



CEV 40th Anniversary Book

Back to the future

1973 - 2013



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CEV 40th Anniversary Book – “Back to the future”

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• FOREWORD •

BY MR. ANDRÉ MEYER, CEV PRESIDENT



Dear Volleyball friends,

Time goes by very quickly and we eventually get together to celebrate the 40th anniversary of our Confederation. Since the early days of the '70s our institution has gone through a very remarkable journey whereby Volleyball has turned into a professional sport whose attributes are being showcased on TV and appreciated by thousands of fans.

This anniversary is a very good opportunity to look back and to take some time to evaluate the tremendous progress and development that Volleyball has experienced throughout the past decades. On the other hand, it is not just about the sport but also about its governing body, as our Confederation has evolved with the times transforming itself from a small, even though fascinating, "workshop" into a professional, structured organization.

By the time we are celebrating its 40th anniversary, CEV is also settling down – we may say – permanently in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, where it moved in 1988. Volleyball has finally its real home via the state-of-the-art premises where our offices are located since this past February, a place where everyone – decision-makers, staff, etc. – will be able to work for the good of our sport.

In conjunction with this special anniversary we have decided to release a book which is more than a simple review of our history. Via this publication we rather want to share the feelings, emotions and stories told by some of those who have contributed to the massive development that Volleyball – and Beach Volleyball – have known in the last 40 years. It is a good chance for you to get to know some anecdotes from the "backstage" and also to understand those that we may identify as "the driving forces" that have supported that growth.

Though we get together to share memories and to celebrate, we nevertheless look forward to the next challenges to come because there is still a long way to go to make sure that our sport remains appealing and draws the attention of the young generations, our "future" in every sense. We want to make sure that our Confederation – and hence the sport too – continue to progress and evolve with the times, being always ready to embark on innovative projects and take up any action that is likely to help us make Volleyball and Beach Volleyball a real reference in the global sports arena.

"To raise new questions, new possibilities, to regard old problems from a new angle, requires creative imagination and marks real advance in science". Though we are not scientists unlike Albert Einstein – whom I have taken this quote from – I still believe we shall apply and pursue a similar approach also in our work for the sport that we are all fond of. We shall take lessons from the past – that has been blessed with remarkable success – to continue our adventure and help as many people as possible get to feel the quintessence of Volleyball: team work, fair play and true friendship!

Yours sincerely,

André Meyer
CEV President



• THE GENESIS OF VOLLEYBALL •

Volleyball is one of the most interactive games going. It is a game of intuition, imagination, improvisation - but most of all, of reciprocity - of teamwork. There is no way to free-lance in Volleyball.

(M. Dunphy)

The day Volleyball was born

February 9, 1895. On this day the first Volleyball match was played in Holyoke, Massachusetts, at a YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association). The inventor of the game was the local Director of Physical Education, William G. Morgan.

Born in Lockport, New York, in 1870, Morgan received his high school diploma in the Northfield Mount Hermon School. Only a few know that he was actually recruited by James Naismith, the inventor of basketball, to play American Football at the YMCA International Training School, today known as Springfield College. Once he graduated from that school, Morgan decided to work at the Holyoke YMCA, only around ten miles from the place where basketball was invented by Naismith in 1891.



William G. Morgan, the inventor of volleyball

In this role, Morgan had the opportunity to direct a vast program of exercises and sport classes for male adults; his leadership was widely accepted, and his classes grew in large numbers. He gradually came to realize that he needed a different type of competitive recreational game in order to vary his fitness program.

Morgan had become intrigued by basketball whose original purpose was to create an entertaining game for young athletes that they could play indoors and would be relatively safe to play, making sure they would not get injured. The YMCA was basically looking for a game that would keep their athletes in shape and un-injured during the winter months when they couldn't play outside.

Morgan realized that basketball was extremely physically demanding as players have to constantly run up and down the court; he thought this was something that older adults, such as businessmen, weren't in good enough shape to do. He set out to develop a game with similar goals as those set for basketball (to be played indoors, requiring some athletic skills and abilities, and not too rough) but more suitable for people who were not in a terrific shape, such as a group of middle-aged businessmen who were members at his YMCA. In other words, he was searching for a less violent and less intense alternative for the older members of this association.



A ball used for the very first matches played at the YMCA in Holyoke, Massachusetts

Morgan especially liked the game of tennis, but tennis required rackets, balls, and a net. He didn't like all the equipment, but he did like the idea of a net. He then borrowed ideas from different sports – such as tennis (the net), handball, basketball and baseball (the cues), badminton and the then popular and similar German game of Faustball – to invent a less vigorous sport that he called “Mintonette”.

The game was first played at his YMCA and the rules were worked out over the course of a year until 1896 when Morgan wrote down his “final” proposal to be submitted to the YMCA Physical Directors' Conference. During that same conference the first exhibition game was played and one of the spectators in attendance, Dr. Alfred T. Halstead, suggested that a better name for the sport would be “Volley Ball” (it was spelled as two words until 1952 when it was officially changed to one word) since the game primarily consisted of volleying a ball back and forth. Morgan liked the idea and re-named “his” sport as such.

The rules were slightly modified by the YMCA International Training School and the game quickly spread around the US to various YMCAs.

In the original rules written down by Morgan:

- The net would be 6 ft., 6 inches (i.e. 198 cm, basically he wanted it just a bit taller than the average man's head);
- It would have a court that was 25 ft. x 50 ft. (7.62 x 15.24 m), so it could easily be played indoors at various YMCAs;
- It would have two teams of any number of players, so that it could accommodate differing sized groups;
- Each match consisted of nine innings;
- Each team could serve three times per inning;
- There was no limit to the number of ball contacts for each team before volleying it back to the opponents' court;
- In case of a serving error, a second try was allowed;
- Hitting the ball into the net was considered a foul (with loss of the point or a side-out) except in the case of the first-try serve.

Morgan only stayed at the YMCA for a few years more after he invented Volleyball, leaving to work at General Electric and pursue other business ventures later in life. He died in 1942. An elementary school in Holyoke, William Morgan School, bears his name.

In recognition to the founding father of the sport, the Morgan Trophy Award is presented annually to the most outstanding male and female collegiate Volleyball player in the US. Established by the William G. Morgan Foundation in 1995 during the centennial year of Volleyball, the trophy is named in honor of William G. Morgan.

Refinements and later developments

The first official ball used in Volleyball is disputed; some sources say that Spalding created the first official ball in 1896, while others claim it was created in 1900.

The rules evolved over time: the game was originally played from the ground but by 1916 the skill and power of the set and spike had been introduced in the Philippines, and four years later a "three hits" rule and a rule against hitting from the back row were also established. One year later, the game was changed from 21 to 15 points. In 1919, about 16,000 volleyballs were donated to the American Expeditionary Forces and their allies, which inevitably sparked the growth of Volleyball throughout Europe.

The sport was literally embraced by the US military and was played often in their free time; soldiers stationed all over the world played Volleyball and taught the locals to play as well, inadvertently spreading the sport to many other nations.



Originally – as per the rules defined by William G. Morgan – a volleyball game consisted of 9 innings

By 1928, players and fans of the sport realized that "official" tournament rules and regulations were required. The United States Volleyball Association was formed, and the first U.S. Open Volleyball tournament was held. The U.S. Open allowed for squads that were not YMCA sanctioned to participate, which was a breakthrough at the time. This evolution permitted lovers of the sport to fully enjoy the game without having to be tied to the organization that had created it.

After 1928, the game of Volleyball was forever changed. With the "official" rules set down, and a tournament that wasn't private to the YMCA, the popularity of the sport was allowed to sky-rocket.

In 1934, Volleyball experienced another extensive change through the recognition of official referees to oversee the games.

The 1940's held several special events for Volleyball. Not only was the forearm pass introduced into the game, the first World Championship was also held in 1949. It was during this time that the Volleyball movement saw fruition, and squads from all over the world could find out who was the best. Around this time, over 50 million people were playing Volleyball in over 60 different countries.

Some more facts...

- After Volleyball began to catch on throughout the US, the Spalding Company set about designing the first volleyball (the bladder of a basketball was initially being used to play the game) and began selling it in either 1897 or 1900. In either case, 1897 was the same year the rules for Volleyball were first included in the Handbook of the Athletic League of YMCAs of North America;

- The rule allowing three hits per side before a ball must be returned wasn't established until 1920;
- Volleyball was originally demonstrated in the 1924 Olympics in Paris, but not played as an official sport. It was finally added on the program in 1964 as Tokyo played host to the Games;

- Today Volleyball is one of the most popular team sports in the world and it does not stop growing. Volleyball is second only to soccer in worldwide popularity; an estimated 800 million play the game all over the world.

ASSOCIATION ATHLETIC LEAGUE HANDBOOK 1897.

VOLLEY BALL.

During the past winter Mr. W. G. Morgan of Holyoke, Mass., has developed a game in his gymnasium which is called Volley Ball. It was presented at the Physical Directors' Conference, and the general impression seemed to be that it would fill a place not filled by any other game. It is to be played indoors, and by those who wish a game not so rough as basket ball and yet one in which the same degree of activity is demanded. The complete report as given to the Conference by W. G. Morgan is as follows:

* * *

Volley Ball is a new game which is pre-eminently fitted for the gymnasium or the exercise hall, but which may be played out of doors. Any number of persons may play the game. The play consists of keeping a ball in motion over a high net, from one side to the other, thus partaking of the character of two games, — tennis and hand ball.

Play is started by a player on one side serving the ball over the net into the opponents' field or court. The opponents then, without allowing the ball to strike the floor, return it, and it is in this way kept going back and forth until one side fails to return it or it hits the floor. This counts a "score" for one side or a "server out" for the other, depending upon the side in point. The game consists of nine innings, each side serving a certain number of times, as per rules, in each inning.

RULES OF VOLLEY BALL.

1. **GAME.** The game consists of nine innings.
2. **INNING.** An inning consists of: when one person is playing on each side, one service on each side; when two are playing on each side, two services on each side; when three or more are playing on each side, three services on each side. The man serving continues to do so until out by failure of his side to return the ball. Each man shall serve in turn.
3. **COURT.** The court or floor space shall be twenty-five feet wide and fifty feet long, to be divided into two square courts, twenty-five by twenty-five feet, by the net. Four feet from the net on either side and parallel with it shall be a line across the court, the Dribbling line. The boundary lines must be plainly marked so as to be visible from all parts of the courts.
Note.—The exact size of the court may be changed to suit the convenience of the place.
4. **NET.** The net shall be at least two-feet wide and twenty-

seven feet long, and shall be suspended from uprights placed at least one foot outside the side lines. The TOP LINE of the net must be six feet six inches from the floor.

5. **BALL.** The ball shall be a rubber bladder covered with leather or canvas. It shall measure not less than twenty-five inches nor more than twenty-seven inches in circumference, and shall weigh not less than nine ounces nor more than twelve ounces.

6. **SERVER AND SERVICE.** The server shall stand with one foot on the back line. The ball must be batted with the hand. Two services or trials are allowed him to place the ball in the opponents' court (as in tennis). The server may serve into the opponents' court at any place. In a service the ball must be batted at least ten feet, no dribbling allowed. A service which would strike the net, but is struck by another of the same side before striking the net, if it goes over into the opponents' court, is good, but if it should go outside, the server has no second trial.

7. **SCORING.** Each good service unreturned or ball in play unreturned by the side receiving, counts one score for the side serving. A side only scores when serving, as a failure to return the ball on their part results in the server being put out.

8. **NET BALL.** A play which hits the net aside from the first service is called a net ball and is equivalent to a failure to return, counting for the opposite side. The ball hitting the net on first service shall be called *dead*, and counts as a trial.

9. **LINE BALL.** It is a ball striking the boundary line; it is equivalent to one out of court and counts as such.

10. **PLAY AND PLAYERS.** Any number may play that is convenient to the place. A player should be able to cover about ten by ten feet.

Should any player during play touch the net, it puts the ball out of play and counts against his side. Should any player catch or hold for an instant the ball, it is out of play and counts for the opposite. Should the ball strike any object other than the floor and bound back into the court, it is still in play.

To dribble the ball is to carry it all the time keeping it bouncing. When dribbling the ball no player shall cross the Dribbling line, this putting the ball out of play and counting against him.

Any player, except the captain, addressing the umpire or casting any slurring remarks at him or any of the players on the opposite side, may be disqualified and his side be compelled to play the game without him or substitute or forfeit the same.

Authentic 1897 Volleyball Rules reprinted by permission of the Volleyball Hall of Fame, Holyoke, Massachusetts.

A copy of the original volleyball rules drafted by its inventor William G. Morgan

• VOLLEYBALL SETTLES DOWN IN EUROPE: KEY FACTS UP TO THE EARLY '60s •

An English author in the early nineteenth century recorded that a five-a-side game similar to Volleyball was played in the Middle Ages. However, as we just got to know, Volleyball had its beginnings in the 1890s in a YMCA gymnasium in Massachusetts, United States.

Basketball had led to the creation of Volleyball because William G. Morgan was looking for an alternative activity for middle-aged male athletes who had found basketball to be too strenuous. The sport originated with teams of nine and the current six-a-side indoor game appeared only after World War I.

Wherever in the world the United States had an influence, Volleyball was introduced. American soldiers took the game to Western Europe when they served in France during World War I.

From Western Europe the sport spread throughout the rest of the continent. By the 1930s the Communist Party of the USSR acknowledged that Volleyball was one of the sports that would provide its citizens, of all ages, with a source of recreation.

The transformational journey of Volleyball: from recreational activity into sport

During World War I, Dr. George J. Fisher, a Secretary of the YMCA War Work Office, made Volleyball a part of the program in military training camps, both in the USA and abroad.



US American soldiers playing volleyball at the Pershing Games held in 1919 in Belgium; this is the very first picture documenting the sport being played in Belgium (courtesy: Sportimonium – Belgium's National Sports Museum)

Thousands of balls and nets were sent overseas to the U.S. troops and also presented to the Allied Army's sports directors; more than 16,000 balls were distributed in 1919 to the American Expeditionary Corps Forces. The Inter-Allied Games were organized in Paris but Volleyball was not included since the game was not yet sufficiently well-known in the 18 participating Allied countries to allow for a balanced competition.

In the early 1920s Volleyball made its first official appearance in Russia, namely in the cities of Gorky (now Nizhny Novgorod) and Kazan and at the same time in Khabarovsk and Vladivostok.

In 1922 the first National Federation was founded in Czechoslovakia, to be quickly followed by Bulgaria. Volleyball started gaining in popularity in Italy too, chiefly thanks to Guido Graziani, a Springfield YMCA graduate.

The official birth date of Volleyball in Russia is set at 28 July, 1923, the day a match between High Art and Theatre Workshop (Vhutemas) and State Cinema Technical School (GTK) was played in Moscow. Though only a couple of years later the Communist Party banned the YMCA as a capitalistic, bourgeois, and religious organization, this did not impact on the consideration given to Volleyball. The first USSR National Championship was held in 1933, and by this time over 400,000 people were playing Volleyball in the country. For Soviet Volleyball, it is the year of enshrinement as a challenge between Moscow and Dnepropetrovsk was played on the unique stage of the Bolshoi Theatre. A couple of years later, the USSR team played the first official international matches against Afghanistan in Moscow and Tashkent.

In 1925 Volleyball was played for the first time in the Netherlands. After a stay at the Seminary of Techny, Illinois, U.S., Father S. Buis introduced the sport to the Sint Willibrord mission house in Uden and set up a few courts there.

Between the two World Wars, great efforts were made to give unity to the Volleyball movement by establishing a single set of rules and creating an international federation. These were just initial efforts, with nothing concrete to follow. The first steps to establish international relations in Volleyball were taken only during the International Handball Federation Congress held in 1934 in Stockholm.

By 1938 the Czechs had perfected blocking which was officially introduced into the rules under the concept of "a

counteraction at the net by one or two adjacent players". For almost 20 years before, blocking had been a part of the game but was not spelled out in the rules. The Czechs were the first (soon followed by the Russians) to attribute decisive importance to this skill.

In several countries, including Italy, experiments were made with a system of timed play. Two 20-minute sets were played (with supplementary time in case of a tie) but after various and prolonged trials, the experiments were abandoned, though taken up again in the United States at the close of World War II.



Japanese American women playing volleyball, Manzanar camp, California, ca. 1943

Everywhere from the South Pacific to the Finnish front, Volleyball drew crowds among troops engaged in World War II, even aboard aircraft carriers. Volleyball was recommended by Chiefs of Staff for training the troops, believing it keeps them in condition, strengthens their morale, and teaches them how to stay together as a group – something essential at that point of the war.

Through international YMCA contacts in more than 80 countries and also military personnel around the world, communications were established and began to produce information on the interpretation and development of Volleyball and those who were managing it. Correspondence with the Polish managers during the War drew attention to the post-war endeavors to establish an international Volleyball organization.

Resurrection after World War II...

In January 1946, the Spartak Prague team went to play in Poland signaling a resumption of contacts after the War aimed at creating an international Volleyball organization. On the occasion of a friendly match between the Czech and French national teams on August 26, a meeting was held in Prague between representatives of the federations of Czechoslovakia, France, and Poland. The meeting

produced the first official document of the future FIVB, with the creation of a commission for the organization of the International Federation, the promotion of a constituent congress, and the decision to launch a European or World Championship at an early date.



Paris 1947: representatives of the 14 national federations who attended the meeting that led to the establishment of the FIVB

In 1947 the representatives of 14 national federations (i.e. Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Netherlands, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Romania and Turkey from Europe plus Brazil, Israel, Lebanon, Uruguay and USA) got together in Paris and on April 20 founded the FIVB (Fédération Internationale de Volleyball) with headquarters in Paris. Frenchman Paul Libaud was elected FIVB President.



Rome 1948: the Czechoslovak national team that won gold at the inaugural edition of the Men's European Championship

The first European Championship was held in 1948 in Rome with the participation of six teams. Czechoslovakia won gold, with France and Italy completing the top

three. The inaugural event for women's teams followed a year later in Prague with the USSR claiming gold, while the hosts of Czechoslovakia and Poland rounded out the podium as a total of seven teams participated in the competition.



Prague 1949: the Czechoslovak capital city played host to the first FIVB Congress as well as to the inaugural edition of the Volleyball World Championship

That same year – 1949 – Prague played host also to the first men's World Championship that was won by the USSR. The first women's World Championship followed in 1952 in Moscow and was also claimed by the Soviet Union.



However, the first truly globe-spanning World Championship was held in 1956 in Paris, France with 24 men's and 17 women's teams respectively from four continents. Czechoslovakia's men and USSR women claimed the coveted titles, with Europe sweeping the top five positions in the final charts of either gender.

Czechoslovak Josef Musil – here in action at the World Championship held in 1956 in Paris – was one of the early superstars of the sport; Musil was a double world champion in 1956 and 1966



The Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia – here portrayed during the 1958 European Championship in Prague – together with Romania were the sides that dominated the continental scene through the '50s and '60s

During the 53rd IOC session in Sofia, Bulgaria, from September 22 to 26, 1957, a demonstration tournament was played for the IOC members who then decided to include Volleyball on the program for the Games of the XVII Olympiad in Tokyo, 1964.

The very first European Cup competition for men's clubs – then already known as Champions Cup – was established in 1960 and was sponsored by Poland's major sports newspaper Przegląd sportowy. CSKA MOSCOW (URS) eventually claimed the inaugural edition that was followed, a year later, by the women's premiere whose top honor was also taken by a Soviet team, namely Dinamo MOSCOW.

• THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EUROPEAN SPORTS COMMISSION AND ITS WORK UP TO 1973 •

October 21, 1963 is one of the most important dates in the history of European Volleyball.

On that day the representatives of 18 national federations (Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, USSR and Yugoslavia) got together in Bucharest to discuss and finalize plans for the establishment of the so-called European Sports Commission (ESC).

The ESC did somehow already exist, though not yet officially, since 1962 with its five original members – including Chairman Max Wasterlain of Belgium – appointed by the FIVB Board of Administration. Wasterlain had previously submitted to FIVB plans for the creation of various zonal commissions and a proposal to govern and discipline their work.

The initial concept worked out by Wasterlain was slightly modified in Bucharest: the ESC was to be chaired by a President, whose work is supported by three Vice-Presidents and five more members, with the Board membership restricted only to the Chairman and to the three Deputy Presidents. It was also agreed that some non-European countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea could – only provisionally – join the ESC whose official languages were set to be English, French and Russian.

Max Wasterlain was eventually elected ESC President supported by Giancarlo Giannozzi (ITA), Vladimir Savvin (URS) and Georgiu Turbutiu (ROU) as Vice-Presidents. Vahid Colakoglu (TUR), Jean Jourdan (FRA), Angel Barzackhi (BUL), Herman Spruyt (NED) and Tadeusz Brzosko (POL) completed the composition of the original ESC.

The very first meeting of the ESC was held in Romania's capital city on November 3, 1963, and was attended also by FIVB President Paul Libaud. The main point on the agenda was the appointment of the country set to host the qualification tournament for the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo, for what was the debut of the sport on the Olympic program.

VINGT ANS TWENTY YEARS POUR L'EUROPE FOR EUROPE



LISTE DES FEDERATIONS NATIONALES PRESENTES A LA FONDATION DE LA C.E.V. LIST OF NATIONAL FEDERATIONS PRESENT AT THE FOUNDATION OF THE E.V.C.

Belgique	Belgium
Bulgarie	Bulgaria
R.D.A.	G.D.R.
Espagne	Spain
Grèce	Greece
Hollande	Holland
Hongrie	Hungary
Italie	Italy
Luxembourg	Luxembourg
Pologne	Poland
Portugal	Portugal
Roumanie	Romania
Suede	Sweden
Turquie	Turkey
Tchécoslovaquie	Czechoslovakia
U.R.S.S.	U.S.S.R.
Yugoslavie	Yugoslavia
France	France

In 1961, during the IVBF Congress in Marseille (FRA) to meet the growth and development of volleyball at an international level the creation of Sports Commissions of the continental areas is adopted with the goal of helping the International Volleyball Federation.

In 1962, during the Congress in Moscow (URS) a first project of Interior Regulation for our continent was put forward, a plan that had been prepared by Mr. Wasterlain (BEL), Mr. Giannozzi (ITA) and Mr. Savvine (URS). This document still had to be submitted to our national Federations who could then eventually make a few amendments and following this, ask for the exequatur of the aforesaid Administration Council.

The 21st October 1963, during the Senior European Championships, that took place in Rumania the first General Assembly of the European Federations took place in the presence of Mr. Paul Libaud president of the IVBF.

On the agenda during this meeting were these points in particular:

1. Examination and adoption of the first internal regulation of the European Sports Commission (ESC).
2. Examination of the system that will be adopted for the qualifying of the European teams with 1964 Olympic Tournament in Tokyo (JPN) in mind.
3. Election of the first administration Council of the ESC.

The 11th September 1965 during a meeting of the European Federation where a European sports calendar was being established it is decided to organise the Junior Championships every two years. The Hungarian Federation agrees to organise this first European Championship in 1966.

In 1966, during the World

Copy of a newsletter released in 1983 recalling the twenty years since the establishment of the European Sports Commission (ESC) in Bucharest and listing the national federations that were present at its foundation



The members of the Soviet national team who claimed gold at the inaugural Olympic tournament held at the Tokyo Games in 1964 portrayed some decades after their victory

The original statutes state that the ESC represents FIVB in Europe and possibly also in all other Mediterranean countries and that the organization of the European Championship – to be held every four years, one year before the Olympics – is placed under its authority. The ESC General Assembly – composed of delegates representing all national federations that have fulfilled their obligations towards FIVB and the ESC as well – is responsible for appointing the host country of the European Championship as well as of the concurrent General Assembly. The ESC is also made responsible for the organization of the so-called Champions Cup, i.e. a competition open to the national champions (clubs) of the various national federations.

In 1966 the inaugural Junior European Championships were held in Budapest, Hungary, through July 21-31 with 16 and 12 teams participating in the men's and women's competition respectively. The Soviet Union topped the final charts of both tournaments, with East Germany and Bulgaria that settled for second place in the women's and men's competition, while Czechoslovakia got two bronze medals. That same year Israel joined the ESC upon approval by FIVB as well as by the governing body of Asian Volleyball at the FIVB General Assembly held in conjunction with the World Championships in Prague.



Throughout the '60s Volleyball got more and more popular especially in the Eastern European countries; Josef Musil was a living legend in the then Czechoslovakia with two World Championship titles (1956 and 1966) on his resume

The institutional bodies of the ESC got regularly together also in the following years to discuss the status and formula of the various competitions, with special attention devoted to the European Championship and to the Champions Cup. On the other hand, the Board members were busy also in trying to consolidate the finances of Europe's Volleyball, making sure that only those members that were able to fulfill their duties were ultimately eligible to compete on the international stage.

A first shake came on September 24, 1969 as President Wasterlain sent a letter to FIVB President Paul Libaud to express his wish to step down from the ESC Presidency as he found it more and more difficult to combine his professional commitments with the demands and attention required by his involvement in the sport. Two candidates stood for election – Mr. Giannozzi and Mr. Savvin – but Giannozzi eventually withdrew from the race for the presidency, so that Savvin was unanimously elected.

1971 was a very busy year with a total of four European Championships – for seniors and juniors – but most of all the General Assembly held in Milan could ascertain the steady improvement of the ESC financial accounts. A proposal to hold the European Championships every two years was also adopted and set to come into force in 1975, with the host country being Yugoslavia. The ESC portfolio was additionally expanded by establishing the so-called Cup Winners Cup, i.e. a club competition open to the winners of the NF national cups and whose inaugural edition was slated for the 1972/1973 season. Giancarlo Giannozzi was elected President by the members of the ESC previously voted by the General Assembly; Giannozzi was joined – as per the ESC statutes – by three Vice Presidents, i.e. Vladimir Savvin (URS), Petre Dumitrescu (ROU) and Vahit Colakoglu (TUR).

In 1972, as the members of the ESC got together in Florence, Mr. Giannozzi drew the attention of his colleagues on the fact that Volleyball had tremendously developed – worldwide – since its early years and that a different institutional structure was necessary to properly govern the sport, with FIVB on top, and then coming down to the various Continental zones and national federations. Giannozzi was convinced that the ESC – as per the existing conditions – could not perform its work effectively being somehow "estranged" from FIVB. Learning from what just happened in Africa, ESC member Bernard Mauche proposed to change the ESC denomination into "European Sports Confederation" as this would strengthen ties and cooperation with FIVB. This proposal was well accepted and ESC President Giannozzi decided to put it forward to the FIVB General Assembly scheduled for that same year in Munich.

The text was discussed by representatives of 81 national federations at the General Assembly that ran through September 4-6 in the city that played host to the 1972 Olympics and the proposal was unanimously adopted.

This was meant to:

- Create a Continental Confederation that would have strengthened the cooperation between FIVB and the various national federations by providing the right guidance and coordination;
- The Continental Confederations would have represented FIVB in their respective territory and were set to be governed by a Board of Administration composed of 6 (minimum) up to 10 members;
- The Presidents of the various Continental Confederations were set to automatically join the FIVB Board and, in case they were already members of that organ, the Confederation could appoint another delegate to join the sessions of the FIVB Board.

Though the European Volleyball Confederation did not yet exist – at least officially – the members of the ESC who met in Warsaw on September 30, 1972 were already working for what would be then known as CEV.

An extraordinary General Assembly chaired by President Giancarlo Giannozzi followed on September 9, 1973, in Scheveningen/The Hague (Netherlands) with 24 national federations in attendance (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, USSR and Yugoslavia).

The major change to the statutes worked out in Munich affects the official denomination of the Confederation, which turns into “Confédération Européenne de Volleyball”.

By this time the structure of the European Confederation got gradually shaped with the establishment of various Commissions (European Sports Organizing Commission, European Refereeing Commission, European Cups Commission and European Financial Commission).



40 years after its establishment in Scheveningen/The Hague, the European Volleyball Confederation counts 55 affiliated members here attending the CEV General Assembly held in Luxembourg City through November 16-17, 2012

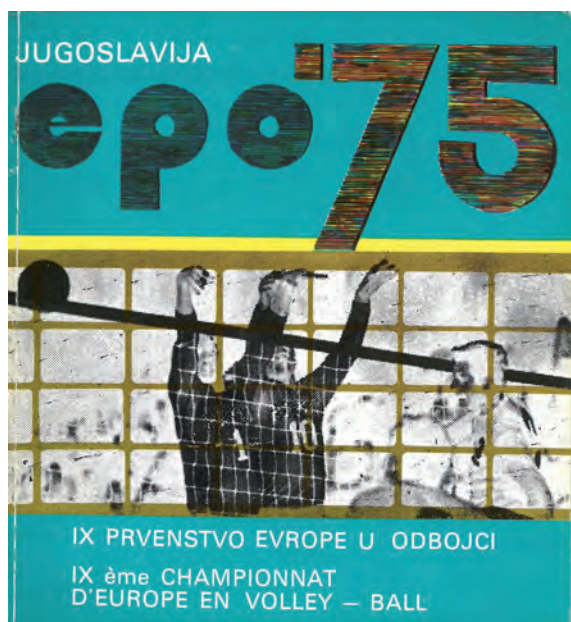
• A QUICK JOURNEY THROUGH THE CEV HISTORY •

"In 1946 a friend persuaded me to attend a match of a new and rather strange sport I had never seen before. At that time I could not believe that this event would have caught me that much. I could not imagine that this sport would have grown into what it has become. At that time there were some crosses on the floor instead of lines, there was no block, there were no antennas and a lot of other things did not exist. Even the service reception with underarms was forbidden. The athletes have changed totally since these times. They are now much faster and stronger."

*(Statement given in 1987 by Olivier Bruyr,
European Sports Commission and CEV General Secretary from 1963 to 1985)*

The '70s: Volleyball starts impressive growth

As per the decisions adopted in 1973, the CEV General Assembly was due to take place every two years, so representatives of all affiliated National Federations got together in 1975 as Yugoslavia – and namely the city of Belgrade – was playing host to the final round of the European Championships.



Cover page of the booklet produced for the 1975 European Championship that were held in Yugoslavia, the first edition played since the establishment of the European Volleyball Confederation

A provision was endorsed there to determine the composition of the CEV Board of Administration, which was limited to 11 members, including the President and four Vice-Presidents. The General Assembly did also agree upon the fact that the organizer of the Senior European Championships was supposed to commit itself to host also the CEV General Assembly to be held on that same year.

Additionally, the number of teams participating in the final round of the Senior European Championships was fixed at 12.

The Soviet Union won gold in the men's as well as in the women's competition while hosts Yugoslavia could celebrate their first medal in the men's tournament as they settled for bronze. The Soviet Union and Poland prolonged their rivalry from the 1974 World Championships but this time it was the USSR who got the upper hand; Hungary and East Germany completed the podium in the women's tournament for an overwhelming supremacy by the Eastern bloc.



The Polish national team celebrating their Olympic gold at the Montreal Games in 1976 (PAP)

15

European Volleyball got to experience a very special moment in 1976 as only a couple of years after claiming gold at the World Championship held in Mexico, Poland men's national team – mentored by legendary Hubert Jerzy Wagner – went on to claim Olympic gold at the Games held in Montreal. This remains – to date – the only Olympic gold medal claimed by this country in any team sport at the Olympics. After Tomasz Wojtowicz had amazed the Mexican audience two years before spiking from the back line, Poland confirmed its leadership by edging the Soviet Union in the final match. That same year some changes were introduced into the rules of the game: after blocking, not two but three ball contacts were allowed while the distance between the antennas was shortened from 9.40 to 9 metres.



The Soviet women's national team swept seven consecutive editions of the European Championship from 1958 through 1979

Volleyball did not stop its terrific development and in 1977 the European Championships were held, for the very first time, in a Nordic country, namely in Finland. At the CEV General Assembly in Helsinki it was decided to lower the age limit for junior players to 19 so that the World Championships which take place every even year for under 20 could include the players who the previous year compete at the respective Continental Championships. The CEV statutes were updated so as to clearly state that the European Volleyball Confederation is the representative of FIVB in European countries thereby acting under the authority of the FIVB Board of Administration. The CEV General Assembly also confirmed the hosts of the three following editions of the European Championship, with France, Bulgaria, and East Germany going to host the event in 1979, 1981, and 1983 respectively.

Back to the Volleyball court, the Soviet Union – after losing to Poland at the 1974 Worlds and 1976 Olympics – got back to where they belonged by sweeping the men's as well as the women's tournament with Poland men and East Germany women finishing in second place. Romania and Hungary completed the podium for another clean sweep by the countries of the Eastern bloc. In 1977 the Soviet men won the inaugural edition of the FIVB Junior World Championships while their countrymen followed up on their senior European title with another first place at the FIVB World Cup in Japan.

After chairing the European Volleyball Confederation since its establishment, CEV President Giancarlo Giannozzi



Italy's Giancarlo Giannozzi chaired the European Volleyball Confederation right from its establishment in 1973 through his premature death in 1978

passed away on December 24, 1978, in Marsala, only a few months after Italy had successfully played host to the final round of the men's World Championship.

Mr. Giannozzi had previously attended the FIVB Congress held in Rome reporting on the achievements of Europe's Volleyball family since the establishment of their Continental Confederation only five

years before. Four Europeans – Endre Holvay of Hungary, Yuri Chesnokov (URS), Anguel Barzachki (BUL), and Vahit Colakoglu (TUR) – were elected to the FIVB Board of Administration. The Soviet Union returned to the throne as the World Championship saw the explosion of Italy. Step after step, the home team toppled all obstacles and cheered on by 18,000 spectators gave a masterpiece in their semi-final victory over Cuba. In just a hundred days head coach Carmelo Pitnera had built a splendid team that only lost the final game to the Soviet Union.

After Giannozzi's premature death and waiting for the next General Assembly to take place in 1979, Vahit Colakoglu of Turkey stood in as CEV interim president. A total of 30 National Federations were represented at the CEV Congress that was held through October 8-9, 1979 in Evry, France. The Assembly paid tribute to the memory of the late CEV President Giancarlo Giannozzi before elections followed to determine the composition of the Board of Administration.



After the interim mandate by Turkey's Vahit Colakoglu, France's Georges Boudry was elected CEV President in 1979 and was the one who steered Europe's Volleyball family until 1983

After that Georges Boudry (FRA) was chosen by the Board members to lead Europe's Volleyball family for the next tenure supported by CEV Vice-Presidents Vahit Colakoglu (TUR), Yuri Dereviagin (URS), Cor Geugjes (DEN), and Dusan Prielozny (TCH). The same General Assembly awarded

the organization of the European Championship to the Netherlands (1985) and Belgium (1987). The 1979 European Championship in Paris saw the Soviet Union add another double title to their resume with silver going to Poland (men) and East Germany (women) while Yugoslavia and Bulgaria settled for third place.

The '80s: Soviet supremacy

A year later the Games of the XXII Summer Olympiad were held in Moscow and as pre-announced by FIVB President Paul Libaud, Volleyball was going to enter a totally different era with a closer cooperation between FIVB and the Continental Confederations. However, the Olympics were shadowed by the boycott led by the USA in protest to the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Some European nations joined the boycott but the Volleyball tournament nevertheless turned into a tremendous success.



Viacheslav Platonov (1939-2005) was the man behind the Soviet men's supremacy at the 1980 Olympics in Moscow

The Soviet national teams mentored by two extraordinary coaches, Viacheslav Platonov and Nikolay Karpol, won gold with the supremacy of the Eastern bloc being cemented by the Soviet "satellites" as Bulgaria, Romania and East Germany claimed the remaining spots of the podium. Next to FIVB President Paul Libaud, another four Europeans were elected members of the Board of Administration at the FIVB Congress in Moscow, these being Franz Schmied (SUI), Pietro F. Florio (ITA), Günter Trötschel (GDR), and Arturo Cortés (ESP).

The year 1981 marked the start of a new era for European Volleyball with international competitions taking place every year, with the Junior European Championships and the Senior European Championship scheduled from 1981 onwards for odd and even years respectively. The CEV General Assembly held on September 22-23, 1981 in Sofia approved a revised version of the CEV statutes worked out by its Legal Commission with the goal to align their provisions with those set in the FIVB Constitution. The CEV Congress was particularly impressed by the results achieved in the promotion of the European

Cups, especially after the introduction of the so-called Confederation Cup in conjunction with the 1980/1981 season. With its addition to the CEV portfolio, the number of clubs participating in the European Cups had moved up from 73 in the 1977/1978 season to 104 in four years. The introduction of the Confederation Cup was strongly supported by CEV President Georges Boudry with the intention to provide more teams with the possibility to compete internationally.



Soviet Volleyball legend and team captain Viacheslav Zaytsev in action at the 1981 European Championship in Varna where the USSR won their sixth out of nine consecutive titles

The Soviet Union continued to be one of the major forces to reckon with on the continental stage but something that people may compare with the "miracle on ice" contributed by the US American ice hockey team at the 1980 Winter Olympics happened in 1981. Bulgaria's women could indeed end the Soviet supremacy after seven editions by claiming European gold in front of their fans while the USSR prolonged their rule in the men's tournament by edging Poland in the final match.



The home heroines of Bulgaria caused a major sensation at the 1981 European Championship as they stopped the Soviet supremacy after seven consecutive editions

In 1982, as the USSR won another world title with their men's national team, the affiliation of two European federations – the Volleyball Federation of Ireland and the Northern Ireland Volleyball Association – was confirmed at the FIVB Congress in Buenos Aires. Turkey's Sinan Erdem, Yuri Chesnokov (URS), and Endre Holvay (HUN) were all elected as FIVB Board members. The Congress also confirmed the host countries of the 1986 World Championships, both set to take place in Europe, with France and Czechoslovakia playing host to the men's and women's tournament respectively. CEV President Georges Boudry was particularly pleased with the fact that his native country was going to organize the men's tournament so as to pay the right tribute to the FIVB 40th anniversary coming up in 1987 as well as to the 40-year long presidency of his illustrious compatriot Paul Libaud.

The activities of the Confederation did not stop growing and with this emerged the need of a more structured organization to support the work done by long-time Secretary General Olivier Bruyr. The CEV Board of Administration started evaluating the proposals submitted by some members (Italy, the Netherlands, and the German Democratic Republic) to host the CEV headquarters but at the same time expressed the intention to stay in Brussels.



A meeting of the CEV Executive Committee as per its composition resulting from the 1983 elections: from left to right Piet de Bruin (NED), CEV President Dusan Prielozny (TCH, third from left) with his interpreter (second from left), Roland Mader (FRG), and Yuri Dereviagin (URS); here missing is Cor Geugjes (DEN)

In 1983 Czechoslovak Dusan Prielozny was elected CEV President as the General Assembly was held that year in East Berlin. Yuri Dereviagin (URS), Piet de Bruin (NED), Roland Mader (FRG) and Cor Geugjes (DEN) – later replaced by V. Lykkeberg – stood in as the four Vice-Presidents foreseen by the statutes. Actually this election remains – to date – something really unique in CEV history for reasons that are disclosed at the very end of this chapter...

The capital city of the German Democratic Republic did also play host to the XIII edition of the Senior European



Championship with the home team that emulated what Bulgaria's women had done a couple of years before winning gold while the Soviet Union could claim their seventh out of nine consecutive titles in the men's competition.

The official logo of the 1983 European Championship held in East Germany



The Soviet Union – here team captain Viacheslav Zaytsev standing on top of the podium – won in East Berlin their seventh consecutive European crown; the captains of Poland and Bulgaria (to the left and right of Zaytsev respectively) receive silver and bronze

One of the major turning points for Volleyball came in 1984 when FIVB President Paul Libaud, by then in his 80s, resigned after 37 years of leadership. Dr. Rubén Acosta (MEX) was elected new President to succeed Libaud at the FIVB World Congress held in Long Beach, California. That same year the FIVB moved its headquarters from Paris to Lausanne bringing the sport closer to the International Olympic Committee.

In the meantime, after discharging the possibility to leave Brussels and settle in another country, also the CEV Secretariat got more structured. It was agreed that Robert Demarsin – a former international referee – would take over the position of General Secretary starting from April



CEV President Dusan Prielozny expressing his gratitude to long-time General Secretary Olivier Bruyr (right) with his follower, Robert Demarsin, standing on the left

1, 1985 while Olivier Bruyr would continue his work for Europe's Volleyball family as CEV Administrative and Sports Director.

After boycotting the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, the Soviet Union claimed double gold at the 1985 European Championships held in the Netherlands for what was the eighth sweep of the top positions by teams from that country since the competition was introduced back in the late '40s. 29 out of 36 affiliated members attended the CEV General Assembly held that year in Amsterdam which was open by an addressed given by FIVB President Dr. Rubén Acosta. On the other hand, CEV President Dusan Prielozny recalled the many achievements Europe's Volleyball could be proud of, including the organization of a first coaching symposium in Greece.



A picture from the mid '80s with the delegates in attendance at the CEV General Assembly chaired by then CEV President Dusan Prielozny

With Beach Volleyball gradually developing into something more than a leisure activity, Volleyball was still in the spotlight in Europe and Belgium played host to the 1987 European Championship where a system to rank teams from 1 to 8 was introduced and applied. East Germany's ladies could claim their second European crown following up on their home win from 1983 while the Soviet men prolonged their stunning winning streak to 9 consecutive editions.



The official poster of the 1987 European Championship, the last edition where the men's and women's tournament was organized in the same country

In 1985, after 22 years of total commitment and tireless work, CEV Secretary General Olivier Bruyr had announced his intention to step down from his position though he continued to support the work of the CEV for another two years until his official retirement in 1987 which was celebrated with a Volleyball game joined by many stars – including Soviet head coach Viacheslav Platonov – and played in West Germany.

With 35 of 38 federations affiliated to CEV in attendance, following elections for the CEV Board of Administration Dutchman Piet de Bruin was appointed CEV President at the General Assembly held in Gand, thus becoming the fourth chairman since the European Volleyball Confederation existed as such. Yuri Dereviagin (URS), Henry Henno (FRA), Michalis Mastrandreas (GRE) and Peter Wardale (ENG) joined forces with Mr. de Bruin as CEV Vice-Presidents. The CEV General Assembly paid their tribute to long-time General Secretary Olivier Bruyr while Turkey's Vahit Colakoglu was announced a CEV Honorary Member after 24 years spent at the service of Europe's Volleyball family.

