



EUROPEAN BOXING UNION (EBU) – NEWS

Dear friends

This year's European summer seems warmer than ever, but resting in the shadow, swimming in the sea or in our lakes and rivers together with enough cool drinks help us to survive. As usual there are a bit less boxing shows during the holiday season, but a lot of work is done behind the curtains in order to prepare the next coming championship fights, and I am thinking not only of the boxers but of the promoters as well.

Mathieu Bauderlique (F) vacated his EBU-Lightheavyweight-title to concentrate on an eliminator for the WBC-title against **Callum Smith (UK)**, an excellent fight to take place in Jeddah (Saudi Arabia) on 20th August, 2022, on the same show of the rematch between **Oleksandr Usyk (UKR)** and **Anthony Joshua (UK)** for the IBF-, IBO-, WBA- and WBO-titles, all promoted by Matchroom Boxing.

As for the EBU-Middleweight rematch between **Anderson Prestot (F)** and **Matteo Signani (It)** the parties reached an agreement; the EBU-championship contest will take place in Italy, organized by OPI 82 SSD. This rematch has been ordered by the EBU-Council due to the fact that there was no antidoping control after their first fight.

The EBU-championship fight between **Jama Saidi (GER)** and **Abass Baraou (GER)** will take place in Wuppertal (GER) on 10th September, 2022, promoted by AGON SPORTS, an excellent fight.

The EBU is considering to arrange for the yearly Council Meeting together with a ring officials seminar to take place either in Rome (Italy), Croatia or Liège (Belgium). Even for next year's EBU-General Assembly on the beautiful island of Malta the first contacts have already been made, and **Marc James**, the President of the Malta Boxing Association promised that we will spend beautiful days there.

As you know my most important aim is the protection of the health of our boxers, and I am trying to improve our EBU-agreement, which sets minimal standards for the safety of all professional boxing fights under control of the EBU-affiliated Federations. There is medical proof that constant punches to the brain may finally cause CTE (Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy), which is the reason for premature Alzheimer, Parkinson, Dementia etc. It is therefore very important that boxers after having received many punches to the head and after having been stopped by KO or TKO, are suspended for a certain time (no fights, no sparring) in order to be able to recover. For this reason the actual EBU-agreement asks for a minimal suspension of 28 days after each KO or TKO. Very unfortunately, this agreement, signed by almost all the EBU-affiliated Federations, is not always respected. Very recently a young fighter (21 years), who had already four stoppage defeats within one year, was authorized to fight again only 21 days after having been stopped. Of course he was again defeated by TKO. This may be very dangerous and risky for the health of this young sportsman, and I beg the authorizing and the controlling Federation to take more care for their boxers in the future.

Health is always more important than business!

I wish a wonderful summer to all of you and thank you very much for having read these EBU-News; your comments are always welcome!

With my warmest personal regards

Peter Stücki, EBU-President