

## European news

The last weekend of May proved to be for the JJEU (JJIF's Union for European Member countries) a moment of intense activity. Before the European Challenge Cup event even began, the Slovenian city of Maribor was hosting the annual European Congress and General Assembly. Thus on Friday, May 28, National delegates from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and

Switzerland met to discuss European issues. On the agenda the approval of the first JJEU Statutes stood out as a milestone for all future Union activity.

Before opening the session, JJEU President, Luis Baguena, invited JJIF President, Paul Høglund, to make an introduction on the latest development of Ju-Jitsu worldwide. *"We are now moving forward"*, explained Dr. Høglund as he briefly described the contacts made with the Russian Ju-Jitsu federation, a martial arts bid for military training in Asia, the JJIF mission in Taiwan as bidding city for the 2009 IWGA World Games, the contacts established with the Olympic Council of Asia in Jakarta and the development of Ju-Jitsu in Iran. The GA then heard of the reports from the main JJEU events organised during the year. Thus the delegates were briefed on the 2003 European Open of Hanau, the JJEU referee course in

Belgium, the establishment of the Challenge Cup and other.

It was then time for the Financial report and JJEU Treasurer, Luc Cassier, described how the Union, despite having organised more events than it had in the previous year, had actually improved its financial level. The spokesman from the Accounting Committee, Gerard van Bommel, suggested that the 2003 Balance sheet be approved and the assembly unanimously supported the good work carried out by Mr Cassier.

But the General Assembly was also called to vote on its representatives in the JJEU Board. Although the running President met no rivals for the leading JJEU position and was unanimously confirmed for the next four-year mandate, the role of JJEU Treasurer met a more demanding competition. The candidates were Luc Cassier (BEL), running Treasurer and JJIF Treasurer, Frank Furst (DEN), former JJIF General Secretary, and Dario Quenza (ITA), Vice President of the Italian Federation. The double ballot finally assigned the position to the Italian "outsider" by a narrow margin on Luc Cassier.



Slovenia President Srečko Kropotek during the JJEU General Assembly



From left to right:  
JJIF President, Paul Høglund, and JJEU President, Luis Baguena

Other highlights of the GA regarded the newly confirmed JJEU president's proposal to appoint former JJIF President, Rinaldo Orlandi, JJEU Honorary President. And so it did with unanimous approval. Other proposals regarded the bidding cities for future JJEU competition: though the Polish appointment for 2005 was confirmed the Assembly learnt that Spain's bid for 2006 was withdrawn in favour of a new bid from the German city of Meiningen. At the moment Italy is a candidate for 2007, Belgium for the 2008 European Cup and Montenegro for 2009.

By evening, due to the GA's enthusiasm and dense agenda the new statutes of the JJEU had not been fully discussed. The Assembly thus agreed to accept them temporarily as they were in their draft edition and to ratify or improve any part of them during next year's General Assembly.

By the time the GA session was officially closed there was no trace of sunlight and the athletes were being weighed for the following day's competition in the nearby sports hall.



*Dario Quenza delivering addresses the assembly before his election to JJEU Treasurer*

Roberto Orlandi  
JJIF Press Officer