After its unofficial but successful premiere in Italy in late 1987, the CEV Board of Administration chaired by Piet de Bruin decided to support the annual organization of the so-called Super Cup which would be starring the winners of the Champions Cup and of the Cup Winners Cup.



Throughout the mid and late '80s Italian and Soviet teams were the major force to be reckoned with in the European Cups

The 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, Korea, did not suffer any major boycott though some countries – like for instance Cuba, Ethiopia and the People's Democratic Republic of Korea – did not send their athletes. In 1984, as the Games were held in Los Angeles, Italy's men had somehow profited of the Eastern-bloc boycott to make it to the podium for the first time in history, by claiming a bronze medal that evidently boosted the development of the sport in that country. In Seoul, however, the Soviet ladies and USA men were the ones who topped the charts in the end while the FIVB Congress held in the South

Korean capital city approved the turning of the fifth set into a tie-break rally-point system in which each serve would be worth a point. The final scoring was also limited to 17 points with one point difference.

Moving to the Grand Duchy...

Europe's Volleyball family entered a totally new era as Dutchman Piet de Bruin assumed its leadership in 1987. Shortly after his election the CEV Board of Administration was asked to study and evaluate the feasibility of a project whose goal was to move the CEV headquarters from Brussels to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. This idea was submitted by two people who were going to leave an indelible mark on the further development of Europe's Volleyball: André Meyer and Pierre Mulheims, with the first being the then President of the Luxembourg Volleyball Federation.

After only two meetings where the move and its implications were thoroughly discussed, in August 1988 the members of the CEV Board of Administration unanimously approved the decision to settle down in Luxembourg City. The Grand Duchy was going to provide the necessary legal framework to continue the work so far done for the development of Volleyball across Europe. The European Volleyball Confederation had practically no legal status in Brussels and its President, so a private person, was being made responsible for all actions the Confederation was undertaking. As it settled down in Luxembourg City, the CEV was registered as a non-profit organization with the members of the Board of Administration consequently bearing the responsibility for its actions. As one of the world's leading financial hubs, the Grand Duchy offered also a series of additional advantages and next to this, the President of the Luxembourg Volleyball Federation, André Meyer and the local authorities helped find a place where to settle and whose monthly rent was extremely competitive.

Taking all this into account, by late November 1988 Europe's Volleyball family found its way to the Grand Duchy. 33, rue de Strasbourg was the address that Volleyball people across Europe got familiar with and where Administrative Director Eileen Pratt (ENG) and her assistant Mireille Mulheims started their adventure, later on joined by José Fardeau. On December 14, 1988 with the Drawing of Lots for the semi-final stage of the Champions Cup held at the Pullman Hotel, Luxembourg City could then host the first event organized in the Grand Duchy under the CEV umbrella. An "open day" for all national federations to visit the CEV premises in Luxembourg City was then held on July 8, 1989.

The '90s and Italy's "golden era"

In 1989, after the CEV had moved its headquarters from Brussels to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Soviet

Dienstag, den 29. November 1988

VOLLEYBALL – Europäischer Dachverband CEV in seinem neuen Sitz

Die Vorteile des Standortes Luxemburg

(pg) – Seit gestern Montag tickert in den Räumlichkeiten auf dem dritten Stockwerk von Haus Nummer 33 der Straßburger Straße ein Telexapparat, ein Fax-Gerät liefert Texte und fast ununterbrochen klingelt das Telefon: Der europäische Dachverband CEV (Confédération européenne de Volleyball) hat seine Arbeit in Luxemburg aufgenommen. Das administrative Staff umfasst momentan zwei Personen, Verwaltungsdirektorin Eileen Pratt, eine Britin, sowie als administrative Hilfskraft die Luxemburgerin Mireille Mulheims, in Erwartung, daß eine dritte Person hinzukommt. Die Kandidaturen liegen vor und in Kürze wird eine Entscheidung getroffen werden.

Mit ausnehmender Freundlichkeit stand uns gestern an ihrem ersten Arbeitstag Eileen Pratt Rede und Antwort über ihren Job, während der Franzose Henry Henno, einer der Vizepräsidenten des europäischen Verbandes, der ebenfalls gestern in Luxemburg anwesend war, uns über das Warum des Umzuges der CEV von Brüssel nach Luxemburg aufklärte.

Die Frage, den Standort Brüssel zugunsten von Luxemburg aufzugeben, wurde eigentlich erst vor einem Jahr aktuell mit der Wahl einer neuen Führungsmannschaft um den niederländischen Präsidenten Piet de Bruin. Zwei Verwaltungsratssitzungen genügten, um die Verlegung des CEV-Sitzes nach Luxemburg in die Wege zu leiten, das Projekt wurde vorgestellt, und schon kurz danach fiel, einstimmig, die Entscheidung.

Rechtliches Statut

Die Vorteile, von Luxemburg aus die Geschichte des europäischen Volleyballs zu leiten? Henry Henno: „Der Hauptgrund, nach Luxemburg zu kommen, war der, daß wir in Brüssel kein rechtliches Statut hatten. Der Präsident trug als Privatperson die gesamte Verantwortung für den Verband. Hier in Luxemburg sind wir eine Vereinigung ohne Gewinnzweck, und es ist der Verwaltungsrat als solcher, der für seine Aktivität haftet.“

Dem Finanzfachmann Henry Henno – er ist auch CEV-Schatzmeister – geht es natürlich auch um die Vorteile in diesem Bereich des Standortes Luxemburg: „Bei den Geldüberweisungen der nationalen Verbände erlauben die belgischen Banken hohe Gebühren, hier in Luxemburg ist das nicht der Fall. Zudem sind die Sozialkosten im Großherzogtum bedeutend niedriger, und dem Luxemburger Präsidenten André Meyer verdanken wir, daß wir prägnant die Räume

Gruppenbild im Zeichen des Volleyballs: V.l.n.r.: Henry Henno, Mireille Mulheims, Eileen Pratt und André Meyer, FLVB-Präsident. Photo: Teddy Jaans

London-Brüssel-Luxemburg

London, Brüssel und jetzt Luxemburg sind drei Stationen im Leben von Miss Eileen Pratt, alle im Zeichen des Volleyballs. Ab 1974 und während eines Jahrzehnts arbeitete sie für den englischen Verband, und nach einem mehrjährigen Aufenthalt in Abu Dhabi fand sie Beschäftigung bei der CEV in Brüssel. Die luxemburgischen Eindrücke von Eileen Pratt: „Ich bin erst seit drei Tagen hier, und es ist wohl verfrüht, ein Urteil zu haben. Aber auf Anhieb, es gefällt mir eigentlich sehr gut.“ Obschon sie die Mitglieder des CEV-Verwaltungsrates nur wenige Male in Luxemburg im Jahr zu Gesicht bekommen wird, sieht Miss

Pratt keine Verständigungsprobleme: „Wir verfügen hier über alle modernen technischen Mittel, Telex, Telefax und selbstverständlich Telefon.“ Die vorrangigen Aufgaben: Die fünf Räume sind zweckmäßig eingerichtet, die Möbel sind bestellt und werden in den nächsten Tagen angeliefert und dann heißt es, den 14. Dezember vorbereiten. Dann nämlich wird Luxemburg europaweit im Blickpunkt stehen, im Hotel Pullman wird die Auslosung der Halbfinal-Gruppen im Europapokal der Landesmeister vorgenommen.

Bis dahin hofft Eileen Pratt, die nur englisch spricht, die ausländischen Gäste auch in französischer Sprache begrüßen zu können.

An article from a local newspaper announcing the moving of the CEV headquarters from Brussels to the capital city of the Grand Duchy



The start of a golden era: Italy's head coach Julio Velasco flying high after his guys won European gold in Stockholm with the Soviet Union and the entire Eastern bloc missing out on a medal for the very first time since the Championship was established in 1948

supremacy in the men's European Championship came to an end after 26 years.

Actually that year was special in its own way as for the first time the final rounds of the men's and women's European Championship were split into two different countries, i.e. in Sweden and West Germany respectively. The costs and the difficulties to host 24 teams playing two different competitions were the main reasons for that decision to be made.



FIVB President Dr. Rubén Acosta (third from left) was the guest of honour at the XII CEV General Assembly held in 1989

That was the year where Italy's golden generation mentored by Argentinean-born Julio Velasco started to impose its rule winning European gold in Stockholm with the next stop coming a year later in Rio de Janeiro where the "Azzurri" edged Cuba in the final match of the 1990 FIVB World Championships to become the first Western European country to win the world title. That same year the USSR claimed the women's world title against China in Beijing.



EuroVolley celebrating Italy's gold at the 1990 World Championship in Brazil

As Beach Volleyball was getting more and more popular, the CEV Board of Administration started evaluating the possibility to set up a Beach Volleyball Commission. A working group composed of Richard Callicott (ENG), Fabio Sassi (ITA) and Lars Svensson (SWE) was created in 1990 specifically for that purpose leading the way for the inaugural Beach Volleyball European Championship that would have followed in 1993 in Almeria, Spain.

Only a few months before its break-up, the Soviet Union claimed double gold at the 1991 European Championships held in Germany (men) and Italy (women). The CEV legal status and all amendments to the CEV statutes as required by Luxembourgish law were officially approved at the CEV General Assembly held on September 13, 1991 in Berlin.

The delegates of 33 national federations in attendance elected 11 members of the CEV Board of Administration who – as per the statutes – later on came together to vote for the CEV President thereby confirming Piet de Bruin for another term. Michalis Mastrandreas (GRE) was appointed as Vice-President and Treasurer with another three Vice Presidents being Rolf Andresen (GER), Richard Callicott (ENG), and Nicolo' Catalano (ITA).



CEV President Piet de Bruin was re-elected in 1991 for another term of four years

In an effort to promote elite sport across the young generations, that same year the inaugural edition of the EYOF (European Youth Olympic Festival) was held in Brussels, Belgium, with Volleyball included on the program with the participation of 10 national teams per gender.

After Germany's reunification in 1990, with the break-up of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia the geo-political map of Europe underwent many, sudden changes with 11 national federations joining CEV to bring the total members up to 49. The countries that in 1992 were affiliated to the governing body for Volleyball in Europe are: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Slovenia and Ukraine. That same year the Summer Olympics were held in Barcelona and though Italy's men suffered a major disappointment missing out on the podium, still Europe could take two silver medals

from the Olympic tournaments with the Netherlands (men) and the so-called Unified Team (women), i.e. a team consisting of athletes stemming from 12 out of the 15 former Soviet republics.

The same year – 1993 – the International Olympic Committee announced that Beach Volleyball was going to be included on the Olympic program at the Centennial Games in Atlanta. CEV could implement the start of a European Beach Volleyball circuit with the very first European Championship (only for men) taking place in Almeria, Spain.



In 1993 Greece's Michalis Mastrandreas followed in the footsteps of de Bruin

CEV President Piet de Bruin decided to step down from his position for health reasons and Michalis Mastrandreas of Greece was eventually elected to the presidency later that year at the Board of Administration meeting preceding the CEV General Assembly in Brno. With the partition of the former Czechoslovakia being officially announced on January 1, 1993, two different federations

– for the Czech Republic and Slovakia respectively – got CEV membership. The CEV Board did also decide to amend the format of the European Cups by introducing the formula of the final four for the very last stage of these competitions. A new and revised format for the European Cups with the goal to reduce the number of competitions while keeping their appeal was approved by the CEV Board of Administration at its meeting held on May 13, 1993 in Malmö (SWE). Italy's men and Russia's women – once more mentored by Julio Velasco and Nikolay Karpol – prolonged their reign by seizing gold at the European Championship held in Finland and the Czech Republic.



The DOL for the European Cups was televised for the first time in 1994 by Austrian national public service broadcaster ORF; Italy's 1990 and 1994 world champion Lorenzo Bernardi (far left) was also on stage

Thanks to the help provided by the DONAUKRAFT Wien Company and the Austrian Volleyball Federation, the Drawing of Lots for the European Cups was performed for the first time in Vienna in 1994 and included on a show televised live by ORF on December 14. Following a decision made by the CEV Board of Administration in June 1994, the inaugural edition of the Youth European Championship was held in Spain in 1995 with the participation of 8 teams per gender. Russia (boys) and Italy (girls) were the winners of the competition, thereby cementing their supremacy on the international stage. The government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg helped complete the move of the CEV headquarters to a bigger, refurbished and more adequate office that were unveiled on October 27, 1995.



Dr. Rolf Andresen was elected CEV President in 1995 and chaired Europe's Volleyball family for six years through September 2001

That same year Italy and the Netherlands claimed the men's and women's Senior European Championships and Rolf Andresen (GER) took over the CEV presidency after elections were held in Athens. Philip Berben of Belgium was elected First Vice President, with the new Executive Committee including also Vice President and Treasurer Hugo Fruithof (SUI), Vice President and European Refereeing Commission (ERC) President André Meyer (LUX), as well as Vice President Miguel Angel Quintana (ESP).



ServiCEV, the house organ that followed in the footsteps of EuroVolley, reporting on the Dutch triumph at the Centennial Games held in Atlanta in 1996

After the previous addition of Bosnia & Herzegovina and the F.Y.R. of Macedonia, Greenland became the next federation affiliated to CEV in 1996, thereby moving the number of its members up to 54.

That same year, as the Netherlands claimed a dramatic Olympic final by eventually edging Italy in Atlanta, the CEV unveiled its first Internet website so as to circulate information in real time and at a reduced cost.

A special division of the European Championship open exclusively to the "Small Countries" was introduced in late 1997. The Board of Administration approved a proposal prepared by CEV Vice President André Meyer so that 14 affiliated members joined the European Championship via a so-called "C" league whose winner would qualify to the "major" Championship. That same year the "Oranjes" won home gold at the men's European Championship to follow on their Olympic gold from 12 months before.



Dutch Volleyball superstar Ron Zwerver in action on his way to home gold at the 1997 Men's European Championship held in the Netherlands

In 1998 FIVB decided to go for a real Volleyball revolution with the introduction of the rally point system and the libero player. This measure could eventually come into force two years later but it did set the tone for the sport to undergo a major transformation in order to make it more spectacular and to suit to the needs of TV stations. That same year Italy claimed its third consecutive World Championship title, a feat that even the former USSR had not been able to accomplish. This time Italy edged Yugoslavia in straight sets in an all-European final match. Russia was Europe's best side in the women's competition settling for bronze after edging Brazil in the consolation final while the charts were topped by Cuba and China.

One year later, in 1999, Italy's supremacy was prolonged in Vienna by claiming a fourth European title in 10 years with Russia and Yugoslavia completing the podium. Russia – once more mentored by legendary disciplinarian Nikolay Karpol – did finish on top of the women's Championship

with Croatia and hosts Italy winning silver and bronze respectively.

The XIX CEV General Assembly held in Luxembourg decided to prolong the mandate of the CEV Board of Administration chaired by Dr. Rolf Andresen for another two years and the next elections were postponed to 2001.

The New Millennium

Moving to the first year of the third millennium, Sydney – venue of the Games of the XXVII Olympiad – could see history in its making as Yugoslavia seized Olympic gold there at the end of a memorable campaign downing Russia in straight sets in the final, while the triple world champions of Italy were ranked third for an all-European podium.



Vladimir Grbic was the undisputed leader of the Yugoslav team that won gold at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney

With the Soviet Union having claimed Europe's last gold medal in the women's Olympic tournament back in 1988, Russia was very close to return back to the top but eventually lost the final match – a real drama that ended at the tie-break – to Cuba that hence completed an incredible hat-trick (1992, 1996, and 2000). Germany's Axel Hager and Jörg Ahmann became Europe's first Beach Volleyball duo to medal at the Olympics as they settled for bronze in Sydney.

After some months of intensive preparations, that same year CEV kick-started the Volleyball Champions League, which was supposed to turn – as it eventually did – into the flagship competition for the sport in Europe. Assembling the strongest sides on the continent and with a clear and well-defined marketing identity, the CEV Volleyball Champions League did immediately break through and the first edition – that starred 16 teams per gender – came to a close with the finals claimed by

France's PARIS Volley and Volley MODENA (ITA) in the men's and women's competition respectively.



The members of the CEV Executive Committee as per its composition resulting from the elections held in 2001 in Ostrava (CZE): from left to right Aleksandar Boricic (YUG), Riet Ooms (NED), Philip Berben (BEL), CEV President André Meyer (LUX), Carlo Magri (ITA), Snjezana Mijic (CRO) and Jan Hronek (CZE)

As Ostrava (CZE) was playing host to the final round of the Men's European Championship, André Meyer – who had previously served as Vice-President and President of the European Refereeing Commission (ERC) – was elected CEV President for the next term of four years. The Executive Committee resulting from these elections was composed also by CEV Senior Vice-President and Treasurer Philip Berben (BEL), plus CEV Vice Presidents Jan Hronek (CZE, in charge of administrative affairs), Riet Ooms (NED), Snjezana Mijic (CRO), Carlo Magri (ITA) and Aleksandar Boricic (YUG). The Championship and the CEV General Assembly were shadowed by the news sparked all over the world after the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States but their original schedule was maintained even though the authorities of the Czech Republic had declared a national day of mourning on September 14.

After seizing Olympic gold in Sydney a year before, Yugoslavia went on to claim their first European Championship title this time by beating their archrivals Italy in the final; in Varna – venue of the women's competition – Russia finished first once more with Italy and Bulgaria completing the podium.

Another "revolution" followed in 2002 as Italy's and Yugoslavia's joint bid to host the 2005 Men's European Championship was eventually successful. This way – for the first time since the late '40s – Europe's premiere Volleyball event was going to be co-hosted by two countries. This experiment would prove extremely successful and set the tone for more countries to follow in Italy's and Yugoslavia's footsteps in the following years. However, the year 2002 was also special for Europe's Volleyball community for Italy women's national team could emulate their countrymen by claiming gold at the World Championships held in Germany where they beat the USA in a dramatic final match. France could also medal for the first time in the

men's competition by claiming bronze in Argentina, the place where the Brazilian domination (which eventually lasted for a decade) got started.

CEV 30th Anniversary



A musical ensemble entertained the audience attending the celebrations for the CEV 30th anniversary at the Piccolo Teatro in Milan

The CEV celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2003, with a special event hosted at the Piccolo Teatro in Milano. CEV President André Meyer could review there the tremendous progress that the Confederation had experienced since its early days but he also promised that the development and growth of the sport were not going to slow down in the years to follow. "The CEV is committed to pursue in close collaboration with its affiliated national federations a further development of our sport, primarily through TV promotion, entertainment, so as to make a show out of every Volleyball game" he said while addressing an audience that included CEV Honorary President Dr. Rolf Andresen, two of the CEV founding fathers – former CEV President Georges Boudry and Board member Peter Lange



Europe's Volleyball family – with CEV President André Meyer and wife Sylvie in the foreground – assembled in Milan posing in front of the Piccolo Teatro at the end of the gala celebrating the CEV 30th anniversary

– as well as Italy's National Olympic Committee President Gianni Petrucci, and the representatives of 36 affiliated national federations.

FIVB President Dr. Rubén Acosta – who was unable to attend – sent a message of congratulations to CEV saying that “Europe's Volleyball family could be justifiably proud of its sporting and organizational achievements, and especially of the fact that through your efforts Volleyball brings joy to millions of people on your Continent.”

A success story that continues...

Italy's men and Poland's women claimed gold at the 2003 European Championship while the European Cups – and more specifically the CEV Volleyball Champions League then sponsored by Indesit – continued to improve on the quality of their general organization, media and TV exposure.



Italy's Andrea Giani and France's setter Loic de Kergret fighting at the net in the final game of the 2003 European Championship in Berlin

That same year – 2004 – CEV launched the European League, a competition addressed to those national teams that were not competing in the FIVB World League but nevertheless needed an additional opportunity to test out their likes at the highest level while preparing for the next edition of the European Championship. The Czech Republic claimed the inaugural edition with Russia and the Netherlands completing the podium, while the women's premiere would have followed only in 2009.

One year later Italy and Yugoslavia co-hosted the men's European Championship where the “Azzurri” added yet another crown to their unique showcase while Poland's women doubled up on their title from two years before by cruising past Russia in the final match of the tournament



2005: in Zagreb Poland's heroines celebrate their second consecutive European title following the gold medal they had seized two years before in Ankara, Turkey

held in Croatia. The “eternal city”, Rome, also played host to the XXVI CEV General Assembly where CEV President André Meyer was re-elected for another mandate after receiving 45 votes; Mr. Meyer received a standing ovation from the Assembly and after thanking the delegates for their trust, he expressed his wish to continue his work – together with his colleagues from the Executive Committee and Board of Administration – so as to drive the development of Volleyball and Beach Volleyball in Europe to new heights. After these elections, the composition of the CEV Executive Committee underwent some changes with CEV Senior Vice President and Treasurer Philip Berben, and CEV Vice Presidents Aleksandar Boricic, Jan Hronek and Riet Ooms joined by Ms. Banu Can (TUR) and Mr. Renato Arena (ITA)



Russia's triple block starring (from left to right) Ekaterina Gamova, Maria Borodakova and Liubov Shashkova stopping Brazilian spiker Sheilla Castro during the final match of the 2006 FIVB Women's World Championship in Osaka, Japan

Three European teams made it to the top four of the World Championships in 2006 with the Russian ladies – mentored for the first time by a foreign coach, Italian-born Gianni Caprara, assisted by his wife and former Olympic champion Irina Kirillova – winning gold after beating Brazil 3:2 in a thrilling final match. Serbia & Montenegro finished third by edging Italy while in the men's tournament – whose tables were once again topped by Brazil – Poland, Bulgaria and Serbia & Montenegro followed in second, third and fourth place respectively.

After a referendum had sanctioned its independence on May 21, 2006 Montenegro became the 55th country affiliated to CEV, the last addition to date. Its affiliation was ratified in 2007 at the CEV General Assembly held in Moscow.

2007 was another turning point as Spain caused one of the most incredible sensations in Volleyball history by claiming the men's European Championship (the competition was



FIVB President Jizhong Wei addressing Europe's Volleyball family at the XXIX CEV General Assembly in Madrid shortly after assuming the leadership of the world's Volleyball governing body

After 24 years FIVB President Rubén Acosta stepped down from his position with the leadership of the world governing body being assumed by China's Jizhong Wei who only a few weeks later visited the CEV General Assembly in Madrid, Spain, to share his vision and concept for the governance of Volleyball on the global stage.



Italian-born head coach Andrea Anastasi and his players celebrating a historic moment for Spain: in 2007 the team won European gold beating the Russian giants in Moscow

played with 16 teams), doing so cruising past the pre-favourites and hosts of Russia. Belgium and Luxembourg co-hosted – thereby emulating what Italy and Serbia & Montenegro had done two years before – the women's competition where Italy was crowned European champion for the first time. The system of the European Cups was slightly revised for the start of the 2007/2008 season with the CEV Cup being upgraded to second most prestigious tournament in Europe and via the creation of the Challenge Cup to replace the former Top Teams Cup and complete the portfolio of the CEV club competitions.

A year later as Beijing played host to memorable and gigantic Olympics, Russia claimed the only European medal in Volleyball there, a bronze in the men's tournament.



Bulgarian-born head coach Radostin Stoytchev together with Brazilian setter Raphael Vieira de Oliveira and his mentee Matej Kaziyski (in the background) were among those who chiefly helped TRENTINO Volley impose their rule on the international stage from 2009 through 2012

Poland and Italy were the sides that topped the tables of the European Championship held in 2009 and that same year Italy's TRENTINO Volley started a winning series that would have turned the group mentored by Bulgarian Radostin Stoytchev into the most decorated side of the last decade, with three consecutive Champions League crowns and four titles from the FIVB Club World Championships.

Beach Volleyball did not stop to grow and in 2009 the Russian seaside resort of Sochi – already designated to host the 2014 Winter Olympics – hosted the European Championship Final that for the first time stopped on the banks of the Black Sea. Moreover, Challenger and Satellite tournaments held in Europe were placed under the CEV authority thereby widening its portfolio of elite Beach Volleyball events and contributing a series of additional



The Final Four tournaments of the CEV Volleyball Champions League have regularly turned into a major event on and off the court

competitions specifically conceived for up-and-coming players.

32 years after the previous edition hosted by the boot-shape peninsula in 1978, the FIVB Men's World Championship returned to Italy in 2010 with 10 cities involved and large crowds that got together in every single venue. The home team eventually finished fourth with Serbia defending Europe's honours by bringing home a bronze medal. Russia, on the other hand, claimed a second consecutive gold medal in the women's competition after yet another dramatic final with Brazil.

In 2010 the inaugural Beach Volleyball Continental Cup was launched and the first step – the so-called Sub Zonal Phase – was held in 8 different countries as teams embarked on a quest for a spot to make it to London 2012. That run was eventually completed in June 2012 as Norway and Russia claimed the men's and women's finals to qualify one pair each for the Olympic tournament.



CEV President André Meyer congratulated by then FIVB 2nd Executive Vice President Theofanis Tsiokris (GRE) upon his re-election for another mandate at the helm of Europe's Volleyball family

At the CEV General Assembly held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, the addition of the European Coaches Commission (ECOC) to the CEV institutional organs was announced and adopted by the Congress where organizers for all Championships scheduled for 2012 and 2013 were confirmed as well.

CEV President André Meyer was elected for another four-year term in Vienna as Austria's capital city was playing host to the CEV General Assembly as well as to the final weekend of the 2011 Men's European Championship. His hard work, dedication to the sport and outstanding achievements were recognized by the delegates of the various National Federations who did not hesitate to back his bid for a third term. The composition of the Board of Administration was extended to 16 members plus the President; the Executive Committee that resulted from these elections – and that will be in charge of steering Europe's Volleyball family up to 2015 – is composed by CEV President André Meyer, CEV Senior Vice President Aleksandar Boricic (SRB), CEV Vice President and Treasurer Philip Berben (BEL), and by CEV Vice Presidents Renato Arena (ITA), Banu Can Schürmann (LIE), Jan Hronek (CZE), Sinem Mavili (TUR), Mirosław Przedpelski (POL) and Agustin Martin Santos (ESP). The CEV General Assembly held in Vienna wrote history also because for the first time CEV – similarly to all other Continental Confederations – was given by FIVB the right to conduct their own elections to fill in the eight vacancies available for Europe in the FIVB Board of Administration; four seats were reserved for members of the CEV Board of Administration, while the remaining four were open to any European candidate. The four spots for the CEV Board members were taken by Aleksandar Boricic (SRB), Mirosław Przedpelski (POL), Renato Arena (ITA) and Philip Berben (BEL) while the remaining four went to Stanislav Shevchenko (RUS), Vicente Araujo (POR), Theofanis Tsiokris (GRE), and Agustin Martin Santos (ESP).

2011 will also be remembered as Serbia's golden year as the Balkan country did practically dominate the



Serbia's women celebrate home gold at the 2011 CEV European Championship in Belgrade

continental scene by medalling at every championship notwithstanding gender and age groups. Both of Serbia's senior national teams seized European gold thereby emulating the Soviet Union, the last nation – in 1991 – capable of winning both European Championships in the same year. Some months before the youth national teams from that country had won gold (boys) and silver (girls) at the European Championship before they went on to perform very solidly at the World Championship with the boys finishing first and the girls ranked third. That memorable year was completed by the success that Serbia's women claimed in the CEV Volleyball European League and by a bronze medal seized by the juniors at the Men's U21 World Champs in Brazil.



After a come-from-behind victory over Brazil, Russia won Olympic gold at London 2012

In 2012 the major highlight was certainly represented by the London Olympics where Volleyball and Beach Volleyball were under the spotlight with massive crowds accompanying the tournaments held at Earls Court and Horse Guards Parade. Coming back from two sets down and as Brazil was almost ready to party Russia's men cruised to Olympic gold for the first time in 32 years with Italy adding the icing on the cake with a valuable bronze medal. However, history was written at the iconic venue of Horse Guards Parade where Germany's Julius Brink and Jonas Reckermann became the first European pair ever to win Olympic gold in Beach Volleyball.



Can't believe it: Germany's Beach Volleyball star Julius Brink (together with partner Jonas Reckermann) wins gold at London 2012

They did so after winning the 2009 World Championship in Stavanger, Norway, and overcoming an injury that had sidelined Reckermann for some months. Latvia's Martins Plavins and Janis Smedins finished third for another milestone in Volleyball history and to claim one of only two medals for their small country at London 2012.

Turning 40 and designing the mission for the next decade...



Europe's Volleyball family assembled in front of the magnificent premises owned by CEV in Luxembourg City and unveiled on May 4, 2013

On May 4, 2013 CEV President André Meyer could proudly unveil the state-of-the-art premises owned by CEV in Luxembourg City. With a series of illustrious guests in attendance, including FIVB President Dr. Ary S. Graça Fº, the President of the Comité Olympique et Sportif Luxembourgeois (COSL), André Hoffmann, and Luxembourg Sports Minister Romain Schneider, the CEV President was visibly touched as he welcomed his colleagues from 41 national federations to what stands out as the real "home" of Europe's Volleyball family. "It is a comfortable feeling to know that you stand on your own ground. Land is about the only thing that can't fly away" the CEV President said quoting Anthony Trollope, one of the most successful and respected English novelists of the Victorian era.



CEV President André Meyer delivering an emotional address at the gala for the CEV 40th anniversary held on May 4, 2013 at Neumünster Abbey in Luxembourg City

That same day the CEV President addressed his guests from the stage set up at Neumünster Abbey for the Gala that celebrated the CEV 40th anniversary. "On our way to the next 40 years, our recipe won't change: commitment, devotion, total passion for the sport but most of all teamwork in and off the Volleyball court" Mr. Meyer said looking already ahead on what was a special and emotional night to commemorate the 40 years since the establishment of the European Volleyball Confederation. "Together we can face any challenges as deep as the ocean and as high as the sky!" he added thereby conveying a message of unity and cohesion that will drive Europe's Volleyball family also for the years to come.



A crowd of more than 7,000 people was in attendance for the final game of the 2013 CEV VELUX Volleyball European Championship at the Parken stadium in Copenhagen starring Russia and Italy

The celebrations for the CEV 40th anniversary were completed in September 2013 with the XXXIV General Assembly held in Copenhagen and with two memorable editions of the European Championship whose Final Rounds were held in Berlin and Copenhagen for women's and men's respectively. Russia returned to dominate the scene by winning both crowns and with their men's national team topping the charts for the first time since 1991, i.e. since the break-up of the former Soviet Union. The final weekend of the men's competition was one of a kind as the matches were held at the Parken national stadium in Copenhagen that in less than 24 hours was transformed into a Volleyball arena that could welcome more than 7,000 spectators, including Crown Prince Fredrik of Denmark.



CEV President André Meyer and Crown Prince Fredrik awarded 2013 European champions Russia

That is an incredible and fascinating run that is certainly going to continue... The 40th anniversary since the establishment of the European Volleyball Confederation brought back many memories and was also a very good opportunity to appreciate the massive and terrific development that Volleyball has experienced in Europe via the contribution of all officials, coaches and athletes that have driven the sport to new heights across four decades. It was also a moment to review where European Volleyball stands, where it wanted to go and also to say "Thank you!" to all those who have contributed to this success story and whose memories and vision are shared in the next pages of this book...

Anecdote: the shortest presidential term...

The elections for the CEV President held in 1983 provided the European Volleyball family with an unprecedented situation. Back then the members of the Board – previously selected by the General Assembly – were responsible for the election of the CEV President and in the first round Roland Mader of West Germany received five votes, i.e. more than the remaining candidates, Dusan Prielozny (TCH) and Georges Boudry (FRA), who got four and two respectively. However, after being told that he was not going to count on the support by some key members of the Board, Mader eventually decided to decline the post under the condition that he would have kept the seat in the FIVB Board of Administration normally assigned to the CEV President. For that reason his presidency – though never officially recorded as such – lasted for no longer than three hours, a record that seems very difficult to break...



CEV Presidents



1973-1978
Giancarlo Giannozzi (ITA)



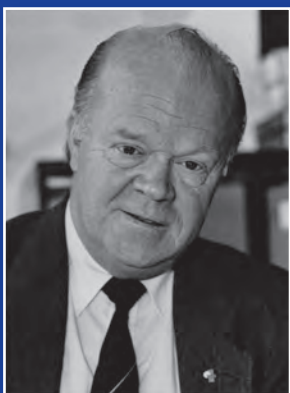
1978-1979
Vahit Colakoglu (TUR)
interim



1979-1983
Georges Boudry (FRA)



1983-1987
Dusan Prielozny (TCH)



1987-1993
Piet de Bruin (NED)



1993-1995
Michalis Mastrandreas (GRE)



1995-2001
Rolf Andresen (GER)



2001-
André Meyer (LUX)

• CEV PREMISES •



19, Rue des Clochers – Etterbeek –
Brussels (up to 1984)



Sint-Jans-Molenbeek – Brussels
(1984-1988)



33, rue de Strasbourg –
Luxembourg (1988-1995)



26, Boulevard Joseph II – Luxembourg
(1995-2004)



6, rue de la Fonderie – Luxembourg
(2005-2013)



488, route de Longwy – Luxembourg (2013-)

• CEV PREMISES •

Montag, 21. Februar 2005



Sportminister Jeannot Krecké und CEV-Präsident André Meyer (l.) bei der offiziellen Inbetriebnahme der neuen Räumlichkeiten. (Photo: Anouk Antony)

VOLLEYBALL – Umzug des Europäischen Verbandes

Neue Räumlichkeiten für den CEV

Sitz seit 1988 in Luxemburg

(tw) – Im Rahmen einer Feierstunde übergab Sportminister Jeannot Krecké am Samstag die neuen Verwaltungsräumlichkeiten der „Confédération Européenne de Volleyball“ in der hauptstädtischen Rue de la Fonderie offiziell ihrer Bestimmung.

In Anwesenheit des Verwaltungsrates des Europäischen Verbandes, Vertretern der internationalen Föderation sowie zahlreicher Präsidenten nationaler Verbände Europas zeigte sich Sportminister Krecké sehr erfreut über die Entscheidung eines der größten europäischen Sportverbände, seine gesamte Verwaltung auch weiterhin in Luxemburg zu zentralisieren. Mit Blick auf die in 2007 gemeinsam von Belgien und Luxemburg auszurichtende Europameisterschaft versprach der Minister auch weiterhin die nötige Unterstützung seitens der Regie-

rung. Im Namen des Europäischen Volleyballverbandes bedankte sich Präsident André Meyer beim Sportminister für die Unterstützung. Seit 1988 sei der offizielle Sitz des Europäischen Volleyballverbandes nun in Luxemburg, jedoch wurde mit dem stetigen Anwachs des Personals, derzeit zählt die Verwaltung zwölf Festangestellte, ein Umzug in größere Räumlichkeiten unumgänglich. Mit diesen neuen Räumlichkeiten, die eine Fläche vom 500 m² und zusätzlich 100 m² Archivräume haben sowie mit modernster Technik eingerichtet sind, sei aber auch langfristig gesichert, dass die Angestellten des Verbandes unter optimalen Bedingungen arbeiten können. Außerdem habe man mit diesem Umzug auch den Willen des Verbandes verdeutlicht, langfristig seinen Sitz in Luxemburg zu behalten.

Article published in February 2005 reporting on the official opening of the CEV premises attended by CEV President André Meyer and Luxembourg Sports Minister Jeannot Krecké

STAD A LAND 21

Neues Zuhause für den Europäischen Volleyballverband

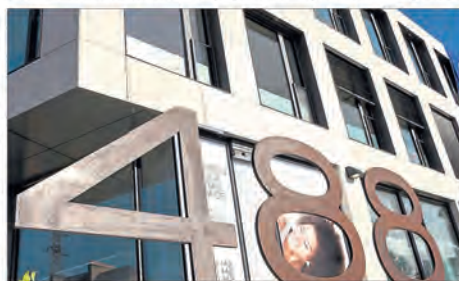
Moderne Räumlichkeiten wurden am vergangenen Samstag ihrer Bestimmung übergeben

Auf Nummer 488 in der Route de Longuey in der luxemburgischen Stadt wurde am vergangenen Samstagmorgen der neue Sitz der „Confédération européenne de volleyball“, kurz CEV genannt, eingeweiht.

Eingezogen in die CEV in diese wunderbaren und mit allen Annehmlichkeiten versehenen Räumlichkeiten schon im Februar. Bei der Einweihungsfeier waren der Weltverbandspräsident des Volleyballs, Dr. Ary S. Graca P, der COSI-Präsident André Hoffmann, Sportminister Romain Schneider sowie Vertreter der 41 europäischen Verbände.

CEV-Sitz befindet sich seit 1988 in Luxemburg

CEV-Präsident André Meyer zitierte in seiner Ansprache Anthony Trollope, einen englischen Romanschriftsteller aus dem 19. Jahrhundert, mit den Worten, dass „es beruhigend zu wissen ist, wenn man in seinem eigenen Leben einige der wenigen Dinge, die nicht wegzugießen könnten. Über ein Jahrhundert sei vergangen und diese Aussage treffe noch immer zu und sei aktueller denn je. Seit 1989 befindet sich der Sitz der CEV in Luxemburg. Sie musste zwischendurch mehrmals umziehen. 1973 wurde die CEV in Brüssel gegründet und bis in die Achtziger musste ein Angestellter die Ent-



Der neue Sitz des europäischen Volleyballverbandes befindet sich auf Nummer 488 in der Route de Longuey in der luxemburgischen Stadt. (PHOTO: SERGIO CORTESE)

scheidungen des Verwaltungsrates und die Vorschläge der Kommissionen in Verbindung mit den jeweiligen Wettbewerben ganz durch Europa meistens alleine einsetzen. Die CEV war mit der europäischen Tischtennisorganisation eine der ersten internationalen Sportorganisationen, die sich im Großherzogtum niederließen, und seitdem ist die europäische Volleyball- und Beachvolleyballfamilie stark gewachsen. Seit zwölf Jahren leitet Präsident André Meyer die CEV und ist nun stolz sein „Green“-Projekt einweihen zu dürfen. Laut Architekt Marc Cloes steht das Gebäude für Niedrigenergieverbrauch, innovatives Design und Komfort. Es sollte das widerspiegeln, was eine Sportorganisation an Ambitionen haben soll und zwar mit der Zeit gehen, ohne dabei seine Wurzeln zu vergessen, also eine Mischung aus Tradition und Innovation.

