



EUROPEAN BOXING UNION (EBU) – NEWS (April 2023)

Dear boxing friends

I am very sad to have to let you know that our friend and colleague **Rudel Obreja (Romania)** passed away. Rudel was a celebrity, not only in his country, as boxer, as President of the Professional Boxing League of Romania, as one of the first to publicly accuse the AIBA for corruption, as TV-commentator etc. I beg his family to accept our sincere condolences and our sympathy. Rudel will be missed, may he rest in peace.

Very astonishingly the International Olympic Committee (IOC) recommends to allow to Russian and Belorussian sportsman and sportswomen to again participate in international sports contests. With respect for the ongoing war-crimes in Ukraine, committed by Russia and backed by Belorussia, I believe this is a big mistake and I am of the strong opinion the EBU should not allow this and maintain our boycott!

Changing to better news I congratulate our Vice-President, **Charlie Giles**, for his special Birthday, wishing him health, happiness, luck, and one and then a glass of Gin and Tonic!

Our yearly General Assembly is nearing, which will take place on 13th May, 2023, on the beautiful island of Malta. We will then celebrate as well the 75th birthday of the EBU, and I do hope you all may attend (please make your reservation at <info@paradise-bay.com>, Promo Code: EBAA2023!). It is my pleasure and my honour to confirm that the President of the World Boxing Council (WBC), Mr. Mauricio Sulaimán, will be with us. The EBU is by far the biggest and strongest Professional Boxing Federation on the Continent of Europe, and this anniversary gives occasion to think back of all our famous and proud champions, like Nino Benvenuti (It), John Stracey (UK), Jean-Claude Bouttier (F), Wladimir Klitschko (UKR), just to cite some of them.

Please do not forget that we want to stay an honorable, correct and fair Federation, and that our priority is the health and safety of all our boxers. One of our most important items at the coming EBU-General Assembly is the agreement between our affiliated Federations, whose purpose is to ensure medical protection, drug-free boxing, competent and safe refereeing, correct and neutral judging and generally as much safety as possible for all professional boxers involved!

After a long period of inactivity the vacant EBU-Heavyweight-title was conquered by **Agit Kabayel (GER)** in a sensational and very competitive fight against **Agron Smakici (CRO)**. Although this fight lasted only three rounds, the public was standing; both fighters gave everything and the end was dramatic. Finally we have a proud EBU-Heavyweight-champion again.

Together with our General Assembly a brief medical seminar will take place in Malta in order to investigate on CTE (chronic traumatic encephalopathy), as one of the effects of too many punches to the head.

Please show responsibility and care for all boxers not only for those that are licensed with you!

I thank you for having read these EBU-News; your comments are always welcome

With my warmest personal regards

Peter Stucki, EBU-President