

# *Constitution Reform Presentation*

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# *Proposals of the European Athletics Council*

# **1. *Amendment of the European Athletics Constitution***

- 1. General alignment with the IAAF**
- 2. Roles, Duties and Powers**
- 3. EAA Court, EAA Code of Ethics, Ethics Board**
- 4. Congress Proceedings, Languages, Open Vote**
- 5. Athletes' Committee**
- 6. Term Length**
- 7. Special Majorities**
- 8. Editorial and Rewording**

## 1.1. General alignment with the IAAF

The changes to the IAAF Constitution approved at the IAAF Congresses in December 2016 and August 2017 set the pace for:

- Gender equity in the leadership bodies of European Athletics
- Removal of the age limit for elected bodies
- Eligibility criteria for elected bodies and EAA Court members
- Athletes voice and vote at the Council
- Casting vote for the President
- Definition of the vice-presidents' role
- Term limits for elected bodies

**Note:** European Athletics follows the IAAF policy on the above topics, adapted for its role and dimensions.

⇒ *The Council recommends to approve the proposed amendments in a single package with a vote "In Favour"*

## 1.2. Roles, Duties and Powers

The proposed changes:

- clarify and align the roles, duties and powers of European Athletics bodies
- clarify and align the obligations and rights of the Member Federations
- transfer and add powers that reflect the way European Athletics currently operates and how the various bodies and offices interact with each other

**Note: The proposed changes are in line with the IAAF Constitution**

⇒ ***The Council recommends to approve the proposed amendments in a single package with a vote "In Favour"***

## 1.3. EAA Court, EAA Code of Ethics, Ethics Board

The proposed changes:

- are in line with European Athletics' commitment to good governance
- better define how the EAA Court will function, including clarification of the sanctions the EAA Court can issue
- replace the IAAF Ethics Code with the recently created EAA Code of Ethics
- replace the name "Ethics Commission" with "Ethics Board" to distinguish this body from the other European Athletics commissions

⇒ ***The Council recommends to approve the proposed amendments in a single package with a vote "In Favour"***

## 1.4. Congress Proceedings, Languages, Open Vote

The proposed changes:

- clarify how future Congresses will operate
- increase the number of Member Federations required to request an Extraordinary Congress based on the current composition of European Athletics
- clarify how votes, including elections, will be conducted following the principles of transparency and good governance

⇒ ***The Council recommends to approve the proposed amendments in a single package with a vote "In Favour"***

## 1.5. Athletes' Committee

### The proposed changes:

- add a new article covering the "Athletes' Committee", as it will be represented on the Council
- change the name of the "Athletes' Commission" to "Athletes' Committee" to distinguish this body from the other European Athletics commissions
- make it possible for the Chairperson of the Athletes' Committee to serve on the Council at the same time as another person from the same country – the Athletes' Commission Chairperson shall be seen as representing the athletes, not a country

⇒ ***The Council recommends to approve the proposed amendments in a single package with a vote "In Favour"***

## 1.6. Term Length

The proposed changes:

- move the reference to term limit to a new article dealing specifically with term of office
- define the term length as four years
- provide a way to count partial terms, which will be important due to the new term limits

⇒ ***The Council recommends to approve the proposed amendments in a single package with a vote “In Favour”***

## 1.7. Special Majorities

The proposed changes give consistency to majorities required for the following decisions:

- Amendment of the Constitution
- Removal of President, vice-presidents and Council members
- Dissolution of EAA

**Note: This special majority is representative of the whole of the EAA membership rather than only those Member Federations that can be at a Congress**

⇒ ***The Council recommends to approve the proposed amendments in a single package with a vote "In Favour"***

## 1.8. Editorial and Rewording

The proposed changes:

- are not substantial in meaning or intent
- place paragraphs and clauses in more appropriate positions within the Constitution
- standardise the terminology throughout the Constitution
- make the text clear and easier to understand

⇒ ***The Council recommends to approve the proposed amendments in a single package with a vote "In Favour"***

# *Motions from the Member Federations and the Council*

# 1. Gender Equality on the European Athletics Council

Proposal A (from SWE)	Proposal B (from the Council)
<p>To guarantee that from the <b>2023</b> Congress at least 40% of the Council members must be from each gender.</p> <p><b>Reasoning:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To be in line with the Gender Equality Glossary and to make sure European Athletics can reach such a balance as soon as possible</li> <li>▪ To strengthen the position of the European Athletics among global sport organisations, and athletics as a sport</li> </ul>	<p>The President and the vice-presidents shall include both genders as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>2027</b> at least 2 of each gender.</li> </ul> <p>The 13 other Council members shall include both genders as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>2023</b> at least five of each gender; and</li> <li>- <b>2027</b> at least six of each gender.</li> </ul> <p><b>Reasoning:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Progressive increase in gender balance</li> </ul> <p>23% from each gender approved for 2019 35% in 2023 47% in 2027</p>
<p><b>Supported by:</b> DEN, FIN, ISL, NOR, NED</p>	<p><b>Supported by:</b> Council</p>

# 1. Gender Equality on the European Athletics Council

Proposal A (from SWE)				Proposal B (from the Council)			
Year	President & Vice-Presidents	Council Members	Total	Year	President & Vice-Presidents	Council Members	Total
2019	1	3	4	2019	1	3	4
2023	7		7	2023	1	5	6
				2027	2	6	8

**Supported by:** DEN, FIN, ISL, NOR, NED      **Supported by:** Council

⇒ ***The Council recommends to vote for the Proposal B***

## 2. Declaration of Human Rights, Rights of the Child and Persons with Disabilities

### Proposal to amend the Constitution (from SWE)

- a) Proposal to amend the Objects of the EAA Constitution to include the following:  
To respect and promote the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- b) Charge the Council to review the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in dialogue with the International Paralympic Committee to see if there is need for any amendments before respect and promotion of this Convention can be added among the Objects of the EAA Constitution at the next Congress.

**Supported by:** DEN, FIN, ISL, NOR, NED

#### **Council Comments:**

The Council accepts the intent of proposal and is aware of a similar proposal to the IAAF Congress;

The Council believes it is prudent to wait until the investigations are complete on the IAAF side;

⇒ ***The Council recommends not to approve the proposal with a vote “Against”***

### 3. Good Governance Requirements for Member Federations

#### Motion (from SWE)

Proposal that the Congress charges the European Athletics Council to propose a plan for the next steps to further strengthen governance of athletics in Europe based on the principles and ideas of the 2019 IAAF Constitution, including a plan for alignment for its Member Federations. A first version of the plan should be discussed with the Member Federations in the 2018 CEO Conference and a final version should be presented to the Congress in 2019.

#### Reasoning:

To secure that the requirements for reforms of Member Federations are identified and implemented

Need to identify such a process with high priority in our efforts to regain confidence in our sport

**Supported by:** DEN, FIN, ISL, NOR, NED

#### Council Comments:

The Council supports the motion.

⇒ ***The Council recommends to approve the motion with a vote “In favour”***

## 4. Revoke Honorary Membership of the European Athletics Council

### Motion (from the Council)

The Council proposes that the Honorary Membership of the European Athletics Council and title Honorary Member of the Council awarded to Valentin Balakhnichev in 2007 and currently suspended by the Council be permanently revoked.

### Reasoning:

Mr Balakhnichev was banned for life by the IAAF in 2016 and the ban was confirmed by the Court of Arbitration for Sport in August 2017.

⇒ ***The Council recommends to approve the motion with a vote "In favour"***

# Constitution Reform

Q&A