Pünktlich zur 40-Jahre-Feier haben demnach die europäischen Volleyballer und Beach-Volleyballer ein neues Zuhause in Luxemburg erhalten. (SCo)

Luxembourg's most popular daily newspaper, the Luxemburger Wort, showcasing the state-of-the-art premises where the CEV headquarters moved in early 2013



IMPRESSIONS FROM 488, ROUTE DE LONGWY LUXEMBOURG CITY



IMPRESSIONS FROM 488, ROUTE DE LONGWY LUXEMBOURG CITY

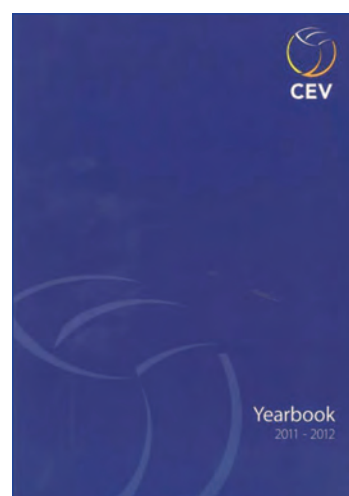
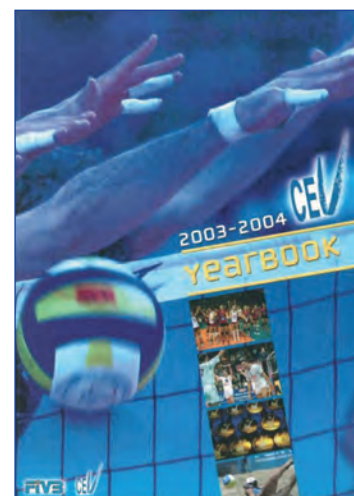
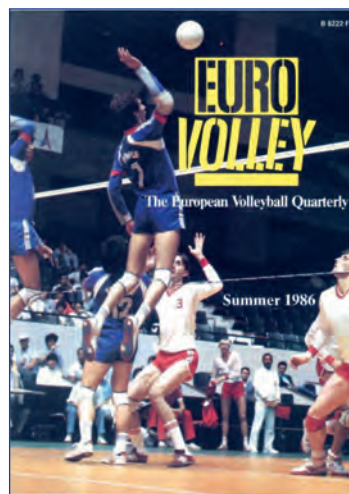


• CEV LOGOS •

































• CEV PUBLICATIONS •

36











• VOLLEYBALL - LIST OF HONOURS •

Olympic Games – Men's Volleyball

Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1976	Montreal (CAN)	Poland 	Soviet Union 	Cuba 
1980	Moscow (URS)	Soviet Union 	Bulgaria 	Romania 
1984	Los Angeles (USA)	USA 	Brazil 	Italy 
1988	Seoul (KOR)	USA 	Soviet Union 	Argentina 
1992	Barcelona (ESP)	Brazil 	Netherlands 	USA 
1996	Atlanta (USA)	Netherlands 	Italy 	Yugoslavia 
2000	Sydney (AUS)	Yugoslavia 	Russia 	Italy 
2004	Athens (GRE)	Brazil 	Italy 	Russia 
2008	Beijing (CHN)	USA 	Brazil 	Russia 
2012	London (GBR)	Russia 	Brazil 	Italy 


Olympic Games – Women's Volleyball

Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1976	Montreal (CAN)	Japan 	Soviet Union 	Korea 
1980	Moscow (URS)	Soviet Union 	East Germany 	Bulgaria 
1984	Los Angeles (USA)	China 	USA 	Japan 
1988	Seoul (KOR)	Soviet Union 	Peru 	China 
1992	Barcelona (ESP)	Cuba 	CIS 	USA 
1996	Atlanta (USA)	Cuba 	China 	Brazil 
2000	Sydney (AUS)	Cuba 	Russia 	Brazil 
2004	Athens (GRE)	China 	Russia 	Cuba 
2008	Beijing (CHN)	Brazil 	USA 	China 
2012	London (GBR)	Brazil 	USA 	Japan 

FIVB Men's World Championship

Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1974	Mexico	Poland 	Soviet Union 	Japan 
1978	Italy	Soviet Union 	Italy 	Cuba 
1982	Argentina	Soviet Union 	Brazil 	Argentina 
1986	France	USA 	Soviet Union 	Bulgaria 
1990	Brazil	Italy 	Cuba 	Soviet Union 
1994	Greece	Italy 	Netherlands 	USA 
1998	Japan	Italy 	Yugoslavia 	Cuba 
2002	Argentina	Brazil 	Russia 	France 
2006	Japan	Brazil 	Poland 	Bulgaria 
2010	Italy	Brazil 	Cuba 	Serbia 

FIVB Women's World Championship

Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1974	Mexico	Japan 	Soviet Union 	Korea 
1978	Soviet Union	Cuba 	Japan 	Soviet Union 
1982	Peru	China 	Peru 	USA 
1986	Czechoslovakia	China 	Cuba 	Peru 
1990	China	Soviet Union 	China 	USA 
1994	Brazil	Cuba 	Brazil 	Russia 
1998	Japan	Cuba 	China 	Russia 
2002	Germany	Italy 	USA 	Russia 
2006	Japan	Russia 	Brazil 	Serbia & Montenegro 
2010	Japan	Russia 	Brazil 	Japan 









































































FIVB Men's World Cup

Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1977	Japan	Soviet Union 	Japan 	Cuba 
1981	Japan	Soviet Union 	Cuba 	Brazil 
1985	Japan	United States 	Soviet Union 	Czechoslovakia 
1989	Japan	Cuba 	Italy 	Soviet Union 
1991	Japan	Soviet Union 	Cuba 	United States 
1995	Japan	Italy 	Netherlands 	Brazil 
1999	Japan	Russia 	Cuba 	Italy 
2003	Japan	Brazil 	Italy 	Serbia & Montenegro 
2007	Japan	Brazil 	Russia 	Bulgaria 
2011	Japan	Russia 	Poland 	Brazil 































FIVB Women's World Cup


































Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1973	Uruguay	Soviet Union 	Japan 	Korea 
1977	Japan	Japan 	Cuba 	Korea 
1981	Japan	China 	Japan 	Soviet Union 
1985	Japan	China 	Cuba 	Soviet Union 
1989	Japan	Cuba 	Soviet Union 	China 
1991	Japan	Cuba 	China 	Soviet Union 
1995	Japan	Cuba 	Brazil 	China 
1999	Japan	Cuba 	Russia 	Brazil 
2003	Japan	China 	Brazil 	United States 
2007	Japan	Italy 	Brazil 	United States 
2011	Japan	Italy 	United States 	China 

FIVB Volleyball World League

Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1990	Osaka (JPN)	Italy 	Netherlands 	Brazil 
1991	Milan (ITA)	Italy 	Cuba 	Soviet Union 
1992	Genoa (ITA)	Italy 	Cuba 	United States 
1993	São Paulo (BRA)	Brazil 	Russia 	Italy 
1994	Milan (ITA)	Italy 	Cuba 	Brazil 
1995	Rio de Janeiro (BRA)	Italy 	Brazil 	Cuba 
1996	Rotterdam (NED)	Netherlands 	Italy 	Russia 
1997	Moscow (RUS)	Italy 	Cuba 	Russia 
1998	Milan (ITA)	Cuba 	Russia 	Netherlands 
1999	Mar del Plata (ARG)	Italy 	Cuba 	Brazil 
2000	Rotterdam (NED)	Italy 	Russia 	Brazil 
2001	Katowice (POL)	Brazil 	Italy 	Russia 
2002	Belo Horizonte (BRA)	Russia 	Brazil 	Yugoslavia 
2003	Madrid (ESP)	Brazil 	Serbia & Montenegro 	Italy 
2004	Rome (ITA)	Brazil 	Italy 	Serbia & Montenegro 
2005	Belgrade (SCG)	Brazil 	Serbia & Montenegro 	Cuba 
2006	Moscow (RUS)	Brazil 	France 	Russia 
2007	Katowice (POL)	Brazil 	Russia 	United States 
2008	Rio de Janeiro (BRA)	United States 	Serbia 	Russia 
2009	Belgrade (SRB)	Brazil 	Serbia 	Russia 
2010	Cordoba (ARG)	Brazil 	Russia 	Serbia 
2011	Gdansk (POL)	Russia 	Brazil 	Poland 
2012	Sofia (BUL)	Poland 	United States 	Cuba 
2013	Mar del Plata (ARG)	Russia 	Brazil 	Italy 

FIVB Volleyball World Grand Prix

Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1993	Hong Kong	Cuba 	China 	Russia 
1994	Shanghai (CHN)	Brazil 	Cuba 	China 
1995	Shanghai (CHN)	United States 	Brazil 	Cuba 
1996	Shanghai (CHN)	Brazil 	Cuba 	Russia 
1997	Kobe (JPN)	Russia 	Cuba 	Korea 
1998	Hong Kong	Brazil 	Russia 	Cuba 
1999	Yuxi (CHN)	Russia 	Brazil 	China 
2000	Quezon City (PHI)	Cuba 	Russia 	Brazil 
2001	Macau	United States 	China 	Russia 
2002	Hong Kong	Russia 	China 	Germany 

2003	Andria (ITA)	China		Russia		United States	
2004	Reggio Calabria (ITA)	Brazil		Italy		United States	
2005	Sendai (JPN)	Brazil		Italy		China	
2006	Reggio Calabria (ITA)	Brazil		Russia		Italy	
2007	Ningbo (CHN)	Netherlands		China		Italy	
2008	Yokohama (JPN)	Brazil		Cuba		Italy	
2009	Tokyo (JPN)	Brazil		Russia		Germany	
2010	Ningbo (CHN)	United States		Brazil		Italy	
2011	Macau	United States		Brazil		Serbia	
2012	Ningbo (CHN)	United States		Brazil		Turkey	
2013	Sapporo (JPN)	Brazil		China		Serbia	




















































FIVB Men's U23 World Championship

Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
2013	Brazil	Brazil 	Serbia 	Russia 




















































FIVB Women's U23 World Championship

Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
2013	Mexico	China 	Dominican Republic 	Japan 

























FIVB Men's U21 World Championship

Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1977	Brazil	Soviet Union 	China 	Brazil 
1981	USA	Soviet Union 	Brazil 	Korea 
1985	Italy	Soviet Union 	Italy 	Cuba 
1987	Bahrain	Korea 	Cuba 	Soviet Union 
1989	Greece	Soviet Union 	Japan 	Brazil 
1991	Egypt	Bulgaria 	Italy 	Soviet Union 
1993	Argentina	Brazil 	Italy 	Czech Republic 
1995	Malaysia	Russia 	Brazil 	Italy 
1997	Bahrain	Poland 	Brazil 	Russia 
1999	Thailand	Russia 	France 	Brazil 
2001	Poland	Brazil 	Russia 	Venezuela 
2003	Iran	Poland 	Brazil 	Bulgaria 
2005	India	Russia 	Brazil 	Cuba 
2007	Morocco	Brazil 	Russia 	Iran 
2009	India	Brazil 	Cuba 	Argentina 
2011	Brazil	Russia 	Argentina 	Serbia 
2013	Turkey	Russia 	Brazil 	Italy 

FIVB Women's U20 World Championship

Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1977	Brazil	Korea 	China 	Japan 
1981	USA	Korea 	Peru 	Japan 
1985	Italy	Cuba 	Japan 	China 
1987	Korea	Brazil 	Korea 	China 
1989	Peru	Brazil 	Cuba 	Japan 
1991	Czechoslovakia	Soviet Union 	Brazil 	Japan 
1993	Brazil	Cuba 	Ukraine 	Korea 
1995	Thailand	China 	Brazil 	Russia 
1997	Indonesia	Russia 	Italy 	China 
1999	Canada	Russia 	Brazil 	Korea 
2001	Dominican Rep.	Brazil 	Korea 	China 
2003	Thailand	Brazil 	China 	Poland 
2005	Turkey	Brazil 	Serbia & Montenegro 	China 
2007	Thailand	Brazil 	China 	Japan 
2009	Mexico	Germany 	Dominican Republic 	Brazil 
2011	Peru	Italy 	Brazil 	China 
2013	Czech Republic	China 	Japan 	Brazil 











FIVB Boys' U19 World Championship

Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1989	United Arab Emirates	Brazil 	Soviet Union 	Bulgaria 
1991	Portugal	Brazil 	Soviet Union 	Korea 
1993	Turkey	Brazil 	Japan 	Korea 
1995	Puerto Rico	Brazil 	Italy 	Japan 
1997	Iran	Italy 	Greece 	Japan 
1999	Saudi Arabia	Russia 	Venezuela 	Poland 
2001	Egypt	Brazil 	Iran 	Russia 
2003	Thailand	Brazil 	India 	Iran 
2005	Algeria	Russia 	Brazil 	Italy 
2007	Mexico	Iran 	China 	France 
2009	Italy	Serbia 	Iran 	Argentina 
2011	Argentina	Serbia 	Spain 	Cuba 
2013	Mexico	Russia 	China 	Poland 

FIVB Girls' U18 World Championship

Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1989	Brazil	Soviet Union 	Brazil 	Japan 
1991	Portugal	Korea 	Brazil 	Soviet Union 
1993	Slovakia	Russia 	Japan 	Korea 
1995	France	Japan 	Russia 	Italy 
1997	Thailand	Brazil 	Russia 	Italy 
1999	Portugal	Japan 	Brazil 	Korea 
2001	Croatia	China 	Brazil 	Poland 
2003	Poland	China 	Italy 	Brazil 
2005	Macau	Brazil 	Russia 	Italy 
2007	Mexico	China 	Turkey 	Russia 
2009	Thailand	Brazil 	Serbia 	Belgium 
2011	Turkey	Turkey 	China 	Serbia 
2013	Thailand	China 	USA 	Brazil 





























































FIVB Men's Club World Championship

Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1989	Parma	Maxicono PARMA (ITA) 	CSKA MOSCOW (URS) 	Pirelli SANTO ANDRE' (BRA) 
1990	Milan	Mediolanum MILANO (ITA) 	Banespa SÃO PAULO (BRA) 	Maxicono PARMA (ITA) 
1991	São Paulo	Messaggero RAVENNA (ITA) 	Banespa SÃO PAULO (BRA) 	Mediolanum MILANO (ITA) 
1992	Treviso	Misura MILANO (ITA) 	Sisley TREVISO (ITA) 	Olympiacos PIRAEUS (GRE) 
2009	Doha	TRENTINO Volley (ITA) 	PGE Skra BELCHATOW (POL) 	Zenit KAZAN (RUS) 
2010	Doha	TRENTINO Volley (ITA) 	PGE Skra BELCHATOW (POL) 	Paykan TEHRAN (IRI) 
2011	Doha	TRENTINO Volley (ITA) 	JASTRZEBSKI Wegiel (POL) 	Zenit KAZAN (RUS) 
2012	Doha	TRENTINO Volley (ITA) 	Sada Cruzeiro (BRA) 	PGE Skra BELCHATOW (POL) 
2013	Betim	Sada Cruzeiro (BRA) 	Lokomotiv NOVOSIBIRSK (RUS) 	Diatec TRENTINO (ITA) 











































FIVB Women's Club World Championship



















Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1991	São Paulo	Sadia E.C. SÃO PAULO (BRA) 	Colgate SÃO CAETANO (BRA) 	Mladost ZAGREB (YUG) 
1992	Jesi	Olimpia RAVENNA (ITA) 	L'acqua di fiori MINAS (BRA) 	Uralochka EKATERINBURG (RUS) 
1994	São Paulo	Leite Moça SOROCABA (BRA) 	Parmalat MATERA (ITA) 	BCN OSASCO (BRA) 
2010	Doha	Fenerbahce ISTANBUL (TUR) 	Sollys OSASCO (BRA) 	Volley BERGAMO (ITA) 
2011	Doha	Rabita BAKU (AZE) 	Vakifbank ISTANBUL (TUR) 	Sollys Nestlé OSASCO (BRA) 
2012	Doha	Sollys Nestlé OSASCO (BRA) 	Rabita BAKU (AZE) 	Fenerbahce ISTANBUL (TUR) 
2013	Zurich	VakifBank ISTANBUL (TUR) 	Unilever Volei (BRA) 	Guangdong Evergrande (CHN) 

CEV Volleyball European Championship – Men





























































Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1975	Yugoslavia	Soviet Union 	Poland 	Yugoslavia 
1977	Finland	Soviet Union 	Poland 	Romania 
1979	France	Soviet Union 	Poland 	Yugoslavia 
1981	Bulgaria	Soviet Union 	Poland 	Bulgaria 
1983	East Germany	Soviet Union 	Poland 	Bulgaria 
1985	Netherlands	Soviet Union 	Czechoslovakia 	France 
1987	Belgium	Soviet Union 	France 	Greece 
1989	Sweden	Italy 	Sweden 	Netherlands 
1991	Germany	Soviet Union 	Italy 	Netherlands 
1993	Finland	Italy 	Netherlands 	Russia 
1995	Greece	Italy 	Netherlands 	Yugoslavia 
1997	Netherlands	Netherlands 	Yugoslavia 	Italy 
1999	Austria	Italy 	Russia 	Yugoslavia 
2001	Czech Republic	Yugoslavia 	Italy 	Russia 
2003	Germany	Italy 	France 	Russia 
2005	Italy/Serbia & Montenegro	Italy 	Russia 	Serbia & Montenegro 
2007	Russia	Spain 	Russia 	Serbia 
2009	Turkey	Poland 	France 	Bulgaria 
2011	Austria/Czech Republic	Serbia 	Italy 	Poland 
2013	Denmark/Poland	Russia 	Italy 	Serbia 

CEV Volleyball European Championship – Women





























































Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1975	Yugoslavia	Soviet Union 	Hungary 	East Germany 
1977	Finland	Soviet Union 	East Germany 	Hungary 
1979	France	Soviet Union 	East Germany 	Bulgaria 
1981	Bulgaria	Bulgaria 	Soviet Union 	Hungary 
1983	East Germany	East Germany 	Soviet Union 	Hungary 
1985	Netherlands	Soviet Union 	East Germany 	Netherlands 
1987	Belgium	East Germany 	Soviet Union 	Czechoslovakia 
1989	West Germany	Soviet Union 	East Germany 	Italy 
1991	Italy	Soviet Union 	Netherlands 	Germany 
1993	Czech Republic	Russia 	Czech Republic 	Ukraine 
1995	Netherlands	Netherlands 	Croatia 	Russia 
1997	Czech Republic	Russia 	Croatia 	Czech Republic 
1999	Italy	Russia 	Croatia 	Italy 
2001	Bulgaria	Russia 	Italy 	Bulgaria 

2003	Turkey	Poland		Turkey		Germany	
2005	Croatia	Poland		Italy		Russia	
2007	Belgium/Luxembourg	Italy		Serbia		Russia	
2009	Poland	Italy		Netherlands		Poland	
2011	Italy/Serbia	Serbia		Germany		Turkey	
2013	Germany/Switzerland	Russia		Germany		Belgium	































CEV Junior Volleyball European Championship – Men (U20)

Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1973	Netherlands	Soviet Union 	Czechoslovakia 	Poland 
1975	West Germany	Soviet Union 	Czechoslovakia 	Poland 
1977	France	Soviet Union 	Czechoslovakia 	East Germany 
1979	Portugal	Soviet Union 	Bulgaria 	East Germany 
1982	West Germany	Soviet Union 	West Germany 	East Germany 
1984	France	Soviet Union 	Bulgaria 	Italy 
1986	Bulgaria	Bulgaria 	Romania 	West Germany 
1988	Italy	Soviet Union 	Italy 	Bulgaria 
1990	West Germany	Soviet Union 	Italy 	West Germany 
1992	Poland	Italy 	Spain 	CIS 
1994	Turkey	Russia 	France 	Italy 
1996	Israel	Poland 	Italy 	Russia 
1998	Czech Republic	Russia 	France 	Czech Republic 
2000	Italy	Russia 	Italy 	France 
2002	Poland	Italy 	France 	Germany 
2004	Croatia	Russia 	Netherlands 	Germany 
2006	Russia	Russia 	France 	Italy 
2008	Czech Republic	France 	Germany 	Russia 
2010	Belarus	Russia 	Bulgaria 	Serbia 
2012	Denmark/Poland	Italy 	Spain 	Belgium 

CEV Junior Volleyball European Championship – Women (U19)

Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1973	Netherlands	Soviet Union 	Czechoslovakia 	Poland 
1975	West Germany	Soviet Union 	Czechoslovakia 	East Germany 
1977	Yugoslavia	Soviet Union 	Czechoslovakia 	East Germany 
1979	Spain	Soviet Union 	East Germany 	Czechoslovakia 
1982	West Germany	Soviet Union 	Bulgaria 	Czechoslovakia 
1984	France	Soviet Union 	Italy 	Czechoslovakia 
1986	Bulgaria	Soviet Union 	East Germany 	Bulgaria 
1988	Italy	Soviet Union 	Italy 	Romania 
1990	Austria	Soviet Union 	West Germany 	Czechoslovakia 
1992	Greece	CIS 	Czechoslovakia 	Italy 
1994	Hungary	Russia 	Italy 	Germany 
1996	Turkey	Italy 	Russia 	Poland 
1998	Belgium	Italy 	Russia 	Czech Republic 
2000	Switzerland	Czech Republic 	Italy 	Poland 
2002	Croatia	Poland 	Ukraine 	Belarus 
2004	Slovakia	Italy 	Serbia & Montenegro 	Russia 
2006	France	Italy 	Croatia 	Ukraine 
2008	Italy	Italy 	Russia 	Turkey 
2010	Serbia	Italy 	Serbia 	Czech Republic 
2012	Turkey	Turkey 	Serbia 	Italy 































CEV Youth Volleyball European Championship – Boys (U19)

Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1995	Spain	Russia 	Italy 	Poland 
1997	Slovakia	Italy 	Greece 	Poland 
1999	Poland	Russia 	Germany 	Czech Republic 
2001	Czech Republic	Russia 	Poland 	France 
2003	Croatia	Russia 	Poland 	Italy 
2005	Latvia	Poland 	France 	Italy 
2007	Austria	France 	Poland 	Belgium 
2009	Netherlands	France 	Serbia 	Russia 
2011	Turkey	Serbia 	France 	Russia 
2013	Bosnia & Herzegovina/ Serbia	Russia 	Poland 	Belgium 















CEV Youth Volleyball European Championship – Girls (U18)

Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1995	Spain	Italy 	Russia 	Slovakia 
1997	Slovakia	Russia 	Croatia 	Poland 
1999	Poland	Poland 	Netherlands 	Russia 
2001	Czech Republic	Italy 	Poland 	Belarus 
2003	Croatia	Croatia 	Italy 	Serbia & Montenegro 
2005	Estonia	Ukraine 	Russia 	Italy 
2007	Czech Republic	Germany 	Serbia 	Italy 
2009	Netherlands	Belgium 	Serbia 	Italy 
2011	Turkey	Turkey 	Italy 	Serbia 
2013	Montenegro/Serbia	Poland 	Italy 	Turkey 

CEV Volleyball European League – Men

Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
2004	Czech Republic	Czech Republic 	Russia 	Netherlands 
2005	Russia	Russia 	Finland 	Spain 
2006	Turkey	Netherlands 	Croatia 	Greece 
2007	Portugal	Spain 	Portugal 	Slovakia 
2008	Turkey	Slovakia 	Netherlands 	Turkey 
2009	Portugal	Germany 	Spain 	Portugal 
2010	Spain	Portugal 	Spain 	Turkey 
2011	Slovakia	Slovakia 	Spain 	Slovenia 
2012	Turkey	Netherlands 	Turkey 	Spain 
2013	Turkey	Belgium 	Croatia 	Czech Republic 

CEV Volleyball European League – Women

Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
2009	Turkey	Serbia 	Turkey 	Bulgaria 
2010	Turkey	Serbia 	Bulgaria 	Turkey 
2011	Turkey	Serbia 	Turkey 	Bulgaria 
2012	Czech Republic	Czech Republic 	Bulgaria 	Serbia 
2013	Bulgaria	Germany 	Belgium 	Bulgaria 

• EUROPEAN CUPS •

MEN			WOMEN		
1973					
CHAMPIONS CUP	1. CSKA MOSCOW	URS 	1. NIM-SE BUDAPEST	HUN 	
CUP WINNERS CUP	1. O'Ruini FIRENZE	ITA 	1. CSKA MOSCOW	URS 	
	2. Csepel BUDAPEST	HUN 			
	3. AZS OLSZTYN	POL 			
1974					
CHAMPIONS CUP	1. CSKA MOSCOW	URS 	1. Dynamo MOSCOW	URS 	
CUP WINNERS CUP	1. Radiotechnik RIGA	URS 	1. CSKA MOSCOW	URS 	
	2. Zvezda VOROCHILOVGRAD	URS 			
	3. Resovia RZESZOW	POL 			
1975					
CHAMPIONS CUP	1. CSKA MOSCOW	URS 	1. Dynamo MOSCOW	URS 	
CUP WINNERS CUP	1. Radiotechnik RIGA	URS 	1. SC Traktor SCHWERIN	GDR 	
	2. Levski/Spartak SOFIA	BUL 			
	3. Aero ODOLENA VODA	TCH 			
1976					
CHAMPIONS CUP	BELGIUM		BELGIUM		
	1. Dukla LIBEREC	TCH 	1. Ruda Hvezda PRAHA	TCH 	
	2. Slavia SOFIA	BUL 	2. Levski/Spartak SOFIA	BUL 	
CUP WINNERS CUP	CZECHOSLOVAKIA		CZECHOSLOVAKIA		
	1. CSKA SOFIA	BUL 	1. Slavia BRATISLAVA	TCH 	
	2. CH BRATISLAVA	TCH 	2. CSKA SOFIA	BUL 	
	3. Klippan TORINO	ITA 	3. US Medico MÜNSTER	FRG 	
1977					
CHAMPIONS CUP	FINLAND		FINLAND		
	1. CSKA MOSCOW	URS 	1. Dynamo MOSCOW	URS 	
	2. Dinamo BUCAREST	ROM 	2. NIM-SE BUDAPEST	HUN 	
CUP WINNERS CUP	BELGIUM		BELGIUM		
	1. Radiotechnik RIGA	URS 	1. Iskra VOROCHILOVGRAD	URS 	
	2. Steaua BUCAREST	ROM 	2. Dynamo BERLIN	GDR 	
	3. Aero ODOLENA VODA	TCH 	3. Ujpesti DOZSA	HUN 	



MEN	WOMEN
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1978

CHAMPIONS CUP	SWITZERLAND		FED. REPUBLIC GERMANY	
	1. Plomien MILOWICE	POL	1. Traktor SCHWERIN	GDR
	2. Starlift BLOKKEER	HOL	2. NIM-SE BUDAPEST	HUN
	3. Aero ODOLENA VODA	TCH	3. Start LODZ	POL
CUP WINNERS CUP	HOLLAND		ITALY	
	1. Ruda Hvezda PRAHA	TCH	1. Dynamo BERLIN	GDR
	2. AZS OLSZTYN	POL	2. TJK BRNO	TCH
	3. Paoletti CATANIA	ITA	3. 1. VC SCHWERTE 1968	FRG

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1979


CHAMPIONS CUP	BELGIUM		BELGIUM	
	1. CH BRATISLAVA	TCH	1. CSKA SOFIA	BUL
	2. Steaua BUCAREST	ROM	2. NIM-SE BUDAPEST	HUN
	3. Plomien SOSNOWIEC	POL	3. Dynamo BERLIN	GDR
CUP WINNERS CUP	BELGIUM		LIECHTENSTEIN	
	1. Dinamo BUCAREST	ROM	1. Ruda Hvezda PRAHA	TCH
	2. Levski/Spartak SOFIA	BUL	2. Traktor SCHWERIN	GDR
	3. Ruda Hvezda PRAHA	TCH	3. Start LODZ	POL






1980

CHAMPIONS CUP	TURKEY		CZECHOSLOVAKIA	
	1. Klippan TORINO	ITA	1. Ruda Hvezda PRAHA	TCH
	2. CH BRATISLAVA	TCH	2. Eczacibasi ISTANBUL	TUR
	3. Eczacibasi ISTANBUL	TUR	3. NIM-SE BUDAPEST	HUN
CUP WINNERS CUP	GREECE		HOLLAND	
	1. Panini MODENA	ITA	1. Vasas Izzo BUDAPEST	HUN
	2. Panathinaikos ATHENS	GRE	2. USC MÜNSTER	FRG
	3. Aero ODOLENA VODA	TCH	3. Alidea CATANIA	ITA







MEN			WOMEN			
1981						
CHAMPIONS CUP	SPAIN			LIECHTENSTEIN		
	1. Dinamo BUCAREST	ROM		1. Uralochka SVERDLOVSK	URS	
	2. CSKA MOSCOW	URS		2. Levski/Spartak SOFIA	BUL	
	3. Gwardia WROCLAW	POL		3. Traktor SCHWERIN	GDR	
CUP WINNERS CUP	BELGIUM			BELGIUM		
	1. CH BRATISLAVA	TCH		1. Vasas Izzo BUDAPEST	HUN	
	2. Steaua BUCAREST	ROM		2. Spartak LENINGRAD	URS	
	3. Avtomobil. LENINGRAD	URS		3. CSKA SOFIA	BUL	
CEV CUP	FRANCE			FED REPUBLIC GERMANY		
	1. AS CANNES	FRA		1. SV LOHHOF	FRG	
	2. AM PIU LORETO	ITA		2. Mobili CECINA	ITA	
	3. Santal PARMA	ITA		3. VC WIESBADEN	FRG	

1982					
CHAMPIONS CUP	FRANCE		ITALY		
	1. CSKA MOSCOW	URS 	1. Uralochka SVERDLOVSK	URS 	
	2. Kappa TORINO	ITA 	2. DVC DOKKUM	HOL 	
	3. Dinamo BUCAREST	ROM 	3. SV LOHHOF	FRG 	
CUP WINNERS CUP	BELGIUM		TURKEY		
	1. Avtomobil. LENINGRAD	URS 	1. CSKA SOFIA	BUL 	
	2. Levski/Spartak SOFIA	BUL 	2. Dynamo MOSCOW	URS 	
	3. Steaua BUCAREST	ROM 	3. Slavia BRATISLAVA	TCH 	
CEV CUP	HOLLAND		FED. REPUBLIC GERMANY		
	1. Starlift VOORBURG	HOL 	1. USC MÜNSTER	FRG 	
	2. Toseroni AS ROMA	ITA 	2. Lions Baby ANCONA	ITA 	
	3. Guney SANAYI	TUR 	3. Orbis ORION	HOL 	

	MEN	WOMEN
	1983	
CHAMPIONS CUP	ITALY	TURKEY
	1. CSKA MOSCOW URS 	1. Uralochka SVERDLOVSK URS 
	2. AS CANNES FRA 	2. Vasas Izzo BUDAPEST HUN 
	3. Santal PARMA ITA 	3. Slavia BRATISLAVA TCH 
CUP WINNERS CUP	LIECHTENSTEIN	ITALY
	1. Avtomobil. LENINGRAD URS 	1. Medine ODESSA URS 
	2. Kappa TORINO ITA 	2. Ruda Hvezda PRAHA TCH 
	3. Vojvodina NOVI SAD YUG 	3. Nelson REGGIO EMILIA ITA 
CEV CUP	BELGIUM	FED. REPUBLIC GERMANY
	1. Panini MODENA ITA 	1. SG JDZ FEUERBACH FRG 
	2. Orbis ORION HOL 	2. Pallavolo CECINA ITA 
	3. AS GRENOBLE FRA 	3. TG RÜSSELHEIM FRG 
	1984	
CHAMPIONS CUP	SWITZERLAND	FED. REPUBLIC GERMANY
	1. Santal PARMA ITA 	1. CSKA SOFIA BUL 
	2. Mladost Monter ZAGREB YUG 	2. Ol. Teodora RAVENNA ITA 
	3. Dukla LIBEREC TCH 	3. SV LOHHOF FRG 
CUP WINNERS CUP	AUSTRIA	TURKEY
	1. Kappa TORINO ITA 	1. Dynamo BERLIN GDR 
	2. SON AMAR ESP 	2. Nelson REGGIO EMILIA ITA 
	3. Asnieres SPORTS FRA 	3. Ruda Hvezda PRAHA TCH 
CEV CUP	BELGIUM	FED. REPUBLIC GERMANY
	1. Panini MODENA ITA 	1. Victoria Vill. BARI ITA 
	2. Casio Gonzaga MILANO ITA 	2. VIC MODENA ITA 
	3. VERBUNT VC HOL 	3. SG JDZ FEUERBACH FRG 
	1985	
CHAMPIONS CUP	BELGIUM	ITALY
	1. Santal PARMA ITA 	1. ADK ALMA ATA URS 
	2. Mladost Monter ZAGREB YUG 	2. Ol. Teodora RAVENNA ITA 
	3. CSKA SOFIA BUL 	3. TUNGSRAM SC HUN 
CUP WINNERS CUP	FRANCE	TURKEY
	1. Dynamo MOSCOW URS 	1. Dynamo BERLIN GDR 
	2. Levski/Spartak SOFIA BUL 	2. Uralochka SVERDLOVSK URS 
	3. Steaua BUCAREST ROM 	3. Akademik SOFIA BUL 



	MEN		WOMEN	
CEV CUP	YUGOSLAVIA		FED. REPUBLIC GERMANY	
	1. Panini MODENA	ITA 	1. Viktoria AUGSBURG	FRG 
	2. OK Partizan BEOGRAD	YUG 	2. Victoria Vill. BARI	ITA 
	3. Kruikenberg TERNAT	BEL 	3. PARMA LYNX	ITA 

1986





CHAMPIONS CUP	ITALY		SWEDEN	
	1. CSKA MOSCOW	URS 	1. CSKA MOSCOW	URS 
	2. Santal PARMA	ITA 	2. Ol. Teodora RAVENNA	ITA 
	3. Brother MARTINUS	HOL 	3. Dynamo BERLIN	GDR 
CUP WINNERS CUP	GREECE		TURKEY	
	1. Panini MODENA	ITA 	1. Uralochka SVERDLOVSK	URS 
	2. Steaua BUCAREST	ROM 	2. SV LOHHOF	FRG 
	3. CSKA SOFIA	BUL 	3. Ujpesti DOZSA	HUN 
CEV CUP	YUGOSLAVIA		ITALY	
	1. Kutiba FALCONARA	ITA 	1. Nelson REGGIO EMILIA	ITA 
	2. Bosna SARAJEVO	YUG 	2. SG JDZ FEUERBACH	FRG 
	3. Kappa TORINO	ITA 	3. CZ BEOGRAD	YUG 

1987


CHAMPIONS CUP	HOLLAND		FED. REPUBLIC GERMANY	
	1. CSKA MOSCOW	URS 	1. Uralochka SVERDLOVSK	URS 
	2. Panini MODENA	ITA 	2. Ol. Teodora RAVENNA	ITA 
	3. Brother MARTINUS	HOL 	3. Dynamo BERLIN	GDR 
CUP WINNERS CUP	SWITZERLAND		TURKEY	
	1. Tartarini BOLOGNA	ITA 	1. Komounalnik MINSK	URS 
	2. Levski/Spartak SOFIA	BUL 	2. Nelson REGGIO EMILIA	ITA 
	3. Bosna SARAJEVO	YUG 	3. SG JDZ FEUERBACH	FRG 
CEV CUP	BELGIUM		ITALY	
	1. ENER-MIX MILANO	ITA 	1. CIV E CIV MODENA	ITA 
	2. Santal PARMA	ITA 	2. USC MÜNSTER	FRG 
	3. CH BRATISLAVA	TCH 	3. Yoghi ANCONA	ITA 

MEN		WOMEN	
1988			
SUPERCUP	ITALY		
	1. CSKA MOSCOW	URS	
	2. Maxicono PARMA	ITA	
CHAMPIONS CUP	FRANCE		
	1. CSKA MOSCOW	URS	
	2. Panini MODENA	ITA	
	3. Brother MARTINUS	HOL	
CUP WINNERS CUP	ITALY		
	1. Maxicono PARMA	ITA	
	2. US Zinelli BOLOGNA	ITA	
	3. Levski/Spartak SOFIA	BUL	
CEV CUP	LUXEMBOURG		
	1. Avtomobil. LENINGRAD	URS	
	2. Petrarca PADOVA	ITA	
	3. MONTPELLIER UC	FRA	
	GREECE		
1. Ol. Teodora RAVENNA		ITA	
2. Uralochka SVERDLOVSK		URS	
3. Dynamo BERLIN		GDR	
FED. REPUBLIC GERMANY			
1. CSKA MOSCOW		URS	
2. AS Volley MODENA		ITA	
3. Traktor SCHWERIN		GDR	
FED. REPUBLIC GERMANY			
1. Yoghi ANCONA		ITA	
2. Braglia C. REGGIO EMILIA		ITA	
3. Emlakbank ANKARA		TUR	




1989			
SUPERCUP	ITALY		
	1. Maxicono PARMA	ITA 	
	2. CSKA MOSCOW	URS 	
CHAMPIONS CUP	GREECE		
	1. CSKA MOSCOW	URS 	
	2. Panini MODENA	ITA 	
	3. Vojvodina NOVI SAD	YUG 	
CUP WINNERS CUP	FINLAND		
	1. Maxicono PARMA	ITA 	
	2. Levski/Spartak SOFIA	BUL 	
	3. Panathinaikos ATHENS	GRE 	
CEV CUP	FINLAND		
	1. Avtomobil. LENINGRAD	URS 	
	2. Petrarca PADOVA	ITA 	
	3. Debic ZONHOVEN	BEL 	
		BELGIUM	
		1. Uralochka SVERDLOVSK	URS 
		2. Ol. Teodora RAVENNA	ITA 
		3. Dynamo BERLIN	GDR 
		ITALY	
		1. ADK ALMA ATA	URS 
		2. Traktor SCHWERIN	GDR 
		3. CSKA MOSCOW	URS 
		ITALY	
		1. Braglia C. REGGIO EMILIA	ITA 
		2. Slavia PRAHA	TCH 
		3. 1. VC SCHWERTE 1968	FRG 

MEN			WOMEN	
1990				
SUPERCUP	ITALY			
	1. Maxicono PARMA	ITA 		
	2. Philips MODENA	ITA 		
CHAMPIONS CUP	HOLLAND			
	1. Philips MODENA	ITA 		
	2. AS FREJUS	FRA 		
	3. CV PALMA	ESP 		
CUP WINNERS CUP	ITALY			
	1. Maxicono PARMA	ITA 		
	2. Sisley TREVISO	ITA 		
	3. Dynamo MOSCOW	URS 		
CEV CUP	FED. REPUBLIC GERMANY			
	1. MOERSER SC	GER 		
	2. Partizan BEOGRAD	YUG 		
	3. Avtomobil. LENINGRAD	URS 		




1991			
SUPERCUP	ITALY		
	1. CSKA MOSCOW	URS 	
	2. Gabeca MONTICHIARI	ITA 	
CHAMPIONS CUP	ITALY		
	1. CSKA MOSCOW	URS 	
	2. Maxicono PARMA	ITA 	
	3. Philips MODENA	ITA 	
CUP WINNERS CUP	SPAIN		
	1. Eurostyle MONTICHIARI	ITA 	
	2. Avtomobil. LENINGRAD	URS 	
	3. FREJUS VB	FRA 	
CEV CUP	ITALY		
	1. Sisley TREVISO	ITA 	
	2. Radiotechnika RIGA	URS 	
	3. Petrarca PADOVA	ITA 	
	YUGOSLAVIA		
	1. Mladost ZAGREB	YUG 	
	2. Uralochka SVERDLOVSK	URS 	
	3. Ol. Teodora RAVENNA	ITA 	
	GERMANY		
	1. ADK ALMA ATA	URS 	
	2. CSKA SOFIA	BUL 	
	3. Bayern LOHHOF	GER 	
	TURKEY		
	1. Pescopagano MATERA	ITA 	
	2. Braglia C. REGGIO EMILIA	ITA 	
	3. Vakifbank ANKARA	TUR 	

MEN		WOMEN	
1992			
SUPERCUP	ITALY		
	1. Messaggero RAVENNA	ITA	
	2. Gabeca MONTICHIARI	ITA	
CHAMPIONS CUP	GREECE		
	1. Messaggero RAVENNA	ITA	
	2. Olympiakos PIRAEUS	GRE	
	3. CSKA MOSCOW	CIS	
CUP WINNERS CUP	GERMANY		
	1. Gabeca MONTICHIARI	ITA	
	2. Mediolanum MILANO	ITA	
	3. MOERSER SC	GER	
CEV CUP	ITALY		
	1. Maxicono PARMA	ITA	
	2. AS Petrarca PADOVA	ITA	
	3. SV Bayer WUPPERTAL	GER	
ITALY			
	1. Ol. Teodora RAVENNA	ITA	
	2. Mladost ZAGREB	YUG	
	3. Uralochka SVERDLOVSK	CIS	
GERMANY			
	1. USC MÜNSTER	GER	
	2. Sirio PERUGIA	ITA	
	3. SCHWERINER SC	GER	
ITALY			
	1. Pescopagano MATERA	ITA	
	2. AS Volley MODENA	ITA	
	3. Vakifbank ANKARA	TUR	



















1993			
SUPERCUP	ITALY		
	1. Messaggero RAVENNA	ITA 	
	2. Mediolanum M. MILANO	ITA 	
CHAMPIONS CUP	GREECE		
	1. Messaggero RAVENNA	ITA 	
	2. Maxicono PARMA	ITA 	
	3. Olympiakos PIRAEUS	GRE 	
CUP WINNERS CUP	ITALY		
	1. Mediolanum MILANO	ITA 	
	2. AS CANNES	FRA 	
	3. Gabeca MONTICHIARI	ITA 	
CEV CUP	FRANCE		
	1. Sisley TREVISO	ITA 	
	2. AS Petrarca PADOVA	ITA 	
	3. Dynamo MOSCOW	RUS 	
		GERMANY	
		1. Latte Rugiada MATERA	ITA 
		2. CJD BERLIN	GER 
		ITALY	
		1. Parmalat MATERA	ITA 
		2. Ol. Teodora RAVENNA	ITA 
		3. Uralochka EKATERINBURG	RUS 
		ITALY	
		1. CJD BERLIN	GER 
		2. BZBK BAKU	AZE 
		3. Sirio PERUGIA	ITA 
		TURKEY	
		1. Colli Aniene ROMA	ITA 
		2. Eczacibasi ISTANBUL	TUR 
		3. Yunesis EKATERINBURG	RUS 


MEN			WOMEN		
1994					
SUPERCUP	ITALY				
	1. Sisley TREVISO	ITA			
	2. Messaggero RAVENNA	ITA			
CHAMPIONS CUP	BELGIUM				
	1. Messaggero RAVENNA	ITA			
	2. Maxicono PARMA	ITA			
	3. Maes Pils ZELLIK	BEL			
CUP WINNERS CUP	SWITZERLAND				
	1. Sisley TREVISO	ITA			
	2. Misura MILANO	ITA			
	3. AS CANNES	FRA			
CEV CUP	ITALY				
	1. Petrarca PADOVA	ITA			
	2. Sam. NIZHNEVARTOVSK	RUS			
	3. VfB FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	GER			
CROATIA					
1. Uralochka EKATERINBURG		RUS			
2. Mladost ZAGREB		CRO			
3. Latte Rugiada MATERA		ITA			
ITALY					
1. Brummel ANCONA		ITA			
2. Racing de France PARIS		FRA			
3. Komfort POLICE		POL			
GERMANY					
1. USC MÜNSTER		GER			
2. Impresem AGRIGENTO		ITA			
3. Iskra LUGANSK		UKR			

1995			
SUPERCUP	ITALY		
	1. LAS Daytona MODENA	ITA	
	2. Sisley TREVISO	ITA	
CHAMPIONS CUP	AUSTRIA		
	1. Sisley TREVISO	ITA	
	2. Edilcuoghi RAVENNA	ITA	
	3. Olympiakos PIRAEUS	GRE	
CUP WINNERS CUP	SWITZERLAND		
	1. Daytona MODENA	ITA	
	2. GD San Jose SORIA	ESP	
	3. Knack ROESELARE	BEL	
CEV CUP	ITALY		
	1. Pallavolo PARMA	ITA	
	2. AVC ORESTIADA	GRE	
	3. MILANO Volley	ITA	
ITALY			
	1. Uralochka EKATERINBURG	RUS	
	2. CV MURCIA	ESP	
	3. Iskra LUGANSK	UKR	
GERMANY			
	1. Volley MODENA	ITA	
	2. USC MÜNSTER	GER	
	3. Brummel ANCONA	ITA	
FRANCE			
	1. Ecoclear SUMIRAGO	ITA	
	2. Orbita ZAPORIZHYA	UKR	
	3. RCF VILLEBON	FRA	

MEN			WOMEN		
1996					
SUPERCUP	GERMANY		GERMANY		
	1. Alpitour Traco CUNEO	ITA 	1. Anthesis MODENA	ITA 	
	2. ASV DACHAU	GER 	2. USC MÜNSTER	GER 	
	3. LAS Valtur MODENA	ITA 	3. Emlakbank ANKARA	TUR 	
CHAMPIONS CUP	ITALY		AUSTRIA		
	1. LAS Daytona MODENA	ITA 	1. Parmalat MATERA	ITA 	
	2. ASV DACHAU	GER 	2. Uralochka EKATERINBURG	RUS 	
	3. Vojvodina NOVI SAD	YUG 	3. Iskra LUGANSK	UKR 	
CUP WINNERS CUP	GREECE		ITALY		
	1. Olympiakos PIRAEUS	GRE 	1. Anthesis MODENA	ITA 	
	2. Bayer WUPPERTAL	GER 	2. VBC RIOM	FRA 	
	3. Alcom CAPELLE	NED 	3. CSKA MOSCOW	RUS 	
CEV CUP	FRANCE		UKRAINE		
	1. Alpitour Traco CUNEO	ITA 	1. USC MÜNSTER	GER 	
	2. Edilcuoghi RAVENNA	ITA 	2. Emlakbank ANKARA	TUR 	
	3. Aero ODOLENA VODA	CZE 	3. Rossy MOSCOW	RUS 	


