



March 15th -2022, Dendermonde-Belgium

Statement

In the 'News Update' published on March 13th by the European Wushu Kungfu Federation (EWUF) our federation was accused of actively trying to convince their member federations to join EUWUF. Faced with this accusation and with the general innuendo of this so-called 'News Update' we feel that we need to break the silence that we have observed over these last 2 years and that we must clarify a few points.

First of all, we want to state clearly that EUWUF has no intention to convince the current members of EWUF to leave that organisation and to join EUWUF. This has been clearly communicated to Mr. Grindeanu and there is no intention on our part to change this policy in the near future. However, in the interest of the development of wushu in Europe we have invited all European national wushu federations to participate in the European wushu championship that will take place in Burgas, Bulgaria, May 13th -15th, irrespective of the European wushu federation they belong.

EWUF is clearly trying to build a 'business as usual' image even touting the recent court ruling in Belgium as a victory where in reality the Belgian court declared that the case was beyond their jurisdiction. This ruling was not a real surprise as this was a lower court and all routes to an appeal are still open. With this 'News Update' EWUF is creating a smoke screen because clearly all is not well with EWUF. The real news is that EWUF has lost its leadership and that they are still suspended by the International Wushu Federation (IWUF) pending an investigation into a series of malversations that occurred over the past decade. How this will play out will certainly become clear in the coming months. At this moment it seems very weak that the present leaders of EWUF come with this statement claiming that *EWUF is and always will be your federation with decisions made by you the members.* Not a word about the situation in Ukraine... not a word said to create a stand towards Russia and Belarus federation and athletes as the IOC recommended. Nothing in support of our Ukrainian colleagues who are facing the most difficult time fighting for their lives and their freedom.

In 2020 several European countries decided that they wouldn't put up any longer with the attitude of disrespect by the EWUF leaders, the dictatorial way of management, the expensive and endlessly long championships, heavy fines and other elements that seemed to be there to the benefit of some but not to the benefit of wushu in Europe. That was the reason why EUWUF came into existence and from the very start EWUF shut the door on us by banning the countries that chose to join EUWUF and making similar threats to countries who would consider joining EUWUF.



EUWUF

European Wushu Federation

And this brings us to the matter of the legal status of EUWUF and EWUF with IWUF which is indeed very clear, but not as presented in this 'News Update'. According to IWUF there can be only one recognized Continental Federation in Europe but at this moment in time the recognition of EWUF is suspended. Furthermore, it is important to know national wushu federations are first of all members of IWUF (Article 6 of the IWUF Constitution) and then member of a Continental Federation. IWUF has made it very clear in its statement of the 15th of April 2021 that the suspension of EWUF has no negative effect on the status and rights of the national federation members.

The imposed provisional suspension of the recognition of EWUF as Continental Federation does not prohibit any European IWUF member nor any European athlete to continue to be a member of IWUF and/or continue to participate at any competition supported, approved or organized by IWUF and/or its members.

It is therefore crystal clear that **EUWUF as a legitimate organisation of IWUF members is well within its rights to back the championship that will be held in Bulgaria and that all IWUF members that are invited to participate in this championship have the right to do so without fear of being sanctioned by EWUF.**

As a federation we strive for complete transparency and we consider all our members as being equally important. EUWUF is a NPO (Non-Profit Organization) incorporated as a VZW/ASBL in Belgium and freedom of organisation is a democratic right so all member countries of EUWUF are well within their rights to be a member of our federation. At this moment in time there is no recognised Continental Federation for Europe. **EUWUF has applied for recognition and we are certain that this puts us at least at the same 'legal level' as EWUF.**

On behalf of the Executive Board,

Patrick Van Campenhout

EUWUF- President

Board member of the Belgian Olympic Committee