost “exploded” by the result. Not only that, their fighter in Kick-Light, also received the prize for the best male athlete in Kick-





Light. We know already that the Isle of Mauritius produces fantastic athletes, but now Madagascar have emerged. Watch out! Congratulations to Briand Andrianirina and his great team.

**-Oceania; New Zealand sent a great team and I was indeed surprised to see the team from Australia.** For many years we have missed their participation. Great to have you with us and I really hope that you got inspired from this event

In short, WAKO has a great future! May I congratulate all the athletes and the medalists in particular.





When seeing the faces of victory and the joy of winning, I get proud. When observing the disappointment in their losses, whether in the final or in the eliminations, I get emotional and it shows the dedication and the love for the sport, even for ten-year-old cadets.

My advice for all those who are disappointed—learn from it. It will make you a winner. You are all winners as you all show sportsmanship.

# RIMIDI





# WAKO EUROPE PRESIDENT VISITING GREECE

## European Championship 2016 will be held in Athens, Greece



The President of the Greek Federation Mr. Mike Triantafillou awards Mr. Borislav Pelevic

WAKO European Board of Directors, on the meeting in Maribor, decided that the next European Championship 2016 (full contact, light contact, point fighting and musical forms) will be in Athens, Greece.

The President of Panhellenic Kickboxing Federation, Mr. Mike Triantafillou, invited Mr. Borislav Pelevic, WAKO Europe President to visit Athens and check a sport hall and hotels which will host the European Championship.

At the same time, he asked Mr. Pelevic to be a guest on Panhellenic Championship in Kickboxing.

Mr. Borislav Pelevic inspected the sport hall, which is the sport hall of the famous basketball club Olimpiakos. The hall is huge, and has 12. 000 seats. All hotels reserved for accommodation are very close to the sport hall and only five km from the center of Athens, one of the oldest cities in the world, rich in historical and cultural heritage. The sport hall and hotels are new, built for the Olympic Games 2004. Mr. Pelevic was very satisfied with all that he had seen.

On the national Greek Championship-the Panhellenic Kickboxing Championship, there were 1600 participants from 252 clubs. The fights were very good and Greece, with Mr. Mike Triantafillou as the President, has made big steps forward in the past few years, in the quality of work in all segments.



## THE BEST PRESIDENTS

Interview with **Mr. Salim Kayıcı**,  
the President of the Turkish  
Kickboxing Federation,  
WAKO IF Board member,  
WAKO Europe Vice-President

# GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL NATION

➔ **1. Turkey has one of the most successful national teams in WAKO. What is the secret of that success?**

- First of all, I want to thank the President of the Republic of Turkey, Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, our Prime Minister and the Minister of Sports for big support. We, as a sport federation, do not have any financial problems. We always come to tournaments as a complete team. So, our fighters can always try all they can to develop themselves.

Since 2006 we have been a member of WAKO, and on this occasion we want to thank Mr. Borislav Pelevic who is WAKO Europe President, because he was the first from WAKO who held seminars in our federation.

Since that time, kickboxing in Turkey has always been improving. And now, kickboxing is one of the most popular sports in our country.

We are in the 5th place among all Olympic and non-Olympic sports considering the number of athletes in our country.

If you are asking how kickboxing has become a popular sport in Turkey, the answer is: As Turkish Kickboxing Federation we are a huge family and we run our federation in a family environment. This family environment is our secret for success.



➔ **2. How many incorporated clubs, how many competitors do you have in the federation?**

- We have electronic registrations; we have more than 130.000 official athletes, more than 3000 clubs and more than 2000 official referees, and over 2500 official coaches. We regularly hold seminars and courses for them and often travel all around Turkey to promote kickboxing.

This year, the Sport Federation of the University of Turkey has approved kickboxing and in 2015 we will have the First Turkey University Kickboxing Championship. We have received registrations from 69 Universities. We have kickboxing lessons at the universities. On the most of these Universities our athletes study. And there is one more thing that is important: all our athletes who compete in the European and World Championships receive scholarships from the government. That money, provided that they do not fail the exams, they are not obliged to pay back. And, if they win any medals on these Championships, they can directly enroll in the University of Sports.

We have established our pride system for successful athletes, who win medals.

As a federation and a country, we are investing in our athletes, in our youth.

→ **3. What are the plans for the future?**

- First of all, we are trying to get kickboxing into primary and secondary schools, like optional classes. It is clear that if we start from that level, we will have more competitors and more quality.

What is more, we need recognition from the International University Sports Federation (FISU).

Furthermore, we also need to participate in Military schools and courses.

Competing on the Mediterranean Games is also important for us.

And most of all, we have to work on realizing our dream: getting a recognition of the IOC.

We are ready for this and we are prepared to do what is necessary to get that recognition.

We are waiting for the results of the IOC.

But it is not enough that these things happen only in Turkey. If we want success in WAKO, all around the world, among WAKO members we have to have the same standards of achievement. Gaining the standards in our work in WAKO is very important. The standards in organizing continental and world championships are also very important. Financing is, unfortunately, one of the key words of success.

We have our scoring system in Turkey, our system for athlete registration. We can control all



competitors from one place. And all the information is on our web site. Everything is very transparent. We cannot allow mistakes.

We also have a professional department in kickboxing and it is recognized by the government, and our plan is to make better results in the professional league under WAKO, as WAKO PRO.