1997					
SUPERCUP	BELGIUM				
	1. Alpitour Traco CUNEO	ITA 			
	2. Casa MODENA Unibon	ITA 			
	3. Porto RAVENNA	ITA 			
CHAMPIONS CUP	AUSTRIA		ITALY		
	1. LAS Valtur MODENA	ITA 	1. Foppapedretti BERGAMO	ITA 	
	2. Noliko MAASEIK	BEL 	2. Uralochka EKATERINBURG	RUS 	
	3. Mladost ZAGREB	CRO 	3. RC CANNES	FRA 	
CUP WINNERS CUP	BELGIUM		RUSSIA		
	1. Alpitour Traco CUNEO	ITA 	1. Anthesis MODENA	ITA 	
	2. Olympiakos PIRAEUS	GRE 	2. VBC RIOM	FRA 	
	3. Belogorie BELGOROD	RUS 	3. CSKA MOSCOW	RUS 	
CEV CUP	SWITZERLAND		SWITZERLAND		
	1. Porto RAVENNA	ITA 	1. Alpam ROMA	ITA 	
	2. Netas ISTANBUL	TUR 	2. Romanelli FIRENZE	ITA 	
	3. Bayer WUPPERTAL	GER 	3. Galatasaray ISTANBUL	TUR 	

MEN			WOMEN			
1998						
CHAMPIONS CUP	YUGOSLAVIA			CROATIA		
	1. Casa MODENA Unibon	ITA		1. OK DUBROVNIK	CRO	
	2. Unicaja ALMERIA	ESP		2. Vakifbank ANKARA	TUR	
	3. PARIS UC	FRA		3. Foppapedretti BERGAMO	ITA	
CUP WINNERS CUP	ITALY			FRANCE		
	1. Alpitour Traco CUNEO	ITA		1. CSKA MOSCOW	RUS	
	2. Olympiakos PIRAEUS	GRE		2. RC CANNES	FRA	
	3. CASTELO DA MAIA GC	POR		3. Volley MODENA	ITA	
CEV CUP	ITALY			FRANCE		
	1. Sisley TREVISO	ITA		1. Cermagica REGGIO EMILIA	ITA	
	2. Knack ROESELARE	BEL		2. Medinex REGGIO CALABRIA	ITA	
	3. Lube MACERATA	ITA		3. PTT MULHOUSE	FRA	

1999					
SUPERCUP	FRANCE				
	1. Sisley TREVISO	ITA 			
	2. Noliko MAASEIK	BEL 			
	3. PALERMO Volley	ITA 			
CHAMPIONS CUP	SPAIN		ITALY		
	1. Sisley TREVISO	ITA 	1. Foppapedretti BERGAMO	ITA 	
	2. Noliko MAASEIK	BEL 	2. Vakifbank ANKARA	TUR 	
	3. VfB FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	GER 	3. RC CANNES	FRA 	
CUP WINNERS CUP	TURKEY		TURKEY		
	1. AS CANNES	FRA 	1. Eczacibasi ISTANBUL	TUR 	
	2. Alpitour TNT CUNEO	ITA 	2. Cermagica REGGIO EMILIA	ITA 	
	3. Izumrud EKATERINBURG	RUS 	3. Filathletic Club VRILISSIA	GRE 	
CEV CUP	ITALY		ITALY		
	1. PALERMO Volley	ITA 	1. Centro Ester NAPOLI	ITA 	
	2. Knack ROESELARE	BEL 	2. Iskra LUGANSK	UKR 	
	3. SCC BERLIN	GER 	3. Uraltransbank EKATERINBURG	RUS 	

MEN		WOMEN	
2000			
SUPERCUP	ITALY		
	1. PARIS Volley	FRA	
	2. Sisley TREVISO	ITA	
	3. VfB FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	GER	
CHAMPIONS CUP	ITALY		
	1. Sisley TREVISO	ITA	
	2. VfB FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	GER	
	3. Noliko MAASEIK	BEL	
CUP WINNERS CUP	GREECE		
	1. PARIS Volley	FRA	
	2. Alpitour TNT CUNEO	ITA	
	3. AEK ATHENS	GRE	
CEV CUP	ITALY		
	1. ROMA Volley	ITA	
	2. Casa MODENA Unibon	ITA	
	3. Mostostal-Azoty KEDZIERZYN	POL	
TURKEY			
1. Foppapedretti BERGAMO		ITA	
2. Uralochka EKATERINBURG		RUS	
3. Eczacibasi ISTANBUL		TUR	
ITALY			
1. Pallavolo Sirio PERUGIA		ITA	
2. Panathinaikos ATHENS		GRE	
3. Enka ISTANBUL		TUR	
ITALY			
1. Medinex REGGIO CALABRIA		ITA	
2. Volley VICENZA		ITA	
3. Günes Sigorta ISTANBUL		TUR	

2001			
EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE	FRANCE		
	1. PARIS Volley	FRA 	
	2. Sisley TREVISO	ITA 	
	3. Ford B. Gesù ROMA	ITA 	
TOP TEAMS CUP	TURKEY		
	1. SC ESPINHO	POR 	
	2. Izumrud EKATERINBURG	RUS 	
	3. Unicaja ALMERIA	ESP 	
CEV CUP	ITALY		
	1. Lube Banca MACERATA	ITA 	
	2. Casa MODENA Unibon	ITA 	
	3. Noliko MAASEIK	BEL 	
		RUSSIA	
		1. Volley MODENA	ITA 
		2. Caposud REGGIO CALABRIA	ITA 
		3. Uralochka EKATERINBURG	RUS 
		AUSTRIA	
		1. Asterix KIELDRECHT	BEL 
		2. Telekom Post WIEN	AUT 
		3. Dynamo Jinestra ODESSA	UKR 
		ITALY	
		1. Cividini VICENZA	ITA 
		2. Foppapedretti BERGAMO	ITA 
		3. Sirio PERUGIA	ITA 

	MEN	WOMEN
	2002	
EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE	POLAND	
	1. Lube Banca MACERATA	ITA 
	2. Olympiakos PIRAEUS	GRE 
	3. Iraklis THESSALONIKI	GRE 
TOP TEAMS CUP	POLAND	
	1. Knack ROESELARE	BEL 
	2. SC ESPINHO	POR 
	3. Galaxia Bank CZESTOCHOWA	POL 
CEV CUP	ITALY	
	1. Noicom CUNEO	ITA 
	2. Lokomotiv BELGOROD	RUS 
	3. Asystel Volley MILANO	ITA 
	POLAND	
	1. RC CANNES	FRA 
	2. Foppapedretti BERGAMO	ITA 
	3. TENERIFE Marichal	ESP 
	AZERBAIJAN	
	1. Azerrail BAKU	AZE 
	2. Jedinstvo UZICE	YUG 
	3. Bank Pocztowy BYDGOSZCZ	POL 
	ITALY	
	1. Edison Volley MODENA	ITA 
	2. Marine Consulting RAVENNA	ITA 
	3. Balakovskaia BALAKOVO	RUS 
	2003	
EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE	ITALY	
	1. Lokomotiv BELGOROD	RUS 
	2. Kerakoll MODENA	ITA 
	3. Mostostal Azoty KEDZIERZYN	POL 
TOP TEAMS CUP	The NETHERLANDS	
	1. Piet Zoomers APELDOORN	NED 
	2. Lokomotiv KHARKIV	UKR 
	3. Omniworld ALMERE	NED 
CEV CUP	ITALY	
	1. Sisley TREVISO	ITA 
	2. Lube MACERATA	ITA 
	3. Iskra ODINTSOVO	RUS 
	POLAND	
	1. RC CANNES	FRA 
	2. Uralochka EKATERINBURG	RUS 
	3. Foppapedretti BERGAMO	ITA 
	SWITZERLAND	
	1. RC VILLEBON 91	FRA 
	2. Zeiler KÖNIZ	SUI 
	3. Eburon TONGEREN	BEL 
	ITALY	
	1. Asystel Volley NOVARA	ITA 
	2. Hotel Cantur LAS PALMAS	ESP 
	3. Pallavolo Sirio PERUGIA	ITA 
	2004	
EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE	RUSSIA	
	1. Lokomotiv BELGOROD	RUS 
	2. Iskra ODINTSOVO	RUS 
	3. TOURS VB	FRA 
TOP TEAMS CUP	AUSTRIA	
	1. Lokomotiv KHARKIV	UKR 
	2. Deltacons TULCEA	ROM 
	3. Tir. Wasserkraft INNSBRUCK	AUT 
CEV CUP	ITALY	
	1. Kerakoll MODENA	ITA 
	2. Coprasystel PIACENZA	ITA 
	3. Lokomotiv EKATERINBURG	RUS 
	RUSSIA	
	1. TENERIFE Marichal	ESP 
	2. Pallavolo Sirio PERUGIA	ITA 
	3. RC CANNES	FRA 
	AUSTRIA	
	1. Günes Vakifbank ISTANBUL	TUR 
	2. ULM Aliud Pharma	GER 
	3. Eburon TONGEREN	BEL 
	ITALY	
	1. Foppapedretti BERGAMO	ITA 
	2. Vini Monte Schiavo JESI	ITA 
	3. Caja de AVILA	ESP 

MEN

WOMEN

2005

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE	GREECE		
	1. TOURS VB	FRA	
	2. Iraklis THESSALONIKI	GRE	
TOP TEAMS CUP	GREECE		
	1. Olympiacos PIRAEUS	GRE	
	2. Ortec N. ROTTERDAM	NED	
CEV CUP	SPAIN		
	1. Lube MACERATA	ITA	
	2. Son Amar Palma MALLORCA	ESP	
	ITALY		
	1. Foppapedretti BERGAMO	ITA	
	2. Sant'Orsola Asystel NOVARA	ITA	
	ITALY		
	1. Pallavolo CHIERI	ITA	
	2. TSV Bayer 04 LEVERKUSEN	GER	
	ITALY		
	1. Pallavolo Sirio PERUGIA	ITA	
	2. Balakovskaia AES BALAKOVO	RUS	
	ITALY		
	1. Lube MACERATA	ITA	
	2. Iskra ODINTSOVO	RUS	
	ITALY		
	1. Scavolini PESARO	ITA	
	2. Bigmat Kerakoll CHIERI	ITA	
	ITALY		
	1. Foppapedretti BERGAMO	ITA	
	2. Dinamo MOSCOW	RUS	
	ITALY		
	1. Foppapedretti BERGAMO	ITA	
	2. Dinamo MOSCOW	RUS	
	ITALY		
	1. Foppapedretti BERGAMO	ITA	
	2. Dinamo MOSCOW	RUS	
	ITALY		
	1. Foppapedretti BERGAMO	ITA	
	2. Dinamo MOSCOW	RUS	
	ITALY		
	1. Foppapedretti BERGAMO	ITA	
	2. Dinamo MOSCOW	RUS	
	ITALY		
	1. Foppapedretti BERGAMO	ITA	
	2. Dinamo MOSCOW	RUS	

2006

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE	ITALY		
	1. Sisley TREVISO	ITA	
	2. Iraklis THESSALONIKI	GRE	
TOP TEAMS CUP	SPAIN		
	1. Copra PIACENZA	ITA	
	2. Portol Son Amar PALMA	ESP	
CEV CUP	ITALY		
	1. Lube MACERATA	ITA	
	2. Iskra ODINTSOVO	RUS	
	ITALY		
	1. Foppapedretti BERGAMO	ITA	
	2. Dinamo MOSCOW	RUS	
	ITALY		
	1. Foppapedretti BERGAMO	ITA	
	2. Dinamo MOSCOW	RUS	
	ITALY		
	1. Foppapedretti BERGAMO	ITA	
	2. Dinamo MOSCOW	RUS	
	ITALY		
	1. Foppapedretti BERGAMO	ITA	
	2. Dinamo MOSCOW	RUS	
	ITALY		
	1. Foppapedretti BERGAMO	ITA	
	2. Dinamo MOSCOW	RUS	
	ITALY		
	1. Foppapedretti BERGAMO	ITA	
	2. Dinamo MOSCOW	RUS	
	ITALY		
	1. Foppapedretti BERGAMO	ITA	
	2. Dinamo MOSCOW	RUS	
	ITALY		
	1. Foppapedretti BERGAMO	ITA	
	2. Dinamo MOSCOW	RUS	
	ITALY		
	1. Foppapedretti BERGAMO	ITA	
	2. Dinamo MOSCOW	RUS	

2007

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE	RUSSIA		
	1. VfB FRIEDRICHSHAFEN	GER	
	2. TOURS VB	FRA	
TOP TEAMS CUP	ITALY		
	1. Autocommerce BLED	SLO	
	2. Cimone MODENA	ITA	
CEV CUP	RUSSIA		
	1. Fakel NOVY URENGOI	RUS	
	2. Copra PIACENZA	ITA	
	ITALY		
	1. Foppapedretti BERGAMO	ITA	
	2. Dinamo MOSCOW	RUS	
	ITALY		
	1. Foppapedretti BERGAMO	ITA	
	2. Dinamo MOSCOW	RUS	
	ITALY		
	1. Foppapedretti BERGAMO	ITA	
	2. Dinamo MOSCOW	RUS	
	ITALY		
	1. Foppapedretti BERGAMO	ITA	
	2. Dinamo MOSCOW	RUS	
	ITALY		
	1. Foppapedretti BERGAMO	ITA	
	2. Dinamo MOSCOW	RUS	

MEN
WOMEN
2008

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE	POLAND		
	1. Dinamo-Tattransgaz KAZAN	RUS	
	2. Copra PIACENZA	ITA	
CEV CUP	ITALY		
	1. ROMA Volley	ITA	
	2. Noliko MAASEIK	BEL	
	3. Budvanska Rivijera BUDVA	MNE	
CHALLENGE CUP	POLAND		
	1. Pallavolo MODENA	ITA	
	2. Lokomotiv-Izumrud EKATERINBURG	RUS	
	3. Stade Poitevin POITIERS	FRA	

2009

CEV CHAMPIONS LEAGUE	CZECH REPUBLIC		
	1. TRENTINO Volley	ITA	
	2. Iraklis THESSALONIKI	GRE	
CEV CUP	GREECE		
	1. Lokomotiv-Belogorie BELGOROD	RUS	
	2. Panathinaikos ATHENS	GRE	
CHALLENGE CUP	TURKEY		
	1. Arkas IZMIR	TUR	
	2. JASTRZEBSKI Wegiel SA	POL	

2010

CEV CHAMPIONS LEAGUE	POLAND		
	1. TRENTINO BetClic	ITA	
	2. Dinamo MOSCOW	RUS	
CEV CUP	BELGIUM		
	1. Bre Banca Lannutti CUNEO	ITA	
	2. Iskra ODINTSOVO	RUS	
CHALLENGE CUP	ITALY		
	1. RPA-LuigiBacchi.it PERUGIA	ITA	
	2. Mladost ZAGREB	CRO	

MEN		WOMEN		
2011*				
CEV CHAMPIONS LEAGUE	ITALY		TURKEY	
	1. TRENTINO BetClic	ITA 	1. VakifGunesTTelekom ISTANBUL	TUR 
	2. Zenit KAZAN	RUS 	2. Rabita BAKU	AZE 
	3. Dinamo MOSCOW	RUS 	3. FenerbahceAcibadem ISTANBUL	TUR 
CEV CUP	ITALY / POLAND		RUSSIA / ITALY	
	1. Sisley TREVISO	ITA 	1. Chateau d'Ax URBINO	ITA 
	2. Zaksa KEDZIERZYN-KOZLE	POL 	2. Dinamo KRASNODAR	RUS 
	3. Asseco Resovia RZESZOW	POL 	3. Crvena Zvezda BEOGRAD	SRB 
	3. CSKA SOFIA	BUL 	3. Tauron MKS DABROWA GORNICZA	POL 
CHALLENGE CUP	ITALY / TURKEY		AZERBAIJAN	
	1. Lube Banca Marche MACERATA	ITA 	1. Azerrail BAKU	AZE 
	2. Arkas IZMIR	TUR 	2. Lokomotiv BAKU	AZE 
	3. EA PATRON Lux	GRE 	3. Igtisadchi BAKU	AZE 
	3. Posojilnica AICH/DOB	AUT 	3. Uralochka-NTMK EKATERINBURG	RUS 

2012					
CEV CHAMPIONS LEAGUE	POLAND			AZERBAIJAN	
	1. Zenit KAZAN	RUS		1. Fenerbahce Universal ISTANBUL	TUR 
	2. PGE Skra BELCHATOW	POL		2. RC CANNES	FRA 
	3. TRENTINO PlanetWin365	ITA		3. Dinamo KAZAN	RUS 
CEV CUP	POLAND/RUSSIA			TURKEY / ITALY	
	1. Dinamo MOSCOW	RUS		1. Yamamay BUSTO ARSIZIO	ITA 
	2. Asseco Resovia RZESZOW	POL		2. Galatasaray ISTANBUL	TUR 
	3. ACH Volley LJUBLJANA	SLO		3. Robur TIBONI URBINO	ITA 
	3. Acqua Paradiso MONZA	ITA		3. 2004 Tomis CONSTANTA	ROU 
CHALLENGE CUP	POLAND			AZERBAIJAN	
	1. Tytan AZS CZESTOCHOWA	POL		1. Lokomotiv BAKU	AZE 
	2. Politechnika WARSZAWSKA	POL		2. Baki BAKU	AZE 
	3. Prefaxis MENEN	BEL		3. VDK GENT Dames	BEL 
	3. Tomis CONSTANTA	ROU		3. VfB 91 SUHL	GER 

	MEN	WOMEN
	2013	
CEV CHAMPIONS LEAGUE	RUSSIA	
	1. Lokomotiv NOVOSIBIRSK	RUS 
	2. Bre Banca Lannutti CUNEO	ITA 
	3. Zenit KAZAN	RUS 
CEV CUP	ITALY/TURKEY	
	1. Halkbank ANKARA	TUR 
	2. Andreoli LATINA	ITA 
	3. Lokomotiv KHARKIV	UKR 
	3. Maliye Milli Piyango ANKARA	TUR 
CHALLENGE CUP	RUSSIA/ITALY	
	1. Copra Elior PIACENZA	ITA 
	2. Ural UFA	RUS 
	3. Delecta BYDGOSZCZ	POL 
	3. Dukla LIBEREC	CZE 
	TURKEY	
	1. Vakifbank ISTANBUL	TUR 
	2. Rabita BAKU	AZE 
	3. Unendo Yamamay BUSTO ARSIZIO	ITA 
	POLAND/TURKEY	
	1. Bank BPS Fakro MUSZYNA	POL 
	2. Fenerbahce SK ISTANBUL	TUR 
	3. Omichka OMSK REGION	RUS 
	3. Uralochka-NTMK EKATERINBURG	RUS 
	RUSSIA/ITALY	
	1. Dinamo KRASNODAR	RUS 
	2. Rebecchin.Meccanica PIACENZA	ITA 
	3. Aurubis HAMBURG	GER 
	3. LP SALO	FIN 

*Starting from 2011, the formula of the CEV Volleyball Cup and the CEV Volleyball Challenge Cup was amended thereby having home and away matches up to the end (no final four) so that the losers of the semis are both ranked third.

• THIS IS VOLLEYBALL! •



THIS IS VOLLEYBALL! •



• OUR VISION FOR ANOTHER 40 YEARS OF SUCCESS... •



The current CEV President André Meyer has been steering Europe's Volleyball family since the year 2001

Looking back at the past ten years, there are evidently quite a few achievements to be happy with. And as I share my memories, I quite evidently start with our core business, the competitions. Our flagship event, the European Championships, have undergone major changes but their position as one of the major highlights on the international sports calendar has been reinforced after each edition. We have been able to consolidate their format and have turned that competition into a real show which is nowadays broadcast all around the world, in as many as 130 countries.

Our portfolio was expanded with the creation of additional competitions, e.g. the European League, that have proved instrumental in supporting the development of up-and-coming national teams as they wanted to continue their run on the way to join the international elite.

The CEV Volleyball Champions League, established some 13 years ago, stands apart for it has also evolved with the times and has become a synonym of world-class Volleyball that hasn't been equalled anywhere. As the years go by, we see that clubs are literally chasing the opportunity to join that family as if it were a label of quality that they can associate with their name and brands.

Since I embarked on my personal adventure at the helm of the European Volleyball Confederation, we also have seen Beach Volleyball go through a terrific development and growth, turning into one of the most followed sports on the Olympic program. But coming down to Europe, Beach Volleyball has been highlighting our summer seasons with the introduction of a European Tour, a series of age-group Championships and, more recently, special events specifically conceived for the youth where the stars of tomorrow can get to test their skills.

We also got the right to conceive and manage the qualification process for the World Championships entirely on our own; never before the top teams at the end of what people are now commonly referring to as EuroVolley got the right to directly qualify for the World Championship. And even the so-called "small countries" decided to register for the qualification process, thereby contributing to figures that stand out worldwide and indicate that Volleyball does not stop to grow on European soil.

Nevertheless it is not only and solely about competitions. Throughout the past ten years we have taken up a series of additional actions to make sure that Volleyball and Beach Volleyball evolve with the times. We have supported the role and inclusion of female referees and started working more closely with countries where the sport is not yet that popular. Two development centres were opened in England and Azerbaijan, two more are about to follow in Italy and in Luxembourg. And the Grand Duchy is the place where our Confederation has settled down by buying state-of-the-art "green" premises which are finally providing Europe's Volleyball family with its real "home".

Though we can be proud of what we have achieved so far, we evidently do not want to relax or rest on our laurels. We definitely need to improve our marketing strategy and improve on the way our sport is covered and sold. I also see much room for improvement in Beach Volleyball where we need to diversify our portfolio. We have to expand our horizons so that more and more countries will be ready to host international tournaments and the majority of our members will be represented in all Championships. Even the "small countries" have got



CEV President André Meyer portrayed in 2003 while addressing the guests that attended the gala held at the Piccolo Teatro in Milano for the CEV 30th anniversary



CEV President André Meyer on a day to remember: together with FIVB President Dr. Ary S. Graça Fº (far left), the President of the Comité Olympique et Sportif Luxembourgeois (COSL) André Hoffmann, and Luxembourg's Sports Minister Romain Schneider on the day – May 4, 2013 – where the brand-new CEV premises were officially unveiled

the possibility to achieve that goal, for – in the end – you simply need to have a couple of good players to make this happen.

We also have to intensify our efforts and promote a spirit of solidarity among our members, something that is already well embodied by the Zonal Associations and the Small Countries Division. They have showed and still testify that nations and people with sometimes very different priorities and interests can come together and join their forces for the good of the sport. In some of our Zonal Associations we have seen countries with a long tradition in Volleyball share their know-how and experience with their neighbours thereby contributing to their development programs. On the other hand, the “small countries” have



At the gala for the CEV 40th anniversary held on May 4, 2013 CEV President André Meyer called for unity and cohesion among the members of Europe's Volleyball family so as to support the development of the sport also in the future years

been able to overcome their geographic dispersion to work on common projects and agree upon the rules of a tailor-made Championship whereby they can gradually improve their level and move up in the rankings.

This solidarity, unity and cohesion are to me the quintessence of our work for the sport. This will be in the spotlight also in the years to come especially after launching a campaign whose focus is on fair play and on the positive image of our sport. Last year we also entered a partnership with the Special Olympics thereby showing our commitment for a sport that shall be inclusive and open to everyone, without any discrimination based on age, physical skills, or whatsoever.

As we try to move things forward and go for another memorable decade, I am confident that we can achieve the goals we have set also because we are sharing experiences and know-how with other team sports. Our Confederation has indeed become a member of the so-called European Team Sports Association where we can exchange views and learn from one another. We especially look at what basketball and handball have been doing as they are somehow our closest competitors, though the word “competition” is to be understood in a positive way. We are working together to improve on the education and training of our officials (technical delegates, referees, etc.), sharing information about the application of the EU regulations on players transferred abroad, or discussing other problems of common interest. With this in mind, we want to pursue our goal to improve on the quality and general organization of our events, to make sure that the sport evolves and its message is spread all around Europe.

One of our priorities is and remains the youth. We have created a series of age groups but still much needs to be done to follow in the footsteps of other sports, like soccer for instance. We recently decided to introduce an extra category to help young players moving up from the junior division and complete a smooth transition into elite Volleyball. This is something that not everyone has been able to achieve and sometimes players retire from the sport or move to another discipline namely because they could not make the next step in their development. This is a drain that we can't afford and for that reason we would like to focus on youth competitions so as to provide our stars of tomorrow with a better chance to pursue a career in the sport. This applies to Volleyball and Beach Volleyball as well, where the age-group Championships have become a “must” in shaping and developing the players that one day will represent Europe at the World Championships and at the Olympics.

That said, we have to reinforce the positive image of Volleyball, a sport that is open to everyone. It doesn't only require good physical skills and the right addition of athleticism. It does also imply that our youngsters do get



Volleyball is a sport for all, says CEV President André Meyer, thereby sharing one of the core messages of the "Fair Play. Volleyball Way" campaign launched by CEV in June 2013

familiar with its complexity and with a series of technical drills that require time and dedication to be mastered. Volleyball is nevertheless a sport for everyone: you may be tall or short, born in a Volleyball "Mecca" or in a country where only a very few people are fond of it. Regardless of all this, with our actions and strategies, we have to make sure that every youngster who gets to discover Volleyball will be fascinated by the sport, be driven to take it up and what follows, maybe a professional career, will be an extra bonus. As the slogan of our latest campaign reads, "Fair Play. Volleyball Way", we do things our own way. A Volleyball way, that way where everyone will find its place primarily by sharing the many positives that this sport brings to anyone who gets into it.

André Meyer
CEV President

A short bio

Born in 1944 in Bettembourg, Luxembourg, André Meyer assumed the Presidency of the European Volleyball Confederation back in 2001 as the General Assembly was held in Ostrava, Czech Republic. After chairing Luxembourg's Volleyball Federation for 17 years and the European Refereeing Commission for about a decade, Mr. Meyer was sworn in to lead the European Volleyball family thereby significantly contributing to the massive development of this sport in the "Old Continent".

After his re-election in 2005, Mr. Meyer continued his work for the CEV combining his presidential function with more and more tasks assigned by the FIVB, where – as of 2013 – he is the 2nd Executive Vice President, President of the Finance Commission and Executive Vice President in charge of the Rules of the Game and Refereeing Commissions.

André Meyer is a former Volleyball player and international referee who officiated at a total of 178 international matches, including games of the European Cups, the European Championships and World Championships.

On September 17, 2011, Mr. Meyer was re-elected for a third consecutive mandate – a real premiere in the history of the European Volleyball Confederation – to chair Europe's Volleyball family for another four years up to 2015.

• VOLLEYBALL IS A SPECIAL SOURCE OF JOY •



Sharing memories: CEV Honorary President Georges Boudry recalling the early days of Europe's Volleyball family at the Gala celebrating the CEV 40th anniversary

Volleyball is a unique combination of conviviality and performance. Though these words may sound antithetic, they do describe better than any other collocation the quintessence of this sport. Anyone is able to find and enjoy that atmosphere of conviviality in Volleyball, while – at the same time – you search for a good performance to achieve the goals you have set for yourself and most of all for your team.

I came to sport politics after playing Volleyball – I was a setter – and crossed my ways with its world's governing body more than 40 years ago. I started out by working as Secretary General of the French Volleyball Federation by the time this was chaired by Bernard Mauche who was also a Board member of the European Sports Commission. Once he stepped down, I was asked to chair the French Volleyball Federation – that happened in 1972 – and almost naturally was catapulted into the international Volleyball arena. This move was preceded by my work and involvement in the FIVB Sports Organizing Commission, where I served as its Secretary as this body was chaired by Turkey's Sinan Erdem. Some years later I eventually became CEV President for a tenure that lasted from 1979 up to 1983.

Since those days the European Volleyball Confederation has undergone a major transformational process. Though every chairman did leave his mark as Volleyball evolved with the times, I have to stress that CEV has turned into a much more structured and solid organization in the past couple of decades, chiefly via the contribution of its current President André Meyer. We shall not forget that by the time I did chair CEV our secretariat was composed of one single

person, our Secretary General and Treasurer Olivier Bruyr, who was based in Brussels. I still can recall that from time to time I traveled from Paris to Belgium's capital city by train, spent some time there with him going through the various administrative affairs but everything was still done, I shall say, like by an old – though skilled, passionate and motivated – artisan. Bruyr was very strong at languages as he spoke fluent French, English, German and Dutch, so this background was extremely useful in order to manage the interaction with the various national federations. On the other hand, we have to give credit to the next leaders for the tremendous work they have performed transforming CEV and its headquarters into a structured, well-organized and modern institution.

We shall also not forget that some 30 years ago Europe was much different than what we know and see nowadays. We had two blocs that politically speaking opposed but nevertheless this dualism was not to be perceived in sport, or at least in Volleyball. Western European countries were all keen to work together for the good of the sport and, on the other hand, the Eastern side of Europe was practically dominated by the Soviet Union. The man who set the tone for the development of our sport in the Soviet Union as well as in all other Eastern European countries was Vladimir Savvin. He was very clear in his ideology and much involved into politics but finally a major role was played also by Yuri Dereviagin, a leader who was open-minded, known for his friendly demeanor and always ready to join his forces even with those guys who – coming from the West – were initially perceived as some kind of antagonists.

By the time I assumed the presidency of the European Volleyball Confederation, Volleyball in Europe was under the supremacy of the Eastern bloc, at least as far as the results of the major continental competitions are concerned. If you go through the list of honors dating back to the '60s and '70s, you will easily realize that the Soviet Union and their allies were substantially sweeping all of the top positions. Even the European Championships were a sort of elitist competition where in the end only countries from the Eastern bloc were participating, with the only exception being Italy and France. Other Western European nations – like Spain or England, for instance – were, so to speak, relegated to another international event known as the Spring Cup. These nations would even not dare ask for participation in the European Championships and they were somehow happy with the opportunity they still had to compete internationally via the Spring Cup. Still I thought this wasn't an ideal situation for Volleyball in Europe and something needed to be changed.



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Two Volleyball personalities who crossed their ways right from the start of the CEV success story: CEV Honorary President Georges Boudry (left) and CEV Honorary Member Jacques Shaw (right)

The introduction of qualifying tournaments for the final round of the European Championships was quite a revolution, especially for Eastern European countries. We shall not forget that even though they were the dominant force on the court, they had very limited financial resources and for nations like Czechoslovakia or Romania, a trip to Spain or Italy to play a Volleyball tournament was almost impossible to afford. I have to stress that even though the political scenario was complicated and tense at that time, sport was a unifying factor and all Western European countries did their best to facilitate and help the travel as well as stay of their opponents from the Eastern bloc. We even paid for their accommodation and found other solutions to make this happen, with special offers for their travels etc. My intention was hence to break that dualism opposing the European Championships – an arena mostly reserved to the Eastern bloc – and the Spring Cup via the introduction of a series of events to qualify for the final round. I am proud to say that via the valuable help provided by my colleagues from other countries we eventually succeeded in breaking this wall. In 1981 a total of 23 countries registered for participation in the Senior European Championships – 22 and 19 for the men's and women's competition respectively – and six qualification tournaments were played in May before the final rounds followed later that same year in Bulgaria. That junction between East and West I had longed for was finally there.

Another relevant step forward was the introduction of the so-called CEV Cup whose inaugural edition was held in 1981. This was meant to provide teams not qualified for or already eliminated from the Champions Cup and Cup Winners Cup with an opportunity to compete internationally and to develop their skills. This was a good move and initiative, whose benefits are shown by the excellent results claimed by European teams in



During his tenure as CEV President Georges Boudry strongly supported the introduction of the Confederation Cup; this picture portrays the 1983 final that was claimed by Italy's rising power Panini MODENA

all international competitions played in the years that followed.

On the other hand, if I have to recall some other highlights from that tenure, I shall say that the work of CEV was finally properly disciplined by the adoption of its statutes in 1981. We eventually had a written document that did define, once and for all, our working procedures and the role of the various organs. Moreover, our finances improved significantly and, at the same time, the European Cups developed tremendously by including countries that had previously not participated in such competitions. Luxembourg, for instance, did eventually play at that time and though their results were not that outstanding, the extension of the starting field to some 140 teams did mean that our sport was achieving a dimension of universalism and was no longer confined in some small niches.

As for the future, Volleyball shall be developing similarly to all other European institutions, i.e. we shall avoid any regionalism or other fragmentation but work together to make sure that we also do portray that same united Europe that our politicians have been trying to shape in the past few decades. By the time I was chairing the French Volleyball Federation I was literally horrified to discover, by chance, that in Bretagne Volleyball was being played and taught in a totally different way than all over the country simply because a technical responsible – by the way paid by the government – was trying to impose his own philosophy and way of seeing Volleyball.



CEV President André Meyer welcoming CEV Honorary President and former CEV President Georges Boudry to the state-of-the-art premises owned by CEV in Luxembourg City whose unveiling ceremony was held on May 4, 2013

By recalling this example, I just want to stress that anyone who is involved in the management and promotion of the sport in our continent shall be driven by the same ideals and goals. This is the pre-condition whereby we can guarantee that Europe will remain under the spotlight – as it deserves – also on the international stage. In the past some leaders have tried to divide Europe and to exploit differences and rivalries to impose their rule but I do hope time has come to stand such risks and make sure Europe remains – as it shall be – a reference to look at. FIVB needs Europe as it needs any other Confederation; it does not make any sense to foster jealousies and rivalries as we only want our sport to grow and attract as many young people as possible from every angle of this planet.



Georges Boudry portrayed together with CEV President André Meyer at the CEV General Assembly held in Madrid in 2008 where Mr. Meyer presented the CEV Honorary President with a golden pin for his contribution to the work of CEV and to the promotion and development of Volleyball in Europe

Though I am already more than 80 years old, I still have a strong message to convey to the young generations. If you wish to have fun and want to take up a sport, you shall choose Volleyball for a series of very good reasons. You shall start by somehow breaking its official rules, by playing 3 vs. 3 or 4 vs. 4 and I would rather recommend mixed teams with girls and boys playing all together. You may even go further and decide to increase the number of touches you are allowed to perform before the ball is sent over to the other side of the net. This way you will get to feel the joy that comes from playing Volleyball well before it turns into something more serious or competitive.

You first get to taste the pleasure of playing and then you start learning the technique and everything else that comes with it. This is something that you can't do in other sports where you need to know and to apply the rules before you start playing.

Volleyball is something different: more people play Volleyball than any other sport simply for it is easy to understand, relatively easy to start with and most of all it spreads around the joy of sticking together that we all desperately need to make the world a better place to live.

Georges Boudry

A short bio

A former Secretary General and President of the French Volleyball Federation (FFVB), Georges Boudry joined the CEV Board of Administration in 1975 and was then elected CEV President at the General Assembly held in Evry, France, in 1979 before completing his term in 1983. Mr. Boudry is currently an Honorary President of the European Volleyball Confederation, regularly attending the CEV General Assembly. Taking from his long experience in the sport, he has worked out a very detailed and comprehensive history of European Volleyball since the post-World War II period up to the early 2000s.

• VOLLEYBALL A PIONEER IN PROMOTING GENDER EQUITY •



CEV Honorary Vice President Carlo Magri has been the chairman of the Italian Volleyball Federation since 1995 and was a member of the CEV Board of Administration from 1995 through 2005

Volleyball is one of very few sports that are equally practiced by both genders; men's and women's volleyball have got the same dignity and this gender-equality is an extremely important feature for today's society. At the same time, volleyball stands out for the spirit of friendship and fair play that this sport promotes on and off the court. Volleyball is one of very few sports where doping is almost non-existent, and where fans are getting together simply to enjoy the actions of their heroes and where violence is practically absent from the stands.

Volleyball is a "cross-over" discipline that is equally followed and loved by teenagers and their parents and people spontaneously associate positive values to. Real fair play is being showed by all of our athletes, and while other sports are being confronted by hooliganism, our arenas remain a place where families can get together to enjoy world-class sport in an always quiet and peaceful atmosphere.

All this applies quite evidently also to beach volleyball and for this reason I assume that all political institutions shall be supportive to our sport as it contributes to generate and to spread the above positive values across our youth. Additionally, as all youngsters are extremely active on the social media and online networks, they could easily turn into the best and most effective ambassadors as well as promoters of our sport. We still need to keep on working to stand the competitiveness brought by other sports that sometimes are being supported by major sponsors and enjoy more favorable working conditions. We shall also not forget that beach volleyball, though it is substantially different from volleyball, has got a terrific potential and huge appeal especially among the young generations.

I have been devoting most of my life to the good of volleyball, at least the past 30 years. I started out by managing a glorious club in my home town, Parma,



Carlo Magri portrayed in the early days of his Volleyball adventure where he was the man behind the success story of Pallavolo Parma, one of the teams that dominated the Volleyball scene through the '80s and early '90s

and then eventually moved to the top of Italy's national federation. I first got to know CEV by the time my club played the European Cups and since those years I have seen volleyball going through an immensely transformational journey.

Together with the various national federations the CEV has enormously contributed to the steady development of our sport across Europe. However, we shall never stop pursuing the necessary changes and adjustments. CEV has got the duty and obligation to fulfill the needs expressed by the nations where volleyball has developed into a major and fully professional sport but, at the same time, the European



Carlo Magri together with the members of Italy women's national team that won gold at the 2002 FIVB World Championship and the then President of the Italian Republic, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, who received the Volleyball delegation at the Quirinal Palace in Rome

Confederation shall be keen to support and help those countries where much work is still to be done to make sure volleyball finally enjoys the attention it deserves. I have to state that the most relevant results were achieved – by CEV – in club competitions as they have seen their appeal and exposure gradually improve throughout the past decades.

I have many memories that are somehow associated to CEV, especially from the 30th anniversary that we celebrated all together ten years ago in Milan. Or, only a couple of years before, right after his election to the presidency, André Meyer came to Rome and we eventually hosted a special press conference at our premises. I have also shared many projects with the Confederation and we have quite a few we can be proud of. However, I especially would like to recall that Italy – along with Serbia – was a sort of fore-runner by joining forces for the first European Championship to be co-hosted by two countries back in 2005. This model was then adopted by other nations and this shows that the concept we had worked out was a good and winning idea. It makes sure that two countries can share the expenses resulting from such organization, and at the same time it fosters a closer cooperation among national federations that enjoy a unique opportunity to share their knowledge and operational experience.



FIVB President Dr. Ary S. Graça F^o (left) and CEV President André Meyer together with CEV Honorary Vice President and FIPAV President Carlo Magri at the Gala for the CEV 40th anniversary held in Luxembourg on May 4, 2013

40 years after its establishment, we can proudly say that CEV has coordinated the actions promoted by the various national federations to make sure volleyball has spread all over the “Old Continent” and has turned into one of the most popular sports worldwide. On the other hand, I still see room for improvement, especially in terms of marketing and communication. We all – CEV, national federations and clubs – need to devote more and more attention to these strategic areas by investing the right resources – human and financial – to make sure that volleyball evolves with the times. We need to make sure

that our sport remains up to date by closely following the major marketing and communication trends. We have to work hard in order to improve the appeal and general image of our sport and in this sense the special spirit and flavor of beach volleyball can be of great and valuable help.

Though we may see it as something ordinary, that unique gender equality volleyball stands out for is not that evident for other sports. We need to work on this unique potential, in terms of social inclusion, to make sure volleyball and its positive values will be shared by more and more youngsters and the development of our sport won't stop in the next 40 years!

Carlo Magri

A short bio

A very successful businessman, Carlo Magri got first involved in volleyball in the late '70s as chairman of a glorious club, Parma Pallavolo, one of the major forces to be reckoned with in the '80s and early '90s. While sponsored by Santal, this side claimed twice the most prestigious club competition in Europe, then known as Champions Cup, by besting twice Mladost Zagreb in 1984 and 1985. One year later Parma lost the final to CSKA Moscow before finishing second also in 1991, 1993 and 1994. In 1995 Magri was elected President of the Italian Volleyball Federation (FIPAV) with his tenure being prolonged once more in late 2012 for another Olympic cycle. A CEV Vice President from 2001 through 2005, Magri is also a CEV Honorary Vice President.

• VOLLEYBALL IS THE SPORT OF THE FUTURE •



FIVB Executive Vice President, CEV Senior Vice President and President of the Volleyball Federation of Serbia Aleksandar Boric is a former Volleyball player who won bronze at the 1975 European Championship

Since those early days the CEV has made great progress which was something to be expected. In the past, volleyball was constituted mostly of friends who were playing the game for fun and as amateurs, while today there is a large number of professionals that join their forces each year in promoting volleyball making it better and more prominent. There is, of course, still a great number of amateurs, people involved in volleyball based on their love for this sport and their enthusiasm, as well as a huge number of volunteers that make an enormous impact on the popularity of our sport that has an incomparably greater number of members now than it had back then in the mid '70s.

The first time I got in touch with CEV was back in 1975, when the Volleyball Federation of Yugoslavia organized the Men's European Championship in Belgrade. Even though I was part of the national team as a player, this was the very first opportunity where I could meet in person the highest Volleyball authorities in Europe. At that time, the President of the Volleyball Federation of Yugoslavia and the Volleyball Club Crvena Zvezda was Milan Crevar who also had the honor of being elected into the CEV Board of Administration during the CEV Congress held on that same occasion.



Thousands of kids from schools spread all over the country have received volleyballs donated by the Volleyball Federation of Serbia thereby enjoying the opportunity to get familiar with the sport

Among the special projects and various activities that I have had the opportunity to join and get involved in, I hold dear two in particular. One is the project related to volleyball in primary schools which has given outstanding results in promoting volleyball and its popularity in Serbia.



Aleksandar Boric was among the members of the Yugoslav national team – see on the third row, the second from left – featured on the official brochure of the 1975 European Championship held in Belgrade where the home side featuring, among others, Boric and Milos Grbic won bronze



Aleksandar Boric and 2000 Olympic champion Vladimir Grbic – currently the Vice President of the Volleyball Federation of Serbia – have joined their forces to raise the popularity of the game to unprecedented heights in their native country

However, I am even fonder of a project, namely a model of cooperation between two Federations that became soon

and is today the major, practically the “must” formula for the organization of the European Championship.

