



President's message

In October the Board of Directors held a meeting at Berlin, Germany, and discussed several issues regarding the current state and future goals in the development of EFAF and the sports of American Football within Europe. In his report to the Board

of Directors EFAF president Robert Huber was able to highlight some very pleasant developments in recent months. For instance the TV broadcast of this year's EC A-group final at Frankfurt via Eurosport 2 to a world-wide audience has enabled EFAF to put European American Football into public spotlight on an unprecedented level. Feedback of producers,

broadcasters and viewers alike was very encouraging and should enable EFAF to work out similar TV deals for prominent games in the future. President Huber not only thanked the local organizers of EC 2010 in Germany, but also expressed his firm belief that the Austrian federation hosting next year's IFAF World Cup will continue to prove the capability of EFAF member federations to organize such big-scale events.



EFAF president
Robert Huber

EFAF received very positive feedback from producers, broadcasters and viewers of the Eurosport 2 coverage of EC 2010.

Development initiatives

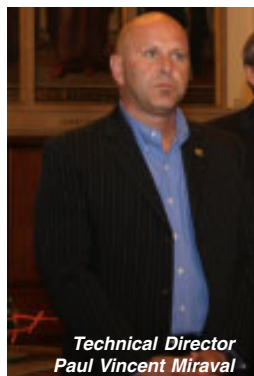
While public awareness of our sports is primarily determined by tournaments like European or World Championships, the Eurobowl final game or other final games of our various club tournaments, we all know that there are some other very important tasks to be accomplished, especially in the field of development. The new EFAF Technical Director Paul Vincent Miraval, at this time still in his role as chairman of the EFAF Coaches development committee, reported to the Board of Directors on the ongoing activities of this year. Coaches development currently is one of the major tasks of EFAF, so it was decided to strengthen EFAF's personnel in this field. While Paul Vincent Miraval took over the new role as Technical Director he will be assisted by his successor as chairman of the EFAF Coaches development committee, Giorgio Longhi from Italy.



The Board of Directors presented the European Championship trophy to Germany in front of packed stands at Frankfurt's Commerzbank-Arena

Both intend to intensify EFAF's efforts in coaching development and will adopt a proposal of the BoD meeting to add the national coaches development clinics to promote the pan-european programmes. The Technical





Technical Director
Paul Vincent Miraval

Director will sent out a questionnaire to all EFAF member federations on their respective development programmes to enable EFAF to co-ordinate its and its member federations's activities more effectively in the future.

In similar programmes EFAF is determined to enhance officiating and administration in all of Europe. Jose Maria Robes, chairman of EFAF's officials committee, informed the Board of his intentions to again stage two major officiating clinics in the upcoming year, one in the Western and one in the Eastern part of the continent as in 2010 when officiating clinics during Atlantic and Eastern Cup tournaments were successfully held. The Austrian federation is dedicated to continue EFAF's development programme for executives, which was introduced during EC 2010 in Germany and will see some more activities during the World Cup in Austria next summer.

US-Exchange program

In regard to playing opportunities for European players at U.S. high schools the EFAF Board of Directors not only sees such opportunities to be a very appropriate way to enhance playing skills of those players concerned. The possibility to be selected for an U.S. high school programme also works as an incentive for young players in Europe and for their parents who appreciate any such prospects for their children to take part in international student exchange programmes. However, currently the selection process in USA Football's programme (labeled ISP) is somewhat less than perfect. EFAF aims to assist USA Football for that matter in the future. The Board of Directors has appointed German federation AFVD's top sports director Marshall Happer, a former NFLE employee, to initiate talks with USA Football representatives on how standard procedures may be established. In another topic regarding EFAF relations to the United States the Board of Directors discussed the outcome of recent talks on the Business development programme with NFL staff.

EFAF will open up talks with USA Football to establish standard procedures for European players who want to join U.S. schools and colleges.

The formats for EFAF's five club competitions have proven stable and will remain unchanged for 2011. Enhancements for the Challenge Cup will be worked out.

EFAF Club Competitions in 2011

The formats of all of the five EFAF club team competitions will remain unchanged for 2011. Uwe Talke, EFAF chairman of club team competitions, briefed the Board of Directors on the situation regarding the upcoming and the completed playing season. In 2010 the competitions in some way were hurt by the Iceland volcano eruption and subsequent troubles in international air traffic. Some other issues





mainly related to the Challenge Cup. The Board of Directors agreed on the installation of a working group appointed to develop ways to improve this tournament.

EFAF European Junior Championships 2011

EFAF national team competitions will be continued in 2011 with the final tournament of the European Junior Championships in Spain. EFAF EJC Tournament Director Romeo reported to the Board on the current status of the qualification games and tournaments. The final tournament will be staged at Salou/Tarragona. EFAF and hosting Spanish federation AEFA have



Vienna hosted another spectacular Eurobowl final game

teamed up with the PortAventura theme park, which will supply accommodation for the athletes and coaches. This is designed to make the trip a memorable one for the young players.

For next year's EJC EFAF, AEFA and the PortAventura theme park have teamed up to provide a very special tournament for our elite youth players.

Next stage European Championship Series 2011-2014

After conclusion of the last European Championships cycle with the A-pool tournament in Germany the EFAF flagship tournament for national teams enters into its next cycle. In total 16 nations have entered into the competition which will

commence with a C-group scheduled for 2012 with Switzerland as only applicant to host the tournament. The B-group will gather in 2013 in Italy or Spain, while the next A-group tournament is scheduled for 2014. Until now there have been no applications for hosting this final tournament. The Board of Directors would like to encourage all of the federations whose national teams are part of the A-group to thoroughly evaluate the possibility to stage such an event in their country. This year's host Germany has experienced tremendous support by national and regional



France made quite an impression in the 2010 European Championships





authorities for its efforts; the effects were not only felt during the tournament itself, but also during the last couple of German national seasons. The early application and approval of Germany's bid for the European Championships have enabled the German federation to build up long-term relations with corporate and governmental partners, which already paid off long before the event itself.

Flag Football

Flag football tournaments will continue to complement tackle football competitions. However, until now EFAF did not receive any application for hosting the 2011 EC Flag Seniors tournament. The Seniors version of the EC Flag series is scheduled for each odd year, in even years junior flag footballers will determine their continental champion. 2012 will not only see the EC Flag Juniors - it will be the inaugural year for the new EFAF Female EC. The Board of Directors unanimously voted for the European Championships for female national teams to be established in 2012, starting off with an inaugural four-team final tournament.

Hosting the EC A-pool final tournament has enabled the German federation to improve relationships with corporate and governmental partners.

Membership application of Croatia

The Board was informed by the president on the formal application by the Croatian federation for a full EFAF membership. Currently Croatia is one of the two countries with temporary membership in EFAF. In all American Football is played in 30 European countries registered with EFAF. 22 national federations have full membership status, in five countries the sports is regulated by EFAF Country Administrators and the Moldavian federation is an associated member of EFAF.



The European American Football community is expanding rapidly

Photos courtesy of Michael Hundt (2), Herbert Kratky (2) and Marc Schüler (2)