Kickboxing is our world. We are doing our best to make this sport better. As you can see, we are investing hard work, knowledge and money to make our competitors, referees and trainers better. WAKO is the only respectful organization representing kickboxing in Turkey. We do not allow other federations or organizations to do kickboxing in our country, as long as we are representing WAKO. We are under the government of Turkey, as a representative and official sport federation.

→ **4. What is your personal dream in your career in federation?**

- Before I retire, I want to see kickboxing as an Olympic sport. If you don't have a dream you cannot manage it.

When we reach this level, we can say that we have succeeded.

M.P.

The President of the Turkish Kickboxing Federation, a member of the Board of the WAKO IF and the Vice president of the WAKO Europe, Mr. Salim Kayıcı with the President of the Republic of Turkey Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and national athlete Ramazan Çiçek, 2013 World Champion





## THE BEST REFEREES

An interview with **Michaela Kovachova**, the best female referee WAKO has today



# A BEAUTY

as a judge was at the end of 2008. I did well at the job, so the next year I started to do international competitions.

I travelled everywhere with my team, happy to have had a chance to be able to stay in my sport, dedicated to my new job.

I was very surprised when last year the European Committee for ring sports decided to give me an award, because I am young and as you know, you can always do better. In Brazil, I have also received a reward for the best female referee, and I am so proud of that. It is very hard for women to be in the ring between two big guys and have their respect. You have to stand behind your decisions, otherwise they won't listen to you.

### → **Have you ever had any funny situations during fights?**

- Sure, they always happen in the ring. For me it was so embarrassing when I fell down between the fighters because it was slippery. Also, once it was near the end of the round, the fighters wanted to punch each other and I was in the middle. But, it's a miracle I never received a punch from the fighters.

### → **Are you sometimes afraid in the ring?**

- No. I used to be a fighter, so I know exactly what is happening in the ring. I enjoy that time during the fight, even though I am not fighting. I am not afraid. When your decisions are right, respect is the most important thing.

### → **Are you proud of the WAKO rewards?**

- Of course. I still can't believe that I've got them. But it was said that my decisions in judging were as good as of more experienced, older judges, right in time, even though I am much

### → **How did you get involved in WAKO? Tell us something about yourself.**

- I started kickboxing in 2005. I was good at trainings, so my trainer suggested that I try competing. I started competing in tatami sports but after some time, they took me to the ring. Half a year afterwards, there I was competing in Low Kick and K-1.

In 2008 I got a very bad injury with a broken bone under my eye so competing was finished for me. I was very upset and sad because I would never be in the ring again, in the sport that I love, so my trainer gave me a chance to become a referee.

At first, I didn't want to be a judge, but that was the only chance for me.

So, I said OK and during the time of my recovery I started to learn. My first appearance

# AMONG THE BEASTS



younger. I try to do my best all the time, and I learn from each championship. Every time I analyse both the problems and good decisions, so every championship gives us new knowledge.

→ **What discipline do you love most to judge?**

- Most of all, K-1. It is attractive and dynamic, full of punches and kicks. With more power, of course. Nevertheless, I must say that I love all the categories.

→ **How do you see yourself, let's say, 20 years from now?**

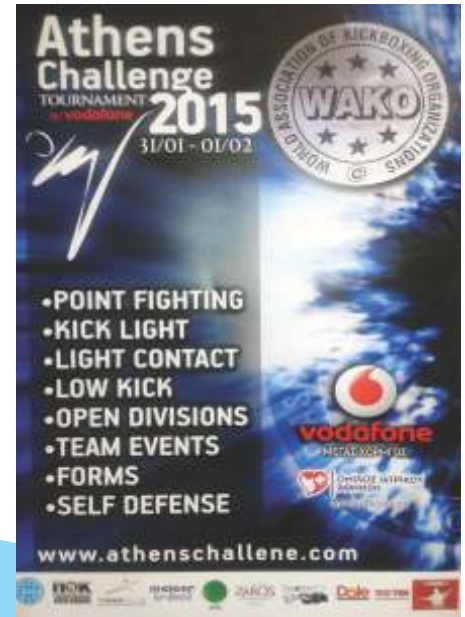
- I see myself here, at the same place. I respect WAKO, I love what I do, and I'll do it as long as I can. Maybe in the future, I will come up with some new ideas for a better work.

M.P.





# ATHENS CHALLENGE 2015



The beginning of the year was reserved for the traditional tournament Athens Challenge. All these years the organizer gave all the best to make this championship successful so this time, again, we enjoyed good fights and great atmosphere.

Two days of competition, 31st January and 1st February, the beautiful sport hall was full of 987 participants from 19 countries: Russia, Ukraine, Italy, Ireland, UK, Poland, Bulgaria, Turkey, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Holland, Croatia, Norway, Hungary, Albania, Scotland, Cyprus and Greece.

There were 10 tatamies and 1 ring.

This competition was the chance to check quality of 46 referees, so the best referees were announced. There were even 26 international referees.

*Text and photos  
NIKOS MEMMOS*



# MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT "LJUPČO NEDELKOVSKI" WAS HELD IN MACEDONIA



**Meeting about signing the Cooperating Protocol in the Macedonian Olympic Committee**

The Memorial Kickboxing Tournament "Ljupco Nedelkovski" was held in the sports hall "Captain Kirco Dimitriov" in Vinitsa, a small town in Macedonia, was attended by many visitors.