In 2002, I came to the idea to offer, on behalf of our Volleyball Federation, to the Italian Volleyball Federation the joint organization of the 2005 Men’s European Championship. At that moment, our men’s national team were the reigning Olympic champions, while Italy had won three consecutive editions of the World Championships in 1990, 1994, and in 1998. However, the leading authorities of the CEV at the time were not able to grasp the importance of the idea and we lost almost a year before this idea was finally acknowledged and accepted.



A sold-out Palalottomatica in Rome hosted the semi-final and final matches of the 2005 Men’s European Championship jointly organized by Italy and Serbia & Montenegro

Maybe it is good for all those who are passionate about the history of volleyball to tell you how all this happened. I addressed this proposal to the President of the Italian Volleyball Federation, Mr. Carlo Magri, asking him if he was ready to accept that Italy and Serbia, the reigning world and Olympic champions respectively, would organize together a major volleyball event. He instantly asked me where the finals would be organized and I replied straightaway - in Rome, to which he simply said “I agree”.



After they did it in 2005 for the Men’s Championship, two Volleyball visionaries joined once more their forces in 2011 to co-host the women’s tournament: the President of the Volleyball Federation of Serbia Aleksandar Boricic and Italian Volleyball Federation President Carlo Magri (right) here portrayed together with then Minister of Youth and Sports Snezana Samardzic-Markovic who supported their action right from the go

The best idea for the organization of the European Championships was finalized in 5 seconds. Since then, almost all Championships are organized jointly by two National Federations and even the Youth European Championship have been organized in the same way in 2013 as Serbia joined forces with Bosnia & Herzegovina and Montenegro to co-host its last edition.

This proposal brought us to beating all records – in terms of spectators, number of TV viewers, media coverage, interest of the sponsors; it simply turned into a perfect model for the organization of any major event in Europe.

CEV has grown immensely and has achieved great success, however, there is still much to be done in the area of cooperation and communication with the media, so that we can finally be able to make our best volleyball stars as popular as they should be. This additional media exposure should be used to bring volleyball closer to potential sponsors.

That is the basic task of all European National Federations, but also of the CEV, as there is a large area for action and growth and further development in the area of promotion of volleyball and our cooperation with the media.



Touring the streets of Belgrade on a double-decker bus: Aleksandar Boricic together with the members of Serbia men’s national team that won European gold in 2011

The CEV must undertake all possible actions in the next 10 years to make sure that volleyball, as a common notion, transcends the general consideration of being a popular sport. The CEV has to transform and develop volleyball into the names of volleyball players, men’s and women’s dream teams and to make volleyball clubs that are locally popular and famous no longer anonymous under the European skies.

It is also of extreme importance to make volleyball a popular sport among young people. In addition to that, it is imperative that we use modern technology like the social networks that have enabled a continuous and extensive communication among a vast and ever increasing number of young people. Of course, there is always the chance to acquaint our children with volleyball,



Joining forces for the good of Volleyball: CEV Senior Vice President Aleksandar Boricic portrayed together with CEV President Andre Meyer

not only in primary schools, but even earlier. Every National Federation, regardless of its annual budget, should spend some money for the promotion and development of grassroots volleyball starting from the youngest generations.



Always a front-runner when it comes to the promotion of the sport, the Volleyball Federation of Serbia has also embarked on a series of social projects with the national stars paying visit to foster homes or children with disabilities to convey the message that Volleyball is a sport for all!

Today, our biggest challenge is the comparison to other team sports in Europe and it is certain that the current positioning of volleyball among them changes depending on the various countries and regions. We can be quite satisfied with the place volleyball occupies at the moment in Europe, but we can and should definitely do more and better, expecting more progress and development to come.



A role model to look at for thousands of young people in his native country: Serbia's rising star Aleksandar Atanasijevic spreads a real Volleyball fever wherever he goes

Why should someone opt for volleyball instead of any other sport? This is a question that is easy to answer. Volleyball is the sport of friendship, beauty in motion, and motivation. It is clean, doping-free, full of good energy, and based on team work.

People involved in this sport have the energy and power to assemble our youngsters with positive energy, so that they are able to progress in their lives.

Volleyball is the sport in which friendships once made in the youngest days stand firmly forever.

What more to say: volleyball is the sport for the future.

Aleksandar Boricic

A short bio

Aleksandar Boricic is a multiple winner of the Yugoslav national championship and national cup. A former national team player – he totaled 103 caps with the Yugoslav national team – Boricic is a bronze medalist from the 1975 European Championship and has a collection of medals – including gold – from the Mediterranean Games and the Balkan Championships. After the end of his competitive career, he embarked on a second adventure as volleyball coach, mentoring the junior and senior Yugoslav women's national teams from 1978 up to 1987 as well as the country's most decorated volleyball club, Crvena Zvezda, with whom he won the Yugoslav national championship and national cup five and four times respectively.

Boricic was made Secretary General of the Yugoslav Volleyball Federation in 1992 and held that position through 2002. That same year he was elected President of the Volleyball Federation of Serbia and Montenegro and in 2006 – after Montenegro became a sovereign state – he was confirmed at the helm of the Volleyball Federation of Serbia, a position he has held ever since. A graduate of the High School of Economic Sciences and the High School of Volleyball Coaches from the University of Belgrade, Aleksandar Boricic joined the CEV Executive Committee and Board of Administration in 2001 and is an FIVB Board of Administration member since 2002. A former Vice-President of the Yugoslav Olympic Committee from 1997 through 2001, Aleksandar Boricic – following the CEV General Assembly held in September 2011 in Vienna – was made CEV Senior Vice President. Boricic is also an FIVB Executive Vice President in charge of the FIVB World League and World Grand Prix Councils as well as the current President of the FIVB Sports Events Council.

• MY 24 YEARS AT THE SERVICE OF VOLLEYBALL •



The current CEV Vice President and Treasurer Philip Berben has been the chairman of the Royal Belgian Volleyball Federation for 24 years, from 1989 up to early 2013

My Volleyball adventure started in the mid '60s – so exactly 50 years ago – as I joined a local Volleyball club in my home town. Some years later, in the '70s, as a young lawyer first and magistrate afterwards I was sometimes asked to support the work of the Royal Belgian Volleyball Federation and to provide advice and consultancy about disciplinary and judiciary issues.

However, the real turning point followed in 1987 as Belgium played host to the European Championship, the last time the men's and women's competition did take place in the same country. I was actively working for the local Organizing Committee and my dedication was somehow "scouted" by Piet de Bruin, who had assumed the presidency of CEV that same year at the General Assembly held in Gand.

It wasn't easy for our country to host such large scale competition and so we were confronted by some problems along the way. By exploiting my skills in negotiating and liaising with people, I could help the



1987: as his native country, Belgium, hosted the CEV General Assembly (this picture portrays, among others, then CEV President Dusan Prielozny and CEV Vice President Piet de Bruin) as well as the European Championship Philip Berben started his adventure in Volleyball

organizers recover a good share of the financial resources that were needed to set up the Championship and make sure that we were not going to suffer a major deficit by the time the tournament came to a close.

I also helped deal with a doping case and such efforts were highly esteemed by Piet de Bruin who – knowing my personal and cultural background – asked me to join the CEV Juridical Commission. By that time Belgium was already represented there by Paul Huenens, but he eventually resigned from that position in 1988 stating that his age – he was in his early '70s – and other commitments prevented him from continuing his work for Europe's Volleyball family. One year later, in 1989, friends and colleagues asked me to stand for president of the Royal Belgian Volleyball Federation, but originally that was going to last only for one year.

I have been chairing our country's Volleyball governing body for 24 years and since those early days I have worked to extensively promote the sport but especially to affirm and keep a sense of cohesion and unity among our three regional federations. We shall bear in mind that Belgium has got a very specific political structure which directly impacts also on the governance of all sports. Our country is composed of three linguistic communities – French, Flemish and German – and as per the national law they have got their respective sports associations whose work is nevertheless placed under the authority and umbrella of a national governing body.

Volleyball is not an exception to this general principle and back in 1989 I was seen as the man – a sort of "primus inter pares" – who could mediate and bring people



At that time President of the European Legal Commission (ELC), Philip Berben (centre) portrayed in 1995 together with the President of the Hellenic Volleyball Federation Thanassis Beligratis (left) and ELC member Achilleas Mavromatis (right) while addressing the media in Thessaloniki to discuss the implications of the so-called "Bosman case"

together for the good of the sport though respecting and safeguarding, at the same time, the peculiarities and instances of each single community. In order to achieve this goal I was helped by the fact that I am good in diplomacy and negotiating with people and also by the fact that I have a good command of our three official languages adopted in our country. In this sense, since 1989, I have always tried to promote a sense of cohesion and we may even say of "brotherhood" in the name of Volleyball.

After becoming chairman of the Legal Commission, I could regularly join the working sessions of the CEV Board of Administration where my advice and expertise were required especially as the Confederation was busy in setting up a general legal framework for its activities in terms of insurance policy, civil responsibility and similar issues.

Some years later, in 1995, I eventually joined the CEV Board and have hence enjoyed the possibility to follow the growth and major development that our sport and our Confederation have experienced throughout the last 15 years.

Volleyball has become a fully professional sport and the general set up of our competitions has tremendously progressed, so that they all respond to and fulfil the standards imposed by the modern times. This means that our headquarters have also evolved with the years, by expanding their activities thereby including marketing, media, and TV. These have become quintessential in the work we perform for any Championship while back in the late '80s it was purely about a Volleyball tournament.

Volleyball and CEV have undergone a transformational journey from those days where everything – though I still have to pay my devoted respect for our forefathers – was "amateur". I still have memories from the years where the CEV headquarters were situated in Brussels; with very limited resources our first Secretary General Olivier Bruyr and his follower, Robert Demarsin, were responsible for coordinating the work of our Confederation in an era where nowadays instant communication did simply not exist and where Europe was still divided into two antagonist blocs. It wasn't even easy for people to travel across Europe, and this applies especially to those who lived in the Soviet Union and its satellites. On the other hand, the actions on the field of play itself were totally dominated by the Eastern European countries, with Italy being the only Western European side that was able to compete with the likes of the Soviet Union and other Volleyball powers like Romania, Bulgaria and Poland. Things have dramatically changed since then and such changes are reflected also by the transformation that CEV has experienced.



CEV Vice President and Treasurer Philip Berben reporting to the CEV General Assembly about the excellent state and development of the CEV finances

I would say that our Confederation has really progressed and moved forward in the past 12 years. However, there is still room for improvement, especially in terms of marketing where we may well learn from what other sports have been doing. I have always tried, in my home country, to work closely with my colleagues from other sports. We do not have to compete with each other because each sport has got its own specific features and we all differ also in terms of the social environment we provide people with. Cycling, for instance, is a very popular sport in Belgium but they have got financial resources that you simply can't compare with any other discipline; so although their marketing and promotional campaigns are absolutely outstanding, we know that we have to find our own way. Just to single out another example, in Belgium every single small village and town has got its soccer club and even though we can't say the same for volleyball, still our sport can count on 60,000 affiliates throughout the country.



A long-term development project bearing its fruits: CEV Vice President Philip Berben awarding Sander Depovere, the captain of the Belgian national team that won bronze at the 2013 Youth European Championship in Laktaši, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Volleyball has got some unique features and strengths as it stands out for its gender equality and is possibly one of a very few sports where the number of girls exceeds the boys actively involved. On the other hand, we shall bear in mind that Volleyball demands pretty much from our youngsters as they have to learn technical skills which are not necessarily self-evident and need time and devotion to get familiar with. A baby boy may be naturally driven to kick a ball with his feet, but the same does not happen with the various technical skills required by our sport.

If I had to single out some actions that may help move our sport and Confederation forward, I would start by saying that we need to separate elite sport from its general development at grassroots. A Volleyball school was established in Belgium a few years ago to nurture and develop the most promising players of our country and the results stemming from this action are more than encouraging. On the other hand, Volleyball remains – by nature – inclusive, a sport that shall attract people because

it promotes team spirit and does not imply any physical contact, so we shall make sure that it remains open also to those who would like to take it up just for fun or for pursuing a healthy lifestyle.

With CEV turning 40 this year, I am evidently happy to stress that this anniversary comes by the time our Confederation has turned into a fully professional organization, standing out for the quality of its work as well as for its financial sustainability. However, there is still work to be done, by exploiting the many opportunities disclosed by modern marketing and by hiring more professionals and experts to support the work of the Board of Administration. Starting from their contribution our institutional bodies – where we will gradually have to inject young and fresh blood – will be able to define strategic lines and actions whereby the development and growth of the past decades will continue also in the years to come.

Philip Berben

A short bio

A lawyer and magistrate with a degree in criminology and a doctorate in law, Philip Berben has been the Chairman of the Royal Belgian Volleyball Federation for more than two decades (1989-2013) and a member of the CEV Board of Administration since 1995. A CEV Senior Vice President for ten years (2001-2011), Berben is the current CEV Vice President and Treasurer as well as a member of the FIVB Board of Administration and FIVB Legal Commission. Berben has been a Board member of the Belgian Olympic Committee since 1992, a member of its Executive Committee since 2009 and President of the Special Committee responsible for nominating Belgium's Olympians since that same year.

• VOLLEYBALL: AN ANTIDOTE TO MODERN INDIVIDUALISM •



CEV President André Meyer and Jacques Shaw portrayed at the XXXIII CEV General Assembly held in Luxembourg in November 2013 and where Mr. Shaw was made a Honorary Member of the European Volleyball Confederation

Annaba, Algeria: this city – probably more known to an international readership under its historical denomination, Hippo – is the place where I got to discover volleyball. The city of Saint Augustine, one of the Early Church Fathers, was home to a large community of French citizens and I was born there. By this time children did not have the opportunity to join any sport classes at school but the clergymen living next to the local basilica had set up some special recreational activities and there I eventually got to know volleyball. Some soldiers were stationed nearby as well and one of their officers did introduce me and some more friends to this discipline.

Actually the infrastructure was quite poor, as we obviously were playing outdoors and on a field where stones were popping up almost everywhere. However, we did enjoy this time and were also very active in trying to agree upon a schedule that could combine our needs with those of the guys that were playing basketball or soccer. It wasn't easy to make everyone happy because we had to share that space but I quickly turned into the chief of our volleyball "division". So I followed several educational programs and in 1959 I finished second a national course held in Paris, laying down the foundations for my future in the sport.

Personally I did not like basketball because I found it a little too aggressive, probably also because of that continuous physical contact; it was also too much running for me. On the other hand, volleyball quickly captured me and by the age of 14 I was actively involved in the sport. I still have fond memories of these early years where teams from Algeria plus neighboring Tunisia and Morocco were involved in a league where they had the opportunity to challenge clubs that were representing the so-called metropolitan France.

Volleyball got more and more popular across the local youth and especially the French community whereas the local children and teenagers were apparently more interested in soccer.

Sometimes the course of our lives changes – even quite dramatically – as a result of forces that we can't really control. In 1962, after a long struggle, Algeria declared its independence and French citizens were eventually repatriated. I went to Montpellier where I settled down to complete my education and there, by chance we may say, I got to know some outstanding personalities who did help me pursue a more active involvement in the sport. We shall actually step back for a while as only a couple of years earlier France had gone through a literally disastrous campaign at the 1960 Olympics in Rome. The country did not claim any medal at all there in the "eternal city" and our head of state, General Charles de Gaulle, decided to restructure our national sports community by adopting a series of criteria similar to those in place for the military.

So-called executive officers were introduced almost everywhere to foster the quantitative and qualitative development of the various sports – nationwide as well as regionally – and I eventually got involved in this process, with my focus being – quite understandably – on volleyball. That was a turning point in my life, because I wouldn't have stepped down from the position of technical officer until 1996.

Only a couple of years later, and via a series of coincidences, I got acquainted with FIVB President Paul Libaud. The chairman of the Montpellier volleyball club – at that time, at least in France as well as in most western countries, volleyball was essentially a university sport – was involved in the real estate business and he eventually helped me find the flat where I settled down while pursuing my studies. This gentleman was at the same time serving as president of the French Volleyball Federation whose seat was in Paris, but he needed an assistant who could invest some time to manage correspondence and other administrative staff from Montpellier. I eventually turned into his secretary, typing letters, following up on communications and other requests coming down from Paris and little by little got involved also in international affairs.

I first crossed my ways with international volleyball in 1963, only 12 months after leaving Algeria, as I accompanied the French delegation attending the European Championship in Bucharest, Romania. And a year later, as volleyball was finally included on the Olympic program, I flew to Tokyo



The Soviet team that won gold at the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo where Volleyball debuted on the program; Jacques Shaw was among those who had the privilege to attend the tournament as well as the FIVB General Assembly that was also held in Japan's capital city

to attend the FIVB General Assembly. I still remember that members of our delegation did not speak English at all and so did also the then FIVB President, our countryman Paul Libaud. Even though the European Volleyball Confederation was officially established some 10 years later, in 1973, I can say that I was fortunate enough to witness the first efforts that were made in order to lay down the foundations of Europe's volleyball governing body.



Some decades after taking up Volleyball in his native Algeria: in 2001 Jacques Shaw (right) was proud to host a meeting of the CEV Board of Administration chaired by CEV President André Meyer

The CEV is turning 40 this year and as I look back to the past four decades, I can only say that every single chairman and official who did actively work for this institution has left his mark and chiefly contributed to the development of the sport across our Continent. I would like to recall the special personality of Italy's Giancarlo Giannozzi, who served as the very first chairman of CEV from 1973 up to 1978. Born in Florence, he was a man of great charm

and extremely good in what they call nowadays "public relations". By the time Europe was divided into two antagonist blocs and the interaction between West and East was pretty hostile, he could transfer to Italy 10 players of the Czechoslovak national team that had surprisingly edged the Soviet Union at the 1966 World Championship in Prague. Though people from the Eastern bloc were basically not allowed to travel abroad, he could convince the local authorities to release these guys who found their way to Italy to massively contribute to the development of the sport across the boot-shape peninsula. Giannozzi was also the man behind the bid that Italy submitted to host the 1978 World Championship, an event that triggered the golden era that this sport would have gone through the '80s and early '90s. This visionary man was the one who also wanted to stop the supremacy of the Eastern European countries that had basically swept all major international competitions up to the early '70s and hence European volleyball owes a lot to him.

Another personality that I would recall is Vladimir Savvin, the Soviet official who did set the tone – with his work and dedication – for the outstanding results claimed by Eastern European countries throughout the '60s and '70s. The Eastern bloc literally dominated the international volleyball scene by sweeping the top positions of all Championships and club competitions. By this time it looked like none could stand the physical dominance and technical skills displayed by the players that were representing the likes of the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Romania, and Czechoslovakia amongst others.

Under the general supervision and governance provided by CEV, volleyball has rapidly turned into a fully professional sport. All those who have taken up the responsibility to chair our Confederation have contributed to this long-term process and massive development. We have gone a very long journey but I am convinced that we still have some challenges and opportunities to take on.



Working together for the good of Volleyball: Jacques Shaw (right) and former CEV Board member and President of the Hellenic Volleyball Federation, Thanassis Beligratis

Women's volleyball has got, in my opinion, a tremendous appeal and potential. We know that our fans and spectators enjoy long and breathtaking rallies and this is one of the main features of the sport when ladies square off on the court. On the other hand, men's volleyball has developed into a more physical sport where the defense game is somehow pre-conditioned by the terrific power that the players display as they hit the ball. They are big and strong, incredibly tall but all this affects other aspects that remain quintessential in our sport. Volleyball players shall stand out also for their technical skills, agility, or also because they can avoid the strengths of their opponents by playing intelligently to exploit their rivals' weaknesses. Back in 1986 yet another illustrious Frenchman, Philippe Blain, was voted MVP of the World Championship in Paris. This did not result from the fact that he was the tallest among all players, but rather because he was the one who was mastering the technical side of the game and had a clear understanding of volleyball that ultimately remains a team sport.



"Volleyball can be instrumental in spreading a sense of cohesion and unity among Europe's youngsters," says CEV Honorary member Jacques Shaw

It may sound a little romantic or old-fashioned, but I think we shall all step back for a moment and analyze the future perspectives of our sport by taking into account that we shall not lose its original quintessence for the sake of physical power and dominance. In order to attain this goal we need to work hard by changing the mentality of all involved, starting from the grassroots, i.e. clubs and their respective coaches, anyone responsible for recruiting young boys and girls who want to take up this wonderful sport.

After all, volleyball is not addressed to a physical elite and it remains the best place where our youth can get to feel the joy resulting from being part of a group, a collective that stands out for its unity and cohesion. This is also its distinctive feature in comparison with other team sports

like, for instance, soccer or basketball. One outstanding player can easily change the course of the game there dribbling all opponents to score a goal or from the 3-m line, but in our sport there is none that can win the game all alone.

As we are experiencing times where individualism seems to be the driving force of our society, I would say that families shall be more than happy to see their children take up a sport where they get to learn the importance of solidarity, friendship, and unity. All parents shall be driven to choose our sport for their kids not because they hope that their son or daughter will one day become an Olympic champion. They shall rather be convinced by the "healthy", family-like environment their children will get to feel and enjoy.

Let's hope volleyball will help us win these tough times by asserting the importance of a spirit of solidarity, because – at the end of the day – the primary need of every human being is to be loved by those who are around.

Jacques Shaw

A short bio

Born in Annaba, Algeria, the country where he spent his entire youth, Jacques Shaw started there his volleyball adventure by contributing to the creation of the volleyball section in the local sports youth (Jeunesse Sportive de Bône) back in 1949.

From 1955 up to 1962, he served as Vice President of the Ligue de Constantine, before moving to France and namely to Montpellier after Algeria declared its independence. In 1964 he attended the Tokyo Olympics where Volleyball was for the first time included on the program of the Games. In 1966 he got the status of international referee and was also regularly appointed by the French Volleyball Federation to various functions, being head coach of the men's junior national team at the 1971 European Championship in Barcelona, technical advisor, and team manager of the French delegation at the 1992 Olympics to mention only a very few.

After chairing, since 1983, the Volleyball centre created in Montpellier, Shaw was elected President of the French Volleyball Federation in 1999, with his mandate being renewed in 2000.

He gradually got involved also in the international Volleyball arena after being appointed to the CEV Technical Commission from 1989 through 1993 and as a member of the CEV Board of Administration for ten years (2001-2011).

• A VOLLEYBALL VISIONARY LEASED FROM... DECATHLON •



Werner von Moltke was the Chairman of the German Volleyball Federation (DVV) for 15 years, from 1997 through 2012

As I was told that the European Volleyball Confederation is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, I accepted with very much pleasure the proposal to write down some memories. After all, though I joined the Volleyball family "only" 15 years ago, I always repeat and stress out that this time has finally provided me with some of the greatest experiences in my life.

As some of you may already know, I was an Olympian and also a European champion but not in Volleyball. Back in the '50s and '60s I did belong to the international decathlon elite and did eventually claim European gold in 1966. Two years later, while participating in the Olympics in Mexico, I was forced to pull out after the long jump, the second event in the busy schedule of all decathletes. Still this did not mean I retired from competitive sport and decided to give it a try once more with the goal to qualify for the 1972 Olympics that were due to take place in Munich. I finally did not make the Olympic team as every country – including West Germany – could nominate only three athletes per event and my compatriots were back then some of the major forces to be reckoned with on the international stage. After missing out on that spot I bid farewell to track and field and decided to concentrate on my professional career.



A young Werner von Moltke competing as a decathlete in the early '60s

I worked for Adidas for 22 years and via the connections provided by one of the world's largest manufacturers of sportswear could develop a series of good acquaintances, with all those who were holding key positions in our country, including sports federations, clubs and many more. We sold shoes and sportswear to all athletes who did compete at the Olympics, in all sports, and also to the majority of the soccer clubs starring in our Bundesliga.

Taking into account my background in the sport, I was named Vice President of the German Track & Field Federation (DLV) and was one of those who were asked to steer the transition resulting from re-unification of our country after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Though we had to cope with some critical issues – such as the state-funded doping programme promoted in the former GDR, coaches who were accused of having worked for the secret services etc. – we could make sure that our family found its balance again and a real celebration of this did follow in 1993 as Stuttgart played host to the World Championship. I was actively involved in the general organization of this event which turned into a major success and where German athletes performed well by bringing home 8 medals, including 2 gold.



Though he came to volleyball from track and field, Werner von Moltke showed right from the go of his adventure with the German Volleyball Federation (DVV) his total passion for the sport

Some four years later, in 1997, I decided to step down from my position in the DVL and was approached by some friends – who were active in Volleyball – who said that they were looking for somebody to take up the presidency of the German Volleyball Federation (DVV).

Of course I did know the sport and had played Volleyball with friends though at a relatively low level and even

though – frankly speaking – not everyone was happy with my candidature, finally 54% of the votes cast by the delegates attending the General Assembly were for me.

Still surrounded by some scepticism as many were still convinced that I did not have the right knowledge and background for the job, I started my personal adventure in Volleyball.

Only a few weeks after my election, we drove to Luxembourg to get to know the CEV highest authorities and get acquainted with the delegates from other countries that did also attend the CEV General Assembly. I remember that I received a very warm welcome and could quickly start developing the right connections with people that still play a very important role on the European arena. My efforts were evidently helped by my background and work for Adidas as well as by the fact that the then CEV President, Dr. Rolf Andresen, was one of my closest friends.

By that time Germany wasn't really a major Volleyball force; the golden era where East Germany had even claimed a World Championship title back in 1970 was a distant memory and our men's national team hadn't qualified for the Olympics since 1972. The state of our women's national team was a little better as we had made it to the Centennial Games (1996) in Atlanta but had to be content with an eighth place there. In comparison with other sports – like track and field, for instance, where West Germany and East Germany were, more or less, equally strong – Volleyball was more developed in the GDR. The real Volleyball cities – like Schwerin or Leipzig – were nevertheless confronted with the crisis of their clubs and the best players were leaving the country as they could get more profitable contracts abroad.



DVV President Werner von Moltke was the man behind a memorable edition of the FIVB Women's World Championship whose final match – starring Italy and USA – was played in a sold-out Max-Schmeling-Halle in Berlin

I immediately felt compelled to change the course of the story and in my view the only chance to involve more and more people in our sport was to showcase it at its very best. That's why we ended up hosting the Women's World Championship in 2002, though we did it on a very short notice. Brazil was initially supposed to host the competition but withdrew due to some disagreements with FIVB. I was able to convince my colleagues, even those that were more sceptical, that this was the chance that you get once in a lifetime. We set up our organizing committee and the Championship was eventually hosted in 9 different cities. By exploiting my good connections I was able to get the necessary financial resources from the local authorities and though our team missed out on a spot for the quarterfinals, we can still recall those memorable days where all sports halls were filled up to full capacity, in each of the hosting cities.



CEV President André Meyer presenting Werner von Moltke with a commemorative plate as he attended the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the German Volleyball Federation

Our work did not stop there as one year later the Men's European Championship did also take place in Germany with the final match played once more in Berlin. Actually we, the DVV, had submitted our bid to CEV even before we got the 2002 World Championship but we could evidently build on the momentum and experience from the year before. Again we did fulfil our mission and the Championship turned into a major success.

Our efforts were always well supported by the CEV and its leaders, especially by its chairman André Meyer, who's become – year after year – a close friend of mine.

My personal campaign to show Volleyball at its very best to my country people continued in 2005 as Berlin hosted the Beach Volleyball World Championships. We had picked out a very unique and exclusive location, right next to the Brandenburg Gate; we had a centre court with a capacity of more than 7,000 spectators, and our fans just wanted to see the Beach Volleyball elite in action in one of Europe's most attractive and fascinating capital cities.

The Championship was due to be broadcast on TV by RTL – the same channel airing Formula One in Germany – so



Werner von Moltke together with Germany's Federal Chancellor Dr. Gerhard Schröder at the official presentation of the 2005 Beach Volleyball World Championships held in Berlin

that deal was also a tremendous success for us. I even had arranged an agreement with smart so that every single team participating in the Championship was provided with their own car and would have driven their way from the hotel to the stadium. Just to add something more to the fancy and cool atmosphere, all cars were "customized" and displayed the country code and starting number of the duo that was going to drive it. It was so cool that some of the teams that were eliminated from the tournament right after the prelims decided to stay for a couple of days longer to enjoy the opportunity to drive through the city and visit Berlin by enjoying a different perspective.



Players on strike: Werner von Moltke addresses the world's Beach Volleyball elite to make sure the World Championship can get started as per their original schedule

However, right on the eve of the first day of action, I was confronted with a situation that I couldn't have imagined even in my worst nightmares. Since they were expecting FIVB to provide a document signed by President Acosta expanding the players' rights which eventually wasn't delivered, the players' representatives said – as we had

got together for an "ordinary" technical meeting – they were not going to play as long as that issue wasn't solved. I couldn't believe my ears because we had done so much to set up a memorable Championship and everything was ready, but now the players wanted to go on strike. I will never forget those moments where I felt that I – but most of all our Volleyball family – was going to be ruined and smacked down. We started negotiating with the players, I urged President Acosta to take the first plane and come to Berlin; by promising that the FIVB President was going to show up and to listen to their instances, I could convince the players not to boycott the tournament and the competition got eventually started.

My personal vision to try to support the development and popularity of Volleyball was very clear: Germany needed to host major international events to showcase the beauty of the sport and make sure our audience would respond because they had an opportunity to see the very best players in action under their own eyes. However, this is not enough. You need to work extensively on marketing and TV, similarly to what other sports – and especially winter sports, with the role model being biathlon – have done.

In order to support our ambitious programs we had to sign sponsorship agreements with some worldwide known companies such as Mercedes, smart etc. On the other hand, and this was much more difficult, we needed to achieve the right TV exposure. Even though this wasn't always easy, I am happy that reports about Volleyball are now shown more and more often in our news, though we are still confronted with the competition that is brought by other sports, primarily soccer, basketball and handball.



Werner von Moltke congratulates Germany's Volleyball star Angelina Grün after the women's national team – via a home qualification tournament – got the right to play at the 2006 World Championship in Japan

We also need to attract young people to our sport and to do so we need to invest with a long-term perspective. I have a very good example which once more I take from the sport I come from, track and field. There are young girls out there, physically talented, thin and well-proportioned, who have taken up high jump but whose personal best stands at, let's say, 180 cm. With these measures you have

no perspectives at all in the sport but this jump power may be well needed and exploited to play Volleyball. Once they learn the technique, these girls may play even in our highest division, they could earn some good money and finally be able to display – in their office, living room etc. – some diplomas and other distinctions that they will never get if they remain stuck in track and field.

Similarly to any other sport, men's and women's Volleyball do differ quite a lot. We all know that in women's Volleyball rallies are much longer while the dismount of physical power is the real quintessence of men's Volleyball nowadays, but I think that both have got enough potential to continue to grow and make sure – in the end – Volleyball remains the second most practised sport in the world after football.

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Europe has a major responsibility in the promotion and development of Volleyball because the majority of the real heavyweights in the sport are to be found on our "Old Continent". We have got the likes of Russia, Poland, Italy,



DVV President Werner von Moltke posing with Germany women's national team that won silver at the 2011 CEV Volleyball European Championship in Belgrade, Serbia

France, or Germany, not to mention Turkey where our sport has literally boomed in recent years. Volleyball can even compete with soccer in terms of popularity in a country like Poland where every match is followed by thousands of people. With this in mind, we can say that 40 years have gone since CEV was founded and that this Confederation, together with its national federations, has been able to govern the sport and make sure Europe's Volleyball plays a primary role also on the global stage.

Still some work needs to be done especially to involve more and more young people – boys especially as they do not opt, naturally and spontaneously, for Volleyball – in the sport. We shall join our forces with the schools and make sure that our sport is included on their programs. If I take the example of Germany, for instance, we also have to work so that Volleyball will be given the same importance



CEV President André Meyer and Werner von Moltke together in August 2012 as the latter announced he would step down from his position after 15 years at the helm of Germany's Volleyball family

attributed to other sports, like soccer or basketball, in the education of future teachers of physical education. So far this is not always the case; if those who are responsible for the education of the youngsters lack the necessary knowledge and technical skills, the future perspectives of our sport are somehow undermined. Once more I would like to stress the importance of media exposure: our stars have to be promoted and their names shall be made familiar to the general public. If I just ask the man on the street to mention the name of a Volleyball player, probably none will come up to his mind and for those aged around 50, they may recall some names of those players who wrote history back in the '70s while representing East Germany.



September 2013: Werner von Moltke (far right) was one of the honorary guests at the final weekend of the 2013 CEV Women's Volleyball European Championship in Berlin, here portrayed together with (from left to right) former CEV Board Member and DVV President Roland Mader, CEV President André Meyer, IOC President Dr. Thomas Bach and current DVV President Thomas Krohne

Things have changed in Beach Volleyball after Julius Brink and Jonas Reckermann won Olympic gold in London but without the glory brought by the Olympics, they wouldn't be known to those who aren't everyday followers of our sport. To conclude this contribution, I would like to say that we shall not be afraid of being innovative and test out different solutions. Back in 1997 as I joined the Volleyball family for the first time and people looked at me at someone coming from a different world, I already thought that the scoring system was confusing people; the spectators could not really understand when a point was attributed and the rules were a way too complicated for those who were not familiar with the sport. Only a couple of years later FIVB completely changed the rules of the game by adopting the rally point system and introducing the libero player, thereby also reducing the duration of the matches and making Volleyball a product much more likely to be televised because it did match the needs of the TV stations. I am convinced that the potential for a bright future is already there, especially in Europe where we have got professional leagues that are professionally managed and have got many followers. We have to show the courage to take up the challenges ahead and turn our Volleyball family into the one that drives the sport forward and remains always open to evolve with the times.

Werner von Moltke

A short bio

Born in Mühlhausen, Sachsen, in 1936, Werner von Moltke was one of Europe's leading decathletes through the '50s and '60s while representing West Germany. After winning the silver medal at the 1962 European Championship in Belgrade with a gap of only 4 points from gold medalist Vassili Kuznetsov – who was the world record holder at the time – von Moltke was crowned European champion four years later in Budapest. He eventually withdrew from the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City after the second event on schedule for the decathlon, the long jump. His personal best, achieved in 1966, stands at 7849 points. After working for many years (22) for sportswear giant Adidas, von Moltke served as Vice President of the German Track & Field Federation (DLV) from 1989 up to 1997 and then as chairman of the German Volleyball Federation (DVV) for 15 years, i.e. from 1997 up to 2012. He stepped down right after the London Olympics where Germany's Julius Brink and Jonas Reckermann turned into the first European duo to win Olympic gold in Beach Volleyball.

• LISTEN TO AN OLD STAGER SHARING HIS MEMORIES... •



Peter Lange was a member of Europe's Volleyball family from the early '70s up to the start of the New Millennium

Those of you who personally know me will certainly take it seriously if I say that I would have loved to be still an active member of a CEV body in the year of the 40th anniversary of "our" Confederation. Nevertheless, I feel very grateful for the 35 years that I have shared with CEV, right from its early days and namely the Congress whereby the Confederation was officially established back in 1973 up to my latest activities for Europe's Volleyball family that date back to the year 2008. I am grateful as I had a unique opportunity to enjoy a first-hand look at the terrific development of our sport and, as much as I could, to personally contribute to its growth and progress. I am also grateful for all the experiences I had in these 35 years and for the many things I could learn and that definitely did shape up my personality as an individual and as a sports journalist as well.

The same thoughts and reflections apply also to the years preceding my active involvement in Europe's Volleyball family, first as a Volleyball player, and then as an international referee before I moved on to join forces with CEV and also with the FIVB Sports Organizing Commission. All this couldn't turn into reality without the support I received from my wife and family who always showed their understanding for my passion as well as their patience for the many days I spent away from home.

After this short, rather emotional introduction let me share – a little bit more consequently – some memories from the many years I devoted to the good of Volleyball.



Peter Lange, third from left, was one of the founding fathers of the European Volleyball Confederation; here he is portrayed together with then CEV President Piet de Bruin (second from left) and current CEV President André Meyer (second from right)

The discovery of Volleyball and the switch from playing to refereeing

Most probably my ways would never have crossed those of Volleyball if a Polish-born engineer hadn't moved to my home town, Görlitz – which is located right on the border between Germany and Poland – and hadn't turned into a sort of "pioneer" for the sport in our city. Back in 1950 Volleyball in post-World War II Germany was indeed known especially in those regions where people coming from Eastern Europe had settled down and contributed to its promotion and popularity.

This man convinced me and some of my handball teammates to get to see, first hand, what volleyball was about. I immediately enjoyed it and only three years later, I moved to the team of the "Technische Hochschule" in Dresden that was playing in the national first division. I spent there some six years and we became, among others, three times Vice Champion of the GDR. By 1956 - i.e. only six years after taking up the sport - I was invited to join the GDR national team and participated in the European Championship two years later, as the competition was taking place in Prague.

My next stop was the city of Leipzig where I am – more than 50 years later – still residing. I joined one of the two local clubs which were also competing in East Germany's highest division but gradually found it difficult and quite demanding to combine my studies with the involvement and dedication that competitive sport required, so that in 1960 I ultimately decided to retire – so to speak – to focus on refereeing. Initially I whistled in matches of East Germany's domestic competitions and in some international tournaments. In 1963 – as the European

Championship was held in Romania – I successfully completed a candidate course for those who wanted to embark on another special adventure, i.e. to pursue a career as international Volleyball referee. Though candidates - as it is still nowadays - normally have to wait for about two years before they get the status of international referee, the FIVB Refereeing Commission invited me to stay for the European Championship and to whistle the required number of official international matches there. At the end of the competition, i.e. only two weeks upon completion of the candidate course, my status of FIVB international referee was confirmed. This was quite an exception supported by the Refereeing Commission, already at this time chaired by Dr. Endre Holvay, who held this function for many more years.

My career as international referee did last for almost 17 years, up to 1980, and I could attend some editions of the World Championships and World Cups as well as a total of four Olympic Games, starting with Mexico City in 1968, to continue with the 1972 Olympics in Munich, the 1976 Games in Montreal to round it out with Moscow 1980.

The early days of CEV and my work for the Sports Organizing Commission

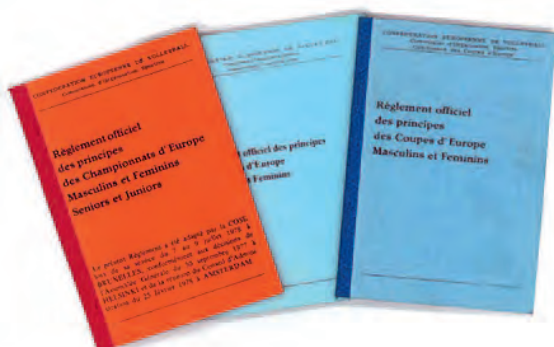
As FIVB held its Congress in 1972 concurrently with the Summer Olympics in Munich – an Assembly that I could partly follow as observer – the delegates agreed upon a provision that would have literally written history. Five Continental Confederations were set up thereby replacing the so-called Continental Sports Commissions that, since 1963, had been governing the development of the sport in this world's macro-areas. Such Confederations were supposed to embody, though on a Continental level, the institutional structure adopted by FIVB, with an Executive Committee, a Board of Administration and a series of Commissions placed under the authority of the Board.



Throughout 40 years Peter Lange could follow the development and transformation of volleyball from its amateur days (see picture) into a professional sport

That historic decision did somehow make sure that I would have crossed my ways with those of CEV. As preparations were running for the very first CEV General Assembly set to take place in the Dutch seaside resort of Scheveningen in September 1973, the national federations were invited to submit proposals and namely the names of potential candidates for their eventual inclusion in the above mentioned Commissions. The application prepared by the GDR Volleyball Federation for me to join the Refereeing Commission was quickly rejected since this would have meant I had to immediately stop my career as international referee. As I was asked if I was interested in working for the Sports Organizing Commission, my first reaction was quite straight: "I do not have any clue about the things that this Commission is supposed to work on". However, the feedback I received was as concise and straightforward as my own answer: "This means you have got an opportunity to learn something". After this short conversation, I was even named chairman of the Commission and I was lucky enough that my colleagues were very familiar with the topics we were going to study and asked to elaborate on.

That was some kind of a blessing from above because we were immediately confronted with a series of issues we had to discuss and to find a solution for, essentially dealing with the format and the periodicity of the European Championships. Until 1973 no qualification rounds were played and that same year the Netherlands did host a junior tournament that was joined by a total of 21 and 17 teams in the men's and women's division respectively. This caused quite serious difficulties as the host country did have to find the means to accommodate many players and officials, and it wasn't easy to coordinate the logistics and set up all necessary facilities. Something similar had happened already in 1971 as 21 teams had participated in the men's senior competition held in Italy. Moreover, starting from 1975, the European Championship was supposed to take place every two years, i.e. in those years where no Olympics or World Championships were due to be held.



Peter Lange was among those who drafted the first version of the Official Regulations governing the organization of the European Championship

Our Commission was hence made responsible for working out a proposal that could solve these problems but we did not have much time for that. Only a few months later, in December 1973, at the end of a few meetings I had with my colleagues we could eventually seal the very first draft (available only in French) of the so-called "Reglement officiel des principes des Championnats d'Europe Masculins et Féminins Seniors et Juniors", i.e. a series of provisions ruling and governing the organization of the European Championships.

Our main idea was to limit the number of teams participating in the final round to 12, with six being pre-qualified, while the remaining spots were to be assigned via a series of qualification tournaments. This was quite "revolutionary" because the principle of the "open entry" to a Championship to be played in one host country was used in many team sports. However, as from 1975 this was no longer the case in Volleyball. Moreover, the introduction of the qualification rounds did have a major impact also on the schedule and programs worked out for the national teams. With this formula, they needed to adjust their preparations accordingly. This meant their players were supposed to "peak" at least twice per season, to be ready to deliver their best performance in the qualifying rounds as well as in the eventual major Championship where medals would have been at stake.

Though we did not have much time to work out our proposal, still this was accepted by the Board and only two years later, in 1975, as the European Championship was held in Yugoslavia, only 12 teams per gender lined up for the final round.

The regulations we worked out in 1973 did eventually turn into the main reference for future modifications and adjustments. Although a few things have changed since those days, still teams are assigned to the various rounds of the European Championship by taking into consideration their results and ranking, a provision that definitely stems from the work we achieved back in the early '70s.

