



## EUROPEAN BOXING UNION (EBU) – NEWS (March, 2025)

Dear boxing friends

As I want my colleagues within the Council to supervise as well EBU-contests, I do not too many championship-fights. But I did recently have the pleasure to travel to sunny Málaga (E) in order to supervise the voluntary EBU-welterweight-contest between the champion **Samuel Molina (E)** and his challenger **Sandy Messaoud (F)**. Already the weather was a special pleasure for me, sun and 20°, while in Switzerland it was raining and snowing with -2°. Both boxers had the same weight inside the limit and met with friendship. The venue «Palacio de Deportes José Maria Martín Carpena», was sold out with 6'000 spectators. Both boxers were professionally cared of by their teams. **Boris Heredia**, the Chief cornerman of **Molina** is the typical boxing personality that keeps being the man for everything, he was preparing the show, caring for the EBU-officials, wrapping hands, warming up all his boxers, advising them during their fights, comforting the losers and celebrating with the winners. Without such people professional boxing wouldn't be possible! The challenger **Sandy Messaoud (F)** entered the ring as WBC International Champion; he was in fact there to win and to defend his title. **Messaoud** set the pace from the beginning, winning the first round on all three scorecards. **Molina**, the EBU-champion had to wake up and to understand that he had to become more active and could no longer wait for **Messaoud** to tire. Until round six the result of the contest would have been a majority draw. Then, finally **Molina**, chased by his cornerman, woke up and succeeded to impress with hard punishing punches, clearly winning rounds six and seven as well as the two final rounds. The result was a close win for **Samuel Molina**, who kept his EBU-title and won the WBC International title (two judges had scores of 116 : 112 and one had 115 : 113 in favor of **Samuel Molina**). I was extremely pleased by the excellent performance of the referee, **Victor Loughlin (UK)**, who gave very clear final instructions in the dressing room and showed authority at ringside, always giving the necessary information as well to the corners and to the Supervisor. Both boxers were cut, but the referee used his discretion to allow the corners to work, seeing no reason to interrupt the contest because of injuries. **Messaoud** was unhappy about the result, but he has to understand that the winner is always the boxer who shows more **effective aggressiveness**.

On 22nd February a great boxing event took place in Riad (Saudi Arabia) with lots of championship contests. **Artur Beterbiev (RUS/CAN)** vs. **Dmitrii Bivol (RUS/USA)** was quite probably already **the fight of the Year 2025**. **Callum Smith (UK)**, former EBU-Champion, showed as well an extraordinary performance, defeating **Joshua Buatsi (UK)** for the WBO-Lightheavyweight-Interim-title. A very big surprise was again the former EBU-Heavyweight-Champion **Agit Kabayel (GER)**, who with the Chinese giant **Zhilei Zhang (CHI)** consecutively stopped the third top-five rated opponent and such winning the WBC-Interim Heavyweight-title.

They say that in the past boxers used to win the national title first, then the EBU-title and finally the World-title, while nowadays they immediately challenge for the World-title. **Agit Kabayel (GER)** and **Callum Smith (UK)** prove that this is not completely true!

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

With my warmest personal regards

Peter Stucki, EBU-President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'Peter Stucki', is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'P'.