

BUREAU

Meeting Minutes

European Fencing Confederation | 19 April 2026 | 2025-2026/8 | v1.0

APPROVED

I. Meeting Details

Meeting Title	Bureau Meeting 2025-2026/8 — Pre-COMEX Preparation
Meeting Number	2025-2026/8
Date	19 April 2026 (Sunday)
Time	16:00 - 16:52 CEST (52 minutes)
Platform	Microsoft Teams (online)
Chair	Etienne Van Cann (Vice President, EFC)
Purpose	Preparation for COMEX Meeting 2025-2026/8 — 20 April 2026
Classification	Approved
Minutes prepared by	EFC Secretariat
Status	v1.0

II. Attendance

Present

Name	Role	Duration	Notes
Etienne Van Cann	Chair / EFC Vice President	~50m	Left at approx. 50:24 — COMEX documents agreed
Pascal Tesch	EFC President	52m	
Nuala McGarrity	Treasurer	52m	
Iryna Mazheika	Assistant to the President	52m	

Absent

Name	Role	Notes
Jacek Slupski	Secretary General	Absent — sick leave

III. Agenda

#	Item
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1	Welcome and opening
2	Approval of Bureau meeting minutes — 2025-2026/7 (16 April 2026)
3	Bureau decisions for COMEX ratification
4	Review of open action points
5	COMEX meeting (20 April 2026): documents package and agenda review
6	Russia/Belarus reinstatement proposals — voting procedure and Congress preparation
7	PMC Cagliari meeting update
8	Any other business
9	Closure

IV. Decision Register

Ref	Subject	Decision	Agreed by
D-01	Minutes 2025-2026/7	Bureau meeting minutes 2025-2026/7 (16 April 2026) approved. No sensitive content identified. Approved for inclusion in the COMEX document package.	Bureau present
D-02	Federation proposals — distribution	The three federation proposals on Russia/Belarus reinstatement to be included in the COMEX document package for 20 April 2026 for information. No vote on these proposals at this stage.	Bureau present
D-03	Voting procedure — deferral	Determination of voting procedure for multiple competing Congress proposals deferred to the 8 May 2026 COMEX meeting, pending completion of the Legal Commission's Luxembourg law review.	Bureau present
D-04	COMEX own proposal	COMEX to develop its own proposal on the Russia/Belarus status question. Proposal must be finalised and approved at the 8 May 2026 COMEX meeting, before dispatch of Congress documents on 13 May 2026.	Bureau present
D-05	Electronic voting system	Selection of electronic voting system for the Congress to be decided by COMEX at the 8 May 2026 meeting. Two candidate systems currently under evaluation by Semi.	Bureau present
D-06	Bureau meeting at Cagliari	In-person Bureau meeting to be scheduled during the Cagliari event. Etienne Van Cann confirmed attendance.	Bureau present

V. Action Points

Ref	Owner	Action	Due
AP-01	Iryna Mazheika	Upload COMEX document package to COMEX Teams channel: agenda, commission reports,	19 April 2026

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		Tbilisi decisions summary, Bureau decisions, travel policy, admin rules, three federation proposals, Bureau meeting minutes (#5, #6, #7).	
AP-02	Etienne Van Cann	Add Iryna Mazheika to the COMEX Teams channel to enable document upload.	19 April 2026
AP-03	Nuala McGarrity	Resend commission reports to Pascal Tesch in .docx format (not PDF).	19 April 2026
AP-04	Etienne Van Cann / Legal Commission	Complete Luxembourg law review on voting procedures for multiple competing Congress proposals. Present findings and recommended approach to COMEX at the 8 May 2026 meeting.	Before 8 May 2026
AP-05	Bureau	Finalise COMEX proposal on Russia/Belarus status for submission to and approval by COMEX at the 8 May 2026 meeting, ahead of the 13 May 2026 Congress document dispatch.	Before 8 May 2026
AP-06	Pascal Tesch	Verify signing authority on Turkish and Bulgarian federation proposals (neither signed by federation President). Assess implications for procedural validity.	Before 8 May 2026
AP-07	Pascal Tesch / Etienne Van Cann	Contact Hippocrates (Greece) and Katsiadakis this week regarding Congress positioning and EFC support.	Week of 21 April 2026
AP-08	Etienne Van Cann	Review and reformat PMC Cagliari meeting agenda; address commission organisation concerns raised with Vincenzo De Bartolomeo.	Before Cagliari
AP-09	Bureau	Discuss Italian organizer concerns (Cagliari event and U14 Festival) — deferred to next Bureau meeting after COMEX.	Next Bureau meeting
AP-10	Bureau	Follow up with FIE on black card disciplinary report submitted re: Tbilisi incident. Confirm FIE response received or chase.	Ongoing

a mis en forme : Italien (Italie)