On the tournament fighters from Serbia, Turkey and Macedonia took part, and the tournament went in absolute domination of the Macedonian kickboxers.

The highlight of the evening was the fight in K1 81kg where the European Championship, the Macedonian fighter Miki Ivanovski beat the

**Mr. Salim Kayici and Miss Aleksandra Nedelkovska at the Opening ceremony**



multiple champion of Turkey, Oguz Seker -86kg and took the title for the best kickboxer.

In other fights: Alexander Dimovski MKD and Fatih Yildiz TU (up to 91 kg in low kick) finished 2:1, Lazar Todorovic SRB- Turgut Kosakoja TU in K1 (86 kg) 0:3 K.O., Stojanche Tsvetkovski MKD - Aykut Tonkal TU (low kick, -86 kg) 1:2 , Dimitar Gjorgjiev MKD a golden boy from two world championships, against Muhamed Yildiz (low kick -81kg) beat 3:0 .

The tournament was in organization of the Macedonian Kickboxing Federation and JP "Win Sports", with the support of the Council and the local government of the Municipality of Vinitsa. The first tournament "Ljupco Nedelkovski" was held in 2010 and is in honour of the President of the Federation Kickboxing and the kickboxing promoter Ljupco Nedelkovski.

The best part of this event was signing the Agreement of Cooperation between the Turkish and Macedonian Kickboxing Federations for four years. It was signed by the Presidents, Miss. Aleksandra Nedelkovska and Mr. Salim Kayici, in the presence of the General Secretary Sasho Popovski and the Sporting Director Vladimir Bogoevski.

Miss Aleksandra Nedelkovska and Mr. Salim Kayici were received by the Director of Macedonian Agency of Youth and Sport Mr. Marjan Spaseski. The Director Spaseski was satisfied with the visit of Mr. Salim Kayici and his team.



# WAKO Calendar 2015



WAKO Ranking	Date From	Date To	Name	Country	Venue	City
January						
B	17	18	Golden Glove	Italy	Conegliano Veneto (TV) Palazzetto Sport	Conegliano Veneto (TV)
B	31	1st Feb	Athens Challenge	Greece	Olympic Tae Kwon Do Arena	Athens
February						
B	7	8	KARLOVAC OPEN (WAKO European Cup)	Croatia	SPORT HALL "MLADOST"	KARLOVAC
C	20	21	Slovak Open 2014-Memorial of Ladislav "Doky" Tóth	Slovakia	Sport's hall Stiavnicky	Banska Bystrica
March						
A	6	8	WAKO World Cup - Irish Open International (Official WAKO Referee Worlds/Europeans)	Ireland	Citywest Conference Centre	Dublin
B	13	15	SERBIA OPEN (WAKO European Cup)	Serbia	Sport center "Sumice"	Belgrade
C	20	21	German Open 2015	Germany	Gymnasiumturnhalle	96106 Ebern
C	20	21	Czech Open K1, FC	CZ		Prague
C	27	29	Latvia Open 2015	Latvia	Br?v?bas iela 14	Ventspils
B	28	29	Point Fighting Cup	Italy	Pala Borsani	Castellanza (VA)
April						
C	10	12	Ocean State Grand National Karate Championships	USA	Crowne Plaza Hotel	Warwick, RI
C	10	12	European Cup Sweden	Sweden		
C	4	4	Bosnia and Herzegovina Open	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Sport hall "Luke"	Bihac
A	24	26	WAKO World Cup - The Austrian Classics (Official WAKO Referee Worlds/Europeans)	Austria	Olympic Hall Innsbruck	Innsbruck/Tirol
B	30th	3rd May	POLISH OPEN (WAKO European Cup)	POLAND	SPORT HALL	KRYNICA-ZDRÓJ
May						
C	2	3	KBH International Masters	Austria	Kalsdorf Sports Hall	Kalsdorf
C	2	3	8 star tournament	Norway	Bjolsenhallen	Oslo
C	3	3	MT "Alpe Adria Open"	Croatia	Sport Hall "Veli vrh"	Pula
B	15	16	Dutch Open	The Netherlands	Emergohal	Amstelveen
A	14	17	WAKO World Cup - Kick Box World Cup (Official WAKO Referee Worlds/Europeans)	Hungary	Sport Hall	Szeged
C	23	23	ASVO Junior Challenge	Austria	Sportshall Mattersburg	Mattersburg
June						
A	5	7	WAKO World Cup - Bestfighter (Official WAKO Referee Worlds/Europeans)	Italy	105 Stadium	Rimini
C	13	13	BALKAN OPEN 2015	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Sport hall Tešanj	Tešanj
July						
	3	4	US Open	USA	Disney Corrinado Springs Hotel (Conference Center)	Orlando, Florida
August						
WAKO	29th	5th Sep.	WAKO Cadets/Juniors European Championships (All Disciplines)	Spain	Sport Hall	San Sebastian
Sep						
A	21	27	World World Cup - Diamond	Russia	Sport hall "Volleygrad"	Anapa
B	26	27	Flanders International Kickboxing Cup 2014	Belgium	De Meerminnen	Beveren Waas
Oct						
C	12	13	Czech-Open International Kickboxing Tournament	Czech Rep.	Arena Sparta Prague Hall	Prague
C	4	5	Scandanavian Open	Norway	Bjolsenhallen	Oslo
WAKO	24	31	WAKO Senior World CHAMPIONSHIPS (K1 Rules - Low Kick - Kick Light)	Serbia	Sportshall "Pionir", "Kombank Arena"	Belgrade
C	25	25	MT "Kutina Open"	Croatia	Sport Hall " Kutina"	Kutina
Nov						
C	7	8	31st Slovenia Open 2014	Slovenia	City Sport Hall Zagorje	Zagorje ob Savi
WAKO	21	29	WAKO Senior World Championships (Point - Full - Light - Forms)	Ireland	City West	Dublin
Dec						
	10	13	9th South American Championships	Chile	Sport Hall	Santiago
B	12	13	Croatia Open	Croatia	TBD	TBD



