

MINUTES OF ANNUAL DELEGATES' MEETING

58th Annual Delegates' Meeting of Badminton Europe Confederation Held on Saturday, 29th March 2025 at 10.00 CEST in at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Belgrade, Serbia.

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1.1. President's opening remarks

The BEC President, Sven Serré (SS), officially opened the 2025 Annual Delegates Meeting by welcoming the Members, partners and guests of Badminton Europe.

SS welcomed the Board of Directors and at the same time also informed the meeting of three apologies: BEC Vice-president, Andrey Antropov (AA), Chair of the BEC Athletes' Commission, Kai Schäfer (KS) and BEC Director, Jean-Marc Serfaty (JMS).

The Board of Directors and the BEC Staff were thanked for their great work in 2024.

Before continuing with the official business of the ADM, SS asked the meeting to remember former President of the Bulgarian Badminton Federation, Puzant Kassabian, who passed away in 2024. The meeting was asked to stand up for a moment of silence to honour Puzant Kassabian.

1.2. Appointment of scrutineers

Pernille Karholt and Torsten Berg were appointed as scrutineers.

1.3. Attendance

44 out of 50 Members, in good standing, had registered and were represented at the meeting (see attendance list attached). 45 members were in the meeting, one not allowed to vote, as the Power of Attorney had not been received in due time.

For the elections, it meant that 23 votes would qualify for simple majority and for Rule changes 30 votes would qualify for 2/3 majority.

1.4. To confirm that the Meeting has been properly convened and to approve the agenda.

SS informed the Delegates that the meeting papers were circulated to Members via email on the 7 March 2025 which respected BEC Rules.

It was confirmed that the meeting was properly convened, and the distributed agenda was approved.

2. TO CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE CONFEDERATION

2.1. The President's Review

SS reviewed the year 2024 referring to the BEC GLUE Vision (Grow, Lead, Unite, Excite).

The ambition of getting closer to and understand the needs and challenges of each Member was still in place and since he was elected as BEC President, he had visited or had personal talks with almost all the members in good standing.

The Members were thanked for their hospitality and many good and constructive talks.

The players were also thanked for all the good moments from various events.

SS finished the reporting by highlighting the main working points in 2024:

- Internal networking - Town hall, AGM BWF Chengdu, 2024 BEC Congress in Budapest
- Major events – European Men's & Women's Team Championships 2024 in Łódź, European Championships 2024 in Saarbrücken, European University Championships in Debrecen, Olympic Games and Paralympics in Paris, European Seniors in Heusden-Zolder, European U15 Championships in Suwalki, Small Nations in Cyprus, Diplomatic Event in Dubrovnik, European Mixed Team Championships Qualification in various locations and European Junior Championships in Ibiza
- Major projects – Team Europe project, Russian-Belarusian framework, website and data hub, staff conditions, and Implementation of the 2025-2028 Strategic Plan
- External Cooperation – BWF, EOC, EPC, EUSA and Special Olympics

SS finally reminded the ADM that he cannot do it alone – we are Together strong

2.2. The General Secretary's Report

Brian Agerbak (BA) presented an overview of the BEC Office and the staff in each of the functional areas. The Members were briefed on new staff, vacancies and the staff who left the organisation during 2024.

BA also highlighted some of the many Events, he attended during the year and thanked the Members and Event Organizer for their great work and hospitality. Current partners: Yonex, RSL, Unidamp and Sportradar were also thanked for the good cooperation during the year.

BA finished the General Secretary's Report by expressing his excitement with the many new projects: new website, data hub, new app, tournament management system and the BEC Strategic plan 2025-2028.

Highlights

- Strategic plan
- Office renovations and employee satisfaction
- Discovery phase for digital assets
- Stellis chosen to build new digital platform, App and Data hub
- Relaunch of Tournament Management System Tender
- New contract with Sportradar until and including 2030
- International TV-distribution agreement with BWF
- New agreement with Uni-damp
- Thanks to Yonex and RSL

BA expressed his appreciation for the good cooperation with Members.

There were no questions to the General Secretary's report from the meeting

2.3. Report Chair of Athletes' Commission

Brian Agerbak (BA) took the stage and presented the report for the Athletes' Commission on behalf of KS, who was unable to join the ADM.

Athletes' Commission Election will be held on 9 April during EC 2025 in Horsens

BA gave a brief presentation of the athletes up for election, and reminded the members that it was important to remind their athletes to vote at this election.

E-mail voting will be possible until 6th April and physical voting will take place in Horsens on 9th April.

