

**Minutes of the Pigeon Section meeting, EE Congress, 15 May 2026,
Segovia, Spain**

Start of meeting: 8.00 am

Present: 30 participants from 18 countries (Attendance list attached)

Agenda:

1. Opening and welcome address
2. Attendance list
3. Minutes of the 2025 meeting
4. Information on current animal welfare issues
5. Minutes of the Presidium meetings
6. EE General Meeting on 16 May 2026
7. RBES 2025/26
8. Approval of the RBES 2026/2027
9. ESKT Report
10. Directory of pigeon breeds
11. A look back at the 30th EE trade fair in Nitra
12. Miscellaneous
13. Closing remarks
14. Group photo

1. Opening and welcome

The section's president, August Heftberger, welcomed participants to the section meeting in Segovia, Spain (Appendix). He extended a special welcome to:

- Edin Jabandzic, BIH, Vice-President of the EE
- Lars van Droogenbroeck, B, President of the ESKT, whom he thanked for his translation work.
- Arturo Gonzales, President of the Spanish association
- Zdzislaw Borawski – PL, Andre Legrand – BE, honorary members of the EE

For financial reasons, the organisation of the EE conference, originally scheduled to take place in Mallorca, has been moved to Segovia. The EE Executive Committee would like the host organisation to provide more specific information and a more detailed quotation. The EE President pointed out that most EE congresses take place in Eastern Europe and that Western countries cite rising costs as an excuse.

Milan Brkic, a long-standing delegate from Serbia, a renowned judge and breeder of peacock pigeons, passed away in early January 2026. The delegates stood to observe a minute's silence in his memory.

2: Attendance list

Invitations were sent to the following 28 member countries: AT, BE, BG, BiH, HR, CZ, DE, ES, FR, BG, HU, IT, XK, PL, RU, RO, NL, SK, TR, PT

Unfortunately absent: CH, DK, SE, SL, RS, UK, LT, SM

The following members of the ESKT have sent their apologies: Istvan Rohringer, Jean-Louis Frindel, Ronald Bube, Jan Schrötz,

The Secretary-General (SG) Jeannine Jehl has also sent out the documents and published them on the website.

In this regard, it should be noted that registrations must be made within the specified deadlines.

This would make the organisers' task considerably easier when planning such an event.

Unfortunately, not all email addresses are up to date; please ensure you notify the SG of any changes. (The EE website must always be kept up to date. An up-to-date list of addresses is also important for the section chair.)

3. Minutes of the 2025 meeting

The minutes of the 2025 Bucharest meeting were drawn up by the Secretary, Jürgen Weichold, and approved without objection. They were produced in three languages and published on the website. Thanks to Ms Weichold for the translations into English and French.

4. Information on current issues relating to animal welfare

On this agenda item, Dr Erik Apperlo presented a separate report outside the section meeting.

In particular, he discussed the epidemiological situation, avian influenza and the resurgence of Newcastle disease in poultry, as well as the necessary vaccination strategies.

5. Minutes of Presidium meetings

The key points, discussions and consultations held during the most recent steering committee meetings focused primarily on the EE exhibition in Nitra.

The presidium met approximately every 14 days via online meetings, in particular to prepare for the EE exhibition. The consultations and decisions taken with the organisers were necessary to ensure the best possible preparation for the 30th edition of the EE exhibition. Even after the event, certain points still needed to be clarified.

Issues have arisen regarding the registration and transfer of the Flensburg bank to Luxembourg. An agreement has been reached with the relevant Luxembourg authorities, under which only the managing director, and not the entire executive committee, needs to be present for the signing.

Discussions have taken place with the relevant officials within the EU regarding cooperation and support for our federation. We hope that these discussions will continue and lead to concrete agreements.

The Polish Federation has submitted its bid to host the European exhibition in Kielce. Discussions and exchanges of information on this matter have already taken place with officials from the Polish Federation and members of the presidium. Thank you for your willingness.

The presidium also discussed the issue of protection for EE rings for pigeons and poultry. Three official European manufacturers, from Belgium, Bulgaria and Germany, introduced themselves during the section's meeting.

Information was also provided regarding the establishment of a 'Future' working group (WG). Numerous proposals were received on this subject. These were examined and assessed during dedicated online meetings. The results, the core objectives and the future direction of the EE will be reported on at a separate meeting during this EE Congress.

