

Leiria 8, 9, 10 November 2019



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A) Morning session, 9 November 2019

Welcome speech by the Convention Organiser: Tatiana Fernandes, EAP delegate of Leiria

In a first moment, Tatiana Fernandes, representing the organiser committee of Leiria, welcomed all the delegations and clarified Leiria's role and position during this Convention. In order to clarify her position, she read the following statement:

- For the past six years, Juventude Vidigalense has had the honor of being part of the prestigious EAP Meetings circuit.
- The first strategic objective that brought us to this circuit was to promote Leiria, our sports facilities and, at the time, our international launch tournament. At this point, we have gained significant notoriety. The organisation of the 2014, 2015 and 2018 European Cup editions is proof of this, as is the organisation already attributed to the 2020-21-22 editions. This strategic objective is therefore put into perspective.
- These organisational events bearing the European Athletics label are, in themselves, quite demanding from an organisational point of view, which overloads a small organisation such as Juventude Vidigalense. At the present time, we do not have enough human and / or volunteer resources to devote to the EAP folder with the required care, in particular with regard to communication between delegations (and this was felt in the organisation of this year).
- The Portuguese competition calendar is extremely demanding, with a high concentration of competitions between January and July, preventing our athletes from participating in certain meetings (district, regional and national championships at different levels, team championships, national cups, etc.). Over the years, very few athletes have participated in EAP competitions. In addition to the travel costs incurred by this reality in terms of costs, between annual membership fees and Convention travel costs, the differential balance between overhead costs and athlete support represents a negative amount of EUR 4,700 (!).
- The distance between Leiria and most of the competition points and the poor air transport network (some direct flights) make the travel of our athletes very expensive for most competitions. Here we do not feel the solidarity that we expected, even from the meetings which are not short of budget and which did not however encourage our participation (as some delegations had requested during our last meeting).
- It is easy to realise that this situation is becoming unbearable. On the financial side, the club is going through a period of cost reduction and restructuring of its technical and human resources teams, which requires focusing on the essential and the priority: our regular activity of training and support to the competition.
- Therefore, at the moment, we do not have the necessary budgetary room to be able to initially allocate EUR 3,000 to support the participation of our partners in the events of the Joint Undertaking.

In view of the above, it was unanimously resolved, at a recent meeting held on November 5th 2019, to **terminate the participation of Juventude Vidigalense in the EAP circuit.**

However, we insist on the importance of welcoming the various delegations to our city and showing what is good in Leiria, our sports facilities and our dynamism.

We thank you all for the good times and the competitive opportunities offered.

This is not a definitive goodbye; it will certainly be a "see you soon" ... indefinitely.

Opening Speech by the EAP president

Pablo Cassina, president of the EAP circuit, opens the 29th Convention with the following speech:

Dear members Meet Organisers of the European Athletics Promotion circuit, dear candidate to join our organization, dear Tatiana, convention organizer and dear Juventude Vidigalense, member meeting organisers, we decided, 5 years ago, to organise the convention into our new members' location and we had a sort of waiting list which obliged us to accept quite a long delay before assigning this destination: Leiria !

It was in Biella, November 2014. At this time, the candidates were Dour, former member, who re-presented their meet after 4 years absence, Valence and then Leiria presented by Daniel Pereira and Diogo Correia.

We had already booked congresses in Nivelles 2015, for the 25th EAP anniversary, Amsterdam 2016, Budapest 2017, Valence 2018 and finally Leiria 2019. And here we are today!

In 5 years, you organized a traditional meet, then a Throwing tournament and finally, finally, a youth meeting. For the reasons you have just explained to us, you have taken the decision to put into brackets your organising activity. I fully understand the reasons, but I personally regret it. I think that all of us would like to come back to you here in beautiful Leiria. So, yes, keep the door wide open and build a new project. We would like to help you again, and better, with the promotion of a new meeting in the near future.

Some of the reasons of your decisions are maybe to be found into what I call, misunderstandings. The misunderstandings are something our circuit has to face.

In truth, **the clarification of our regulations is part of a huge project that I undertook with the project Strategy EAP2020**, proposed in Amsterdam 2016 and then announced at the 2017 Budapest Convention.

