



NEWSLETTER

EUROPEAN KARATE ORGANIZATION

GENERAL INFORMATION 2026

- March 3-5, EKO Black Belt Seminar, Stara Wie Poland
- May 8-9, European Championship Adult + J18 (inc. Kata Men and Women WC-2027 1st selection), Batumi Georgia
- October TBD, European Championship J16 + U21 + Open (inc. Women Open WC-2027 1st selection), Latvia
- December? TBD, Kokoro Cup (inc. Women Open WC-2027 2nd selection), Poland
- TBD? Kata Men and Women WC-2027 2nd selection, Belgium

Seasonal Greetings from the EKO Board



Dear EKO Members, Branch Chiefs, Instructors, Fighters, and Friends,



The passing year, 2025, has been a time of intensive work that we have collectively dedicated to the development of our organization. I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for our cooperation, which is rooted in the foundation of Budo Karate – mutual respect, discipline, and the pursuit of excellence. It is thanks to your commitment that EKO remains a strong and united Family.

I extend special words of gratitude to the national organizations for their exemplary preparation of this year's most significant sporting events. My thanks go to the Lithuanian and Hungarian Organizations for the magnificent European Championships in Klaipėda and Debrecen. Your hospitality and professionalism serve as a hallmark of European karate.

2025 was a milestone in promoting the idea of Fullcontact Karate and the sporting unification of the Kyokushin world. The historic 1st World Fullcontact Championships, held in Tokyo in late May and early June, provided a new momentum for our discipline and the Fullcontact movement. Europe is actively participating in this process – in accordance with the adopted EKO Strategy, we inaugurated the European Club Cup in Kielce this November, proving that our organization is developing dynamically and setting new standards.

Despite our successes and continued growth, our hearts remain concerned about the situation in Ukraine. We all deeply long for peace and a return to the sporting competitions we remember from before 2022.

I send expressions of solidarity and support to all citizens of Ukraine, and especially to the members of our Shinkyokushin community.

We look to the future with hope. As early as January 2026, EKO will continue its partnership dialogue with WKO. Together with EKO Vice-President Michael Soderkvist, I will travel to Japan for meetings and discussions with WKO representatives, including President Kenji Midori, to jointly build the future of world karate.

On the occasion of the upcoming Christmas, I wish you health, peace, and moments of rest among your loved ones. May the coming year 2026 bring you prosperity, fortitude, and continued success on the path of karate.

With respect and sports greetings,

Remigiusz Karpiński

President of EKO



MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026
WISHES EUROPEAN
KARATE ORGANIZATION



News from the Referee Committee



REFEREES FOR EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP IN BATUMI, GEORGIA

EKO Referee Committee invite A, B and C licensed referees. We also welcome new referees who want to apply for a C-license. This includes those who want to refresh an old license.

REFEREE COURSE IN BATUMI, GEORGIA

Before the European Championship in Batumi, EKO invites to a referee course for new referees, referees who apply for a new license and referees who need to renew a license. See coming information about how to apply in the official invitation to the championship.

NEW REFEREE LICENSES

About 35 new referee licenses are issued in 2025. Each candidate has got a personal mail with the result. We congratulate them all.

EKO-REGION SELECTION FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP 2027

Selection for World Championship 2027, Women Open category and Men + Women Kata categories will be held at four occasions 2026.

KATA

- May 8-9, European Championship Adult + J18 (inc. Kata Men and Women WC-2027 1st selection), Batumi Georgia
- TBD? Kata Men and Women WC-2027 2nd selection, Belgium

KUMITE

- October TBD, European Championship J16 + U21 + Open (inc Women Open WC-2027 1st selection), Latvia
- December? TBD, Kokoro Cup (inc Women Open WC-2027 2nd selection), Poland

IMPORTANT TOPICS IN COMING NEWSLETTER, MID JANUARY 2026

- Information about EKO Black Belt Seminar, Stara Wie Poland
- Updated rules for Kumite and Kata
- Antidoping activities

EKO REFEREE COMMITTEE

Michael Söderkvist
Chairman

<https://www.ekoreferrees.eu/>