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www.irishopenonline.com	Roy Baker	roy.baker@airtricity.com	353876775614
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www.wako-deutschland.de	WAKO Germany – and Jürgen Schorn	wakodeutschland@online.de	0049 – 171 – 2814 123
www.csfu.cz	Czech Fullcontact Union	janfrana@csfu.cz	
www.budo.lv	WAKO Latvia	budo@dza.lv	+371 29219443
www.pointfightingcup.com	Andrea Ongaro	kickboxingandre@libero.it	393472615259
www.oceanstategrandnational.net	Don & Christine Rodrigues	DRKA111@aol.com	401-737-2809
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# WE WILL MEET AGAIN IN SPAIN

Cadets and  
juniors in quest  
for medals in  
San Sebastian



The next WAKO European Championships for juniors and cadets will be held in 2015 in the town of San Sebastian in Spain. Preserving the good practice of the high level organization of kickboxing championships, WAKO Spain has accepted a very delicate job of promoting the next European Championships for juniors and cadets. Knowing the great number of participants in this kind of championship and the needs of this age group of competitors, our WAKO friends from Spain Borja Mendioroz and Joxe Eguzkiza will have to work really hard to make another great WAKO event.

As a part of their journey to Spain, the WAKO IF officials, Mr. Espen Lund, Mr. Borislav Pelević and Mr. Salim Kayici, had the opportunity to visit the town of San Sebastian, which will host the next year's European Championships for juniors and cadets.

The WAKO officials had a meeting with Mr. Juan Carlos Izaguirre, the mayor of San Sebastian and Mr. Joze Ruiz, the councilor of San Sebastian. They have introduced to the WAKO officials all the work done so far promoting the European Championships. The WAKO officials had a chance to visit three sport venues which are very good. One of them will be selected to host the European Championships next year.

And while San Sebastian, or Donostia, as its inhabitants originally called it, is preparing to become the European capital of culture for 2016, let this great WAKO event become an introduction to it.



# WAKO PRO EVENT



## SOUL NIGHT OF CHAMPIONS

NOVI SAD, SERBIA - 18/12/2014

**On Thursday, December 18, 2014 in the city of Novi Sad WAKO PRO had another spectacular promotion.**

This time it was the event "Soul Night of Champions" promoted by Mr. Darko Popivoda, the president of the promoting company "Mega Promotion System" in cooperation with the Kickboxing Federation of Novi Sad and the Serbian Kickboxing Federation and all under the patronage of the city of Novi Sad. In front of 3.500 spectators and live TV broadcast on TV B92 from Serbia and

TV Mreza from Croatia the fighters really did their best and made another memorable evening.

In the opening programme the audience could see three very good fights.

The first one was in the Low Kick division where better of the two young fighters from Serbia was Luka Spremo. After three very hard rounds he defeated by a split decision Milos Keljanovic.

The second fight was a ladies fight in K1 rules, 70 kg between two Serbian silver medalists from the last European Championships in Bilbao. Better one this time was Aleksandra Krstic, a silver medalist in K1 rules, 70 kg. She defeated Tijana Srdic, a silver medalist from Bilbao in Low Kick, 70 kg.

The third fight was in Low Kick, 86 kg. A very good and experienced fighter from Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denis Marjanovic defeated by RSCH young Serbian fighter Milos Markovic.



WAKO PRO EUROPEAN  
TITLE IN K1 RULES,  
81.400 kg

## Vidovic (Serbia) vs. Szabo (Hungary)



The first of the three main fights of the evening was for WAKO PRO European title between Laszlo Szabo from Hungary and Miljan Vidovic from Serbia.

That was a real war. Both fighters with very aggressive style showed to all why they are among the best at the moment. During the first round Miljan Vidovic got an injury on his left shin bone. It was a huge cut that gave him a lot of problems during the next four rounds. Laszlo Szabo managed to come close and deliver some hard punches. Miljan Vidovic tried to keep distance. After four rounds they were almost equal on scoring papers but then the fight was decided in the last round. Miljan Vidovic did his best in the last three minutes and that was a little bit more that Laszlo could do.



### The judges scored:

Marco Pacor from Italy  
49:48 for Vidovic

Michaela Kovachova from Slovakia  
49:48 for Szabo

Jelena Kuburic from Serbia  
50:46 for Vidovic

Winning by a split decision Vidovic became a new WAKO PRO European Champion in K1 rules, 81.400 kg.