We have the need and the urgency to define ourselves and define our fundamental identity.

Athletics is being devoured by the same principles that govern the consumer economy and the needs of the general public and mass media. **The formatting of our sport is in my opinion a drift to which we do not want to go.** This is becoming a sport in which we do not recognise ourselves anymore.

It is *athleticism* that changes some fundamental principles of the competition itself, which eliminates trials, it is not our way we conceive athletic competitions.

I know why, Noël Levêque, Giorgio Ferrando and myself have thought in 1989 of a circuit of meetings and then created in 1990 this independent organisation. We had a precise idea.

There's no day in which I have a doubt of the authenticity of our principles and I know Noël and Giorgio who still firmly think and believe the same.

The EAP2020, as a sort of milestone, is a project in which I want to reaffirm those principles by giving the opportunity to be better understood and shared. It's our identity we want to express through it.

TrueAthletics is not always a hashtag you systematically find on our digital communication. Is part of our claims and **"the athletics we are proud of"** is not a simply a slogan.

What is an EAP meet and what is *not* an EAP meet?

What are the key points, what are our values? What an EAP meeting do better than other meets, why is an EAP meet, ... an EAP meet? In what we recognize an EAP meet? What are our particularities? Why facilitating, promoting, the participation of your athletes into other meets in Europe is to be considered a real privilege? All this will be part of our discussions, our projects, and finally our **"toolbox"** and **"starter kits"**.

The EAP will have its **Manifesto**, the declaration of what we are and how we will do athletics in Europe.

Define who we are, what and the way we do it, give us the opportunity to measure it and improve our "EAP lifestyle".

In what we are different, in what we can consider us TrueAthletics ?

Moving forward, together: this is today's program.

Thank you for your attention. I wish you an excellent convention to you all!

Pablo Cassina
EAP president

Roll Call

EAP Delegates in attendance

Meeting	Member Delegate (* = with voting rights)
Aarhus	Sebastian Deisting SKEJØ *
Amsterdam	Urta ROZENSTRUİK *
Belfast	Tom REYNOLDS *
Budapest	Dávid TÉGLÁSSY
Budapest	Tímea TÉGLÁSSY *
Celle Ligure	Claudia RICCIO *
Dour	Bernard STOQUART
Dour	Chantal GÉRARD *
Genève	Michèle GARLINSKI
Genève	Pablo CASSINA
Genève	Zecca WALTER *
Kuldiga	Ugis JOCIS *
Leiria	Paulo VIEIRA (only morning session)
Leiria	Tatiana FERNANDES *
Loughborough	Ian ANHOLM *
Malta	Ian Paul GRECH
Malta	Steve CAMILLERI *
Nivelles	Caroline SOUPART
Nivelles	Micheline SMEETS *
Namur	Christian HALLOY *
Palafrugell	Josep MASSA *
Valence	François SIMON *
Valence	Victor ALLIER
Total 23 EAP meeting delegates, 15 of them with voting rights. Majority is then acquired with 8 votes.	

EAP Candidate

Castiglione della Pescaia	Elisabetta ARTUSO (by visio-conference, only during meeting presentation)
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EAP delegates excused

Meeting	Member Delegate
Celle Ligure	Giorgio Ferrando (first year of absence) Voting rights entrusted to Mrs Claudia Riccio.
Catania	Sebastiano (<i>Nuccio</i>) Leonardi (first year of absence) No voting rights entrusted to another delegate. No other members of the CUS Catania were available because their presence was mandatory on place for voting reasons.
Hexham	Richard Hunter (first year of absence) No voting rights entrusted to another delegate.

Exclusion of Members Meeting Organizer

No exclusions.

Minutes Secretary:

Mrs. Tatiana Fernandes, Convention organiser

Interpreter service:

Not provided.

Assumed alternatively by Mrs. Tatiana Fernandes, Pablo Cassina and Claudia Riccio.

Validation of EAP minutes of the 28th Valence Convention

Pablo Cassina explains that the minutes were sent a bit late (mid-January 2020) and only in French and that the minutes did not report all the themes of the agenda (particularly the presentation of the EAP2020 project strategy), due to the partial absence of the secretary in the after-noon session. Nevertheless, the rest of the minutes report were satisfactory and as nobody had any remarks or questions, the Report was unanimously adopted by all the members.