The Sports Organizing Commission did also provide the Board with a series of provisions whereby well-defined standards were set in order to guarantee a professional organization of all our major competitions. Initially, countries were allotted the right to stage the European Championship by simply submitting a very short presentation and without sending someone there to proof the quality of the infrastructure and especially of the sports halls. In those ten years where I chaired the Commission, up to 1983, with my colleagues we developed the right tools to assess the quality of the local organization and to make sure that certain standards were met everywhere as the Championship was "touring" year after year. It wasn't simply about the sports halls, our work did deal also with the accommodation and the general infrastructure provided

for the Championship. All this work did set the tone for a similar approach to be adopted also in the European Cups and its legacy still stands even some 30 years later.



In the early '80s the European Sports Organizing Commission chaired by Peter Lange was actively involved also in the organization of the European Cups; this picture was taken during the final match of the 1983 Champions Cup where CSKA MOSCOW beat Italy's Santal PARMA

In the early '80s – by that time the chairman of the European Sports Organizing Commission was actively involved also in the work of the European Cups Commission as a co-opted member – the CEV portfolio was once more extended to include a third club competition, then known as CEV Cup. This followed on the Champions Cup and Cup Winners Cup which were specifically addressed to the winners of the various national leagues and national cups respectively. France was particularly active in sponsoring and lobbying for the introduction of the CEV Cup, stating that all teams starring in their domestic competitions were equally competitive but prevented from testing out their likes on the international stage as only two per country – the champion and the cup winner – were eligible to join the European Cups. This eventually changed in 1981 with the implementation of the CEV Cup and 30 years later – though after a major restructuring has taken place, lastly in 2007 – we still keep a similar structure consisting of three club competitions.

In those days CEV was far away from being the professional and fully-fledged organization we are all familiar with. Our secretariat – the word "headquarters" wasn't that popular at the time – was located in Brussels and one single person was responsible, all alone, to deal with a terrific workload. The CEV Secretary General was supposed to follow up on the work of the various Commissions, prepare all necessary documents for the Board meetings and coordinate the

organization of all competitions. That was quite a huge task for somebody working all alone and with the very limited tools – a simple type-writer and a telex-machine – available at that time.

I have to stress that I really enjoyed my work for the Sports Organizing Commission (ESOC) and will never forget those ten years where, alongside my colleagues, we have been working so hard to define a sustainable and, as far as possible, professional structure for volleyball in Europe. I would like to recall and pay the right tribute to the names of those who joined their forces with me throughout these years, as their contribution was more than valuable and left a unique mark on our history: Franz Schmied (SUI), who was the Secretary of the Commission, Nina Popova (BUL), Raimo Peltonen (FIN), Miomir Kovacevic (YUG), and Julius Slujka (TCH), with the addition of Jan Woluch (POL) and Fabio Sassi (ITA) who followed at a later stage.

Moving up... to the Board of Administration

As my home country – the German Democratic Republic – hosted the 1983 European Championship, I was gently but firmly invited by our national authorities to stand for election to join the CEV Board of Administration.



Peter Lange – here together with Denmark's Cor Geugjes – was a CEV Board member representing the German Democratic Republic from 1983 through the German reunification in 1990

This wasn't really my main wish. I was ultimately elected and therefore – according to the statutes in force at that time – no longer entitled to chair a Commission (with the only exception to this provision being the European Cups Commission), I could leave the ESOC in the good hands of Fabio Sassi, a close friend and a very experienced professional who had accompanied volleyball in its tremendous development across the Italian peninsula. Nevertheless, the Board of Administration did well know that the organization of sports events was very dear to me since the beginning of my Volleyball adventure and therefore I was made responsible for liaising with the ESOC

as well as for coordinating and checking the preparations of the various European Championships and to ensure a smooth running of these competitions.

My life after Germany's re-unification

The next major turnaround came as my home country did disappear from the geo-political maps. After the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and a partition that had lasted since the end of World War II, on October 3, 1990 the German Democratic Republic joined the Federal Republic of Germany and Berlin reunited into a single city.

Germany found itself with two members in the CEV Board of Administration, with Vice President Rolf Andresen representing West Germany and myself for the likes of the GDR. After discussing the issue, we finally agreed upon our respective future. Dr. Andresen would remain in the Board and I would confine to the place that suited the most to my skills, nature and inclinations by primarily focusing on the work of the European Cups Commission (ECC) whose presidency I had assumed already in 1987.

Though many officials and coaches from East Germany did certainly not benefit from the re-unification, as they lost their jobs while their colleagues from the "Bundesrepublik" were assigned the most important roles and functions, this does not apply to me. The Ministry of Internal Affairs which supervises all sports in Germany made me responsible for achieving that necessary junction between the East and West German volleyball families. As far as I know, I was one of only two East German officials who got the privilege to supervise and coordinate this process in their respective national federation and sport.

Moving to Luxembourg...

By the end of 1991, only one year after the re-unification, I basically had accomplished my mission in Germany. A couple of years earlier CEV had moved from Brussels to Luxembourg after André Meyer – who went on to become its chairman in 2001 – had significantly helped on the way to get a major support from the local government in order to settle down in the Grand Duchy.

The Confederation needed help for the always growing work put on the shoulders of the secretariat and was searching for a Competitions Director. Taking into account my previous experience in the volleyball arena, I got the job and moved to Luxembourg making it clear – since I was already in my late '50s – that I wanted to stay until retirement and not any longer. I wanted to use these years to lay the foundations for others to come and continue my work for the good of the sport I have devoted my life to. This also meant that I had to quit the



A picture from the early '90s: Peter Lange (first from left) portrayed at a Drawing of Lots ceremony held in Luxembourg City together with current CEV President André Meyer, former CEV Administrative Director Eileen Pratt, CEV staff member José Fardeau and ESOC President Fabio Sassi

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FIVB Sports Organizing Commission where I had served uninterruptedly since 1980 as its secretary. According to the FIVB regulations, this membership was not compatible with the professional position I was taking up in CEV. On the other hand, it was the starting point of another, yet the last, step in my unique volleyball journey.

Once more I did cross my ways with history in its making as the map of Europe underwent some major changes – the most relevant since World War II – in the early '90s. With the break-up of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, the number of federations affiliated to CEV rose dramatically from about 35 up to more than 50. It wasn't easy to follow up on all this especially as these nations were struggling with internal problems and it did take some time before the necessary administrative structures were set up. Though I was working in Luxembourg, I could exploit my background from the time I spent in the GDR and the knowledge I had from the way sport did work and was managed in the Eastern bloc to accompany and support our friends as they tried to re-start their activities and join our volleyball family.



Peter Lange – by this time working in Luxembourg City as CEV Competitions Director – together with ECC President Riet Ooms

It wasn't easy at all: Internet did not exist, communications were much slower and it was sometimes difficult to dispatch information to all of our partners and members. We got a fax machine in our office but that wasn't a real help because people in countries like Albania or Ukraine were not yet to be reached by fax, so we still had to rely on our telex to inform people on last-minute changes and so on. We shall also not forget that some nations were confronted with the effects of a civil war and hence it was also about personal safety once matches or tournaments were set to take place in such countries or in their neighbouring nations. I did struggle to find a way to dispatch info and to reach all people concerned at the same time and it was back then that we eventually conceived a series of "Official Communications" that are still being used and sent out by our head office.

To complete this flashback, I would like to share some impressions from another project that is very dear to me. Back in 1995 the very first edition of the Youth European Championship was held in Spain with the participation of 8 teams per gender. Once more – similarly to what had happened in 1973 – we had to respond to the needs and stimulus provided by the Board whose wish was to study the feasibility of a youth competition to be placed next to the Junior European Championship. We did finally work out a concept that did not simply define the age limits for this competition but also contributed to a more comprehensive system spanning through four consecutive years whereby each country is now able to lay the foundations for the development of their next generation of elite players.

Starting out with the Youth European Championship, which count as qualifying event for the Youth Worlds, to proceed with the Junior European Champs and the Junior World Champs one year later, young and promising players are testing out their likes and skills on the international stage for three, four consecutive seasons and, at the same time, are motivated to work hard as they can share the goal to make it to their national team at a relatively tender age.

I just used the adverb "relatively" because I am convinced that 12-year old players are not yet mature enough to compete internationally, but by the time they are 16 or 17, they definitely can do that, with one more special feature.

Initially the Youth Champs were supposed to take place simultaneously – for boys and girls – in the same venue so that all players could get to feel and spread around that unique spirit of friendship and fair play that our sport stands out for which is the real and fundamental reason that drove me to devote some 40 years of my life to its growth and development.

There are many more memories from my personal Volleyball adventure that I could share about the history

❶ RETIREMENT OF THE CEV COMPETITIONS DIRECTOR, Mr. PETER LANGE

One of our most reliable and committed colleagues will soon go into retirement. In 1951, he first met Volleyball when he was a 16-year-old student. From 1953 till 1959, he played at the team of Dresden Technical University and took part in the DDR National League. With this team, he won several times the title of National Vice-Champion and in 1956, he became member of the National Delegation until 1958.

After his player career, he entered the function of International Referee. In total, he refereed 489 international matches, including the Olympic Games in 1968, 1972, 1976 and 1980, and several European and World Championships.

But he also brought his long-year experience into various official functions of International Volleyball. He was President of the European Sports Organizing Commission from 1973 – 1983, Member of the CEV Board of Administration from 1983 – 1990, President of the European Cups Commission from 1987 – 1992 and since 1992, he holds the function of CEV Competition Director at the CEV Office in Luxembourg.

These are the sober facts of the background of a truly devoted Volleyball expert who is well known and highly estimated throughout the Volleyball World. He did an outstanding job in improving the competition systems of the Senior, Junior & Youth European Championships and the European Cups. For this we would like to thank him.

Finally, we all appreciate that he will remain with us in future and assist our sport as member of the European Cups Commission with his experience and precious advice.

Thank you Peter LANGE.



A copy of the CEV newsletter announcing the retirement of Peter Lange who left the CEV headquarters and the Grand Duchy in late 1999

of CEV but I find it appropriate to stop here with the highlights that you have just gone through. However, who knows, some more memories may follow in ten years once CEV will turn 50...

Peter Lange

A short bio

A former volleyball player in East Germany and a sports journalist by profession, Peter Lange (born in 1934) was active as an international referee from 1963 to 1980. He chaired the European Sports Organizing Commission for ten years (1973-1983) being, at the same time, a member of the European Cups Commission. A member of the CEV Board of Administration from 1983 through 1990, Peter Lange was also chairman of the European Cups Commission from 1987 to 1991. He then worked for CEV as its professional Competitions Director from 1992 until his retirement in late 1999. He then re-joined the Cups Commission before - for cogent reasons - retiring to private life in March 2008.

• VOLLEYBALL WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT! •



Andrea Giani portrayed together with Italian Volleyball Federation President and CEV Honorary Vice President Carlo Magri, the man who brought him over to Parma in the '80s for the start of a unique success story

Volleyball came into my life when I was 11 and it literally turned it upside down. My father, a former Olympian, had introduced me to his sport, rowing, by the time I was only 7 and I definitely enjoyed it. However, things changed as I got to know a few young guys who played volleyball and it was love at first sight! I could belong to a group and this is something that makes quite a difference for a teenager. Of course there are some other team sports, like for instance soccer or basketball, but volleyball stands apart. There is no other sport where you get to feel the importance of cohesion and unity like you do if you play volleyball. The team spirit that I got to feel at this tender age was just extraordinary and I found myself very comfortable in this environment. I had tried out soccer and other sports as well but once I opted for volleyball, I knew this was going to be my way and my destiny.

Only four years after I started playing volleyball I moved to Parma. A 15-year old boy was being confronted with the separation from his family but I wasn't going to be left on my own. And there you clearly see what volleyball is all about. I found a second family, composed of teammates and local officials, who were always keen to support me and helped me get acquainted with a totally different

reality. I definitely did not get to know home-sickness, as the sport was turning into my second home, the place where I felt good and could settle down. Some twenty years later I still see it the same way: I have retired from competitive sport and taken up a second life as coach. And still volleyball, and practically the sports hall, they do stand as a second family for me, for the players that I mentor and for all those who are somehow connected with this world.

I first got to know international volleyball during the 1985/1986 season by traveling across Europe with my team, Santal Parma, to play the prestigious Champions Cup. That was also the first time I got to know that a European Volleyball Confederation – the CEV – was the responsible body for governing the sport on the “Old Continent”. By this time, and this sounds quite understandable for a teenager, I wasn't searching for more info about the Confederation, but of course I could get to feel and breathe the very special atmosphere associated with the European Cups.

I enjoyed the opportunity to visit also some countries of the then Eastern bloc, as we got to play teams from Romania, Bulgaria, and the Soviet Union. Though I was so young, I could realize that the sport was being managed and supervised in a totally different way there. The local clubs were more a political organization than an essentially sports-oriented association, but these differences quickly disappeared as we squared off onto the court. You may have born in Western or Eastern Europe but volleyball was ultimately the same for the players that were standing on both sides of the net. It was essentially about team spirit and the ambition to achieve – all together – the best possible results.



“Giangio” – as he is known among all Volleyball fans – in action during the final match of the 2003 European Championship in Berlin where Italy edged France to claim their fifth European crown

I see volleyball – and any other sport – as the most valuable way of bringing people together, in and off the court, in a spirit of friendship, cohesion and fair play. This applies to elite sport as well as to amateurs. Any institutional body – Continental Confederation or National Federation – shall be aware that this is the quintessence of any sport, its unique potential that we all need to disclose via a series of long-term actions. Of course you get more and more popular if your stars are to be seen on TV, if the youngsters get some role models they can refer to, but we shall never forget that the sport is much more than TV rates or marketing rights. It is also more than a pure pastime since any community can exploit sport to aggregate people and spread around positive values that the young generations will keep for the remainder of their lives.



CEV President André Meyer awarding Andrea Giani with the trophy for the winners of the 2003 European Championship in Berlin

I have played volleyball for more than 20 years and have seen this sport has undergone an immensely transformational journey. The rules of the game have been revised a few times, but also the general concept of the sport has dramatically changed. I am particularly happy to ascertain that – via a series of reforms – the European Cups have turned into one of the most valuable products included in the CEV portfolio. Teams from many different countries get the opportunity to test out their skills and develop by confronting themselves with the leading clubs. At the same time, we shall make sure that some minimum sporting and organizational requirements are fulfilled. Sometimes it takes a long journey and a lot of money to travel across Europe to play a single match and our goal shall be to guarantee that everywhere we go the volleyball game turns into a show, into something that goes beyond the actions on the court.



Andrea Giani was the captain of the Italian national team that won another European gold in 2005 as the final weekend of the Championship was held at the Palalottomatica in Rome

Volleyball is being confronted with a series of challenges nowadays that result from the major changes that have affected our global village. Sometimes the clubs are financially not that solid and hence not capable of working out long-term development strategies. Only a few clubs have been able to explore different ways, to invest into something that is meant to last and remain as a legacy. Throughout my career I played for only two different clubs, Parma and Modena. Yes, this is a choice of loyalty, but at the same time I was lucky to join forces with people who had contributed the right pre-conditions for us to play and go for maximum goals. Players are moving around pretty often nowadays as they are being contracted by clubs based in emerging countries where more lucrative business opportunities are available. By the time I was an active player, Italy was THE place to be for every elite volleyball player, the destination of anyone's dreams. Still I am very proud to say that I settled down first in Parma and afterwards in Modena because there I got to feel that family thing, that special atmosphere that I already recalled in the first lines of this address.



Embodying the quintessence of an all-round Volleyball player: Andrea Giani played as opposite, receiver and middle-blocker throughout his 20-year long career

I was offered more money to move to other teams, but I stayed loyal to my clubs because I shared their philosophy, their essential values and had a unique connection with the fans. If I look back, I have no regrets; money was not the driving force that determined my decisions and influenced my choices though I can understand that nowadays things may have changed.

Back in the '90s I was a member of the so-called "Dream Team" that dominated the international volleyball scene for about 10 years. I have been asked to identify the reasons for that amazing series of successes. Well, I think our group was brought together by common values but also our head coach, Julio Velasco, was particularly good in sharing with us what I would call "a winning attitude". We knew that only as long as each member of the group was playing his best we could have gone for the best results. We had the right means to achieve these goals and we did not feel any limits as long as we played as a united group.



A winning group: Giani and a good share of Italy's Volleyball legends celebrate their European gold together with then head coach Gian Paolo Montali

And here it comes again: the group spirit. Sometimes I have been invited to speak to teenagers or students and well before I touch upon the volleyball issue I discuss the general social value of any sport. But why shall a young boy or girl opt for volleyball rather than for any other sport? Volleyball is the only team sport where a single, outstanding player can't make the difference. Volleyball is the sport where the group counts the most. This assumption does not apply to basketball or soccer for instance. The likes of Pelé, Maradona, Michael Jordan, could always change the course of the game. Volleyball is a totally different story: if you pass well, but your setter is not good, or if your spiker is not capable of bringing that action to a successful end your individual skills are useless. As I always like to say, though you may be good, you touch the ball only once and you need two more guys at your

side that can bring it home. That's what I always liked the most in this sport and why I would recommend it to all youngsters: there is no other place where you get to feel this team spirit like you do in volleyball!



Andrea Giani – here taking on Brazil's triple block starring Dante Amaral, André Heller and André Nascimento – made his last appearance at the Olympics in 2004 where Italy won silver losing the final match to Brazil

I got to experience this many times throughout my career but there are a couple of memories that I would like to share. Back in 1989 Italy claimed their first European gold in Stockholm but I had got injured before the Championship and hence was not part of the group there. Two years later we lost the final match to the Soviet Union and though we were the reigning world champions, only in 1993 I got to celebrate my first European title. The group had undergone some major changes as Julio Velasco had decided not to include our former captain, Andrea Lucchetta, in the roster for this Championship while one of our top stars, Andrea Zorzi, was no longer in the starting six. At 23 I was one of the young members of the team and though we felt these changes had put additional responsibility on our shoulders, we stuck together and as a group cruised to this much-wanted gold medal there in Turku.



After retiring from competitive sport Giani has embarked on a second life as Volleyball coach

After I stopped playing, I got the opportunity to mentor my former team Modena but the 2007/2008 season did not totally live up to the expectations of our management. Similarly to what happened in 1993 in Finland, I somehow crossed my ways once more with the CEV as we qualified for the final four of the Challenge Cup. We played in Rzeszow, Poland, and though I was being criticized by our Board of Directors and the media weren't also that gentle to me, we eventually seized the day and claimed what remains the sole trophy this glorious club has won in the past decade. Once more it was the cohesion and the unity of our group, a second family for me and the players, that made the difference.



Giani's return at the Olympics, this time as second assistant coach of Italy's national team that won bronze at London 2012

The CEV is turning 40 this year and as we are almost the same age – I was born in 1970 – I think we have been going parallel ways for quite some time. I am confident that the future looks bright for volleyball in Europe: the European Cups have experienced a major development especially since the introduction of the Champions League; the final rounds of the European Championships have turned into major events that do not only assemble the volleyball community, but actually draw the attention of many people who aren't every-day followers of our sport. Ideas are being contributed by the various Commissions and institutional bodies to make sure volleyball evolves with the times and we can target a young, dynamic and technologically-oriented audience. With all this in mind, I am sure the next 40 years will be as fruitful and blessed with success as those that we are celebrating these days.

Andrea Giani

A short bio

Born in 1970 in Naples, Andrea Giani is one of the most decorated volleyball players in history and a member of the Italian golden generation that dominated the international scene across the '90s under the guidance of Argentinean-born Julio Velasco. Back in 2008 he was inducted into the Volleyball Hall of Fame in Holyoke, Massachusetts, the small city where the sport was invented by William G. Morgan in 1895.

Giani's personal showcase includes three Olympic medals (silver in 1996 and 2004, bronze in 2000), three World Championships (1990, 1994 and 1998), four European Championships (1993, 1995, 1999 and 2003) with the addition of one silver and one bronze medal (1991 and 1997), 7 FIVB World League titles (1991, 1992, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1999 and 2000), a complete set of medals from the FIVB World Cup (gold in 1995, silver in 2003 and bronze in 1999), two editions of the CEV Champions Cup (1997, 1998), 3 Cup Winners Cups (1988, 1989, 1990) 3 CEV Cups (1992, 1995 and 2004), two European Supercups (1989, 1990) and five editions of Italy's national league (three times representing the likes of Parma – 1990, 1992, and 1993 – and twice while playing for Modena – 1997 and 2001) to name only a few honors. With a total of 474 he holds the all-time record for the highest number of caps with Italy's national team (he debuted with Finland in 1988 and stopped in 2005).

Giani joined the coaching staff of Italy's national team in 2011 as the group finished second at the CEV European Championship in Vienna losing the final match to Serbia, before qualifying for the 2012 London Olympics and returning home with a bronze medal. He is currently working on a special project for the quadrennial leading up to Rio 2016 with the ultimate goal to scout and integrate up-and-coming players into a group that shall fight for Olympic gold there in Brazil.

• VOLLEYBALL WAS MY PRE-DESTINATION •

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A role model and a national hero: Vladimir Grbic

Volleyball has gone a very long way since I discovered it back in the mid '70s. I was naturally driven to this sport following in the footsteps of my father, Milos. Still, it was exclusively my choice and did not opt for Volleyball because I was somehow "obliged" by my father. I tried out a few other sports but dad was sure that in the end I would have come back to Volleyball. My father left a real mark on the sport but, above all, he was extremely good in scouting and recognizing the potential of the kids he was working with. I eventually decided to concentrate exclusively on Volleyball by the time I was 14-15 and I know dad had already told my mother he was sure I was going to become one of the best spikers in Europe and possibly also worldwide.

Though he was good in talent-scouting, my father was also deeply convinced that hard work is the quintessence of professional sport. Some players, even some of the greatest stars, sometimes forget that dedication and commitment are the fundamentals you need to work on throughout your career though you may be naturally gifted like anyone else.



Volleyball is a family affair: Vladimir Grbic (left) and brother Nikola on top of the podium at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia

As I said, since the time I got involved in Volleyball, this sport has undergone a long journey and this definitely stems from the changes that have been adopted in the rules of the game. However, I do have to stress that everything around the sport has changed, and especially training methods. Scouting videos and stats is nowadays fundamental; there is much more money around and attention has been drawn on our sport by extensively exposing it on TV.



Throughout the '90s Vladimir Grbic quickly turned into one of the world's best wing-spikers

Most of all, Volleyball has turned into a professional sport, with players devoting all of their time to it. The game in itself has changed quite dramatically; the physical side – something we may sum up by using one single word, power – is the main feature of modern Volleyball while in the past coaches and players were intensively working on the technical side. This development has, quite understandably, pros and cons. I would say that nowadays we are missing all-round players, athletes who can do a little bit of everything because they got the chance to learn the fundamentals of the sport and did work on that. I do miss the likes of such players especially when I see middle blockers playing for some of the best teams that can't even set the ball properly. Still, we have to accept that Volleyball – like any other sport – evolves with the times and every "era" has got its stars, i.e. players who do reflect the specific features of the sport in their own way.



Vladimir "Vanja" Grbic at the Centennial Games in Atlanta wearing the jersey of the then Yugoslavia; the team won bronze there, the first Olympic medal for their country since Volleyball debuted on the program in 1964

Since I do not want to see Volleyball turn into a factory that produces standardized players, I am convinced that we do need to work hard with children so that right by the time they take up the sport, they can learn its ABC properly. We do not need robots, or athletes who simply stand out for their physical skills, we do need to grow all-round players, who can display – when they take it to the court – the nicest side of Volleyball. In order to achieve this goal – that is, at the same time, an extremely important legacy for the future of our sport – we have to devote our time to the kids.

This is something that I have been doing for the last couple of years in my home country by leading a Beach Volleyball camp that did run in conjunction with the international tournament Serbia has hosted in Novi Sad.

Europe has got a great potential since Volleyball is already very popular and followed by thousands of fans. We do need to join our forces together and work hard – all together – to achieve a series of common goals.

If people question me about the most effective way to promote Volleyball, my first answer is always – more or less – the same. Let's get together a few great players, those that everyone knows by simply mentioning their name, and let them play with the children right before the start of any international competition. If the likes of Bernardi, Cantagalli, Zwerver, Zorzi, etc. are all coming together at the same time, and they are joined by hundreds of children wanting to learn more about the sport, we would definitely send a clear, strong and effective message to support the development and growth of Volleyball.

In this sense I am convinced that we shall take our lessons from the past. As I started playing Volleyball, though I was inducted by my father and could profit of his expertise and knowledge, I did also enjoy the advantages of a system set up by the Yugoslav authorities with the purpose to scout those who had the potential to turn, one day, into successful sportspeople. School sports teachers were the starting point of a selection process whereby the most talented and promising children were scouted and moved to the clubs and from there the best could eventually find their way to the national teams. It does not work the same nowadays as children can get into sport only if families invest some money to enrol their pupils into private schools where the status of their accounts is much more important than the quality of their tuition.



Throughout his career Grbic was always known for his fighting spirit and determination

Serbia still can compensate for this – and for the lack of financial resources – because our players feel extremely proud to play for their national team and to represent their home country on the international stage. As long as our players do show that devotion to the cause of their homeland, Serbia will remain a major force to be reckoned with in Volleyball as well as in many other sports. Yugoslavia has not just collapsed politically, but everything went down including the funds allocated to sport. Nowadays the resources invested by our government stand at 0.33% of their annual budget. Serbia does not have an Olympic training centre, i.e. a place where our national teams can prepare for their international campaigns. We do have conditions that we may define just sufficient but certainly not comparable to those that other countries – that are also leading the way in Volleyball – have set up for their national teams. Still our sport has contributed more success than any other and the Volleyball Federation of Serbia is seen as a real role model for any other institutional body in the country. You may wonder how this can be possible but our recipe is very clear: we have good leaders, and are like a family where everyone is working for one and the same goal. We also work on sustainability and on some innovative ideas that have regularly turned out to be very successful. We do respect all of our obligations as Serbia hosts international events but, at the same time, we try to be a little creative and do things our own way, thereby asserting our identity and peculiarity.

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Vanja's next mission: to get as many kids as possible "addicted" to Volleyball and Beach Volleyball via special clinics and master classes like the ones he organizes every year in Novi Sad

I have got a series of very ambitious projects for the future: our Beach Volleyball camp has been joined by about 3,000 children in the last couple of years and as we are extending our stops to more cities, this figure shall double up in 2013. Street volley is also a priority and my intention is to involve some 50 cities into this project; we work closely with the coaches that are responsible for U14 players,

to standardize their training techniques and make sure that they aren't simply responsible for bringing the ABC of Volleyball to our children, but that they develop into pedagogues. This means that the kids enjoy a positive and friendly atmosphere in their learning process of the sport while their coaches adopt similar methods to evaluate their progress and skills. Additionally, we have set short and long-term goals also for Beach Volleyball as we do want Serbia to progress also in this sport and be able, one day, to claim results that correspond to our current status in indoor.



Memories from the past: Vladimir Grbic, Italy's legendary setter Paolo Tofoli and the late Vigor Bovolenta – who prematurely passed away in 2012 – crossing their ways at the net during the semifinal match of the 1996 Olympic tournament in Atlanta

Volleyball is my life and I have tons of memories that I could share. The most memorable moment came in Sydney as Yugoslavia completed a terrific run all the way through to Olympic gold. This is something you can't compare to anything else. However, I do have fond memories also of the European Cups; I have won five European trophies in some 20 years of competitive Volleyball and what I really liked the most was the always special ambiance that did surround the European finals. One of the greatest matches I ever played was the Supercup final in 1997, where my side – Alpitour Traco CUNEO – eventually edged one of our toughest opponents and ach-rivals in Italy's national league, Casa MODENA Unibon. As for the European Championship, 1997 and 1999 weren't our years and I still can't be happy with some decisions made by the referees who had an impact on the final results. Finally our time came in 2001 as in Ostrava we backed up our Olympic gold by claiming the European Championship title too.



Though he also knew ups and downs throughout his career, including injuries, Grbic always remained loyal and fully committed to the sport

Some people say I am a good ambassador for Volleyball. If I had to advocate for the sport, I would have my own, good arguments. I do not want to repeat things that any motivational speaker may touch upon, but Volleyball is the best arena where children can become social-oriented, something that our community will be exploiting once they grow

up and turn into adults and mature citizens. There is no other sport that teaches you the importance of social skills – such as communication, tolerance, cooperation, and patience – like Volleyball does. In this sense Volleyball stands out more than basketball or even soccer.



A unique ambassador for the sport: Vladimir Grbic was one of the Volleyball stars who joined forces with CEV to support the innovative "Fair Play. Volleyball Way" campaign that was launched in late June 2013 within the frame of the European Volleyball Gala in Vienna

In order to be successful you do need the contribution of everyone, you just can't make it to the top all alone. At the same time, everything runs really fast in Volleyball and hence you need to combine those social skills with technique, genius and a little bit of creativity. There is no other sport where you can score in so many different ways like in Volleyball and where this happens so fast. We may see Volleyball as the sport that demands from the players a "fast intelligence", a quality that is required to make the best out of every situation.

I can easily demonstrate that these aren't theoretical assumptions: back in 1994 as Italy was playing for gold at the World Championships, Damiano Pippi joined the game with the only task to contribute a good passing and make sure his team would have scored that much wanted final point. He did so, he accomplished his mission, Italy beat the Netherlands and his contribution – though he just touched one, single ball – was as important as that of someone like Lorenzo Bernardi, who had been playing every single match and was the real superstar of his team. Pippi and Bernardi, though from very different perspectives, were instrumental in Italy's win. And this is what Volleyball stands out for and why it is so unique.

Vladimir Grbic

A short bio

Born in 1970 in Klek, Vladimir Grbic stands at 193 cm and played internationally for some 20 years. With the national team of Yugoslavia, Grbic won a gold medal in the 2000 Olympics in Sydney and a bronze medal in Atlanta 1996. The brother of setter Nikola, Vladimir won silver at the 1998 World Championship in Japan losing there the final match to Italy. Throughout his career Grbic claimed four medals at the European Championship (gold in 2001, silver in 1997, bronze in 1995 and 1999); his list of honors includes five trophies of the European Cups (he is a three-time winner of the CEV Cup, to be added to one title in the Supercup and a first place in the Cup Winners Cup) as well as a bronze medal from the 2002 World League finals in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. He was voted Yugoslavia's sportsman of the year in 1996 and 2000 and he received twice – in 1999 and 2000 – the Golden Badge, i.e. the award for the best athlete in Yugoslavia. Grbic – who retired from competitive Volleyball in the summer of 2009 at the age of 38 – was inducted into the Volleyball Hall of Fame in 2011. Grbic is currently a Vice President of the Volleyball Federation of Serbia and a member of the FIVB Development Commission.

• VOLLEYBALL MEANS EVERYTHING TO ME •



Gold has turned into a familiar taste for Piccinini during a career that got started in the early '90s

It may sound a little surprising but I started playing volleyball almost by coincidence. It could have gone a totally different way as initially I was actually interested in dancing. However, as many other little girls of my generation, I was attracted to volleyball by a Japanese anime series that was aired on TV and that was extremely popular in Italy throughout the late '80s. "Attacker You", that's its name in English, captured the imagination of many young girls and starting from that stimulus I decided to devote myself to this sport, wanting to become, one day, a volleyball star like the main character of the anime.

Volleyball has changed quite dramatically since these early days and the adoption of the so-called "rally point system" has certainly helped improve the appeal of the game. Volleyball is by far more spectacular, and at the same time the development of the game has become much faster.

Moreover, volleyball has turned into a more physical game: the physical preparation is somehow the quintessence of modern training. On the other hand, technology is also being extensively used to support the work of our coaches and a large amount of data are being processed to scout opponents as well as to improve on strengths and weaknesses of your team. Similarly to any other sport and to our society more in general, volleyball has also

turned into a very cosmopolite arena and environment where players from all over the world come together also in the national leagues. This wasn't the case when I started playing professionally, and that trend won't certainly stop in the near future as the world has transformed into a real "global village".



September 15, 2002: a date that Francesca and Italy's Volleyball family – here with FIPAV President Carlo Magri – will never forget as the Italian ladies beat USA to win gold at the 2002 FIVB World Championship in Berlin

Women's volleyball is in good health nowadays and the perspectives for the future are pretty good as well. The players of the youth and junior groups do already show great quality and potential, so this makes sure that in a few years another generation will be under the spotlight and help draw the attention of fans and media alike on our sport. However, we still need the contribution of the current stars; once you have made it to the top, you shall never stop wanting for more or rest on your laurels because this would inevitably affect the whole volleyball family.

I first got the opportunity to cross my ways with CEV back in 1996. I was only 17 at that time and played the European Supercup final in Ankara. It was actually a good start, as my team – Anthesis MODENA – seized the day by edging USC MÜNSTER of Germany in the final match.

I can say that I have somehow shared the past 16 years of my life with CEV, an institutional body that plays a key role in fostering and supporting the development of our sport. Though we can look back at the past few years with legitimate pride, I also see room for improvement. TV exposure is nowadays quintessential for any sport and even more crucial as we are being confronted with the



CEV President André Meyer awarding Francesca Piccinini with the trophy for the winners of the 2010 CEV Volleyball Champions League; the team captained by Piccinini, Volley BERGAMO, seized the day in Cannes edging Turkey's FenerbahçeAcibadem ISTANBUL in a dramatic final match

effects of a large-scale financial crisis. If we could guarantee more exposure on TV for volleyball, I am sure we could see immediate benefits coming out of this action.



A young – at that time she was only 23 – Francesca Piccinini in action at the 2002 FIVB World Championship in Germany

Shall elite volleyball be primarily put under the spotlight or shall CEV rather focus on development projects to make sure that our sport enjoys more appeal and popularity in areas or countries where volleyball still has to break through? As the Latin adagio says, I do believe that “in medio stat virtus”. This means that we shall go for actions that may eventually combine the fulfillment of these – only apparently contrasting – missions. We need to strengthen the cooperation and synergy among all parties, i.e. clubs, national federations and CEV to lay down the foundations for a bright future of our sport also in the decades to come. This way we will eventually compensate also for the gaps that separate the leading countries from those where volleyball is still confined into a small niche or struggling with the lack of human and financial resources.

Marketing and communication are nowadays quintessential to make sure that our sport will evolve with the times and draws the necessary attention from the young generations. Our starting point, let's say the starting point of every action for the good of volleyball, shall be the youth. Only as long as we guarantee they can progress technically, athletically, and personally, our sport will continue to grow and expand its horizons. However, this positive process may result only from the synergy that has



Italy's and Volleyball's beauty queen: Francesca Piccinini has become the cover girl of the sport in her native country and around the world as well

to mark the work performed by national federations, local institutions, and international governing bodies such as CEV.

But why shall our youngsters eventually opt for volleyball?

I am convinced that sport is the very best pre-condition for a healthy and happy life. Volleyball was, is and will always be “everything” for me. I just can't have enough of this sport and for this reason, even once I retire from competitive volleyball, it will remain part of my life. I still did not consider and do not want to think about the day I will stop playing, but I have some other ideas and projects that I want to turn into reality. Anyway, back to my fictional motivational speech for volleyball, I would say that this sport is extremely beneficial, not simply to our body, but also to our mind and social skills. And this is particularly true for teenagers as they have to develop sound social skills.

In order to play volleyball, you have to interact with others, understand their needs and develop a sense of cohesion, unity and mutual assistance similarly to what you would do with your own family members.

Francesca Piccinini

A short bio

Born in 1979, Italy's Francesca Piccinini is probably the most familiar face that even not every-day followers would associate with volleyball. She first debuted with Italy's national team in June 1995 as a sixteen-year old girl and eventually went on to represent her native country at 4 consecutive Olympics (2000, 2004, 2008 and 2012). She was a member of the team that won the gold medal at the 2002 World Championship in Germany. Piccinini is also a double European champion (2007 and 2009), and her personal list of honors with Italy's national team includes also the 2007 FIVB World Cup, the 2009 Grand Champions Cup, as well as two silver medals (2001 and 2005) from the European Champs. She is also one of a very few players with a complete collection from the European Cups, including 5 titles in the Champions Cup/CEV Volleyball Champions League, plus one edition of the CEV Cup, one Cup Winners Cup and the 1996 Supercup.

• BEACH VOLLEYBALL TOOK ME ON A VERY SPECIAL RIDE...•



Jonas Reckermann cooling down during a time-out

Beach Volleyball stands as synonym for holidays, wonderful locations, and fun. However, since its early days Beach Volleyball has turned into a fully professional sport whose players are known for expressing their emotions in their own special way as well as for showcasing unique technical skills and physical qualities. Beach Volleyball is nowadays one of the major highlights on the Olympic program and that definitely speaks for itself.

My personal "Beach Volleyball journey" got started some 13 years ago as I teamed up with David Klemperer, a guy I thought I was going to get along with and to have good perspectives with. As many of my fellow Beach Volleyball players, I first played indoors but gradually decided to switch to Beach Volleyball since I hoped that by opting for



this discipline one day I would have fulfilled my Olympic dream. It was indeed quite difficult to move up to the national team and Germany hadn't qualified for the Olympics since 1972. Beach Volleyball could disclose a precious opportunity for me to make this dream come true and 13 years later I am proud to state that I wasn't wrong at all.

The Olympics are the "sweetest" dream of every single athlete and I was ready to devote myself with determination and dedication to accomplish this mission. After switching to Beach Volleyball, I quickly crossed my ways with CEV. That same year (2000) I debuted on

A young Jonas Reckermann in action during the early days of his career

the international stage with my partner David Klemperer and we eventually seized gold at the U23 European Champs in Riccione, Italy. I still have vivid memories from those days and I remember we were very proud for having performed so well and taken the title as the tournament featured a few guys – like Norway's Iver Andreas Horrem or Portugal's Hugo Gaspar and José Pedrosa – who had already participated in tournaments included on the program of the FIVB World Tour. It was a very nice experience, we were all very young and by that time – though I had set the highest goals – I could hardly imagine that this journey would have taken me that far.



Timmendorfer Strand 2004: Jonas Reckermann – together with partner Markus Dieckmann – celebrating his second European gold; the podium was completed by Switzerland's Sascha Heyer and Markus Egger (silver, left) and Stefan Kobel/Patrick Heuscher, another Swiss duo that won bronze

Only two years later and after teaming up with Markus Dieckmann, I was crowned European champion in Basel. That was the first of four gold medals spanning through 10 years and that was another special day. We played the final match against Paul and Martin Laciga, who were coming from a hat-trick in the previous years and were playing at home, in Basel, so our win was eventually quite a major sensation. I could not ask for more especially as this was my very first appearance at the European Championship. Two years later, in 2004, once again together with Markus Dieckmann, I could celebrate my second European accolade, this time surrounded by our fans and supporters at Timmendorfer Strand, Germany's Beach Volleyball "Mecca". After some ups and downs, two more continental crowns followed in 2011 and 2012, this time partnering Julius Brink. The last victory was also quite emotional, especially since I was coming back after

suffering a shoulder injury that had affected our training but that result looked like the best way to start our quest for Olympic gold in London later that summer.



Winning gold at the 2012 European Championship in The Hague was something special for Reckermann as he had just got back in action after recovering from injury

Beach Volleyball has definitely gone a long way since those days where I started competing and I can only state that the quality and professionalism surrounding major international events have literally sky-rocketed. However, I still see room for improvement. You know, though it sounds like a mission impossible, every sport shall try to get where soccer stands. And if Beach Volleyball is not yet there – though it may sound a bit extreme – that means there are still quite many things we can improve on. I think players would love to have a professional tour all year round, similarly to what tennis does. Of course, you may have some breaks, but this would help especially in Europe where the season is relatively short due to weather and climate constraints.



Jonas Reckermann playing with the sand, the element he got to like the most after completing his switch to Beach Volleyball

On the other hand, the sport has tremendously developed also in Europe since I first debuted on the international arena. The European Tour has achieved remarkable standards and I have been always very happy to join the European Championship Final. This event has turned into a major highlight of the Beach Volleyball season, something the best pairs out there do not want to miss.

I understand, nevertheless, that it is not that easy to find the right time slots for major events as the World Tour is taking quite many weekends and the single national federations are sometimes also setting up their own circuit. However, I have the impression that more synergy and cohesion are to be felt around Beach Volleyball and among the various bodies responsible for its promotion and development at international, continental and national level. By joining forces and sharing a common vision I am convinced that we may finally work out a calendar that will be fulfilling the expectations and wishes of the players, who – after all – just want to play more and to compete where the best pairs are in action.



On a rainy Sunday in Kristiansand, Norway, Jonas Reckermann won his third European title, and the first out of two consecutive crowns together with Julius Brink

Germany, for instance, is a country where Beach Volleyball has known a massive development in the past ten years but I am convinced that results do not come just by chance. I always wanted – with all the guys I have teamed up throughout my competitive career – to join at least one or more stops of the national tour. I never missed the national championship and we even dropped some Grand Slams from our schedule to be there. I have some good reasons for a choice that may sound a little unconventional. If you want to guarantee a legacy for the sport, if you wish the next generations to be as good and competitive as your current stars, these definitely have to show up “at their home” and provide up-and-coming players with an opportunity to see where they stand and to learn. You may see it as a kind of social responsibility towards the country where you were born and you come from, but this is just the best way to make sure your sport will continue to grow also in the years to come.



Jonas Reckermann and Julius Brink turned into Europe's first duo to win gold at the Beach Volleyball World Championship as they did so in Stavanger in 2009

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Back to Europe and CEV – I know the Confederation is celebrating its 40th anniversary though Beach Volleyball is still a little younger – I personally liked the idea and concept introduced a couple of years ago to have indoor tournaments during the winter season. This definitely compensates for the lack of competitions players have to deal with and I think it would be interesting to investigate the possibility to set up a circuit, a sort of “Winter Series”, including four or five stops and whereby the players could compete and get ready for the summer season. If you choose nice locations – that may be a large and trafficked railway station or other cool places – I am sure that we could easily draw the attention of media and sponsors; the best teams would be also interested in competing and finally we would get a product whose marketability is not to be questioned. We would make players happy, attract sponsors and guarantee additional exposure to our sport in Europe. That's enough to start with.