WAKO PRO EVENT

# WAKO PRO DEBUT OF DARKO MILICIC (the former NBA star)

WAKO PRO EVENT



**The second of the main fights was a debut of a former NBA star, a winner of the NBA Championship with Detroit Pistons, Darko Milicic in WAKO PRO K1 rules.**

His opponent was Radovan Radojcin, a young Serbian fighter. That was a clash of the titans. Radovan Radojcin with his 197 cm and 95 kg is not a small man but when he stood in front of Darko Milicic with his 213 cm and 138 kg he looked like a baby...

But the height and weight of Milicic did not scare him. He accepted an open fight from the very beginning. In the first round they both exchanged many kicks, some of which were really good, strong and precise. Milicic was going forward pushing Radojcin with strong middle kicks and punches mostly with his left hand. Radojcin's answer were low kicks. Unfortunately, like in the

previous fight, almost in the same place as Vidovic, Milicic got an injury. After the first round the official doctor managed to close this cut but in the first part of the second round it opened again and that was the end of the first kickboxing fight of the former second pick on the NBA draft.

The winner by RSC was Radovan Radojcin.



Darko Miličić signed the contract with WAKO PRO



WAKO PRO WORLD  
TITLE IN LOW KICK, 88.600 kg

## Pagonis (Serbia) vs. Preteni (Croatia)



The main event of the evening, WAKO PRO World title bout in Low Kick, 88.600 kg, proved what all had been expecting - Nenad Pagonis from Serbia and Agron Preteni from Croatia are the best two fighters at the moment in this weight class.

They presented everything beautiful that kickboxing can bring us. The tempo, hard punches, astonishing kicks, technique were the elements of this brilliant fight.

Nenad Pagonis started from the first round to keep Preteni at a distance and to score points with precise kicks and punches. Preteni went forward and tried to lessen the distance. He managed to do it a couple of times in the first three rounds but on many occasions he was stopped by Nenad's right hook. The first three rounds were under the domination of Nenad Pagonis. In the fourth round Preteni finally reached his target and Pagonis

was in a big trouble. That was the round he lost. In the fifth Preteni did his best but that was not enough.

### The judges scored:

Marco Pacor from Italy  
49:48 for Pagonis  
Michaela Kovachova from Slovakia  
49:47 for Pagonis  
Jelena Kuburic from Serbia  
49:46 for Pagonis

The referee was Zoran Simurina from Serbia.

The supervisor of the whole event was Srdjan Bugarcic, WAKO PRO Technical Supervisor.

**The most important fact, beside the great fights, fair play and true spirit of kickboxing, is that live broadcast on TV B92 reached the number of almost 1.200.000 viewers.**

S.B.



WAKO PRO EVENT

# WAKO PRO WORLD TITLE IN FULL CONTACT, 85 kg

MAKARSKA,  
CROATIA  
13/12/2014

## MISKOVIC (CROATIA) VS. DECKMAN (GERMANY)



On December 13, 2014, the town of Makarska in Croatia hosted WAKO PRO World title bout in full contact division, 85 kg. The promoter of the event was Mr. Pero Gazilj under the patronage of the Croatian Kickboxing Federation. This title bout was held during the gala night of prestige WAKO Kickboxing Tournament "Croatia Open".

In front of 2.500 spectators the fighters showed their best performance in one of the most difficult and most beautiful kickboxing disciplines, Full Contact. The bout ended on scoring papers which means that all of the

spectators could see twelve very exciting rounds of kickboxing.

Both fighters started the fight easily in the first couple of opening rounds. They both tried to save some energy for the entire fight. But also from the very beginning we could see some hard punches and kicks. Bojan Miskovic (Croatia) was better at the beginning. In the middle of the fight Marco Deckman ( Germany ) showed his power and caught Miskovic a couple of times with some hard punches. On the other hand, Miskovic managed to keep distance and stay focused until the very end of the fight.

The last four rounds decided the winner since Bojan Miskovic was better and he showed more in that time than Marco Deckman. Miskovic showed all he knew in the last round and that was enough to win the title.

**The judges scored:**

Rinaldo Piccoloti from Bosnia and Herzegovina 119:114

Raffaele Aveni from Italy 118:116

Davor Milakovic from Croatia 118:115

All in favour of the new WAKO PRO World Champion from Croatia Bojan Miskovic.

The referee in this fight was Tomislav Novosel from Croatia and the supervisor was Zoran Simurina from Serbia.

S.B.

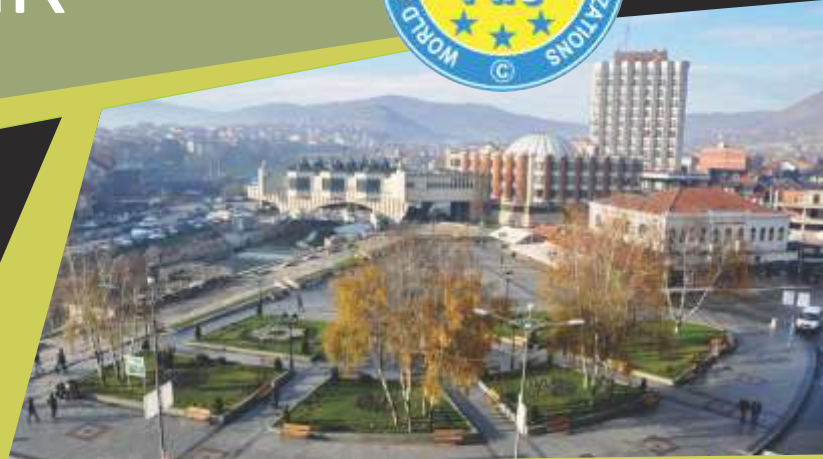


**WAKO PRO EVENT**



# A SPECTACLE IN NOVI PAZAR

SERBIA  
28/12/2014



WAKO PRO European Champion Saida Bukvic with her team and World Boxing Cruiserweight Champion Marco Huck (in the middle)

**In front of 2.500 spectators in the city of Novi Pazar, Serbia, WAKO PRO had its last event in a very successful 2014**

WAKO PRO EUROPEAN  
TITLE IN LOW KICK 52,00kg

## Saida Bukvic (Serbia) vs. Maria Singh (Finland)



In front of 2.500 spectators in the city of Novi Pazar, Serbia WAKO PRO had its last event in a very successful 2014.