BA informed the ADM that KS will be stepping down and acknowledged his strong contribution to BEC.

2.4. Report Chair of Business Committee

Robbert de Kock (RdK) briefly presented the report from the Business Committee.

RdK expressed his thanks to BA and Anders Hansen (AH) Communications Manager for their dedication to the projects at hand, and their work in 2024. RdK went on to thank AP for legal support on the many projects.

For Communication RdK highlighted:

The new BEC Website, which will go live shortly after the ADM. The development of the new website and app has been a very big project this year. The website is expected to go live in week 14 and the app will follow shortly thereafter.

The growth in SoMe numbers

Instagram grow 10% - video content is the most important

Facebook – still biggest platform – steadily increasing 14%

Youtube – 6,5% increase

Tournament coverage

World tour tournaments and European tournaments – more than 30 tournaments covered

For the Commercial area RdK highlighted

- New contract with Sportradar with great potential
- Yonex – long term partnership – great partnership
- RSL – Development partner
- Uni-damp – optimize durability of shuttles. Important product due to increased shuttlecock prices

RdK once again acknowledged AH and BA and also gave his thanks to the members of the Business Committee and the Partners.

There were no questions to the report from the meeting

2.5. Report Chair of Development Committee

Victoria Tsvetanova (VT) started her presentation by pointing out the Development Committee are covering a large range of projects and therefore only selected highlights would be presented.

For Member Support the 7 regional projects were delivered with the participation from 23 Members.

Annual Survey had the participation from 49 members and gave a great snapshot of European Badminton for us and hopefully Members.

In the area of High Performance, VT highlighted

- World Class Junior camp in Portugal
- RSL BEC Centre of Excellence – also used for the ADVANCE programme
- The High Performance Working Group whose hard work and recommendations lay the foundation for the continued development of the High Performance Center (formerly CoE)

We have great participation from the members with 41 members participating in the Shuttle time program, and a successful RSL BEC Summer School in Tallinn in 2024.

In the area of Para badminton VT highlighted the Para Event in Austria, with 28 participants from 13 members and the 12 Kick Start Projects from 12 members.

A high number of Coach Education and Tutor courses were delivered all over the continent.

VT also reported on the cooperation with the EU within the Erasmus+ programme with the Shuttlers program and the recent REFS (Recruitment and retention of young Technical Officials) programme.

Finally, VT acknowledged the hard work from the Development and High Performance Team in the office. She went on to thank the Members who host and attend the activities, the High Performance Working Group, the Development Committee and our partners from RSL and BWF.

There were no questions to the report from the meeting

2.6. Report Chair of Events Committee

Renna Unt (RU) took the meeting through the main event activities organised and delivered in 2024

91 Circuit Tournaments divided as follow:

- 32 Elite Circuit Tournaments

- 22 Tournaments supported by BEC with livestream and live coverage
- 27 Junior Circuit Tournaments
- 32 U17 Circuit Tournaments

Major Events

- 2024 European Championships, Saarbrücken, Germany
- 2024 European Men's and Women's Team Championships, Łódź, Poland
- 2024 European Senior Championships, Heusden-Zolder, Belgium
- 2024 European U15 Championships, Suwalki, Poland
- 2024 European Junior Championships, Ibiza, Spain
- 2024 EMTC Qualifications, England, Netherlands, Germany, Bulgaria, Spain

RU presented the new initiatives to increase the success of the events which includes, sharing the participation fee with the organizer, and introducing an entertainment concept applied to European Championships.

We were successful in delivering the largest ever European Senior Championship with 1.555 players

RU went on to acknowledge all the hard work delivered from the group of Technical Officials headed by SS. She expressed gratitude that we have a strong TO workforce.

For the upcoming events we are proud to announce the following:

29/11-7/12 2025	2025 U17 European Championships in Lanzarote, Spain
7-12/4 2026	2026 European Championships in Huelva, Spain
18-29/8 2026	2026 European Junior Championships in Tatabánya, Hungary
8-11/10 2026	2026 European U15 Championships in Straume, Norway

There were no questions to the report from the meeting

2.7. Report Chair of Governance Committee

The Chair of the Governance Committee, Andrej Pohar (AP) presented the report.

The Governance Committee had been handling many and important topics and cases during the year with below highlighting the most important ones:

- Strengthening governance practice
- Addressing key strategic objectives
- Transparency

AP presented the Governance Review, which identified the following long-term topics for discussion:

- Gender balance
- Term Limits
- BoD Remuneration
- BoD size
- Payments to Members

The Governance Committee have worked on a range of daily matters

- Updating processes, guidelines and procedures
- Contract support

AP thanked the Badminton England for putting forward the proposal for the BWF AGM, giving the possibility of Continental Confederations to make proposals at the BWF AGM.