Hard work and dedication: these were the key to success for Jonas Reckermann

But what does it take to make it to the top? Well, after teaming up with Julius Brink in 2008, we knew the potential for great results was there but also that we had to

work hard to achieve the goals we had set. The memorable days we had in Stavanger and London – as we turned into the first Europeans to win world and Olympic gold – are the result of a long-term strategy. Brazil and the USA were the major forces to be reckoned with and we were able to scout and learn their strengths. However, you will never make it to the real elite as long as you do not explore other ways or you find your own way to do things. We have experimented a lot; we have studied and focused on the technical and tactical side of the game to stand the physical supremacy of other teams. Of course, you need a little bit of luck in the end and I know we could count on it also in London. But success does not come from nowhere. It takes time to see results but I can only say that we were paid back for all of our efforts. The World Championship title we claimed in 2009 was probably even more difficult than our Olympic campaign at Horse Guards Parade. You've got more teams there, especially from those nations that have more than just two pairs capable of making it all the way through up to the final match. However, the Olympics stand apart. It is not just about your sport as the whole world comes together – in one place – for a couple of weeks and there is no other Championship or tournament where you get to feel such chills down your spine.



The absolute climax of an outstanding career: Jonas Reckermann standing on top of the Olympic podium at London 2012 together with partner Julius Brink, silver medalists Emanuel Rego and Alison Cerutti of Brazil (left) and bronze medal winners Janis Smedins and Martins Plavins of Latvia

Starting from my Olympic experience and the long qualification process we went through before London 2012, a couple of ideas are coming to my mind. I am sure that my fellow players would be very happy and proud if they could get the opportunity – similarly to what happened with the Continental Cup – to play for their country and represent the likes of their nation. I always thought that we shall learn from tennis where the Davis Cup has got a long tradition and where you

see that the players just love that spirit of solidarity and community they get to feel for they join forces to carry the hopes of their nation. We may hence study the opportunity to introduce a Beach Volleyball "Team European Championship" that may be scheduled for the winter season as there is already a very tight schedule for the summer months. This is an idea that Europe may well exploit so as to act as fore-runner also on the international stage and that may be then replicated also by other Continental Confederations.



Julius Brink and Jonas Reckermann portrayed at the end of the thrilling gold medal match they won at Horse Guards Parade, the iconic venue of the 2012 Olympic Beach Volleyball tournament

Though I recently retired from competitive sport due to injury, I still feel happy because I could accomplish the goals I had set by the time I had embarked on this adventure. I could stop playing by the time I was standing on top of the world and hence I can't have any regrets. Still I would like to share my experience and knowledge of the sport to make sure Beach Volleyball continues to progress and develop, also in those nations where this discipline is not yet much popular. I have got a few projects ahead and I am very much looking forward to my "second life". I am open and ready to try out different things, the sole exception probably being a career in Beach Volleyball refereeing!

Time passes by very quickly and this year the Beach Volleyball European Championship will also celebrate a special anniversary, i.e. 20 years since the very first edition was held in Almeria in 1993. Beach Volleyball has since gone a very long way and credit has to be given to CEV for its role in fostering this development. A positive trend that I am sure won't stop in the years to come as this discipline, its emotions and unique ambiance will captivate and entertain more and more fans!

Jonas Reckermann

A short bio

Born in 1979 in Rheine, Germany, Jonas Reckermann – together with partner Julius Brink – is the first, and to date only, European duo to win Olympic gold in Beach Volleyball – male or female competition. In addition to that they also were the first European team ever to win a world championship title in 2009. Along the way to their World Championship title in Stavanger, Brink and Reckermann beat 2008 Olympic gold medalists Todd Rogers/Phil Dalhausser in the semis and Brazil's Harley/Alison in the final. At London 2012 Reckermann and Brink edged triple European champions Nummerdor/Schuil (NED) in the semis and reigning world champions Emanuel/Alison in the gold medal match played in the iconic venue of Horse Guards Parade.

Reckermann represented his native country at the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens where he finished in ninth place with his partner Markus Dieckmann. He is a four-time European champion, twice with Dieckmann (2002 and 2004) and twice with Brink (2011 and 2012).

Reckermann announced his retirement from competition after the 2012 season due to injury.

• BEACH VOLLEYBALL: FROM PIONEERS TO KINGS AND QUEENS OF THE SUMMER! •

The early days...

The origins of Beach Volleyball are somewhat debated. Some claim that it was played on the beaches of Hawaii as early as 1915; some cite Santa Monica, California as the birth place of the sport. In the end, most can agree that while the Waikiki Outrigger Beach and Canoe Club did host the first recorded Volleyball match played on a beach, the sport as it is known today evolved on the southern California coast.

Volleyball was brought to the beaches of Hawaii by a group called the Outrigger Beach and Canoe Club, founded in 1908 by a small group of Honolulu businessmen who wanted to foster and promote the growth of traditional Hawaiian sports, especially surfing. But when the wave conditions were less than ideal, the club members found themselves stranded on the beach with nothing to do. That problem would be solved by a man named George David Center.



Outrigger Canoe Club, Honolulu, Hawaii – the birthplace of Beach Volleyball

During one particularly bad wave pattern in the early 1915's, Center left the club and soon returned with a couple of volleyballs and a net. He quickly set up the net on the beach in front of the club, thereby constructing the very first Beach Volleyball court in Waikiki.

A new pastime was born. Volleyball fever soon spread quickly among surfers and beach goers.

The early games played on the beaches of Waikiki bear little resemblance to the modern version of the sport: there were few rules, no limit on the number of players allowed on the court, and players did not jump or attack the ball. The game did not transition from this more leisurely activity into a more structured, competitive sport until it hit the shores of California.

Volleyball was moderately popular throughout California during the early 20th century. As the sport continued to spread, outdoor parks and playgrounds became increasingly popular venues because of the game's simple equipment and easy adaptability. The beach was simply the next logical progression.

The most significant event in the history of Beach Volleyball actually had little to do with the sport and more with a simple construction project along the California coast. In 1920, the city of Santa Monica built new jetties that transformed the rugged shore into a flat smooth surface. Their construction created an ideal space for a permanent Beach Volleyball court, thus planting the seed for Beach Volleyball development in the region.

Public courts first appeared in Santa Monica in 1922. The advent of public sand courts took the game out of the private beach clubs where it had previously been confined and brought Beach Volleyball to the masses. College students and families were the most frequent patrons of these Volleyball hotspots.

The most significant refinements to the game were hence implemented on the shores of Santa Monica, but the man responsible for some of the earliest modifications to Beach Volleyball was actually from Hawaii. Duke Kahanamoku, a native of Waikiki and a five-time Olympic medalist in swimming, was a brilliant athlete who had moved to the mainland in 1930 to take a position as the Athletic Director at Santa Monica's Beach Club. He had exceptional athletic abilities and used his strength to showcase a common indoor Volleyball skill on the beach for the first time: the spike. The game instantly transitioned from leisurely activity into rugged sport.



Early Beach Volleyball players in the mid '30s

The sport began as a form of family fun at the beach – with families playing 6 vs. 6 – and it soon spread around the world via its wide appeal and low costs. While the first two-man Beach Volleyball game was played in Santa Monica, California, by the early 1930s Beach Volleyball had made its appearance in Riga, Sofia, and Prague, i.e. the capital cities of Latvia, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia. Beach Volleyball mostly spread to Europe in conjunction with World War II, as soldiers used the sport as a way to relieve stress and keep fit. Europeans took a liking to the game, and soon the sport was a staple on beaches across Europe.

Growth of the game

The sport was given a boost during the Great Depression as cash-strapped Americans flocked to the beaches to play a no-cost pastime and a free source of entertainment. By this time 4 vs. 4 and 3 vs. 3 games were played.

The first official two-man Beach Volleyball tournament was held in 1947 at State Beach in California. One year later another tournament was held in Los Angeles and the best teams were awarded with a case of Pepsi as the winners' prize! By the 1950s open tournaments were being held at five beaches in California (Santa Barbara, State, Corona del Mar, Laguna, and San Diego) with beauty contests and other forms of entertainment included on the official program. By this time a first Beach Volleyball tournament took place also in Brazil, sponsored by a publishing company.



Gene Selznick – who proclaimed himself the first “King of the Beach” – was among those who changed Beach Volleyball into a well-organized competitive sport (Photo Kevin Goff/BVB Info)

Beach Volleyball pioneers Bernie Holtzman and Gene Selznick claimed in 1957 an event that featured Greta Tyson as “Queen of the Beach”. This marked the beginning of the “Beachmania”, as Beach Volleyball was seen as much more than a game and gradually turned into a real show.

Though California remained the real home of this game, the sport started to grow also elsewhere and it wasn't long before sponsors came forward to take advantage of its popularity. In France, the winners of 3 vs. 3 games could earn about 30,000 Francs in tournament held in La Baule and Les Sables d'Olonne.

In the early '60s open tournaments were being held at eight beaches in California as Manhattan, Tahoe and Santa Cruz were added to the program. The California Beach Volleyball Association was founded in 1965 and the organizers of the various tournaments started having meetings to coordinate the schedule of their respective events and define the rules of the game. By the 1970s a fully-fledged professional Beach Volleyball tour was organized; Winston Cigarettes was the first commercial company to sponsor a tournament, which took place in San Diego, California, in 1974. A total of \$1,500 in prize money was offered with Dennis Hare and Fred Zeulich winning the event.

California plays host to first professional circuit

In 1976, i.e. by the time the Olympics were taking place in Montreal, Canada, 30,000 spectators gathered for the so-called Olympia Championship of Beach Volleyball at Will Rogers State Beach, with the duo composed of Jim Menges and Greg Lee topping the final charts of that competition where \$5,000 were at stake. That same year Event Concepts was founded in order to expand and promote the tour and in 1979 tournaments were held in four states (California, Hawaii, Colorado, and Nevada).

In 1978 Mexican tequila brand Jose Cuervo turned into the sports' first major sponsor and via this partnership the prize money for the major USA event doubled to \$10,000.

The first sponsored tour got started in the US in 1980 with seven events on the calendar, stopping in San Diego, Santa Barbara, Laguna, Manhattan Beach, and rounded out by The King of the Beach and the World Championships. The Miller Brewing Company joined the tour as major sponsor in 1981 and a year later the tour – with \$69,000 total prize money – became national via the addition of a stop in Florida.

The Association of Volleyball Professionals (AVP) was founded on July 21, 1983, as an official players association to negotiate with private tournament promoters. One of the earliest tour sponsors was Miller beer and play involved a double-elimination format, with select tournaments still sponsored by Jose Cuervo tequila. Only men were allowed to compete on the tour in the early days. The inaugural AVP Tour in 1984 stopped in seven states (i.e. California, Florida, New York, Colorado, Illinois, Arizona and Hawaii) for a total of 25 events.



Manhattan Beach, California, was one of the “coolest” places where the AVP Tour regularly stopped in the early ‘80s

Beach Volleyball did not stop its impressive development and in 1985, as Bolle Sunglasses joined the tour as major sponsor, the total prize money reached \$275,000. One year later the AVP Tour received cable television coverage via “Prime Ticket” and Beach Volleyball could make its debut on the network owned by ABC.

The “Beachmania” and the inaugural World Series

1986 is nevertheless a turning point for a much more important reason: the sport was eventually recognized by the FIVB (Fédération Internationale de Volleyball) while the first international Beach Volleyball exhibition was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, with about 5,000 spectators in attendance.

By this time Brazilian Volleyball standouts like Renan, Badá, Montanaro, William, Jackie Silva, Isabel Salgado, Vera Mossa, and Regina Uchoa, along with 1984 Olympic Volleyball champion, Pat Powers, and the “King of the Beach” Sinjin Smith became the leading figures in the world-wide growth of the sport.



A panoramic view of the stadium set up for the Beach Volleyball World Series in Rio de Janeiro, 1986

The first Beach Volleyball tournament officially sanctioned by the FIVB was held in 1987 at Ipanema Beach, Rio de Janeiro, with \$22,000 in prize money and the US American pair composed by Sinjin Smith and Randy Stoklos winning the event, while the first international circuit – then named World Series – followed in 1990. The tour included stops in Brazil, Italy and Japan, offering \$140,000 in prize money, and the Brazilian event sold out with thousands of people outside the stadium wanting to get in. Smith and Stoklos extended their supremacy by winning the tour.

Still their dominance was going to be questioned soon as Karch Kiraly – after winning two Olympic gold medals with Team USA in 1984 and 1988 and playing professionally in Italy – decided to turn to the beach full time and already in 1989 had claimed four events of the AVP tour teaming up with Brent Frohoff.

After another successful edition of the FIVB Beach Volleyball World Series that stopped in France, Italy, Japan and Brazil, the first FIVB Beach Volleyball World Council gathered in September 1991 in Lausanne to determine the program for the following year. In 1992 the Series offered \$950,000 in prize money for a total of six events. In the meantime, on the other side of the world, Kiraly and his partner Kent Steffes dominated the AVP Tour by claiming 16 out of 19 events including 13 in a row.

That same year, as the Olympic Games were being held in Barcelona, Beach Volleyball was played as a demonstration sport in Almeria, with more than 100 players from five continents. These days will remain in history as the very first women’s Beach Volleyball competition sanctioned by the FIVB was held there as well through August 5-12, with USA Karolyn Kirby and Nancy Reno that were crowned the first though unofficial World Champions.

Beach Volleyball goes Olympia...

The FIVB had pushed for the inclusion of Beach Volleyball as a demonstration sport at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona. It was received very well, and shortly after the Games the International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced that the sport would be a part of the program for the 1996 Centennial Games in Atlanta. The announcement was made on September 21, 1993: twenty-four men’s teams and eighteen women’s teams were set to compete for the first Beach Volleyball Olympic tournament. The AVP’s popularity, in coordination with its broadcast partner NBC that was set to air the games, helped push Beach Volleyball into the Olympics.

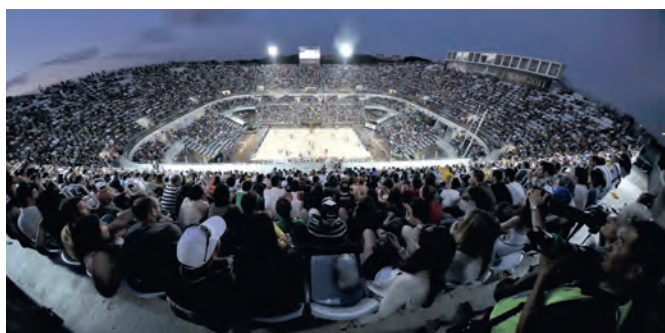
The first Olympic Beach Volleyball competition took place from July 23 to 28 in Atlanta Beach, in a 10,000-seat stadium. Twenty-four men’s teams and eighteen women’s teams competed there for Olympic glory as more than 107,000 spectators attended the event.



Karch Kiraly and Kent Steffes (USA) were the ones to seal the first ever men's Beach Volleyball Olympic gold medal at the Atlanta 1996 Games

AVP teams dominated the men's competition with a gold and silver medal sweep. Karch Kiraly and Kent Steffes took home the gold as Kiraly became a three-time gold medalist and the first indoor and outdoor Olympic champion in Volleyball. Mike Dodd and Mike Whitmarsh claimed the silver medal while Canada's John Child and Mark Heese out-dueled Sinjin Smith and Carl Henkel for the bronze medal to prevent an all American podium.

In the women's competition, Brazil dominated with Jackie Silva and Sandra Pires beating fellow countrywomen Mônica Rodrigues and Adriana Samuel for the gold medal. Australia's Natalie Cook and Kerri-Ann Pottharst won the bronze.



The Foro Italico in Rome, the iconic venue that hosted the 2011 FIVB Beach Volleyball World Championships

Though there had been ten unofficial championships before (all held in Rio de Janeiro), the first official FIVB Beach Volleyball World Championships were held in 1997 in Los Angeles, California.

Brazil and the USA swept all medals at stake with Rogerio Ferreira/Guilherme Marques and Sandra Pires/Jackie Silva topping the charts. Since those days the World Champs have been held every two years stopping in Marseille, Klagenfurt, Rio de Janeiro, Berlin, Gstaad, Stavanger and Rome, Stare Jablonki and the next edition coming up in 2015 in The Hague.

Beach Volleyball booms in Europe

In 1993 the Beach Volleyball Commission previously established by the CEV was pleased to announce the start of the very first European circuit due to begin in the city of Almeria, Spain.

The inaugural European Beach Volleyball Championship was held there in 1993 with France's Jean-Philippe Jodard and Christian Penigaud surprisingly edging pre-favorite Jan Kvalheim/Bjorn Maaseide of Norway in the final match. The competition – open exclusively to men – did see Italy claim bronze via the duo Andrea Ghiurghi/Dionisio Lequaglie.

A year later – as Almeria played once more host to the Championship – Kvalheim and Maaseide got their revenge and came out on top of the standings cruising past local heroes Javier Bosma and Santiago Aguilera. That same year the women also got their first Championship that was held in Espinho, Portugal, with Beate Bühler and Danja Müsch topping the charts for what was the first of 4 more gold medals to follow in the next couple of decades for Germany.



Beach Volleyball pioneers Dutchmen Marko Klok (left) and Michiel van der Kuip were the winners of the 1995 edition of the Beach Volleyball European Championship held in Saint-Quay-Portrieux, France

The European Championship has been held annually since 1993 and starting from 1995 it turned into a combined event for men and women preceded by a European tour with a changing number of tournaments and impressive figures when it comes to the prize money allocated for the various events.

Germany is the most decorated nation in the history of the Championship with 5 gold medals per gender; Jonas Reckermann has claimed the European crown four times though with two different partners (in 2002 and 2004 pairing Markus Dieckmann, while in 2011 and 2012 he joined forces with Julius Brink) adding to his personal tally also a silver and a bronze medal in 2003 and 2005.



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In an effort to expand the horizons of the sport, the 2005 edition of the European Championship Final was held in Moscow, Russia where Beach Volleyball was still far from its current popularity

Swiss brothers Martin and Paul Laciga claimed the top spot of the podium for three consecutive years (1998-2000) to follow up with two silver medals in 2001 and 2002. Quite a similar feat was achieved in more recent times by Dutchmen Reinder Nummerdor and Richard Schuil who also went for a hat-trick in 2008-2010, adding to their collection a silver medal in 2007 and a bronze in 2011.



Reinder Nummerdor and Richard Schuil completed a successful switch from indoor to Beach Volleyball thereby winning three consecutive European titles from 2008 through 2010

Italy's Annamaria Solazzi and Laura Bruschini dominated the scene in the women's Champs through the late '90s and early 2000s and remain – as of 2012 – the sole pair that has seized the title three times (1997, 1999 and 2000). Greece's Vassiliki Karadassiou is also a triple European champion (2001, 2005 and 2007) though with different partners, including twice with Vassiliki Arvaniti.

Players from 14 different countries have medaled since the establishment of the Championship, thereby showing the appeal of Beach Volleyball also in some nations where indoor did not contribute any major international success.



Beach Volleyball at its very best: in August 2013 Klagenfurt, the real "Mecca" of the sport, played host to the XX edition of the European Championship

The XX edition of the European Championship – quite a significant anniversary for Beach Volleyball and the CEV – was held in the real "Mecca" of this sport, the Austrian city of Klagenfurt, the venue of major international events for sixteen years, where more than 100'000 fans were in attendance throughout the six days of the competition.

Age-group Champs and other grassroots activities

In 1996 the CEV organized the very first event for the U20 category in Jurmala (Latvia) with pairs from Latvia and Estonia finishing first in the men's and women's competition respectively. The introduction of age group Championships for the U23 and U18 category followed in 1998 and 2002 with Schinias (Greece) and Illichivsk (Ukraine) playing host to the inaugural edition. This action resulted from the recommendation issued by the European Beach Volleyball Commission to foster and support the development of the sport at grassroots. Curiously – especially by taking into account what followed in recent years – these competitions did really fulfill the goal to contribute a useful platform for up-and-coming players to test out their skills and strengths before embarking on a professional career. Jonas Reckermann – who went on to win the 2009 World Championship in Stavanger and become the first European, together with partner Julius Brink, to claim Olympic gold – did indeed win the 2000 U23 European Champs teaming up with David Klemperer, who also turned into a major force to be reckoned with later on.

Actually the very first editions of the various age-group Championships could be rather labeled as "cups" but still – since only a very few changes were introduced in the regulations and admission procedures for the following editions – they still may be classified as fully-fledged



The various age-group Championships organized by CEV have turned into the perfect platform where up-and-coming players can test their likes and start their quest for a career in the sport

Championships. Since their introduction all of these events have been run annually with the only exception being the 2001 U20 and 2002 U23 Champs that did not take place as no organizer could be found. The age-group Championships are seen as development competitions and hence no prize money is being awarded though the first four editions of the U23 tournament allocated 10,000 CHF.

In 2009, as per decision of the FIVB Executive Committee, all international Challenger and Satellite tournaments were placed under the jurisdiction of the Continental Confederations. This measure aimed at increasing the popularity and promotion of Beach Volleyball through a different kind of tournaments and creating a series of grassroots events likely to contribute to a further development of the sport.



Novi Sad, Serbia, could welcome in 2009 the inaugural edition of a CEV Challenger tournament that has since being upgraded to a Masters event

The CEV did immediately exploit this opportunity and that same year a series of events were held in seven different countries (namely Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Liechtenstein, Serbia, Switzerland, and Spain). This positive trend continued also in the following seasons and in 2013 the CEV Board decided to standardize the official

denomination of such tournaments which were due to be played solely as "Satellites". In early January 2011 another piece of history was written as the Dutch city of Aalsmeer played host to the very first indoor Satellite tournament that did distribute FIVB ranking points, an experience that was repeated in 2012 and emulated in February 2011 by the Russian city of Anapa.

In 2010, similarly to all other Continental Confederations, the CEV joined forces with the FIVB to stage – through various phases that were completed in June 2012 – the inaugural edition of the Beach Volleyball Continental Cup, a competition added to the international calendar specifically conceived to involve as many countries as possible in the qualification process for the 2012 London Olympics. 32 and 31 national federations registered in Europe for the women's and men's competition that unfolded through four steps – Sub Zonal, Zonal, Semifinal and Final phase – with the country eventually coming out on top – Russia (women) and Norway (men) – that qualified one pair for the Olympic tournament played in the iconic venue of Horse Guards Parade.



Norway's men won the inaugural edition of the CEV Beach Volleyball Continental Cup whose finals were held in Alanya, Turkey, thereby qualifying a duo for the Olympic tournament at London 2012 (from left to right: Geir Eithun, Iver Andreas Horrer, Martin Spinnangr and Tarjei Skarlund)

The Continental Cup allowed more countries to play and try to qualify for the Olympic Games, spreading a real Beach Volleyball fever worldwide as teams embarked on a quest to fulfill their Olympic dream.

Brink/Reckermann end Brazilian and US American supremacy with world and Olympic gold

Though Germany's Axel Hager and Jörg Ahmann had claimed bronze in what was the second Olympic appearance for Beach Volleyball at the 2000 Games in Sydney and two more medals had followed in 2004 with Spain's Javier Bosma/Pablo Herrera (silver) and Stefan Kobel/Patrick Heuscher of Switzerland (bronze), teams from Brazil and the USA could impose their supremacy on the international scene up to the late 2000s.



Three years before they crown their career by winning Olympic gold at London 2012, Germany's Julius Brink and Jonas Reckermann wrote history as they claimed the world title – the first European pair to do so – at Stavanger 2009

Things changed quite dramatically as Julius Brink and Jonas Reckermann teamed up to sky-rocket to the international elite. They first claimed gold at the 2009 FIVB Beach Volleyball World Championships in Stavanger and then could overcome injuries to crown their Olympic dream at Horse Guards Parade in London. The double European champion could end the Brazilian and US American dominance in front of a sold-out stadium as they edged the 2011 world champions Emanuel Rego and Alison Cerutti (BRA) at the end of a dramatic final match. Another confirmation of Europe's increasing competitiveness in the sport was contributed by Latvian heroes Martins Plavins and Janis Smedins who seized bronze at London 2012 after besting the triple European champions and Dutch evergreens, Reinder Nummerdor and Richard Schuil.

Beach Volleyball jargon

Cut shot: a soft shot disguised and played at the very last minute, which drops close to the net and the sideline.

Dink or "pokey": played using the fingertips or knuckles, it can be a soft shot which lands just over the opponents block or a deep shot into space at the back of the court.

Faking: when backcourt players (defense players) show they are going one way but at the last minute they change direction.

Hubby & Wife: when a serve is directed straight down the middle between the two players, in the hope that indecision causes both opposing players to leave it. Often results in an ace serve.

Loop: a disguised shot played at the last minute. It is a high "looping" shot landing deep towards the back of the court over the top of the defender.

Roof: a blocking term for when the blocker connects perfectly with the opposition's spike and sends the ball directly to the opposition's feet with no chance of recovery.

Shank: when a forearm pass or a dig goes badly wrong and the ball ends up in the crowd rather than towards your partner.
















Skyball: an extremely high serve that is difficult to pass because of the sun and movement of the ball in the wind.

Volley: a shot played above the head with two hands. On the beach, this shot has to be played perfectly or you automatically lose the point/rally. A perfect volley will usually result in the ball flying through the air without spinning. Both hands have to play the ball simultaneously and the actual contact time of the ball on the player's hands must be exceptionally quick.


















• BEACH VOLLEYBALL - LIST OF HONOURS •

Olympic Games – Men's Beach Volleyball

Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1996	Atlanta (USA)	Kiraly/Steffes (USA) 	Dodd/Whitmarsh (USA) 	Child/Heese (CAN) 
2000	Sydney (AUS)	Blanton/Fonoimoana (USA) 	de Melo/Santos (BRA) 	Hager/Ahmann (GER) 
2004	Athens (GRE)	Santos/Rego (BRA) 	Bosma/Herrera (ESP) 	Kobel/Heuscher (SUI) 
2008	Beijing (CHN)	Dalhausser/Rogers (USA) 	Fabio Luiz/Araújo (BRA) 	Santos/Rego (BRA) 
2012	London (GBR)	Brink/Reckermann (GER) 	Cerutti/Rego (BRA) 	Plavins/Smedins (LAT) 





























Olympic Games – Women's Beach Volleyball

Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1996	Atlanta (USA)	Silva/Pires (BRA) 	Samuel/Rodrigues (BRA) 	Cook/Pottharst (AUS) 
2000	Sydney (AUS)	Cook/Pottharst (AUS) 	Behar/Bede (BRA) 	Samuel/Pires (BRA) 
2004	Athens (GRE)	Walsh/May (USA) 	Behar/Bede (BRA) 	McPeak/Youngs (USA) 
2008	Beijing (CHN)	Walsh/May-Treanor (USA) 	Tian/Wang (CHN) 	Xue/Zhang (CHN) 
2012	London (GBR)	Walsh Jennings/May-Treanor (USA) 	Ross/Kessy (USA) 	Felisberta Silva/França (BRA) 





































FIVB Men's Beach Volleyball World Championship

Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1997	Los Angeles (USA)	Ferreira/Marques (BRA) 	Ceman/Whitmarsh (USA) 	Blanton/Steffes (USA) & Moreira/Silva (BRA) 
1999	Marseille (FRA)	Loiola/Rego (BRA) 	M. Laciga/P. Laciga (SUI) 	Ferreira/Marques (BRA) 
2001	Klagenfurt (AUT)	Baracetti/Conde (ARG) 	Loiola/Santos (BRA) 	Hoidalen/Kjemperud (NOR) 
2003	Rio de Janeiro (BRA)	Rego/Santos (BRA) 	Holdren/Metzger (USA) 	Araújo/Insfran (BRA) 
2005	Berlin (GER)	Araújo/Magalhães (BRA) 	Heyer/P. Laciga (SUI) 	Brink/Schneider (GER) 
2007	Gstaad (SUI)	Dalhausser/Rogers (USA) 	Barsouk/Kolodinsky (RUS) 	Schacht/Slack (AUS) 
2009	Stavanger (NOR)	Brink/Reckermann (GER) 	Marques Silva/Cerutti (BRA) 	Rogers/Dalhausser (USA) 
2011	Rome (ITA)	Rego/Cerutti (BRA) 	Santos/Araújo (BRA) 	Brink/Reckermann (GER) 
2013	Stare Jablonki (POL)	Brouwer/Meeuwssen (NED) 	Santos/Alvaro Filho (BRA) 	Erdmann/Matysik (GER) 





































FIVB Women's Beach Volleyball World Championship

Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1997	Los Angeles (USA)	Pires/Silva (BRA) 	Arce/McPeak (USA) 	Bede/Behar (BRA) & Kirby/Reno (USA)  
1999	Marseille (FRA)	Bede/Behar (BRA) 	Davis/Johnson Jordan (USA) 	Masakayan/Youngs (USA) 
2001	Klagenfurt (AUT)	Bede/Behar (BRA) 	Minello/Pires (BRA) 	Celbova/Novakova (CZE) 
2003	Rio de Janeiro (BRA)	May-Treanor/Walsh (USA) 	Bede/Behar (BRA) 	Cook/Sanderson (AUS) 
2005	Berlin (GER)	May-Treanor/Walsh (USA) 	Felisberta Silva/França (BRA) 	Tian/Wang (CHN) 
2007	Gstaad (SUI)	May-Treanor/Walsh (USA) 	Tian/Wang (CHN) 	Felisberta Silva/França (BRA) 
2009	Stavanger (NOR)	Ross/Kessy (USA) 	Felisberta Silva/França (BRA) 	Antunes/Antonelli (BRA) 
2011	Rome (ITA)	Felisberta Silva/França (BRA) 	May-Treanor/Walsh (USA) 	Xue/Zhang (CHN) 
2013	Stare Jablonki (POL)	Xue/Zhang (CHN) 	Borger/Büthe (GER) 	Maestrini/Seixas (BRA) 








FIVB Boys' U19 Beach Volleyball World Championship

Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
2002	Xylokastro (GRE)	Borges/Salgado (BRA) 	Gkortsaniouk/Papadimitriou (GRE) 	Dayanov/Koshkarev (RUS) 
2003	Pattaya (THA)	Fuchs/Kaczmarek (GER) 	Borges/Salgado (BRA) 	Sinczak/Szternel (POL) 
2004	Termoli (ITA)	Kirsnyš/Miseikis (LTU) 	Bartman/Kubiak (POL) 	Ivanovs/Smedins J. (LAT) 
2005	Saint-Quay-Portrieux (FRA)	Urnaut/Zemljak (SLO) 	Dykstra/van Zwieten (USA) 	Fijalek/Matyja (POL) 
2006	Horseshoe Bay (BER)	Erdmann/Klass (GER) 	Nicolai/Giontella (ITA) 	Ingrosso M./Ingrosso P. (ITA) 
2007	Myslowice (POL)	Kadziola/Szalankiewicz (POL) 	Kohler/Stiel (GER) 	Didukh/Ostapenko (UKR) 
2008	The Hague (NED)	Kollo/Venno (EST) 	Carlson/Ciarelli (USA) 	Leznicki/Wojtasik (POL) 
2009	Alanya (TUR)	Popov/Samoday (UKR) 	Bolgov/Bykanov (RUS) 	Medina/Menendez (ESP) 
2010	Porto (POR)	Kantor/Losiak (POL) 	Anufriev/Kucherenko (RUS) 	Schumann/Stork (GER) 
2011	Umag (CRO)	Kaczmarek/Kosiak (POL) 	Sannarnes/Takvam (NOR) 	O'Gorman/Nusbaum (CAN) 
2012	Larnaca (CYP)	Bryl/Kujawiak (POL) 	Kaczmarek/Kaczmarek (POL) 	Uraikin/Kirienko (RUS) 
2013	Porto (POR)	Winkler/Reichert (GER) 	Huus/Sørum (NOR) 	DeFalco/Yoder (USA) 






































FIVB Girls' U19 Beach Volleyball World Championship

Year	Host	Gold		Silver		Bronze	
2002	Xylokastro (GRE)	Keizer/Stevens (NED)		Lehmann/Romberg (GER)		Flemig/Semmler (GER)	
2003	Pattaya (THA)	Köhler/Ludwig (GER)		Seixas/Salgado (BRA)		Fischer/Piasecki (GER)	
2004	Termoli (ITA)	Urban/Wiatr (POL)		Seixas/Salgado (BRA)		Buttner/Sude (GER)	
2005	Saint-Quay-Portrieux (FRA)	Aragao/Seixas (BRA)		Urban/Wiatr (POL)		Buttner/Sude (GER)	
2006	Horseshoe Bay (BER)	Palmer/Rohkamper (AUS)		van Iersel/Remmers (NED)		Buthe/Engelhardt (GER)	
2007	Myslowice (POL)	Remmers/Stiekema (NED)		Lombardo/Menegatti (ITA)		Halbichova/Jerabkova (CZE)	
2008	The Hague (NED)	Laboureur/Spinger (GER)		Braakman/van Gestel (NED)		Chaika/Karapischenko (RUS)	
2009	Alanya (TUR)	Aulenbrock/Bieneck (GER)		Chaika/Karapischenko (RUS)		Sukhareva/Ushkova (RUS)	
2010	Porto (POR)	Croson/Ross (USA)		Karapischenko/ Ushkova (RUS)		Clancy/Hynes (AUS)	
2011	Umag (CRO)	Baran/Kociolek (POL)		Plesiutchnig/ Schützenhöfer (AUT)		Lin Lingling/Zhang Changning (CHN)	
2012	Larnaca (CYP)	Dumauskaite/ Povilaityte (LTU)		Kociolek/Baran (POL)		Dabizha/Gorbunova (RUS)	
2013	Porto (POR)	Santos/Silva Bigi (BRA)		Gorbunova/ Makroguzova (RUS)		Hughes/Claes (USA)	




FIVB Men's U21 Beach Volleyball World Championship

Year	Host	Gold		Silver		Bronze	
2001	Le Lavandou (FRA)	Cunha/Sigoli (BRA)		Herrera/Mesa (ESP)		Koulikovski/Verbov (RUS)	
2002	Catania (ITA)	Herrera/Mesa (ESP)		Cunha/Fonseca (BRA)		Karger/Lammens (GER)	
2003	Saint-Quay-Portrieux (FRA)	Cunha/Salgado (BRA)		Krug/Urbatzka (GER)		Rotrekl/Kolar (CZE)	
2004	Porto Santo (POR)	Amo/Lario (ESP)		Ramma/Smedins T. (LAT)		Santos/Salgado (BRA)	
2005	Rio de Janeiro (BRA)	Plavins/Samoilovs (LAT)		Henriquez/Villafane (VEN)		Prokopiev/Koshkarev (RUS)	
2006	Myslowice (POL)	Schmidt/Salgado (BRA)		Sinczak/Szternel (POL)		Marciniak/Orman (POL)	
2007	Modena (ITA)	Giontella/Nicolai (ITA)		Gavira/Rojas (ESP)		Erdmann/Windscheif (GER)	
2008	Brighton (ENG)	Giontella/Nicolai (ITA)		Brouwer/Varenhorst (NED)		Ingrasso M./ Ingrasso P. (ITA)	
2009	Blackpool (ENG)	Kadziola/Szalankiewicz (POL)		Felipe/Filho (BRA)		Kostyukhin/Pastukhov (RUS)	
2010	Alanya (TUR)	May/Schachter (CAN)		Felipe/Filho (BRA)		Eglseer/Koraimann (AUT)	
2011	Halifax (CAN)	Popov/Samoday (UKR)		Kantor/Losiak (POL)		Carvalhoes/Felipe (BRA)	
2012	Halifax (CAN)	Kantor/Losiak (POL)		Gerson/Kissling (SUI)		Stork/Schmidt (GER)	
2013	Umag (CRO)	Carvalhoes/Cittadin (BRA)		O'Gorman/Nusbaum (CAN)		Kosiak/Rudol (POL)	



FIVB Women's U21 Beach Volleyball World Championship

Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
2001	Le Lavandou (FRA)	Bede/Salgado (BRA) 	Bobrova/Morozova (RUS) 	Tychnova/Tychnova (CZE) 
2002	Catania (ITA)	Felisberta Silva/Lima (BRA) 	Forrer/Schönberger (SUI) 	Rocha/Salgado (BRA) 
2003	Saint-Quay-Portrieux (FRA)	Morozova/Shiryayeva (RUS) 	Holtwick/Kleefisch (GER) 	Salgado/Salgado (BRA) 
2004	Porto Santo (POR)	Lima/Salgado (BRA) 	Castelli/Hamzaoui (FRA) 	Nakladalova/Opravilova (CZE) 
2005	Rio de Janeiro (BRA)	Salgado/Saldanha (BRA) 	Flemig/Semmler (GER) 	Schwaiger/Schwaiger (AUT) 
2006	Myslowice (POL)	Aragao/Seixas (BRA) 	Sude/Köhler (GER) 	van Iersel/Wesselink (NED) 
2007	Modena (ITA)	Maestrini/Seixas (BRA) 	Palmer/Rohkamper (AUS) 	van Iersel/Wesselink (NED) 
2008	Brighton (ENG)	Remmers/van Iersel (NED) 	Stiekema/van Gestel (NED) 	Brzostek/Sowala (POL) 
2009	Blackpool (ENG)	Brzostek/Kolosinska (POL) 	Remmers/Stiekema (NED) 	Chaika/Vozakova (RUS) 
2010	Alanya (TUR)	Roenicke/Ross (USA) 	Menegatti/Orsi Toth (ITA) 	Boogaardt/Schmidt (BRA) 
2011	Halifax (CAN)	Betschart/Heidrich (SUI) 	Altomare/Humana-Paredes (CAN) 	Braakman/van Gestel (NED) 
2012	Halifax (CAN)	Betschart/Vergé-Dépré (SUI) 	Felix Costa/Barbosa Silva (BRA) 	Artacho/Clancy (AUS) 
2013	Umag (CRO)	Kociulek/Gruszczynska (POL) 	Krebs/Wlk (GER) 	Schützenhöfer/Plesiutchnig (AUT) 
































































FIVB Men's U23 Beach Volleyball World Championship

Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
2013	Myslowice (POL)	Kantor/Losiak (POL) 	Gonçalves/Ley (BRA) 	Winter/Petutschnig (AUT) 





























































FIVB Women's U23 Beach Volleyball World Championship

Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
2013	Myslowice (POL)	Bieneck/Schneider (GER) 	Santos/Rodrigues (BRA) 	Pischke/Humana-Paredes (CAN) 





































CEV Beach Volleyball European Championship – Men

Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1993	Almeria (ESP)	Jodard/Penigaud (FRA) 	Kvalheim/Maaseide (NOR) 	Ghiurghi/Lequaglie (ITA) 
1994	Almeria (ESP)	Kvalheim/Maaseide (NOR) 	Aguilera/Bosma (ESP) 	Ahmann/Hager (GER) 
1995	Saint-Quay (FRA)	Klok/van der Kuip (NED) 	Dzavoronok/Fikar (CZE) 	Antonini/Lequaglie (ITA) 
1996	Pescara (ITA)	Pakosta/Palinek (CZE) 	Ahmann/Hager (GER) 	Ghiurghi/Grigolo (ITA) 
1997	Riccione (ITA)	Hoidalen/Kjemperud (NOR) 	Kvalheim/Maaseide (NOR) 	Laciga M./Laciga P. (SUI) 
1998	Rhodos (GRE)	Laciga M./Laciga P. (SUI) 	Kvalheim/Maaseide (NOR) 	Hoidalen/Kjemperud (NOR) 
1999	Palma de Mallorca (ESP)	Laciga M./Laciga P. (SUI) 	Bosma/Diez (ESP) 	Kvalheim/Maaseide (NOR) 
2000	Getxo-Bilbao (ESP)	Laciga M./Laciga P. (SUI) 	Egger/Heyer (SUI) 	Hoidalen/Kjemperud (NOR) 
2001	Jesolo (ITA)	Egger/Heyer (SUI) 	Laciga M./Laciga P. (SUI) 	Hoidalen/Kjemperud (NOR) 
2002	Basel (SUI)	Dieckmann/Reckermann (GER) 	Laciga M./Laciga P. (SUI) 	Hoidalen/Kjemperud (NOR) 
2003	Alanya (TUR)	Berger/Doppler (AUT) 	Dieckmann/Reckermann (GER) 	Egger/Heyer (SUI) 
2004	Timmendorfer Strand (GER)	Dieckmann/Reckermann (GER) 	Egger/Heyer (SUI) 	Heuscher/Kobel (SUI) 
2005	Moscow (RUS)	Herrera/Mesa (ESP) 	Heuscher/Kobel (SUI) 	Dieckmann/Reckermann (GER) 
2006	The Hague (NED)	Brink/Dieckmann C. (GER) 	de Gruijter/Ronnes (NED) 	Heuscher/Kobel (SUI) 
2007	Valencia (ESP)	Doppler/Gartmayer (AUT) 	Nummerdor/Schuil (NED) 	Klemperer/Koreng (GER) 
2008	Hamburg (GER)	Nummerdor/Schuil (NED) 	Matysik/Uhmann (GER) 	Barsouk/Kolodinsky (RUS) 
2009	Sochi (RUS)	Nummerdor/Schuil (NED) 	Gosch/Horst (AUT) 	Gavira/Herrera (ESP) 
2010	Berlin (GER)	Nummerdor/Schuil (NED) 	Doppler/Mellitzer (AUT) 	Plavins/Smedins J. (LAT) 
2011	Kristiansand (NOR)	Brink/Reckermann (GER) 	Erdmann/Matysik (GER) 	Nummerdor/Schuil (NED) 
2012	The Hague (NED)	Brink/Reckermann (GER) 	Boersma/Spijkers (NED) 	Skarlund/Spinnangr (NOR) 
2013	Klagenfurt (AUT)	Gavira/Herrera (ESP) 	Smedins J./Samoilovs (LAT) 	Fijalek/Prudel (POL) 





