➔ **The 2018 Minutes report is accepted unanimously (15 votes)**

Presentation of the EAP organisations and short report (by date)

Each delegation made a brief presentation about its competition (participation of partners, general organisation, sport results).

In general, the balance is positive, although there were some constraints due to bad weather in some events (particularly Genève).

Analysis of the new EAP organisations 2019

The new members (2019) make a quick self-assessment on their organisation.

- **Malta**, who made a positive assessment of its organisation, and
- **Belfast International**, who made a positive assessment as well.

In what is concerned with **particular status of the members** (members not being able to organise in 2019), due to several reasons, specially related to facilities, in the past season, it was not be possible to hold any competition from the following members:

- **Aarhus**
(no meeting organised for 2 consecutive years 2018 and 2019 for organisational difficulties and budget)
- **Amsterdam**
(no meeting organised for 2 consecutive years 2015 and 2016 and was back with an indoor meet in 2017, but the no meeting organized for the other 2 consecutive years in 2018 and 2019 for organisational and budget difficulties)
- **Namur**
(no meeting organised for 3 consecutive years: cancelled in 2017, 2018 and 2019 for track impracticability *)
- **Hexham**
(for the first year for non-availability of the track)

*) Despite the reflection of the track, Namur was not able to organise the meeting and hope to be back for 2020.

In the **point focusing dismissions and exclusions of members**, Leiria defends the end of its participation in the circuit, as explained above. The different delegations regret the decision, but it is clear that "the doors are open" for a possible return in the future.

The group discussed this situations concerning the status of the EAP and the president recalled the fact that an organising member can remain a member for all purposes even if, for reasons of "force majeure", he cannot organise his meeting and this up to 2 consecutive years without any sanction.

However, if a return to normal is not possible, **at the latest for the 3^d year, he must present a project, a plan to return to the organisation or propose an alternative solution such as, for example, a competition outside the track stadium** (pole vault or high jump, throwing tournament or something else) in order to maintain an organisational standard level and level of competence.

If no project can be proposed, the members may have to vote on its exclusion from the 3^d year and, in all cases, automatically, its exclusion will be protocolled from the 4th year of absence.

➔ Mr Pablo Cassina proposes to include this point to the Standard & Regulations.

Applications

The EAP President listed several **contacts made**, in order to propose to join our circuit, namely:

- Andorra : CAVA
- Athlone (IRE)
- Castiglione della Pescaia (ITA).
- Central Athletic Club, Scotland - Stirling, Scotland (UK)
- Estepona (SPA)
- Kladno hází (CZE)
- Midsummer Summer Track Night (AU)
- Milano Meeting, Lombardia (ITA) and
- Sabbadel (ESP)
- Sollentuna / Tureberg (SWE)

Some meetings showed interest but were not ready to join the circuit for the moment. Other said they were already integrated in other national circuits or already part of European Athletics (area permit, etc.) and therefore being also EAP member would not bring extra value. From this list, only **Castiglione della Pescaia** (also European Athletics Area Permit) **formalised the request to join our circuit**, although, it was not possible for this delegation to be physically present in Leiria. They asked, exceptionally, to virtually present their application, live by visio-conference (Skype) during the Convention.

The proposal for the Meeting **Città di Castiglione della Pescaia** (IT) was presented, with the proposal to be held on Monday 25 May 2020.

Mrs Elisabetta Artuso made her presentation, and some questions were clarified. The problem of scheduling and possible overlapping of dates was raised, in addition to being held during the week, which may be a constraint for some delegations.

Mrs Artuso said it was important for her to be close of the DL meeting of Rome in order to have some athletes directly participating at both meeting, as this was done in the past. This was also impacting the budget because the participation of some top athletes was necessary to have some sponsors.

➔ After this presentation, the members of the convention **unanimously approved Castiglione della Pescaia as a new EAP Meeting**.

EAP 2020 project presentation

The chairman presented the first topic regarding **Vision & Reason: the EAP toolbox**.