The Governance Committee continues to review Disciplinary Actions and Members Standing, and continues to monitor the status of NBFR (Russia) & BBF (Belarus) – Not in good standing (status unchanged)

AP finalized his report by mentioning the upcoming Athletes' Commission Elections, and stressing the importance of having the Athletes involved in the BoD work. He also mentioned the new regulations which have been implemented in the area in 2024.

Ukraine asked a question for AP:

What if Russia starts to apply for athletes to compete within the framework? Ukraine would like to be involved in process as they can provide intelligence and information

AP replied that so far, we have not had any applications, and unfortunately, we have no further information on this. The framework has been adopted, allowing Russian

athletes to compete under neutral flag, and each case will be vetted by the BWF Panel. BEC will inform the BWF that Ukraine can provide intelligence on each case, should there be any applications.

Ukraine encouraged all members to block any player from those countries (Russia/Belarus).

AP noted that it is possible that Russia/Belarus can compete under a neutral flag, in the European Championships, but it is unlikely that this will happen as currently they would not qualify.

There were no further questions to the report from the meeting.

2.8. Report Chair of International Committee

Richard Vaughan (RVa) thanked the Members for the trust in him representing European interests at BWF level.

In his report he highlighted

- Olympic and Para Olympic games
 - o Viktors gold
 - o Carolina's devastating injury
 - o Para Olympic: More medals from different European Members
- Strengthening the collaboration with the BWF
 - o Advocate strongly against the Russia and Belarus
 - o Individual approach for players who has the right view on the war

RV closed his report with thanking his predecessor Joao Matos and his successor in the role Robbert de Kock (RdK).

3. CONSIDER AND APPROVE AUDITED ACCOUNTS 2024

3.1. Income & Expenditure Accounts 2024 with comparison to Income & Expenditure accounts 2024

The Director of Finance, Rémon Verbeek (RVe), presented the financial report, highlighting that the financial year 2024 ended with a surplus of approximately 104.000 €. A breakdown of the income and expenditures was also presented to the meeting.

There were no questions to the financial report from the meeting.

3.2. Balance sheet per 31 December 2024

RVe briefly presented the balance sheet.

There were no comments or questions from the meeting.

3.3. Auditor's Report 2024

Grant Thornton indicated that BEC follows good accounting principles, and that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of BEC.

Michael Watt from Badminton Ireland inquired about the BEC Reserve Policy.

RVe responded that in 2022 the Board discussed that having a Net Working Capital of the equivalent of one years expenditures is sufficient. This is in accordance with good accounting principles for organizations like BEC.

The meeting approved the financial report 2024.

3.4 Designated Reserve Strategy 2025-2028 ad € 400K

Given the strong financial situation and the ambitious new Strategy 2025-2028 RVe proposed to allocate € 400.000 of our total reserves to a designated reserve to implement BEC strategy 2025-2028 in the following three areas:

1. Digital transformation & Technology implementation (€ 75K)
2. Player & Coach Development (€ 250K)
3. Grassroots & Inclusivity Initiatives (€ 75K)

The proposal was approved unanimously.

4. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE BUDGET FOR 2025 AND CONSIDER FINANCIAL FORECASTS 2026 & 2027

RVe presented the budget for 2025 to the Meeting. A deficit of around 200.000 € is expected in 2025, mainly due to the investment in a Tournament Management System.

RVe also presented the forecasts of 2026 and 2027. In 2026 a small positive result of +€ 20.000 is predicted and in 2027 a negative result of - € 239.000. In the coming years we will explore how the development of the new website, app and tournament system could contribute to generate more income.

There were no comments or questions from the meeting. The budget 2025 was approved while the forecasts for 2026 and 2027 were considered.

Before the coffee break SS invited EUSA to the stage. EUSA thanked the BEC for excellent collaboration and presented SS and RJ with a plaque for their great work.

5. PROPOSALS

5.1. Slovak proposal to amend the BEC Rules – to introduce Gender Requirements.

The Slovak Badminton Federation proposes a change in the BEC Rules under section(s) 14.2 and 19.1-8 to introduce Gender Requirements in the Board of Directors.

After the coffee break SS welcomed the Slovak representative the stage to present the proposal.