This time we had two WAKO PRO European titles on the table.

The first one was in female low kick division, 52 kg between Maria Singh from Finland and Saida Bukvic from Serbia.

The fight started very slowly and both fighters tried to make their "own game" from the beginning. Saida tried to do more with punches and to use her boxing skills. Maria was all round very well covered and was focused on low kicks.

We had the same situation in the second and third round, too. After the third round hard low

kicks from Maria started to work since it was very visible on Saida's front leg that she was in serious trouble.

But she managed to keep distance and to be safe from low kicks in the next round. In the last one both fighters did their best but it looked like Saida did it a little bit better since in the end the judges scored for her:

Zoran Simurina from Serbia 49:49, better in the last round Saida Bukvic

Georgi Georgiev from Bulgaria 49:47 for Saida Bukvic

Ilia Spasov from Bulgaria 50:48 for Saida Bukvic

The new WAKO PRO European Champion in low kick female, 52 kg is Saida Bukvic from Serbia.

WAKO PRO EUROPEAN  
TITLE IN LOW KICK 54,00kg

## Ajla Lukac (Serbia) vs. Valentina Murgia (Italy)



The second WAKO PRO title was in low kick female division, 54 kg between Ajla Lukac from Serbia and Valentina Murgia from Italy.

The first round started very actively and aggressively from both fighters. Valentina was from the beginning all in fight, very motivated to win the title.

After the first round which was equal till the very end of the fight there was only one fighter between the ropes. That was Valentina Murgia. She was superior and she gave very hard time to Ajla. She was better in all aspects of the fight and at the end there was no question who was the winner:

Goran Simurina from Serbia 49:47 for  
Valentina Murgia

Georgi Georgiev from Bulgaria 49:47 for  
Valentina Murgia

Ilia Spasov from Bulgaria 49:48 for  
Valentina Murgia

The new WAKO PRO European Champion in low kick female, 54 kg is Valentina Murgia from Italy.

The supervisor of the event was Srdjan Bugarcic, WAKO PRO Technical Supervisor.

S.B.