VI. Minutes by Agenda Item

1. Welcome and Opening

The president asked Etienne Van Cann to chair the meeting as he was absent for one week while Etienne was running the operations. The designated chair then opened the meeting at 16:00 CEST. Pascal Tesch noted that the purpose of the meeting is preparation for the COMEX meeting scheduled for 20 April 2026 at 18:00 CEST. Apologies were noted for Jacek Slupski, absent on sick leave.

2. Approval of Bureau Meeting Minutes — 2025-2026/7 (16 April 2026)

The chair confirmed that the meeting number for the 16 April Bureau meeting is 2025-2026/7. The minutes were reviewed for sensitive content. Nuala McGarrity confirmed no sensitive content was identified. Pascal Tesch concurred. The minutes were approved and cleared for inclusion in the COMEX document package.

3. Bureau Decisions for COMEX Ratification

The chair and Pascal Tesch reviewed the Bureau decisions requiring COMEX ratification. Six decisions were confirmed:

- Administrative support fee — additional remuneration for Iryna Mazheika for work performed beyond her standard duties.
- Mental health budget — €5,000 earmarked for inclusion in the 2026-2027 budget.
- Secretary General leave — noted for ratification.
- Material aid allocation — associated with the member federation survey launched by the Bureau.
- Travel expense adjustment — daily rate increased to €100; updated reimbursement claim form reviewed and approved by the Treasurer.
- Administrative Rules correction — text updated to reflect 44 member federations (previously incorrectly stated as 46), noted as particularly relevant ahead of the upcoming Congress.

The decisions will be presented as a separate document within the COMEX package, distinct from the main agenda.

4. Review of Open Action Points

The chair reviewed open action points from previous Bureau meetings:

- Review of Bureau meeting minutes for sensitive content — completed. Nuala McGarrity confirmed no sensitive content.
- Tbilisi decisions summary — Iryna Mazheika confirmed the qualified summary is prepared and ready for inclusion in the COMEX package.
- Travel expenses policy — finalised by Etienne Van Cann.
- Administrative Rules update — completed.
- Referring response letter — finalised by Iryna Mazheika.
- Italy entry form (U23 Championships, Cagliari) — Iryna Mazheika received the Italian form and identified an error: athletes per nation listed as "8" (total) rather than "8 per weapon per gender." Julius is in contact with the Italian federation to resolve.
- Russia outstanding debt confirmation — completed by Nuala McGarrity. Note: the original invoice was denominated in Swiss francs; the current euro equivalent is marginally higher than the original amount.
- Patrick Schumann matter — deferred to next Bureau meeting after the COMEX meeting.
- Action item #15 (Vilem Madr / Nuala McGarrity) — response received from Nuala McGarrity; follow-up to be scheduled as needed.
- Bureau meeting at Cagliari — confirmed. Etienne Van Cann confirmed attendance.

Note: the Cagliari event reference appeared multiple times in the COMEX document draft due to a data entry error. Iryna Mazheika corrected this using find-and-replace during the meeting.

5. COMEX Meeting (20 April 2026): Documents Package

Iryna Mazheika confirmed the COMEX document package is complete and ready for upload. Contents:

- Agenda for COMEX meeting 2025-2026/8
- Commission reports (to be resent in .docx format at Pascal Tesch's request)
- Summary of Tbilisi COMEX decisions
- Bureau decisions for ratification
- Three federation proposals on Russia/Belarus reinstatement (for information)

- Updated Travel Expense Policy
- Updated Administrative Rules
- Bureau meeting minutes: 2025-2026/5, /6, and /7

Iryna Mazheika noted she does not currently have access to the COMEX Teams channel; Etienne Van Cann to add her to enable upload. The chair agreed that documents should be uploaded to a COMEX channel folder rather than distributed by email, given the volume of material.