Peter Tarcala presented the proposal on behalf of the Slovak Federation.

SS thanked Peter for the proposal and subsequently asked AP to bring the view of the board on the proposals.

AP presented the discussions the BEC BoD has had internally and with the Slovak Federation on the proposal, and stated why the Board recommends rejecting the proposal

Enda Lynch – Ireland posed the following questions

- Why are the Board voting against the proposal? Isn't that the Membership that has to vote and the Board has no votes
- Have there been any collaboration between the board and Slovak to discuss the motion and potentially find common ground

AP replied on behalf of the Board:

- Under the BEC bylaws the Board is allowed to express their voice. The Board is elected by the members to provide guidance and govern on their behalf.
- The BEC Board has had several meetings with Slovaks to find common ground, but little progress had been made

Sue Storey – Badminton England commented that the proposal was a step in the right direction although not perfect. She considered it a proposal for women's equality, and recommended voting for the proposal.

BA explained the voting procedure. Members were called in alphabetical order to cast their vote.

The Scrutineers left the room to count the Votes.

While the votes were being counted, SS invited Türkiye Badminton Federation to the stage to present the upcoming European Para Badminton Championships in Türkiye. A video presentation was displayed.

SS invited president of Spanish Badminton Association: Andoni Azurmendi to present the European U17 Championship in 2025, which will be held in Lanzarote. A video presentation was displayed.

In 2026 the European Championships will be in Huelva, where Spain has organised other major events. A video presentation was displayed.

The Scrutineers returned to the room and passed the result of the voting to SS.

SS announced result of the voting with:

- Votes for: 21
- Abstain: 0
- Against: 22
- One vote was void.

The proposal was not approved.

SS confirmed to the meeting that a complete 'good governance proposal, including gender quotas' will be presented by the BoD at the 2026 ADM.

6. TO DETERMINE THE FEES FOR 2026

6.1. The Board of Directors proposes an unchanged administration fee unit of €210,-

There were no comments nor questions from the meeting.

The administration fee for 2026 was approved.

6.2. The Board of Directors proposes to maintain existing sanction fees

There were no comments or questions from the meeting.

The existing sanction fees were approved.

7. BOARD ELECTIONS

BA explained the procedure of the elections and asked the scrutineers to be ready for counting the votes.

The CVs of candidates were circulated to the Members together with the Annual Report.

7.1. Election of 1 DIRECTOR for the period 2025-2029

Richard VAUGHAN informed the BEC Membership during the BEC Members Forum 2025, that he withdraws his candidacy for BEC director position.

Spanish Badminton Federation proposes the election of

Mario CARULLA SCHULZ

Czech Badminton Federation proposes the election of

Petr MARTINEC

SS asked BA to take the meeting through the voting procedures. The Members were called to cast their vote.

The Scrutineers left the room to count the votes.

While the votes were being Counted SS invited Badminton Denmark to the stage to present the upcoming 2025 European Championship to be held in Horsens, Denmark. Kristian Langbak presented how Badminton Denmark will turn the European Championship into a world class event.

A short video presentation was displayed.

The scrutineers returned to the room and passed the result of the voting to SS.

Votes for Petr Martinec: 11

Votes for Mario Carulla Schulz: 33

Mario Carulla Schulz was elected as new Director of the BoD.

8. APPOINTMENT OF AN AUDITOR FOR THE YEAR 2025

The Board of Directors proposes the re-appointment of **Grant Thornton (Denmark)**

There were neither objections nor questions from the Meeting and the proposal was approved.

9. BWF MATTERS

9.1. BWF Annual General Meeting in Xiamen, China on Saturday, 26th April 2025

BA presented the Pre-AGM meeting for Europe during which the Badminton England proposal will be presented. BEC seconds the proposal.

SS thanked Badminton England for putting the proposal forward.

10. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

SS asked if Members had any questions which needed to be answered.

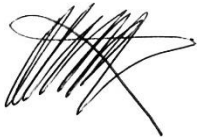
RV was asked to the stage by SS as he is leaving the BEC Board of Directors after 10 years of service. SS thanked RV on behalf of the BEC BoD and BEC Membership for his great contribution to European Badminton. The Membership gave RV a standing ovation. RV thanked again for the support showed.

KS and AA who will also leave the BoD. SS thanked KS and AA for their great effort to develop badminton in Europe.

SS reminded the Membership of the BEC Award Ceremony in the evening.

SS thanked the Membership for its attendance.

For the Board of Directors,



Brian Agerbak

General Secretary

29 March 2025