In this regard, the president reiterated the investment made in the redesign of the website, as well as the implementation of a series of tools (eg doodle, online forms with some self-calculated fields, the online workshops, etc.) as a methodology to streamline communication between members, promote joint work of reflection and involve all stakeholders. members in decision-making processes. However, there is a weak adherence to such strategies, which is why he appeals for greater participation by its members. He insisted on the fact that the EAP circuit is everyone's business and that the slogan "moving forward together" was a real open and participatory way of working.

In this sequence, talking about the new EAP tools, he introduced the presentation of «OpenTrack» (www.opentrack.run): Mr Andy Robinson, via visio-conference was invited to present the software. Andy succinctly presented the program, its features and potential. OpenTrack is the tool supported by European Athletics and mandatory to all the permit meetings in Europe.

Despite having generally captured the interest of its members, during the round table after the live discussion, Loughborough warned of some problems in the functioning of this system, regarding the compatibility between systems that requires a lot of work in the introduction and data transfer.

The president asked each delegation to give their opinion and feeling:

- **Malta:** considers it an interesting system, but it is important to understand the compatibility for its internal use
- **Loughbrough:** considers that joining this program should be an individual decision of each meeting and not something generalized
- **Amsterdam:** they are no longer interested, but they will have to raise the issue to a higher level and send a final decision, later, by e-mail
- **Belfast:** are interested in adopting this system, since there is compatibility between software
- **Aahrus:** the NI Federation already uses this system and the club has its own model, so they agree but of course are not interested in replicating.
- **Palafrugell:** underlines the dependence on the Spanish Federation for a decision, since there must be a congruence and / or compatibility between systems
- **Celle Ligure:** this results processing system probably does not interest them, as it seems redundant with the system used by the Italian federation
- **Nivelles:** not interested. They will use the system adopted by their federation.
- **Genève:** they will evaluate this product / tool, together with the Federation and their tool (Seltec).
- **Namur:** as long as the question regarding the conservation of the athletics track has not been resolved, they will not take any decision in relation to a result system that may not be used.
- **Dour:** the executive committee has analysed this proposal and is not interested in its acquisition, given that: 1) it presents significant costs 2) the IT manager raised a number of questions regarding its update and functionality.
- **Valence:** are not interested, given the costs and considering that this is not a priority in the actual situation
- **Biella:** reiterates Celle Ligure's opinion, showing no immediate interest.

Next 4-Years EAP steps

Reflecting around expectations regarding the EAP for the next 4 years, in practical terms, it was considered essential the need of definition of some points in the functioning of the EAP, namely:

- **Standard & Regulations.** The revision of the translations of the **statutes** that, for different circumstances, gave rise to laconic and sometimes incongruous interpretations.
Likewise, it is suggested that **the intention of creating a working group that reflects and elaborates a proposal for a specific regulation for youth competitions be**

implemented. President Pablo Cassina appeal for a careful reading of the statutes, however delegations such as Valence, Leiria or Malta focus on the inaccuracies in this document, which make its interpretation dubious. Thus, this delegation reiterates the need a better definition of terms, in an unambiguous way, particularly with regard to the obligations of each member and the criteria for reimbursement (when shall a delegation cover all the expenses). Leiria appeal for a mutual assistance and understanding between delegations. It has been emphasized the need to review the **admission criteria for athletes**. It is important to define the standards that bring the desired quality to the circuit. It was suggested to create a **working group** composed of Tímea Téglássy, Walter Zecca, Caroline Soupart, Josep Massa, Urta Rozenstruik and Sebastian SkejØ, **in order to define which are the main points to consider and which standards are considered acceptable**.

- **EAP Quality Meeting.** Making a state of play, Tímea Téglássy presented a **proposal and model for evaluating the quality of the meetings**, with the attribution of points for specific aspects and dimensions, as well as some guidelines for good practices. The relevance of creating a **competition bulletin** (welcome sheet with athletes' instructions and tips) is highlighted, since it which can gather all the useful information about the competition, serving as a guide for athletes and delegations. Likewise, the importance of using at least **two foreign languages** with regard to announcements and comments in the management of the competition (eg. announcement of results or call for athletes) is emphasized.

