



EUROPEAN BOXING UNION (EBU) – NEWS (January 2024)

Dear boxing friends

I wish to all of you a Very Happy and Successful New Year 2024!

It is time to look back and to appreciate what the past year has brought. We had 17 EBU-title-contests in 2023, 9 EBU-Silver-title contests and 14 EBU-female contests. We celebrated the EBU's 75th birthday on the beautiful island of Malta, where **Marc James**, the President of the Malta Boxing Association, was our wonderful host. Our Council-meeting 2023 took place in Paris, and we remember with pleasure the visit of the offices of the French Federation (President **Dominique Nato**) and the boat-trip on the river Seine. We started to sanction EBU-Silver-titles, which replace the former EU- and EEU-title-fights.

One of the most thrilling EBU-title-fights 2023 was the Heavyweight-clash between the defending champion **Agit Kabayel** (GER) and his challenger **Agron Smakici** (CRO), which went to and fro and finally ended with a TKO 3-victory of **Kabayel**. **Agit Kabayel** surprised us again with another excellent victory, as he very recently stopped WBC-no. 3 Heavyweight contender **Arslanbek Makhmudov** (CAN) by TKO 4 in Riyadh (Saudi Arabia), which should definitely move him up into WBC's top five!

My thanks go to our boxers, our promoters, all our collaborators and my EBU-colleagues, who all appreciate our European title to be the best and most honest in Europe. Just an example to show you what I mean: The EBU-Superfeatherweight-champion **Juan Felix Gomez** (Spain) is according to boxrec the no. 56 of the world, and his official challenger **Archie Sharp** (GB) is the no. 88. A recent Superfeatherweight Continental title of another Federation took place between the no. 124 and no. 512!?

Although I firmly believe that professional boxers after a certain no. of fights and with a certain age should stop fighting, because boxing can be dangerous and may cause CTE (chronic traumatic encephalopathy), I have to admit that I was surprised by the excellent performance of **Emiliano Marsili** (It), still boxrec no. 99, who fought with 47 years of age for the EBU-title and had to retire for injury although leading on points.

This makes me think of another common problem the EBU is strongly objecting: We want all contests to be correctly and fairly scored, the winner at ringside has to be the winner on the scorecards; there is no home- nor championship-advantage, the better boxer has to win whoever and wherever it is!

In order to improve scoring the EBU keeps regularly organising Ring Officials Seminars with competent instructors, and we invite our Ring Officials to score fights whenever they can, at ringside at home, on TV etc.

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