# WAKO PRO EUROPEAN TITLE IN LOW KICK, 75 kg

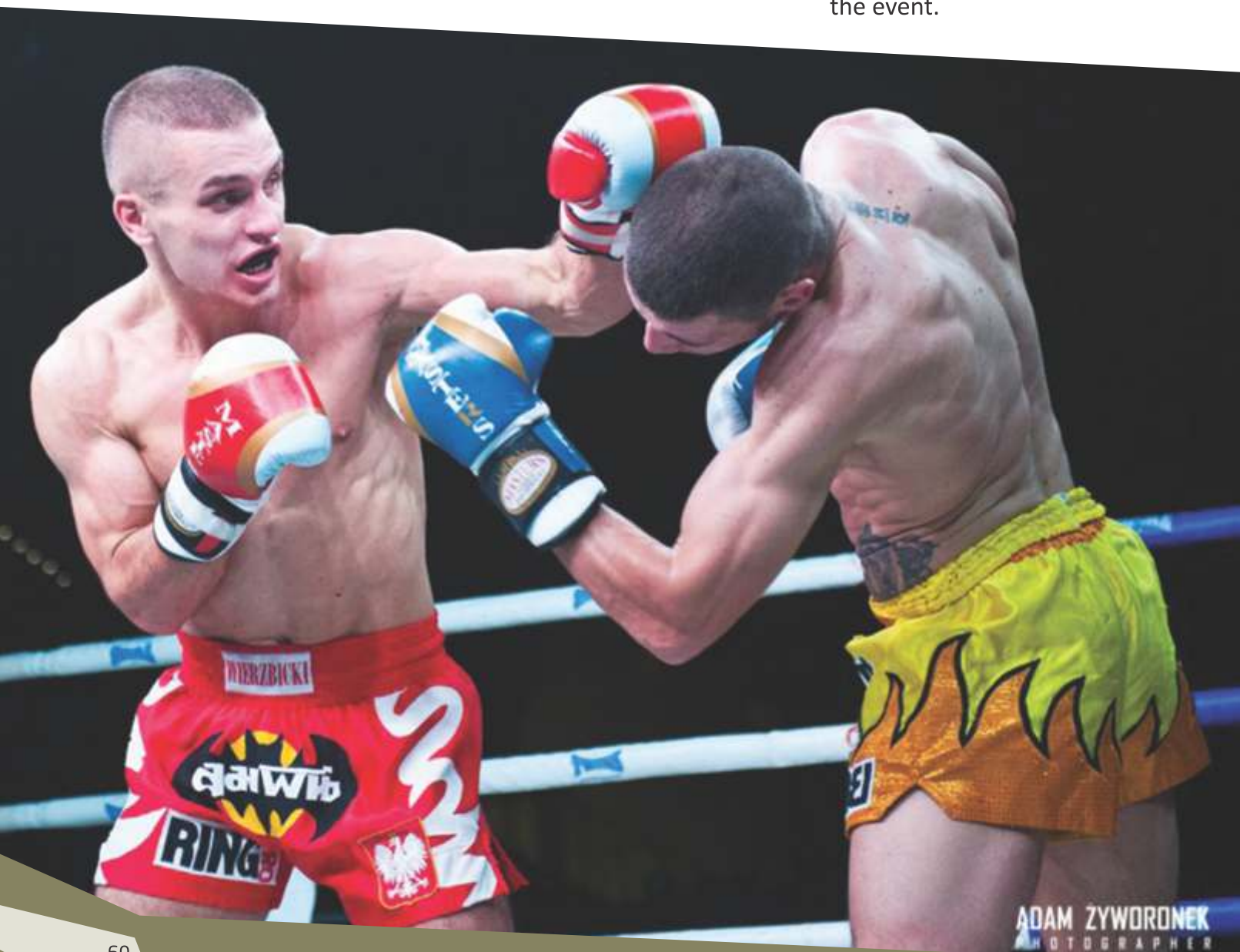


## Andrenaci (Italy) vs. Werzbicki (Poland)

ZGORZELEC, POLAND - 13/12/2014

On December 13, 2014, the town of Zgorzelec in Poland hosted WAKO PRO European title bout in low kick division, 75 kg. The promoter of the event was Mr. Krzysztof Szyrma under the patronage of the Poland Kickboxing Federation.

The event took place in a brand new venue "Turow arena" that had been opened just a couple of weeks before the event.



ADAM ZYWORONEK  
PHOTOGRAPHER



In front of 2.000 spectators the fighters had a great night and showed to the audience why kickboxing is one of the most interesting sports today.

The main event was WAKO PRO European title bout in low kick division under 75 kg, between Wojcieh Werzbicki, a challenger from Poland and Andrea Andrenacci, a champion from Italy.

Both fighters did not start the fight easily. From the very beginning we could see hard punches and kicks. Both of them wanted to finish the fight as soon as possible. But, unfortunately for them and to great pleasure for the spectators, that was not possible. We all had the pleasure to enjoy five great rounds of kickboxing. The referee in charge Mr. Hajducki from Poland had nothing to do, he gave his command only a couple of times during the entire fight.

The first round ended with a slight advantage for the champion Andrenacci. The

second one was equal. The third and fourth were a real "war" with many punches and hard low kicks from both sides. During these rounds the challenger was better. The last one gave us the same like previous one, a lot of exchange of punches in the first place. Both fighters were in perfect shape for this event so we had a decision of judges in the end.

The judge from Slovakia Michaela Kovachova scored 48:47.

The judge from Czech Republic Jan Frana scored 49:48.

The judge from Poland Waldemar Liezynski scored 50:47.

All in favour of the new WAKO PRO European Champion Wojcieh Werzbicki from Poland.

The supervisor of the event was Srdjan Bugarcic, WAKO PRO Technical Supervisor.

S.B.





European Championship in Bilbao, Spain, was the opportunity to meet again WAKO's old friend, sponsor and equipment supplier, Mr. Peter Kruckenhauser, and talk with him about the Top Ten brand, his family and plans for the future.

## TOP TEN a brand among the winners



*Mr. Peter Kruckenhauser  
at his equipment store in a  
sport hall in Bilbao*

... I am very proud to have been a sponsor of WAKO for all these years, already counting 30, and I have seen WAKO in all its periods of growing. Since 1971 I have been a member of WAKO, and I am proud that **WAKO today is Number one for Kickboxing in the world.**

... Even in the last few years, let's say from the last SportAccord Games in Beijing, China, **WAKO has been growing into a serious and big federation.** We have members on all continents, and have full circle of disciplines, so with K-1 and low kick rules we have increased the number of participants on the Championships, so we are marked as the one and only respectable organization for martial sports. With K-1 and low kick, and with tatami disciplines as well, WAKO has become a respectable organization gathering a huge number of athletes.

... Since those old times till nowadays, we have always had a very good cooperation with WAKO. I am sure that there are so many ways to improve our connections. The only thing WAKO should do in the future, in my opinion, is **to find the best way to make an umbrella for all kickboxing federations in Europe and the World.** WAKO should do that

not only because of a better position, but also because of the complete infrastructure WAKO can use to improve its prestige and make a strong impact on developing this sport all around the world. That can help all of us involved in this sport. I am looking at these things from a business point of view, not only to enlarge my selling area but also to make a significant progress in the number of satisfied consumers of this sport and my equipment.

... Firstly, I have exclusivity in sponsoring WAKO. **I do not sponsor any other kickboxing federation.** It is not a matter of money, it is something you trust and believe in.

... Secondly, when we are talking about improving our cooperation, for sure it would be better to **change the schedule of competitions and events.** Too many events during the year in Europe. We need better timing and a better schedule.

... There is one more thing I want to point out: it should be taken care of that **we have the best referees and judges in charge on the European and World Championships.** There should be some system of elections of the referees, a point system of evaluating them, so everybody can be sure that the best in the profession are there.