The idea behind this, is to define what determines an EAP meeting from others of similar levels and therefore create our good practices. Encouraging the **strong points** detected but also **identifying the weak or missing aspects**, we will elaborate and then check the list of points to observe. Those points will help us define if a meeting is in the EAP scope... or not and define when necessary a "recovery plan".

- **EAP identity:** Pablo Cassina focused on the importance of thinking about **strengthening the EAP**, not only for the acquisition of new members, but also for the modernization of work methodologies and for the need to **attract sponsors** to make this project possible. It reiterates the need for EAP to focus on '*classic*' athletics competition (TrueAthletics), distancing from the DNA ("Dynamic New Athletics") project recently instilled by European Athletics.

The first of two phases in the evolution of our image was made on our logo or more precisely on adding a tagline. Presented and adopted one year earlier in Valence, it was decided to strengthen our message by announcing our identity: all our meetings become "**inspired by**" and all our members declare, through this logo that they are proud of this athletics ("EAP Circuit: **The athletics we are proud of**").

The second phase will be the redesign of our logo (while maintaining the tagline). This will be announced at the 30th Anniversary Convention in Geneva and will mark a new impetus while keeping the affirmation of our values and historical principles.

- End of the morning session -

B) After-noon session, 9 November 2019

[All participants are present, except Mr Paulo Veira, from Leiria the number of people with the right to vote remains the same]

Next 4-Years EAP steps (Cont'd)

- **The EAP Toolbox** is the EAP equipment for MO. There is an available **"Starter-kit"** and a proposed (and not imposed) **"Pro-Kit"** to help and improve their efficiency in organisation and communication. It consists of a privilege package of various tools to which MO can access under negotiated costs. New members can consider this as a booster to help them achieve their goals from the first year. Being an EAP meeting is no longer only being in the EAP calendar and website. Being an EAP meeting is a valuable reason to get more concrete support.
- **30th Anniversary Convention.** In terms of the future of the EAP, Pablo Cassina also recalls this as a milestone event, justifying wider and more marked celebrations. Returning to Genève - as the 'mother' house of this project. He suggested to encourage more playful activities that complement the usual work and it is suggested to invite previous members who no longer belong to the circuit. All the participants agree with the terms of this statements.
- **EAP Travel Reimbursements criteria.** Leiria reiterated the opinion presented in the initial phase of this convention, calling for a review of criteria as the delegations that are furthest from the centre Europe end up having no significant incentives, given the costs of travels. Malta also requested clarification regarding the inclusion of meals and accommodation in refunds, especially for athletes who arrive a day before the competition.

The president reminds members that for a year there has been a precise grid for each delegation. This takes up the criteria of our regulations and has been adopted and used by all with some success. However, and as announced since the launch of the EAP 2020 Strategy project, it is clear that our regulation no longer responds fairly to the reality of the facts. Some distant meetings are obviously financially disadvantaged. This is the reason why **3 categories of meetings will be defined within which differentiated reimbursement criteria and the number of athletes per delegation will be applied.** This will aim to protect our meetings from charges that they could not carry and will ensure our survive and further development, affirms the president.

- **Valence:** the Meeting of Valence issue was addressed, with arrears being paid to different delegations, with some disorganization and lack of responses to members. With Leiria, members also experienced communication problems with the **delay in publicizing the event and in defining the terms of the competition.** In the absence of Mr Nicolas Doumeng, it is Mr François Simon who represents the Valence meeting who would like to apologize to all concerned members as well as to other athletes and delegations who expressed their grievances to the President of the EAP. He informs us that he has not been aware of the situation to date but **assures that he wants to resolve all open reimbursements requests as quickly as possible.**

It is recalled that such situations damage the credibility and the image of the entire EAP circuit. Grievances can quickly become public through social networks. You can quickly lose control in the management of a meeting. All it takes is a vague settlement, a few badly negotiated flight tickets, a number of overnight stays and poorly estimated meals that **the meeting can lose thousands of Euros in no time.**

It is also for this reason that the EAP, adds Mr. Pablo Cassina, wishes to offer its members **an IT solution which makes it possible to manage these various interrelated aspects.**

EAP Statistics and Meeting rankings

Josep Massa proceeded to the usual **presentation of statistical data** for the last competitive season, with no doubts or issues raised. Genève stands out, as usual, with 797670 points (despite the interruption of the meeting due to the storm), followed by Budapest with 73304 and Loughborough with 72809 points.

