



## EUROPEAN BOXING UNION (EBU) – NEWS (July 2023)

Dear boxing friends

It was a pleasure to assist at the Superlightweight EBU-championship contest for the vacant title between **Franck Petitjean (F)** and **Samuel Molina (Spain)**, which took place in Paris on 10th June, 2023. The fight was thrilling with Molina technically brilliant, but Petitjean coming back at the end; the close winner was the local **Franck Petitjean (F)**, who has now to defend his title against the former champion and official challenger **Enock Poulsen (DK)**. The promoter of this show was the local boxing club «Ring du 14ème», situated in one of the famous districts of Paris, a club which has already produced other champions, like the late **Jean-Baptiste Mendy (F)**. It made me remember the fight between **Mendy** and **Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)** for the WBC World title, which took place as well in Paris (Palais Marcel Cerdan) on 29/03/1994, and which I had the honour to supervise, assisted by the legend referee **Arthur Mercante (US)**. As an anecdote, all the Ring Officials of that fight were invited for lunch by the American boxing agent **Don Majeski** in the famous Michelin restaurant «La tour d'argent» the very day of the fight, and to the great disappointment of the waiters, nobody of us was drinking anything else than water, while all the other guests were enjoying champagne.

Much less amusing is the sacking of the International Amateur Federation IBA by the IOC, which may have the effect that boxing is no longer an Olympic sport. What a tragedy for boxing, but on the other hand it is understandable that the IOC can no longer back an organisation which seems corrupt. Let us hope that very soon a new and clean organisation may replace the IBA and be accepted by the IOC.

You may remember that the great majority of the EBU-affiliated Federations signed the amended Safety-Agreement at the recent EBU-General Assembly in Malta, which – among many other matters – calls for minimum suspensions for fighters who have been stopped. To my disappointment out of 84 contests ending by stoppage during the first two weekends following the signature of this agreement, only in 13 cases the agreement was respected, and in 71 cases our Federations did not care! **I urge you to follow and respect what you have signed!** You may find the latest agreement on our WebPage ([www.boxebu.com](http://www.boxebu.com)); it is of great importance for the safety and health of all our athletes.

I am sure you are all aware of the fact that repeated blows (punches) to the head (brain) over a longer period may end up in C.T.E. (Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy). We may take care by closely watching our licensed boxers, by keeping them under medical control, by avoiding to authorize onesided fights, by limiting the length of their careers, by refusing their licenses once they show the first signs. Please remember that C.T.E. cannot be medically diagnosed, but there are signs like loss of reflexes, difficult articulation, change of character, and later dementia, Parkinson, Alzheimer etc.

This said, I cannot understand how some of our affiliated Federations can license foreign boxers, who have been refused by their home Federation! Sooner or later we will have to show who is meant!

**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**