



EUROPEAN BOXING UNION (EBU) – NEWS (Aug. 2024)

Dear boxing friends

You may remember that our provisional member, the **Albanian Boxing Union (ABU)**, President **Mr. Ilir Bregasi**, is rivalled by the old amateur Federation, the **Albanian Boxing Federation (ABF)**, President **Mr. Florend Kalivopulli**, which wants to be affiliated with the EBU. Fact is that the Sports Law in Albania accepts only one Federation for a certain sport. Fact is as well that the Albanian Minister of Sports allowed both Federations to promote professional boxing and that the (new) ABU started earlier than the (old) ABF to organise it, and has more experience and knowledge. We all know that amateur boxing is totally different from professional boxing, and that the EBU-affiliated Federations are all experienced with professionals. It remains an Albanian problem that has to be solved in Albania and not by the EBU.

The (new) ABU promoted very recently another show in Tirana (Albania) with one EBU-championship contest and two WBO-fights. I supervised the EBU-contest and made an excellent experience. Everything worked well and was taken care of and all EBU-Officials were treated with great hospitality. Our EBU-championship contest was the best fight of the evening and saved the show. The two WBO-fights (for their Global and Europe-belt) ended both in the first round and looked simply onesided and disappointing. **Mauro Forte (It)** lost his EBU-Featherweight title in a very close and hard fought contest to his official challenger **Cristobal Lorente (Spain)**, who had to overcome a KD in round 6, but came back very strongly in the final rounds, clearly dominating the last two rounds. Very strangely one of our judges scored the last round 10 : 10, such reaching a Draw. Would the two other EBU-judges not have scored in favour of **Lorente**, the champion **Forte** would have kept his title. I want to remind all our members and officials that the EBU does not know any home- nor championship-advantage, the winner at ringside has to be the winner on the EBU-scorecards!

The following day we, the ABU-people and my humble self were invited by the Albanian Minister of Sports + Education, she is a woman, and she realised that it is the ABU which invests in professional boxing, forms ring officials and promotes; she concluded our meeting by asking the two rivalling Albanian Federations to discuss the problem in order to find a solution. My opinion is that we should continue to take care of the provisional ABU, but still treat the ABF with respect, hoping that a solution may be found in Albania.

Coincidentally I had to notice very recently that again a high-risk A boxer has been authorized to fight by his licensing as well as by the local Federation. The boxer has 40 years of age, keeps fighting as a professional since 2002, his record is 15 wins, 161 defeats and 6 draws, since 2019 he has accumulated 54 continuous defeats, from the 10 defeats in the current year he was stopped twice. Boxrec qualifies him as high-risk category A (which is the highest risk). Please allow me to urge you again to be careful with our sport of boxing, It is in the interest of boxing and of the health and safety of our boxers not to authorize such high-risk boxers!

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