



## EUROPEAN BOXING UNION (EBU) – NEWS March 2026)

Dear boxing friends

During the month of March, 2026 the following EBU-title-contests took place:

- 14.03.2026, Bilbao (E), Superlightweight, **Jon Fernandez (E)** Wop12 **Somay Bilal (NL)**
- 28.03.2026, Manchester (UK), Featherweight, **Liam Davies (UK)** WTKO6 **Francesco Grandelli (It)**
- 07.03.2026, Milano (It), Silver-Superfeatherweight, **Juanfe Gomez (E)** Wop12 **Francesco Paparo (It)**
- 14.03.2026, Bilbao (E), Silver-Lightweight, **Jokin Garcia (E)** Wop12 **Gianluca Ceglia (IT)**.

When a young promising amateur boxer decides to turn professional he/she often stays with the same team, with his/her former amateur trainer. The club and/or the trainer usually invests lots of money in order to offer a good start to his boxer and to provide possibilities to fight. After a series of wins, the opponents become more skilful and cost more money. Suddenly there is the possibility for a small titlefight and the purse becomes more important. The boxer gets aware that a part of his purse goes to his manager/trainer, and then suddenly turns away from his former amateur stable in order to be contracted by a professional manager/promoter, who can offer more possibilities. Although understandable, this pattern often ends in a big disappointment for the former amateur trainer, who has given everything to develop the career of his boxer. It has not always to be like that, but it often is. In order to avoid such disappointments it might be reasonable to ask for the advice of a specialist (lawyer etc.) and to conclude contracts. Many times the former amateur trainer cannot afford bigger steps and is unable to offer good sparring partners nor possibilities for title-fights. He may then agree to allow his fighter to change stable as he is still interested in his boxer's success. But reasonable contracts before all this happens may help to avoid disappointments.

The professional boxing business needs professionals who do not only know the business, but who are at the same time aware of the risks for the health of their boxers, being responsible enough to step in when necessary, be it inside or outside boxing.

Please allow me now to turn your attention to the upcoming fight for the WBC-Silver Heavyweight title between the champion **Lawrence Okolie (UK)** and the former French Olympic champion **Tony Yoka (F)**, which will take place in Paris, on 25th April, 2026. **Yoka** has had a difficult career until now, with ups and downs, and **Okolie** is by far the best opponent he ever faced as professional boxer.

**Let us continue to collaborate with friendship and correctness, always maintaining high standards when health and safety of our boxers are concerned.**

**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, appearing to read 'Peter Stucki', is written below the printed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.