



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

Dear boxing friends

The EBU wants the best European boxer to be its champion!

I had the honour and the pleasure to assist at the presentation of the awards for the best Spanish professional boxers of the year 2022, which took place in Alcobendas (Madrid). The trophies for winners were presented by the Spanish Online-Newspaper ESPABOX (Emilio Marquiegui) to **Kiko Martinez** and **Mary Romero**, both former **EBU-champions**, both very modest and friendly people.

ESPABOX published then the following interview with me:

- 1) How do you see boxing in relation to the last decades in European boxing?
Answer: Boxing has more competition than before; it is not only the multitude of (worthless) titles, it is as well martial arts, like MMA, kickboxing, K1 etc. The general public seems to be attracted by violence and blood more than by technical skills. The EBU wants to crown the best European professional boxer as its European champion and at the same time to keep boxing as safe as this is possible. But all in all, worldwide as well as in Europe, traditional professional boxing keeps doing quite well, please consider the interest Tyson Fury and Oleksandr Usyk are creating, and both are Europeans!
- 2) One of the biggest problems with the credibility of the EBU is that only the best ranked must compete in the championships and not allowing anyone to do so. Does the EBU want to improve that aspect?
Answer: The fact that the EBU wants the best European professional boxer to be its champion is in my opinion a quality and not a disadvantage; we respect the order of our correct ratings and do not just listen to the wishes of the promoters. The problem is not the credibility of the EBU, the problem is the fact that the general public is unable to make the difference between a worthy championship-fight, opposing the best rated boxers, and a low-level championship opposing boxers, just proposed by their managers/promoters.
- 3) In the EBU Silver, are the contenders going to try to be of the highest level? Since the winner moves to fifth place, shouldn't fighters only compete in the top-20?
Answer: The EBU-champion must stay at the highest level, that's why we normally allow only to the top-20 boxers to fight for the true title; but all those boxers who are rated are allowed to fight for the (secondary) EBU-Silver-title; the winner of the Silver-title shall move on the fourth place in our ratings.
- 4) What objectives does the EBU propose to improve for the coming months-years?
Answer: We try to make better known to the media and the general public that only the EBU-champion is the best European professional boxer, because we allow only the best rated boxers to fight for the EBU-title. For the 75th birthday of the EBU a book will be published (written by Carlos Utrilla) about our successful history, and with our monthly EBU-Newsletter we try to spread more information.
- 5) Why don't English boxing and other countries fight more to compete in European championships?
Answer: Boxing is very popular in the UK, in Spain, in France and in Italy and becomes important in Poland, but it is a very demanding sport, which asks a lot of strength and hard work; in smaller countries, above all when the level of living is high, young people are attracted by less demanding sports like e.g. football, tennis etc. In the UK boxing is a big business with more than one thousand licensed professional boxers, with great promoters

like Eddie Hearn, Frank Warren etc. and with TV-interest. There are several important shows every week.

- 6) Why aren't the national champions classified immediately, in high-level countries like Spain, for example? This would also promote national championships.

Answer: The EBU rates boxers on merit and does not rate titles; some national champions merit to be rated, others not. Merit to be rated is acquired by defeating valid opponents and by activity. More and more boxers believe it is sufficient to defeat negative opponents (who have more defeats than wins) in order to achieve merit.

- 7) Something very important in EBU-fights is that the local federations respect that the referee and judges are appointed by the EBU. Have there been problems with British Boxing in this regard?

Answer: According to its rules the EBU appoints neutral ring officials, and this has always been respected by the British Boxing Board of Control.

- 8) Are there relations with the four organizations WBC-WBA-IBF-WBO so that the European champions rise in their rankings when they become champions?

Answer: The EBU is independent and totally free in its decisions; some of the EBU-Board-members are as well Board-members of the WBC, one EBU-Board-member is a WBA-Board-member. There are no automatic world-ratings; the EBU-champion is rated on merit by the World Federations.

- 9) Are there sanctions for boxers who compete for titles that appear to be from Europe from other organizations?

Answer: Boxers fighting for other European titles than the EBU-one are not rated by the EBU and cannot fight for our title. The EBU is 75 years old and the only true and correct European title is the EBU-one.

- 10) Why does Jon Miguez's promoter want to sue the EBU? How did Weiss allow himself not to do the anti-doping test?

Answer: I do not think that Jon Miguez wants to sue the EBU, and there is absolutely no reason to do so. In order to offer to both boxers to fight for the EBU-title again, the EBU ordered an immediate and exceptional rematch. It is not Jordy Weiss who did not want to make the antidoping-test; the problem lies with the French Federation, which depends from the French Anti-Doping Agency, and this Agency did suddenly no longer want to make tests for boxing for lack of employees. But in the meantime the problem is solved, as the French Federation found a replacement.

«Many thanks to Peter Stucki for his answers.»

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