Interesting analysis and comparisons were showed even if some data were interpreted in a different way (or sent very late) by MO. The new form to fill the data, was not the easiest way to proceed and it requires more accuracy and explanations. To be reviewed for next year.

It is difficult to compare non homogenous data as this reveals different compatibilization and specific financial organisation among countries and clubs.

The question was again raised concerning the meeting scoring points, as these are immediately and freely available from World Athletics website (previously under All-Athletics). Josep Massa says that there can be different interpretations so that, quite often, there are discrepancies between the two systems and that ours is probably more adapted to our reality because not all meetings are compatible with their system. It is also the reason why we keep on having the statistic on the "old system" too, which gives us a continuity during the years.

Accounting report

The EAP treasurer Mr Christian HALLOY, presented the list of cash inflows and outflows. Starting with a positive balance in 2018 of 4,413.47 euros, another 3,150 euros were received. In turn, expenses amounted to 3068.25 euros, with a **final balance of 4,499.85 euros**. These accounts were approved unanimously.

This money is necessary to cover the usual EAP communication expenses (hosting website, publications, plug-ins, subscriptions and communication as banners, flags, shirts, etc).

EAP 2020 Budget + the 30th Anniversary

To face new meeting needs, and also to supply and renew our communication material stocks, we will take the opportunity to use the new logo (once and if approved at next Convention in Geneva) to redo the complete set.

The EAP will also participate in the 30th Anniversary Celebrations expenses.

A specific budget proposal will be addressed to the members in due time.

Miscellaneous and unexpected

Nothing to report

Organisation of the EAP Annual Convention

The organisation of the next convention is entrusted to the Genève meeting.

The 30th Annual Convention, "EAP Birthday" will celebrate the event with a program of festivities and a larger number of invitations (including previous members).

Proposals and attributions of the next 3-4 convention

30th Convention 2020	6-8 NOV	Geneva CH
31st Convention: 2021,	5-7 NOV	Palafrugell ESP
32nd Convention: 2022,	4-6 NOV	Celle Ligure ITA
33d Convention: 2023,	3-5 NOV	Catania ITA
34th Convention: 2024,	8-10 NOV	Malta ITA
35th Convention: 2025,	7-9 NOV	Belfast ITA
36th Convention: 2026,	6-8 NOV (?)	TBD

Establishment of the list of members of the Executive Committee for 2019-2020

According to regulations and as custom, the organizer of the previous convention (therefore Leiria), part of the Exec, participates with his practical advice in this organisation. In this specific case, Leiria having withdrawn from the circuit, it will be Geneva which will assume this task alone, which is accepted by the members.

EAP 2020 meeting program

Regarding the EAP 2020 Program and other competitions of common interest for the members, the dates proposed by the delegations were surveyed, proceeding to the Updating of the provisional calendar of the circuit. The website was updated with those last indications.

Budapest informs us of the organisation of the NATO RUN, a big race event (5, 10km road race + relays) in October 2020 where EAP members can take part. The participation is not under the EAP regulations, so no budget can be allocated to the members, but it would be nice to meet the members there.

Conclusions and closing remarks

The president Pablo Cassina thanks Tatiana Fernandes and Juventude Vidigalense for having maintained this convention in her home country, despite the decision to quit the circuit. It has been admirably organised, and all members were warmly welcomed.

The members were able to make a number of requests for the opinion of the EAP and this highlighted their attachment to the circuit. **These requests, all relevant and legitimate, will allow the acceleration of the current revisions, in particular concerning the regulations and criteria for reimbursement of travel expenses. This is a key point because it is what makes the originality of our circuit, in addition to our positioning against doping.**

The ongoing strategic reforms will be completed during 2020 and from 2021 we will be able to present ourselves as the alternative and independent circuit defending pure and clean athletics under the code name "**TrueAthletics**".

The convention was closed with a 'Port of Honor' and these minutes were written for future memory.

See you in Geneva 2020 !