Applications for membership from associations or sections may be submitted to the EE General Secretariat by 31 December each year for the next EE meeting. The application must be accompanied by all the required documents. Applicants may attend the EE meeting or the section meeting (presentation) as guests.

The arrival of the President and the Secretary-General interrupted the agenda. The Secretary-General, Jeannine Jehl, would like updated information to be provided more promptly in the event of changes to the executive committees of the federations concerned, and for the various countries to provide more information on meetings and the decisions taken. Animal welfare is playing an increasingly important role in the work of the federations.

Hansjörg Opala presented the results of the survey on the future priorities for the federations' work within the EE. The three main themes are as follows:

1. EE – Training of judges, learning and harmonisation of assessment
2. EE – Future European exhibitions
3. EE – Continuing professional development

His other comments focused on the situation regarding the rings

- In January – difficulties relating to the order for the rings
- A review of the current situation was carried out
- Seek legal protection for the 'EE' logo
- Framework agreement with the ring manufacturer
- Complete the list of different countries – which uses which ring manufacturer – and inform the executive committee of this
- Various projects are currently being reviewed by a solicitor
- The year the EE was founded – 1938 – must be included
- This will not entail any additional costs for ring purchasers
- From 2027 onwards, only these rings will be valid
- All other rings will be excluded from exhibitions (except for the years 2022 to 2026)

Current manufacturers:

- Stengel, DE (pigeons and poultry)
- Plastikcapro, BG
- Smisdom – BE

Following this presentation, the three ring manufacturers introduced themselves and answered questions from the delegates.

6. EE General Meeting – 16 May 2026

The agenda for the general meeting was sent to each delegate by email along with the invitation and published on the EE's website. Information was provided on the main proposed resolutions and the elections required by the articles of association.

7. RBES 2025/26

For the RBES events organised by the Vienna, Budapest and Prague Tumbler in 2025, the EE steering committee granted an exemption, as these had already been planned prior to the EE exhibition in Nitra.

These RBES events, which took place in Straßkirchen (Germany), were presented, organised and staged in an exemplary manner, and superbly decorated. They generated publicity far beyond the country's borders. The 2026 RBES exhibition dedicated to Swiss pigeon breeds and Texan Pionner, held in Germany, had already been approved and took place successfully in January.

8. RBES currently approved for the years 2026 – 2029

- Italian pigeon breeds, 24–25 October 2026 in Gonzaga, Italy
- Brunner Cropper, all Cropper and all Alsatian pigeon breeds, 13–15 November 2026 in Illkirch, France
- Texan Pionner, German Beauty Homer, Show Homer, Exhibition Homer, 19–22 November 2026, Kossuth tér 3, Abony, Hungary
- All wattle-breed pigeons, Hungarian and Florentine, Maltese, 27–29 November 2026, Bellestraat 99, Aflingen, Belgium
- Indian Fantail, 6–7 February 2027, 51320 Bussy-Lettrée, France
- Strasser, 13–14 February 2027, Straßkirchen, Germany
- Hungarian and Florentine, Maltese, 18–19 December 2027, Straßkirchen, Germany
- Steller Cropper, 18–19 December 2027, Straßkirchen, Germany
- Swiss Pigeon Breeds, 22–23 January 2028, Kembs, France
- **The 31st edition of the EE exhibition is currently scheduled for 2028 in Kielce, Poland**
- Modena, 10–11 November 2029, Straßkirchen, Germany

Applications for the RBES for the years 2026/27 may still be submitted. No authorisation will be granted for the application relating to the 'German Modena' RBES, nor for any other applications concerning the year 2028, as the EE exhibition will take place in Poland that year and the date has already been reserved.

The applications submitted were approved by a majority vote.

9.a. ESKT report

The ESKT report, drafted by Lars van Droogenbroeck, turned out to be brief, as the scheduled meeting was cancelled due to a lack of participants.

Amendments to the rules may be submitted to the ESKT until the end of January 2027. Judges whose federations are not members of the EE are not permitted to judge any EE exhibitions.

9.b. International Training Programme for Judges 2025

The minutes were drafted by the secretary, Jürgen Weichold, and subsequently translated into English and French.