... When it comes to the improving of the equipment, **we are always improving.** This is the main goal in my company. The last thing we changed were shin guards for K-1. This was done with a big help of the Serbian Federation, so I saw today in Bilbao that everybody was pleased with the new kind of shin guards. We are improving the gloves now, we have some new ideas, also with cooperation with AIBA, and we are also testing some new materials for head guard; in one word: we are working very hard to find the best equipment for the best performance. If we reach the goal of 3% of better impact, that will still not be enough. **My goal is at least 20% better, so we can still be the safest company in the world.**

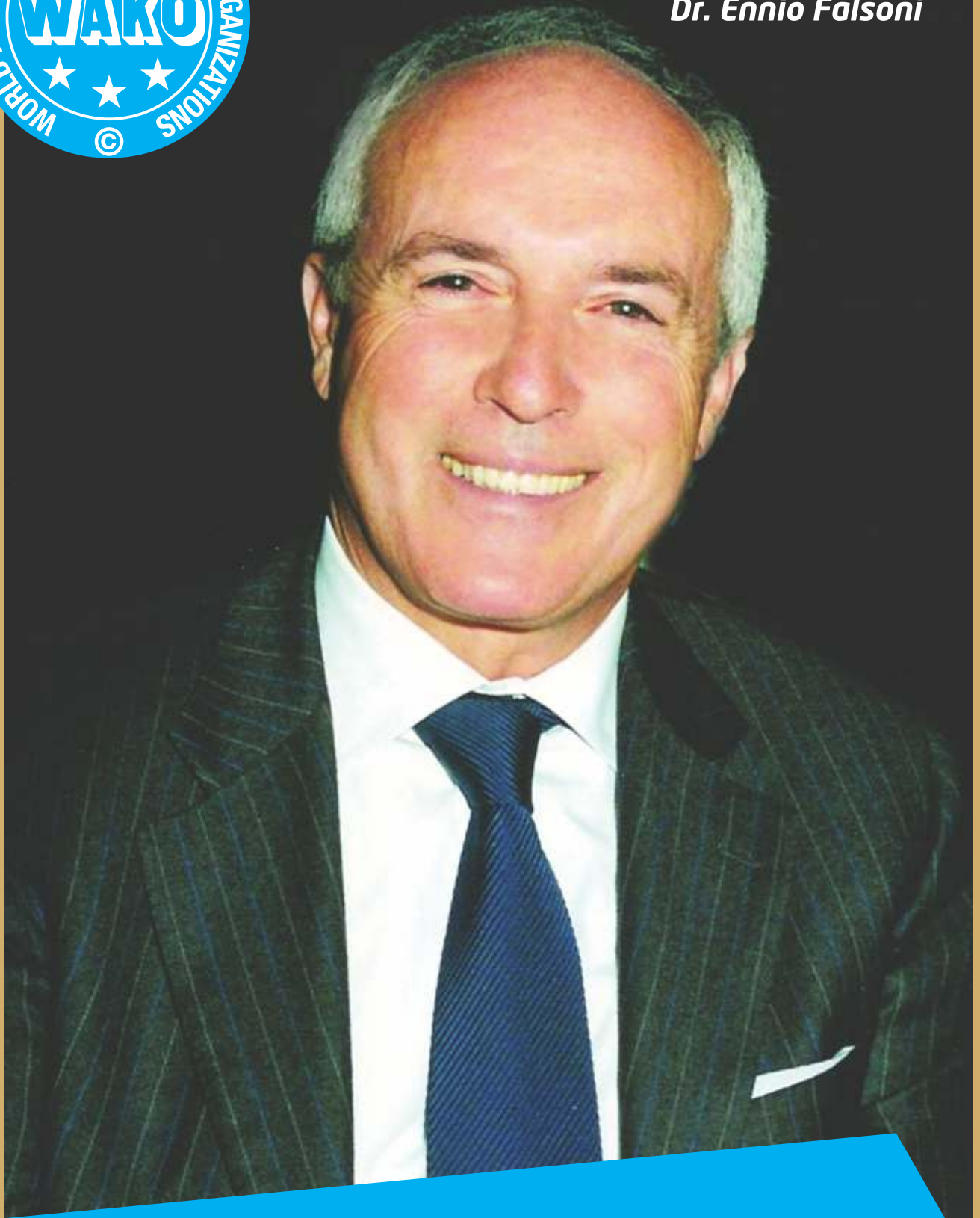
... It can be a good question for me whether somebody from my family is involved in kickboxing, knowing that I have two sons. The answer will be: Yes, I have two sons but, unfortunately, both of them are very busy with the studies at the University. One of them still practises kickboxing, but without significant success. He participates in national events, and this also pleases me. Honestly, I would love it if there came some significant success. But **I was a competitor for quite a long time, too,** from 1981 until the nineties. I won many championships in point fighting. I don't remember how many trophies I won. I also won a few fights in full contact and I was one of the first athletes who did continuous fighting. We from Austria did it in Hungary, where we had a great cooperation with Richard Leyrer. I was not so good on World Championships because there were stronger fighters than me (ha,ha,ha).

But, I do love this sport, I do love WAKO, my company is growing and improving with WAKO, and I believe that our cooperation will continue for many years in the future.

M.P.



**WAKO PRESIDENT**  
**Dr. Ennio Falsoni**



*Dear Ennio,  
we are waiting for You*

**Publisher:**  
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