The chair also noted that the Legal Commission report (which references the EFC counter-strategy against the European Fencing Clubs Association) is included in the package. It signals the existence of a counter-strategy without revealing details. The Bureau agreed this is appropriate.

6. Russia/Belarus Reinstatement Proposals — Voting Procedure and Congress Preparation

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL. Full discussion recorded for Bureau reference only.

[Take this from transcript.](#)

7. PMC Cagliari Meeting Update

Etienne Van Cann reported on the Promotion and Media Commission meeting held on 16 April (Teams) and the upcoming in-person PMC meeting at Cagliari. Vincenzo De Bartolomeo (PMC President) had indicated he had no additional agenda topics beyond Etienne's brand architecture presentation, giving Etienne the full meeting day. This surprised the Bureau; Pascal Tesch questioned whether Vincenzo had any other prepared topics.

The chair noted that only Dominika Dwornik had confirmed attendance; Daniel Lazer has not attended the last two PMC meetings. The chair called Lazer directly and received confirmation of attendance at Cagliari. Alessandro Noto will join by telephone. Erica is unable to attend. Pascal Tesch noted that Alessandro and Erica are not formally commission members. The chair acknowledged this but noted Vincenzo had invited them and that Alessandro in particular has been a useful contributor.

The chair indicated he will reformat and update the Cagliari PMC meeting agenda given the PMC's capacity concerns, and that a Bureau meeting should also be scheduled during the Cagliari event.

8. Any Other Business

8.1 SAMAR / FIE Request Regarding Estonia

Pascal Tesch noted a request from SAMAR el Sabee (assistant to Abdelmoneim el Hussein) asking the EFC to involve Estonia in a FIE matter. He noted the problematic: in the FIE meeting of 13 January, Estonia was blocked from any organizational role in the upcoming Olympic cycle. The request to the EFC to act on Estonia's behalf was therefore considered inappropriate. PaT to call Abdelmoneim Hussein to get further information.

8.2 Italy — Cagliari and U14 Concerns

Pascal Tesch noted concerns about Italian organizing standards for the Cagliari U23 event and the U14 Festival. The U23 organizing committee's website is effectively the club website with a section added for U23 content — insufficient for an EFC-branded event. This will be discussed further at the next Bureau meeting after COMEX.

8.3 Black Card Incident (Tbilisi) — FIE Disciplinary Report

Pascal Tesch raised the EFC black card report submitted to the FIE disciplinary panel in relation to a Tbilisi incident involving ISR coach Omer. He expressed dissatisfaction that this was effectively being buried. The chair confirmed the EFC has submitted the report and is awaiting a response from the FIE panel. The Bureau agreed to follow up. Deferred to post-COMEX.

8.4 FIE Website Payment Portal

Nuala McGarrity confirmed she had attended a review meeting on the FIE website payment portal. The portal is functional. It is unlikely to change the payment behaviour of major European federations, which pay via bank transfer. However, it will benefit smaller federations (South America, Asia) paying individual athlete licenses directly. Pascal Tesch requested a preview of the Treasurer's budget document; Nuala McGarrity agreed to prepare and send later that day.

8.5 Greece Complaint — Referee Conduct

Etienne Van Cann briefly raised a complaint received from Greece regarding referee conduct. Given time constraints and the COMEX meeting the following day, discussion was deferred to the post-COMEX Bureau meeting.

VII. Closure

BUREAU — MEETING MINUTES

2025-2026/8 | 19 April 2026

Meeting closed	16:52 CEST, 19 April 2026
Duration	52 minutes
Next meetings	COMEX Meeting 2025-2026/8 — 20 April 2026 at 18:00 CEST Bureau Meeting at Cagliari (date TBC)
Key deadline	COMEX proposal + voting procedure finalised — 8 May 2026 Congress documents dispatched — 13 May 2026
Minutes approved by	To be approved at next Bureau meeting
Signed (Chair)	Etienne Van Cann