Unfortunately, two speakers had to withdraw at the last minute in Majorca. For the organisers and event managers, this meant an additional workload in order to find replacements as quickly as possible. Thanks to Jan Schrötz, a member of the ESKT and a leading expert on Spanish wattle-breed pigeons, this task was carried out with great success. Through his knowledge, active support and fascinating presentations, he contributed significantly to the success of this training course. The course was conducted using a PowerPoint presentation and drawing on the pigeons present. We would also like to extend our warmest thanks to the other Spanish speakers. Our thanks also go to the Spanish organisers and to those who took part in this event. Overall, this training course can be described as highly successful and informative.

9.c International meeting for judges

As had already been mentioned in 2024, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina has agreed to the postponement from 2025 to 2026. Dates: 18–20 September 2026 in Baja Luka, approximately 5 km from the aerodrome or approximately 120 km from Zagreb. Edin Jabanzic handed the relevant documents to the delegates. Detailed registration forms will be published shortly on the EE website. Please ensure you register by the specified deadline.

9.d International meeting for Judges 2027

Two bids were received: one from the Czech Federation and one from the Romanian Federation. A majority voted in favour of Romania, from 17 to 19 September 2027, in collaboration with the Poultry Section, and in favour of the Czech Republic in 2028.

Poland would organise a national training course for judges as part of the EE 2028 exhibition.

Applications may be submitted from 2030 onwards.

9.e Training of judges, if this is not possible in the country concerned, membership of another EE federation is also permitted, subject to prior mutual agreement. Problems arise in Croatia (where there are two federations – according to the statutes, membership of the EE is not possible).

10. The Pigeon Breed Register has not yet been completed, for various reasons.

11. EE European Exhibition in Nitra

August Heftberger particularly highlighted the excellent collaboration with the Slovakian pigeon section team, led by Marian Macko, and expressed his sincere thanks to them.

In future, serving judges should carry out assessments in a more consistent and uniform manner. This requires regular continuing professional development and

training. The section chair offers assistance and support to the various nations in the form of speakers, teaching materials and communication. The following issues were raised by the delegates:

- Please ensure that information regarding the honorary prizes to be awarded is communicated in good time.
- Please ensure that all documents relating to the allocation of judges are provided.
- Please specify the opening times for visitors and for the opening ceremony, in order to avoid long waiting times.
- Marco Canella, Italy, requested that information on common queries regarding the Standards be passed on more promptly to the judges on duty. Shortcomings were noted regarding certain national breeds of Tumblers, which had negative repercussions for exhibitors and judges.
- Better inform contact persons about the organiser's department responsible for handling exhibitors' appeals

The new digital format for the sale of animals was welcomed. It is set to be replicated in other countries.

In Nitra, hyper-typing, in accordance with the EE's Animal Welfare Commission, remained limited. However, some animals were downgraded in this respect.

12. Miscellaneous

It was reiterated that the EE Advisory Committee meeting on animal welfare would take place at 2.30 pm; all delegates are welcome to attend.

13. Closing remarks

The section's chair, August Heftberger, concluded by thanking the Spanish association, which had hosted the meeting, for its excellent hospitality, as well as all the delegates for their participation in the session. He expressed the hope that tomorrow's general meeting would be a constructive one, including the new elections provided for in the articles of association. He closed the session at 2.20 pm. The planned group photograph with all the delegates had already been taken during the lunch break.

Amendment:

According to lawyer Dr Arno Wesch, the new **EE/1938** model is protected throughout Europe in all countries. In future, three manufacturers will be authorised to produce these rings:

- Stengel, DE
- Plastikcapro, BG
- Smisdom – BE

This means that, from 1 January 2027, only these rings for pigeons and poultry will be valid at European exhibitions.

Animals not wearing the identification ring mentioned above will not be judged at exhibitions and will receive 0 points (non-compliant ring).

All pigeons and poultry born before 2027 are not affected by this rule and will be judged as before.

Germany (pigeons and poultry combined) has put itself forward as a candidate to host the 2029 International Judges' Congress. Venue: Görlitz, 14–16 September 2029.

Jürgen Weichold

Secretary of the Pigeon Section

August Heftberger

Chairman of the Pigeon Section