

European Rowing Management Board 2016 Annual Report

Membership of the ERMB

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Meetings of the ERMB

Joint Commission Meeting, 4-5 March, London (GBR)
European Rowing Championships and European Rowing Federations General Assembly, 6-8 May 2015, Brandenburg (GER)
European Rowing Junior Championships, 09-10 July, Trakai (LTU)
ERMB meeting, 27 October, Prague (CZE)

Report on Activities

As it is set out in the Constitution the key activities of European Rowing are running the continental events. In 2016 the following three European Rowing events were organised:

European Rowing Championships, 6-8 May, Brandenburg (GER)

Despite of the early date of the European Championships it had good participation and was a very important test prior to the Olympic Games for many teams. The excellent organisation was only shadowed by the weather conditions which challenged both the crews and organisers but everybody coped extremely well.

Being an important milestone in the season for most European teams ERCH was broadcast in 20 countries with a total of 65.43 hrs TV coverage. More than 509 athletes (192 boats) from 34 nations participated in the ERCH which is a clear indication of the ERCH now being an established, stable event.

European Rowing Junior Championships, 9-10 July, Trakai (LTU)

The international regatta calendar in the Olympic year made it possible or necessary to move the ERJCH to a later date in July, which proved to be a good decision. The Trakai Organising Committee has great experience so they staged an extremely successful event.

The high participation figure also contributed to the success of the event. Thanks to the date the event again saw a record number of participation – 32 nations, 566 athletes and 180 boats competed in the 13 events over the two days of the regatta. This time despite of the usual “wind” challenges the island causes there were rather favourable weather conditions for racing throughout the whole competition.

European Indoor Rowing Championships, 16 January 2016, Győr (HUN)

25 nations

The European Indoor Rowing Championships were held in Győr in the Audi Areana on 16 January 2016. The event was combined this time with the Hungarian Indoor Rowing Championships. The venue was up to championship standard and the organisation was excellent.

The international participation figures were still below expectations, however, the events offered by the EuroOpen, especially the Masters categories were really popular among participants from various nations. The challenge is to integrate the European Indoor Rowing Championships in the regular race calendar of the winter and adjust the date to the training programmes of most national teams.

General Assembly

The annual General Assembly of the European Rowing Federations was held in Brandenburg on 7 May 2016. The hosting rights of the 2019 ERCH were attributed to Lucerne (SUI), the 2018 ERJCH will be held in Gravelines (FRA). Brest (BLR) was given the right to organise the ERU2CH in 2018 and Paris (FRA) to host the 2017 European Indoor Rowing Championships.

The delegates discussed the proposals on the possible changes and improvements of the ERCH programme. The ERCH programme may only be changed at an Extraordinary General Assembly and it was decided to hold this assembly after the FISA Extraordinary Congress and the IOC decision about the Olympic programme in 2017.

NFs meeting

The European Rowing National Federation presidents are invited to a meeting by one of the European NFs annually. The 2016 annual meeting was held in Prague in October, hosted by the Czech Rowing Federation and the Czech Olympic Committee. The meeting was a platform for discussing in detail the changes of the FISA Statutes and Rules of Racing proposed by FISA Council, the possible Olympic programme scenarios, European Rowing events, good governance issues, and provided a good ground for sharing best practice experience.

Accomplishments

- The European Rowing Championships in 2016 were a great success with stable participation figures and high TV broadcast and viewer ratings.
- The 2016 European Rowing Junior Championships saw a record number of participating nations, crews and athletes due to a modified date in July.
- The ERMB continued the European Indoor Rowing project and the 4th European Indoor Rowing Championships were staged in Győr (HUN).
- The structured dialogue between the European NFs continued and a good platform for the exchange of ideas was created with the regular autumn meeting of the European NFs.

Challenges for the Future

- It is important to define the status of European Rowing within FISA especially considering the recent changes to the FISA statutes.
- The structure and the programme of the ERCH should be reviewed with regard to the changes in the Olympic and world rowing championship programmes but incorporating the needs of the European NFs.
- To find organisers for all European Championships.
- European continental activities have to be constantly monitored and adjusted, finding ways for improving events, developing European Rowing and supporting FISA's Strategic Plan.
- We should keep activating all European FISA member federations that have been less active by attracting them to the European and World Rowing events.
- European Rowing should become a key factor on the European Sports scene. We should secure rowing's position in the next edition of the *European Championships* project.
- ERMB should continue to establish and pursue good governance practices.

Conclusion

The activities of the ERMB keep supporting the realisation of FISA's strategy, aiming to strengthen involvement in rowing and events at both a continental and a regional level, increasing the number of active members. Now with four European Championships (senior, U23, junior and indoor), Europe offers elite level competitions on the highest level to all age groups.

The European Championships maintains its key role in the FISA calendar with really high participation and the significance of the European Rowing Championships continues to grow. With all the European member federations European Rowing is a great contributor to the process of leading change on the world rowing scene.

Ryszard Stadniuk