CEV Beach Volleyball European Championship – Women

Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1994	Espinho (POR)	Bühler/Müsch (GER) 	Hudcova/Storkova (CZE) 	Parenzan/Perrotta (ITA) 
1995	Saint-Quay (FRA)	Borger/Paetow (GER) 	Berntsen/Hestad (NOR) 	Bühler/Müsch (GER) 
1996	Pescara (ITA)	Celbova/Novakova (CZE) 	Bühler/Müsch (GER) 	Bruschini/Solazzi (ITA) 
1997	Riccione (ITA)	Bruschini/Solazzi (ITA) 	Gattelli/Perrotta (ITA) 	Celbova/Novakova (CZE) 
1998	Rhodos (GRE)	Celbova/Novakova (CZE) 	Kadijk/Schoon-Kadijk (NED) 	Bruschini/Solazzi (ITA) 
1999	Palma de Mallorca (ESP)	Bruschini/Solazzi (ITA) 	Prawerman/Rigaux (FRA) 	Celbova/Novakova (CZE) 
2000	Getxo-Bilbao (ESP)	Bruschini/Solazzi (ITA) 	Müsch/Vollmer (GER) 	Kadijk/Schoon-Kadijk (NED) 
2001	Jesolo (ITA)	Karadassiou/Sfyri (GRE) 	Kuhn/Schnyder-Benoit (SUI) 	Ahmann/Schmidt (GER) 
2002	Basel (SUI)	Gattelli/Perrotta (ITA) 	Kadijk/Leenstra (NED) 	Celbova/Novakova (CZE) 
2003	Alanya (TUR)	Pohl/Rau (GER) 	Ahmann/Vollmer (GER) 	Gattelli/Perrotta (ITA) 
2004	Timmendorfer Strand (GER)	Kuhn/Schnyder-Benoit (SUI) 	Glesnes/Maaseide (NOR) 	Gattelli/Perrotta (ITA) 
2005	Moscow (RUS)	Arvaniti/Karadassiou (GRE) 	Kadijk/Mooren (NED) 	Pohl/Rau (GER) 
2006	The Hague (NED)	Shiryaeva/Uryadova (RUS) 	Kadijk/Mooren (NED) 	Hakedal/Torlen (NOR) 
2007	Valencia (ESP)	Arvaniti/Karadassiou (GRE) 	Goller/Ludwig (GER) 	Hakedal/Torlen (NOR) 
2008	Hamburg (GER)	Goller/Ludwig (GER) 	Hakedal/Torlen (NOR) 	Glesnes/Maaseide (NOR) 
2009	Sochi (RUS)	Jursone/Minusa (LAT) 	Goller/Ludwig (GER) 	Kuhn/Zumkehr (SUI) 
2010	Berlin (GER)	Goller/Ludwig (GER) 	Holtwick/Semmler (GER) 	Nyström/Nyström (FIN) 
2011	Kristiansand (NOR)	Cicolari/Menegatti (ITA) 	Hansel/Montagnolli (AUT) 	Goller/Ludwig (GER) 
2012	The Hague (NED)	Keizer/van Iersel (NED) 	Arvaniti/Tsiartsiani (GRE) 	Baquerizo/Fernandez Steiner (ESP) 
2013	Klagenfurt (AUT)	Schwaiger D./Schwaiger S. (AUT) 	Baquerizo/Fernandez Steiner (ESP) 	Ludwig/Walkenhorst (GER) 











































CEV U18 Beach Volleyball European Championship – Men

Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
2002	Illichivsk (UKR)	Dayanov/Koshkarev (RUS) 	Alcaraz/De Amo (ESP) 	Rakusov/Vasilyev (RUS) 
2003	Brno (CZE)	Matthiessen/Uhmann (GER) 	Smedins J./Smedins T. (LAT) 	Alcaraz/Marco (ESP) 
2004	Myslowice (POL)	Bartman/Kubiak (POL) 	Kienast/Späth (GER) 	Fijalek/Pajak (POL) 
2005	Illichivsk (UKR)	Zbierski/Zurek (POL) 	Barauskis/Gaidys (LTU) 	Urnaut T./Zemljak (SLO) 
2006	Bratislava (SVK)	Kadziola/Szalankiewicz (POL) 	Didukh/Ostapenko (UKR) 	Lacombe/Lyneel (FRA) 
2007	Brno (CZE)	Kollo/Venno (EST) 	Bouza/Castizo-Diaz (ESP) 	Ragondet/Lyneel (FRA) 
2008	Loutraki (GRE)	Popov/Samoday (UKR) 	Ksieszarek/Popek (POL) 	Dollhofer/Sievers (GER) 
2009	Espinho (POR)	Losiak/Kantor (POL) 	Niksa/Mate (CRO) 	Keel/Livrand (EST) 
2010	Porto (POR)	Kirienko/Andrianov (RUS) 	Pelka/Kosiak (POL) 	Korovka/Zhirkov (RUS) 
2011	Vilnius (LTU)	Kaczmarek/Kaczmarek (POL) 	Kirienko/Uraikin (RUS) 	Bryl/Matec (POL) 
2012	Brno (CZE)	Margiev/Velichko (RUS) 	Perebeinos/Danilov (RUS) 	Rudolf/Wickler (GER) 
2013	Molodechno (BLR)	Yarzutkin/Stoyanovskiy (RUS) 	Buchegger/Pristauz-Telsnigg (AUT) 	Rudolf/Sossenheimer (GER) 

CEV U18 Beach Volleyball European Championship – Women














Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
2002	Illichivsk (UKR)	Fischer/Piasecki (GER) 	Keizer/Stevens (NED) 	Arvaniti/Bouzounieraki (GRE) 
2003	Brno (CZE)	Köhler/Ludwig (GER) 	Büttner/Sude (GER) 	Penninga/van Iersel (NED) 
2004	Myslowice (POL)	Urban/Wiatr (POL) 	Büttner/Sude (GER) 	Gorenc/Schillerwein (GER) 
2005	Illichivsk (UKR)	Kolocova/Slukova (CZE) 	Büttner/Wigger (GER) 	Sorokaite/Zmitreviciute (LTU) 
2006	Bratislava (SVK)	Remmers/Stiekema (NED) 	Dijkema/Meppelink (NED) 	Iwansky/Koszowski (GER) 
2007	Brno (CZE)	Laboureur/Spinger (GER) 	Crousillat/Mollinger (FRA) 	Goricanec/Sciarini (SUI) 
2008	Loutraki (GRE)	Chaika/Karapischenko (RUS) 	Bieneck/Weihenmaier (GER) 	Bekier/Paszek (POL) 
2009	Espinho (POR)	Aulenbrock/Behlen (GER) 	Dostalova/Kotvova (CZE) 	Ushkova/Sukhareva (RUS) 
2010	Porto (POR)	Sorokina/Dabizha (RUS) 	Joana/Mariana (POR) 	Behlen/Krebs (GER) 
2011	Vilnius (LTU)	Dumauskaite/Povilaityte (LTU) 	Betschart/Eiholzer (SUI) 	Kociulek/Baran (POL) 
2012	Brno (CZE)	Kociulek/Gruszczynska (POL) 	Schneider/Schreiber (GER) 	Betschart/Eiholzer (SUI) 
2013	Molodechno (BLR)	Rudykh/Makroguzova (RUS) 	Schneider/Welsch (GER) 	Udovenko/Demydova (UKR) 

CEV U20 Beach Volleyball European Championship – Men

Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1999	Finestrat (ESP)	Barsouk/Tarantine (RUS) 	Klemperer/Rademacher (GER) 	Hildebrand/Wiederschein (GER) 
2000	Nürnberg (GER)	Karger/Lammens (GER) 	Rademaker/Rademacher (NED) 	Brink/Rademacher (GER) 
2001			Not held	
2002	Basel (SUI)	Kolar/Rotrek (CZE) 	Huth/Tacke (GER) 	Krug/Urbatzka (GER) 
2003	Salzburg (AUT)	Peda/Smedins (LAT) 	De Amo/Lopez (ESP) 	Jurkoic/Nalikowski (POL) 
2004	Koper (SLO)	Plavins/Samoilovs (LAT) 	Götz/Uhmann (GER) 	Lach/Lyczko (POL) 
2005	Tel Aviv (ISR)	Smedins/Smedins (LAT) 	Fijalek/Prudel (POL) 	Fuchs/Kaczmarek (GER) 
2006	Ankaran (SLO)	Erdmann/Windscheif (GER) 	Fijalek/Orman (POL) 	Daalmeijer/Oude Elferink (NED) 
2007	Scheveningen (NED)	Kadziola/Szalankiewicz (POL) 	Lyneel/Thesee (FRA) 	Giontella/Nicolai (ITA) 
2008	San Salvo (ITA)	Kadziola/Szalankiewicz (POL) 	Brouwer/Varenhorst (NED) 	Kostyukhin/Pastukhov (RUS) 
2009	Kos (GRE)	Wojtasik/Leznicki (POL) 	Samoday/Popov (UKR) 	Castizo/Bouza (ESP) 
2010	Catania (ITA)	Losiak/Kantor (POL) 	Kaszas O./Kaszas S. (DEN) 	Samoday/Popov (UKR) 
2011	Tel Aviv (ISR)	Losiak/Kantor (POL) 	Regza/Abolins (LAT) 	Schümann/Stork (GER) 
2012	Hartberg (AUT)	Winter/Petutschnig (AUT) 	Bryl/Kaczmarek (POL) 	Kosiak/Rudol (POL) 
2013	Vilnius (LTU)	Kaczmarek L./Kaczmarek S. (POL) 	Bryl/Kujawiak (POL) 	Kirienko/Uraikin (RUS) 

CEV U20 Beach Volleyball European Championship – Women








































Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1999	Finestrat (ESP)	Koutroumanidou/Theodorou (GRE) 	Vetra/Jursone (LAT) 	Arjona/Riera (FRA) 
2000	Nürnberg (GER)	Demirchova/Sizova (RUS) 	Forrer/Schönenberger (SUI) 	Graumann/Sutt (EST) 
2001			Not held	
2002	Basel (SUI)	Nyström/Nyström (FIN) 	Holtwick/Kleefisch (GER) 	Bratkova/Morozova (RUS) 
2003	Salzburg (AUT)	Goller/Romberg (GER) 	Bratkova/Morozova (RUS) 	Holtwick/Kleefisch (GER) 
2004	Koper (SLO)	Flemig/Semmler (GER) 	Schwaiger D./Schwaiger S. (AUT) 	Fischer/Piasecki (GER) 
2005	Tel Aviv (ISR)	van Iersel/Wesselink (NED) 	Jirak/Schwaiger S. (AUT) 	Köhler/Ludwig (GER) 
2006	Ankaran (SLO)	Eckardt/Sude (GER) 	Grässli/Kayser (SUI) 	Renkema/Wiltens (NED) 
2007	Scheveningen (NED)	Remmers/van Iersel (NED) 	Kolocova/Slukova (CZE) 	Brzostek/Sowala (POL) 
2008	San Salvo (ITA)	Markova/Ukolova (RUS) 	Brzostek/Eska (POL) 	Remmers/van Gestel (NED) 

2009	Kos (GRE)	Menegatti/Allegretti (ITA)		Kolosinska/Galek (POL)		Paszek/Bekier (POL)	
2010	Catania (ITA)	Aulenbrock/Tillmann (GER)		Chaika/Abalakina (RUS)		Paszek/Bekier (POL)	
2011	Tel Aviv (ISR)	Schützenhöfer/Plesiutchnig (AUT)		Ushkova/Karapishchenko (RUS)		Kociolek/Baran (POL)	
2012	Hartberg (AUT)	Kociolek/Gruszczynska (POL)		Krebs/Wlk (GER)		Dumauskaite/Povilaityte (LTU)	
2013	Vilnius (LTU)	Betschart/Eiholzer (SUI)		Baran/Gruszczynska (POL)		Strauss N./Strauss T. (AUT)	

CEV U23 Beach Volleyball European Championship – Men (U22 from 2013)

Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
2000	Riccione (ITA)	Klemperer/Reckermann (GER) 	Garcia/Correa (ESP) 	Barsouk/Tarantine (RUS) 
2001	Esposende (POR)	Pedrosa/Teixeira (POR) 	Doppler/Gartmayer (AUT) 	Barsouk/Tarantine (RUS) 
2002			Not held	
2003	Stare Jablonki (POL)	Koulikovski/Verbov (RUS) 	Koreng/Popp (GER) 	Ambelang/Rieke (GER) 
2004	Brno (CZE)	Herrera/Mesa (ESP) 	Krug/Urbatzka (GER) 	Klimek/Witczak (POL) 
2005	Myslowice (POL)	Plavins/Samoilovs (LAT) 	Hakala/Seppänen (FIN) 	Huth/Uhmann (GER) 
2006	St. Pölten (AUT)	Bläuel/Huber (AUT) 	Pompe/Uhmann (GER) 	Plavins/Samoilovs (LAT) 
2007	Paralimni (CYP)	Fuchs/Kaczmarek (GER) 	Gavira/Marco (ESP) 	Koshkarev/Prokopiev (RUS) 
2008	Espinho (POR)	Fijalek/Prudel (POL) 	Ingrosso M./Ingrosso P. (ITA) 	Fuchs/Kaczmarek (GER) 
2009	Yantarniy (RUS)	Walkenhorst/Windscheif (GER) 	Yutvalin/Kostyukhin (RUS) 	Köhler/Rohde (GER) 
2010	Kos (GRE)	Kadziola/Szalankiewicz (POL) 	Penk/Walkenhorst (GER) 	Nicolai/Ingrosso P. (ITA) 
2011	Porto (POR)	Flüggen/Köhler (GER) 	Kadziola/Szalankiewicz (POL) 	Kostyukhin/Bykanov (RUS) 
2012	Assen (NED)	Popov/Samoday (UKR) 	Kantor/Losiak (POL) 	Dziadkou/Vishneuski (BLR) 
2013	Varna (BUL)	Losiak/Kantor (POL) 	Tvinde/Mol (NOR) 	Kosiak/Rudol (POL) 

CEV U23 Beach Volleyball European Championship – Women (U22 from 2013)

Year	Host	Gold	Silver	Bronze
2000	Riccione (ITA)	Felbabova/ Teknedzjanova (CZE) 	Minusa/Pulina (LAT) 	Vetra/Jursone (LAT) 
2001	Esposende (POR)	Voronova/Voronova (RUS) 	Felbabova/ Maixnerova (CZE) 	Pol/Ribeira (ESP) 
2002			Not held	
2003	Stare Jablonki (POL)	Tychnova K./ Tychnova M. (CZE) 	Banck/Romberg (GER) 	Ioannidou/ Paraskeuaido (GRE) 
2004	Brno (CZE)	Nyström/Nyström (FIN) 	Forrer/Schwer (SUI) 	Goller/Ludwig (GER) 
2005	Myslowice (POL)	Günther/Köhler (GER) 	Goller/Ludwig (GER) 	Nakladalova/Pokorna (CZE) 
2006	St. Pölten (AUT)	Goller/Ludwig (GER) 	Holtwick/Semmler (GER) 	Schwaiger/Schwaiger (AUT) 
2007	Paralimni (CYP)	Fischer/Köhler (GER) 	Goliasova/Weissova (CZE) 	Renkema/Wiltens (NED) 
2008	Espinho (POR)	Bratkova/Ukolova (RUS) 	Kolocova/Slukova (CZE) 	Urban/Wiatr (POL) 
2009	Yantarniy (RUS)	Büthe/Grossner (GER) 	Kolocova/Slukova (CZE) 	Borger/Sude (GER) 
2010	Kos (GRE)	Kolocova/Slukova (CZE) 	Menegatti/Giombini (ITA) 	Ryabova/Chaika (RUS) 
2011	Porto (POR)	Braakman/Stiekema (NED) 	Kolosinska/Brzostek (POL) 	Laboureur/ Walkenhorst (GER) 
2012	Assen (NED)	Laboureur/ Walkenhorst (GER) 	Chaika/Abalakina (RUS) 	Aulenbrock/ Bieneck (GER) 
2013	Varna (BUL)	Betschart/ Vergé-Dépré (SUI) 	Lobato/Soria (ESP) 	Tresnakova/ Galova (CZE) 

• THIS IS BEACH VOLLEYBALL! •



• THIS IS BEACH VOLLEYBALL! •



• THE CEV PORTFOLIO •

Competitions for national teams



CEV Volleyball European Championship – Men & Women

First edition: 1948 (men); 1949 (women); held every two years since 1975; starting from 1989 the men's and women's tournaments are hosted in different countries.

First winner: Czechoslovakia (men); Soviet Union (women)

Most titles:

Men: Soviet Union/Russia 13 (1950, 1951, 1967, 1971, 1975, 1977, 1979, 1981, 1983, 1985, 1987, 1991, 2013)

Women: Soviet Union/Russia 18 (1949, 1950, 1951, 1958, 1963, 1967, 1971, 1975, 1977, 1979, 1985, 1989, 1991, 1993, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2013)

Last winner in 2013: Russia (men & women)

Next editions: 2015 in Bulgaria/Italy (men) and Netherlands/Belgium (women).



CEV Men U19 and Women U18 Volleyball European Championship

First edition: 1995; since then held biannually

First winner: Russia (boys) and Italy (girls)

Most titles:

Boys: Russia 5 (1995, 1999, 2001, 2003 and 2013)

Girls: Italy 2 (1995, 2001) and Poland 2 (1999 and 2013)

Last winner in 2013: Russia (boys) and Poland (girls)

Next editions: 2015 in Turkey (boys) and Bulgaria (girls)



CEV Men U20 and Women U19 Volleyball European Championship

First edition: 1966; held every two years since 1969 and again since 1982 after a break of three years since the previous edition held in 1979

First winner: Soviet Union (men & women)

Most titles:

Men: Soviet Union/Russia 17 (1966, 1969, 1971, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1979, 1982, 1984, 1988, 1990, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2004, 2006, and 2010)

Women: Soviet Union/Russia 14 (uninterruptedly from 1966 through 1994)

Last winner in 2012: Italy (men) and Turkey (women)

Next edition: 2014 in Czech Republic/Slovakia (men) and Finland/Estonia (women)



CEV Volleyball European League – Men & Women

First edition: 2004 (men) and 2009 (women)

First winner: Czech Republic (men) and Serbia (women)

Most titles:

Men: Netherlands 2 (2006 and 2012) and Slovakia 2 (2008 and 2011)

Women: Serbia 3 (2009, 2010, and 2011)

Last winner in 2013: Belgium (men) and Germany (women)



Competitions for clubs



CEV Volleyball Champions League – Men & Women

First edition: 2000/2001, replacing Champions Cup

First winner:

Men: PARIS Volley (FRA)

Women: Volley MODENA (ITA)

Most titles:

Men: TRENTINO Volley (ITA) 3 (2009, 2010, and 2011)

Women: Volley BERGAMO (ITA) 3 (2005, 2007, and 2010)

Last winner in 2013:

Men: Lokomotiv NOVOSIBIRSK (RUS)

Women: Vakifbank ISTANBUL (TUR)



CEV Volleyball Cup – Men & Women

First edition: 1981

First winner:

Men: AS CANNES (FRA)

Women: SV LOHHOF (FRG)

Last winner in 2013:

Men: Halkbank ANKARA (TUR)

Women: Bank BPS Fakro MUSZYNA (POL)



CEV Volleyball Challenge Cup – Men & Women

First edition: 2008, replacing Top Teams Cup

First winner:

Men: Pallavolo MODENA (ITA)

Women: Vakifbank Günes ISTANBUL (TUR)

Last winner in 2013:

Men: Copra Elio PIACENZA (ITA)

Women: Dinamo KRASNODAR (RUS)

Beach Volleyball



CEV Beach Volleyball European Championship

First edition: 1993 (men) and 1994 (women)

First winner: Jean-Philippe Jodard/Christian Penigaud (FRA) and Beate Bühler/Danja Müsch (GER)

Most titles:

Men: Jonas Reckermann (GER) with 4 (2002 and 2004 with Markus Dieckmann, 2011 and 2012 partnering Julius Brink)

Women: Laura Bruschini/Annamaria Solazzi (ITA) with 3 (1997, 1999 and 2000); Vassou Karadassiou (GRE) with 3 (2001 with Effrosyni Sfyri, 2005 and 2007 with Vassiliki Arvaniti)

Last winners in 2013: Pablo Herrera/Adrian Gavira (ESP); Doris Schwaiger/Stefanie Schwaiger (AUT)

Next edition: June 3-8, 2014 in Rome (ITA)



CEV U18 Beach Volleyball European Championship

First edition: 2002

First winner: Ruslan Dayanov/Yaroslav Koshkarev (RUS) and Frederike Fischer/Sandra Piasecki (GER)

Most titles: Poland (5) and Germany (4) in the boys' and girls' competition respectively

Last winners in 2013: Artem Yarzutkin/Oleg Stoyanovskiy (RUS) and Daria Rudykh/Nadezhda Makroguzova (RUS)



CEV U20 Beach Volleyball European Championship

First edition: 1999

First winners: Dmitry Barsouk/Alexei Tarantin (RUS) and Efthalia Koutroumanidou/Stavroula Theodorou (GRE)

Most titles: Poland (6) and Germany (4) in the men's and women's competition respectively

Last winners in 2013: Sebastian Kaczmarek/Lukasz Kaczmarek (POL) and Nina Betschart/Nicole Eiholzer (SUI)





CEV U22 Beach Volleyball European Championship

First edition: 2000; up to 2012 played as CEV U23 Beach Volleyball European Championship

First winners: David Klemperer/Jonas Reckermann (GER) and Lenka Felbabova/Marika Teknedzjanova (CZE)

Most titles: Germany with 4 and 5 in the men's and women's competition respectively

Last winners in 2013: Bartosz Losiak/Piotr Kantor (POL) and Nina Betschart/Anouk Vergé-Dépré (SUI)



CEV Beach Volleyball Continental Cup

First edition: 2009-2012, qualifying event for 2012 London Olympics

Winners: Norway (men) and Russia (women), thereby each qualifying one pair for the Beach Volleyball tournament of the 2012 Olympics in London

Next edition: 2014-2016 leading up to the Games of the XXXI Summer Olympiad in Rio de Janeiro



• CEV DICTIONARY – EUROPE’S VOLLEYBALL AT A GLANCE •

AAA: this three-letter acronym means something that is high-quality, premier, or excellent; it could well stand for that excellence that the CEV has been striving for since its early days back in the '70s up today's daily work, with the ultimate goal being the good of Volleyball and Beach Volleyball.

Board of Administration: it is responsible for the administration and management of the CEV and shall, for this purpose, have the broadest powers, subject to the powers of the General Assembly. The term of office of the Board of Administration is four years, i.e. until the General Assembly held the fourth year after the year of its election.

Commissions: the work of the Board of Administration and Executive Committee is supported by 8 Commissions that work out ideas and proposals to be discussed and eventually adopted by the Board; CEV currently counts eight Commissions, i.e. the European Beach Volleyball Commission (EBVC), Coaches Commission (ECOC), Cups Commission (ECC), Financial Commission (EFC), Legal Commission (ELC), Medical Commission (EMC), Refereeing Commission (ERC) and Sports Organizing Commission (ESOC).

Drawing of Lots: it kick-starts almost every Volleyball and Beach Volleyball competition, assigning teams participating in a certain tournament to preliminary groups or determining the draw for the so-called knock-out stage.

Executive Committee: the Board of Administration elects from amongst its members the Vice-Presidents, one of whom is designated Senior Vice-President. The Executive Committee consists of the President and the Vice-Presidents. Between meetings of the Board of Administration, the Executive Committee may take all urgent measures that must be notified within a month to the Board of Administration, which shall ratify them at its next meeting.

Federations: 55 National Federations are currently affiliated to the CEV; they all shall abide by the Constitution and/or Statutes, regulations, rules of the game and decisions of the FIVB and the CEV; a National Federation may become a CEV member after having completed the process of affiliation to the FIVB and following the decision of the CEV General Assembly.

General Assembly: the General Assembly of all affiliated National Federations constitutes the supreme authority of the European Volleyball Confederation. Its decisions are binding and enforceable for both the CEV and all affiliated National Federations. An ordinary General Assembly is held every year.

Head office: the CEV headquarters support the work of the various institutional bodies; the head office is composed of various departments, all placed under the guidance and leadership of the CEV President and of an Administrative Director.

Internationalism: like many other sports and political organizations, the CEV advocates a greater cooperation among its member nations for the benefit of all.

Junior: the first Junior European Championships were held in 1966 in Hungary with the Soviet Union winning gold in the men's as well as in the women's tournament. The last edition – held in 2012 – did see Italy's men and Turkey's women finish atop of the charts. As per the current rules, the winner of the Junior European Championship automatically qualifies for the Junior Worlds that are scheduled a year later. The age limit currently stands at 20 and 19 years for men and women respectively.

Luxembourg: the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg has been hosting the headquarters of CEV since late 1988.

Mediation Chamber: it has the duty to resolve any disputes or conflicts between affiliated National Federations and their members arising from CEV competitions.

National leagues and cups: depending on their results in national competitions – championship and cup – teams become eligible to join the European Cups as per the entries/country determined by the relevant European Ranking List.

Olympic Games: the leading international sporting event featuring summer and winter sports in which thousands of athletes participate in a variety of competitions. Every four years a qualification process is worked out to determine the criteria and procedures whereby national teams qualify for the Olympic Volleyball tournaments. With the introduction of the Continental Cup prior to the 2012 London Olympics, national federations can qualify teams for the Beach Volleyball competition via a series of events organized by each Continental Confederation.

President: the CEV President is elected directly by the General Assembly among candidates standing for the Board of Administration, provided that such candidates have been formally nominated for the Presidency by their respective National Federations. Once elected, the President becomes a full member of the Board of Administration. The President is responsible for the governance of the CEV bodies and CEV head office, for representing CEV, ensuring a fruitful interaction and collaboration with FIVB and all other Continental Confederations and National Federations; ensuring the well-being of CEV and European Volleyball through a constant contact with all CEV institutional organs, National Federations and any other international sport organization.

Quotient: the set quotient and the set points quotient is adopted to break a tie in the standings once teams have pocketed the same number of points for matches won and lost as well as share the same number of matches won.

Ranking list: adopted in Volleyball as well as in Beach Volleyball competitions, it determines the entries assigned to the various National Federations as well as the way teams are distributed through the various stages of the tournament(s) they are entering.

Statutes: the first exhaustive Statutes disciplining the functioning and work of CEV were adopted in 1981. Since those days, their provisions have been revised a few times prior approval by the CEV General Assembly.

Tournament: CEV organizes every year almost a hundred tournaments, including the qualifying events for the various European Championships, Beach Volleyball competitions and many more.

U18-U20-U22: CEV organizes every year a Beach Volleyball European Championship for each of these age groups. Their goal is to provide up-and-coming players and future stars with a unique opportunity to showcase their skills and test out their abilities before they embark on a professional career in the sport.

Working groups: depending on the circumstances and needs, working groups can be established to study the feasibility of innovative projects, review the state of regulations or existing competitions and to support the work of the other institutional organs.

Youth: the first Youth European Championships were held in 1995 in Spain with Russia and Italy claiming first place with their boys' respectively girls' national teams. As per the current rules, the top six of the Youth European Championship automatically qualify for the Youth Worlds that are scheduled later that same year. The age limit currently stands at 19 and 18 years for boys and girls respectively.

Zonal Associations: created to support the development and promotion of Volleyball and Beach Volleyball in some geographical areas, they also organize youth and junior competitions open to their member countries as well as club championships. There are four Zonal Associations placed under the umbrella of CEV, namely the Balkan Volleyball Association (BVA), the Eastern European Volleyball Zonal Association (EEVZA), the Middle European Volleyball Zonal Association (MEVZA) and the Northern European Volleyball Zonal Association (NEVZA), plus the Small Countries Division (SCD). In September 2013 eight countries have expressed their interest and commitment to set up a fifth Zonal Association that will be known as Western European Volleyball Zonal Association (WEVZA).

• VOICE OF THE FANS •

"Volleyball is not a sport; it's a way of life".

(Leszek Mazur, Wroclaw/Poland)

"We, fans of Noliko MAASEIK, founded a fan club in 2003: Noliko4Ever. Volleyball is our passion and we are proud of being fans of the 'best' Belgian Volleyball team. We really are part of the club and very well respected by Noliko and by its players. We voluntarily help the club on multiple occasions and assisted in the completion of 'our Lotto Dôme', our impressive Volleyball arena. We are one family and this makes it very special!"

(Noliko4Ever fans, Maaseik/Belgium)

"Volleyball has completely changed my life since I came to the sport. I simply live from game to game. I enjoy talking to world-class players and admire their professionalism. They stand as a good example that if you work hard you can achieve something in life. Volleyball is special in its own way. It is not just about physical power because you need to think and react very quickly. This makes Volleyball so breathtaking. Volleyball is a way of life. I am happy when we win as much as I am sad when we lose. Volleyball has a tremendous influence on my life and most of my friends are as crazy for the sport as I am. This total passion for Volleyball makes our friendship very special. I wish the CEV a very happy 40th anniversary, the best of success, hoping that Volleyball will reach unprecedented heights in the future".

(Dmitry Anisimov, Omsk/Russia)

"Volleyball stands as a synonym for love and passion. Volleyball is a way of life that I share with my son who is also fond of the sport and is earning his life playing Volleyball. Volleyball is a family affair. Volleyball brings together people from different countries, cultures and ages. It helps people change their habits and come together in a spirit of friendship and fair play. Volleyball helps develop self-confidence through its spirit of fair competition".

(Yilmaz Duman, Istanbul/Turkey)

"The word Volleyball speaks for itself. Volleyball is simply the best sport in the world. As I follow a Volleyball game, I almost forget to breathe. This sport is for people who are able to think and can do so very quickly. As you join this world they call Volleyball, you become a better person".

(Marta Ozimek, Rzeszow/Poland)

"Volleyball is a real happening which starts by the time the fans are making it to the sports hall, all dressed in the colors of their favorite team and ready to cheer on their heroes. Volleyball is like heaven. It is a unique source of joy and pride; you get to feel a special connection with the players and there isn't anything else that can energize you as much as Volleyball does. The actions unfold so quickly that people sometimes can't just follow and realize what's going on, so you may say that Volleyball is something like an action movie. Once you join the Volleyball family, you simply can't get enough of it and the passion for the sport will accompany you forever".

(Karolina Czwojdzinska, Poland)

"Even though for most of the people Volleyball is just a sport, for us – who do love it – Volleyball is a lifelong dream and a lifestyle. With this in mind, I do wish a very happy 40th anniversary to CEV".

(Mert Bülent Uçma, Ankara/Turkey)

"My Volleyball adventure started out as I was attending the primary school; by then, for the first time in my life, I started ripping off my knees and elbows while stretching for that ball. Some years have gone since those early days and I have moved up to high school. Since I am not that tall, I play libero but nevertheless I am literally fond of the game. I love the atmosphere surrounding Volleyball matches; I like to fight all the way through until the end. I know I won't get tired of this sport soon. I already know that even my children – one day – will play Volleyball! The libero of our national team, Krzysztof Ignaczak, once said that Volleyball is like a puzzle where each piece must fit together. Another famous player, Lukasz Kadziewicz, said that Volleyball is a fantastic way of life. It's all pretty true but for me Volleyball is primarily about the many hours I spend training, doing exercises and trying to defend hundreds of balls. I love Volleyball because once you make it to the playing court you forget everything and you simply give your best".

(Magdalena Prusik, Poland)



• FIVB/CEV REGIONAL VOLLEYBALL DEVELOPMENT CENTRES •



BAKU – AZE

FIVB/CEV REGIONAL VOLLEYBALL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Eliyar Eliyev str.108
Dernegul
Binegedi District
Baku
AZE
Established – August 15th 2013
Centre Director Mr. Faig GARAYEV

Facilities

Seminar Rooms
Accommodation
Arena 1
Arena 2
Fitness Gym
Restaurants

2 Seminar rooms can accommodate 16 – 50 Delegates
Local hotels provide good value accommodation close by
1 x full International standard court with 1000 seats
1 x full International standard court with 50 seats
Fully equipped and modern gym
A full catering service is provided



KETTERING – ENG

FIVB/CEV REGIONAL VOLLEYBALL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

National Volleyball Centre
Kettering Conference Centre
Thurston Drive
Kettering,
NN15 6BP
ENG
Established – September 16th 2011
Centre Director Mr. Sanjib SAHOTA

Facilities

Seminar Rooms

Accommodation

Arena

Beach Courts

Fitness Gym
Restaurants

10 Seminar rooms can accommodate 16 – 500 Delegates
1 theatre can accommodate up to 560 Delegates
All air conditioned with free Wi-Fi
6 dormitory style rooms
2 shower/wet rooms
Laundry facilities
Dining area
Relaxation lounge
Local hotels able to offer accommodation
2,000 m² Sprung wooden floor and 1200 LUX lighting.
1 x full International standard court with 500 seats
2 x International Volleyball Courts
4 x International training courts
2 Full International Courts
3 Competition courts
Fully equipped and modern gym
Sports lounge and café plus on site catering for larger numbers and dining areas



LUXEMBOURG – LUX

FIVB/CEV REGIONAL VOLLEYBALL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

D'Coque – Centre National Sportif et Culturel
2 rue Léon Hengen
L-1745 Luxembourg
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg



Beach Volleyball Centre

Beach Volleyball Centre
Institut National des Sports
66 rue de Trèves
L-2630 Luxembourg
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
Established – October 4th 2013
Centre Director Mr. Burkhard DISCH

Facilities At Venue 1: Coque

Seminar Rooms

Accommodation

Arena

Gymnase

Fitness Gym
Restaurants

Amphitheatre – accommodates up to 250 delegates
Seminar Room 1 – accommodates up to 20 delegates
Seminar Room 2 - accommodates up to 40 delegates
36 twin rooms
Hotels very close for any excess
1 x full International standard court with 5,000 seats
3 Volleyball Courts
6 changing rooms
Blocking wall
Video feedback technology
1 x full International standard court with 1,500 seats
3 Volleyball Courts
6 changing rooms
Blocking wall
Video feedback technology
The RDC has a full fitness room and there is a leisure pool
La Perla seats 100 persons
Coquille seats 150 persons

Facilities At Venue 2: INS

Seminar Rooms
Accommodation

Sports Hall

Beach Courts
Fitness Gym
Catering

Seminar Rooms – to accommodate up to 40 delegates
36 twin/triple rooms
Hotels very close for any excess
3 Volleyball Courts

6 Beach Volleyball Courts
INS has 2 fully equipped fitness rooms
Is provided on site as part of the accommodation package or
by special arrangement





MILAN – ITA

FIVB/CEV REGIONAL VOLLEYBALL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE CENTRO PAVESI FIPAV srl

Via De Lemene 3

Milan

ITA

Established – October 1st 2013

Centre Director Mrs. Stefania NAVA

Facilities	Seminar Rooms	1 large Seminar Room – to accommodate up to 80 delegates 3 Seminar Rooms – to accommodate up to 25 delegates All with Air Conditioning
	Accommodation	24 rooms 4 doubles 20 doubles or triples Hotels very close for any excess
	Sports Hall 1	1 Full International Volleyball Court 2 Competition Volleyball Courts
	Sports Hall 2 Beach Volleyball	1 Competition Volleyball Court 4 Beach Volleyball Courts – washed and powder less sand 2 Outdoor Courts 2 Indoor courts with heated sand
	Fitness Gym Catering	The centre has a fully equipped fitness room A restaurant seats 108 persons where all diets can be catered for

• NATIONAL FEDERATIONS AND ZONAL ASSOCIATIONS •

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ALB

ALBANIAN VOLLEYBALL FEDERATION

President: Adrian DOCI

Year of affiliation: 1973

Volleyball players registered: 1,522

Top results at the Volleyball European Championship:

Men's European Championship: 10th place in 1955;

Women's European Championship: 9th place in 1991



BIH

VOLLEYBALL FEDERATION OF BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

President: Milutin POPOVIC

Year of affiliation: 1992

Volleyball players registered: 5,785

Official website: www.osbih.ba



AND

FEDERACIO ANDORRANA DE VOLEIBOL

President: Eloi TORRES

Year of affiliation: 1987

Volleyball players registered: 530

Official website: www.fav.ad



ARM

ARMENIAN VOLLEYBALL FEDERATION

President: Arthur BAGHDASARYAN

Year of affiliation: 1992

Volleyball players registered: 770



AUT

ÖSTERREICHISCHER VOLLEYBALLVERBAND

President: Peter KLEINMANN

Year of affiliation: 1973

Volleyball players registered: 8,482

Official website: www.volleynet.at

Top results at the Volleyball European Championship:

Men's European Championship: 8th place in 1999;

Women's European Championship: 12th place in 1958 and 1963



AZE

AZERBAIJAN VOLLEYBALL FEDERATION

President: Ziya MAMEDOV

Year of affiliation: 1992

Volleyball players registered: 1,710

Official website: www.avf.az

Top results at the Volleyball European Championship:

Women's European Championship: 4th place in 2005



BEL

FEDERATION ROYALE BELGE DE VOLLEYBALL

President: Willy BRUNINX

Year of affiliation: 1973

Volleyball players registered: 47,077

Official website: www.volleyaif.be and www.volleyvzb.be

Top results at the Volleyball European Championship:

Men's European Championship: 5th place in 1948;

Women's European Championship: bronze medal in 2013



BLR

VOLLEYBALL FEDERATION OF THE REP. OF BELARUS

President: Boris BATOURA

Year of affiliation: 1991

Volleyball players registered: 1,231

Official website: www.bvf.by

Top results at the Volleyball European Championship:

Men's European Championship: 15th place in 2013;

Women's European Championship: 8th place in 1993 and 1995



BUL

BULGARIAN VOLLEYBALL FEDERATION

President: Dancho LAZAROV

Year of affiliation: 1973

Volleyball players registered: 5,102

Official website: www.volleyball.bg

Top results at the Volleyball European Championship:

Men's European Championship: silver in 1951, bronze

in 1955, 1981, 1983 and 2009; Women's European

Championship: gold in 1981, bronze in 1979 and 2001



CRO

CROATIAN VOLLEYBALL ORGANIZATION

President: Zdeslav BARAC

Year of affiliation: 1992

Volleyball players registered: 4,660

Official website: www.hou.hr

Top results at the Volleyball European Championship:

Men's European Championship: 8th place in 2005;

Women's European Championship: silver in 1995, 1997 and 1999



CYP

CYPRUS VOLLEYBALL FEDERATION

President: Damianos HADJIDAMIANOU

Year of affiliation: 1981

Volleyball players registered: 2,535

Official website: www.volleyball.org.cy



CZE

CZECH VOLLEYBALL FEDERATION

President: Zdenek HANIK

Year of affiliation: 1973

Volleyball players registered: 62,000

Official website: www.cvf.cz

Top results at the Volleyball European Championship:

Men's European Championship (as Czechoslovakia): gold in 1948, 1955 and 1958, silver in 1950, 1967, 1971 and 1985;

Women's European Championship (as Czechoslovakia): gold in 1955, silver in 1949, 1958, 1971; bronze in 1950, 1967, 1987; as Czech Republic silver in 1993 and bronze in 1997



DEN

DANSK VOLLEYBALL FORBUND

President: Erik JACOBSEN

Year of affiliation: 1973

Volleyball players registered: 52,436

Official website: www.volleyball.dk

Top results at the Volleyball European Championship:

Men's European Championship: 12th place in 2013;

Women's European Championship: 13th place in 1963



ENG

VOLLEYBALL ENGLAND

President: Wayne COYLE

Year of affiliation: 1973

Volleyball players registered: 1,867

Official website: www.volleyballengland.org

Top results: Women's European Championship: 18th in 1971



ESP

REAL FEDERACION ESPAÑOLA DE VOLEIBOL

President: Agustin MARTIN SANTOS

Year of affiliation: 1973

Volleyball players registered: 54,203

Official website: www.rfevb.com

Top results: Men's European Championship: gold in 2007;

Women's European Championship: 9th in 2009



EST

EESTI VÕRKPALLI LIIT

President: Hanno PEVKUR

Year of affiliation: 1992

Volleyball players registered: 5,096

Official website: www.evf.ee and www.volley.ee

Top results at the Volleyball European Championship:

Men's European Championship: 12th in 2011



FAR

FLOGBOLTSSAMBAND FOROYA

President: Jákup FJALLSBAK

Year of affiliation: 1978

Volleyball players registered: 1,400

Official website: www.fbf.fo



FIN

SUOMEN LENTOPALLOLIITTO R.Y.

President: Arto SATONEN

Year of affiliation: 1973

Volleyball players registered: 11,904

Official website: www.lentopalloliitto.fi

Top results at the Volleyball European Championship:

Men's European Championship: 4th in 2007; Women's

European Championship: 12th in 1977 and 1989



FRA

FEDERATION FRANCAISE DE VOLLEYBALL

President: Yves BOUGET

Year of affiliation: 1973

Volleyball players registered: 88,073

Official website: www.ffvb.org

Top results at the Volleyball European Championship:

Men's European Championship: silver in 1948, 1987, 2003

and 2009; bronze in 1951 and 1985; Women's European

Championship: 8th place in 2001, 2007 and 2013



GEO

GEORGIAN VOLLEYBALL FEDERATION

President: Irakli CHACHUA

Year of affiliation: 1992

Volleyball players registered: 17,882



GER

DEUTSCHER VOLLEYBALL-VERBAND e.V.

President: Thomas KROHNE

Year of affiliation: 1973

Volleyball players registered: 478,176

Official website: www.volleyball-verband.de

Top results at the Volleyball European Championship:

Men's European Championship: 4th place in 1967 and 1971

as German Democratic Republic, plus in 1991 and 1993 as

Germany; Women's European Championship: gold in 1983

and 1987 (as GDR); silver in 1977, 1979, 1985 and 1989 (as

GDR) plus in 2011 and in 2013 as Germany; bronze in 1975

(as GDR), plus in 1991 and 2003 as Germany



GIB

GIBRALTAR VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

President: Joseph ENRILES

Year of affiliation: 1984

Volleyball players registered: 90



GRE

ELLINIKI OMOSPONDIA PETOSFERISIS

President: Achilleas MAVROMATIS

Year of affiliation: 1973

Volleyball players registered: 162,007

Official website: www.volleyball.gr

Top results at the Volleyball European Championship:

Men's European Championship: bronze in 1987; Women's

European Championship: 8th in 1991



GRL

GRONLANDS VOLLEYBALL FORBUND

President: Jonas MEINKE

Year of affiliation: 1996

Volleyball players registered: 430

Official website: www.volleyball.gl



HUN

MAGYAR ROPLABDA SZOVETSEG

President: Csaba POOR

Year of affiliation: 1973

Volleyball players registered: 28,950

Official website: www.hunvolley.hu

Top results at the Volleyball European Championship:

Men's European Championship: silver in 1963 and bronze

in 1950; Women's European Championship: silver in 1975,

bronze in 1977, 1981 and 1983



IRL

VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

President: Desmond CURRIVAN

Year of affiliation: 1982

Volleyball players registered: 853

Official website: www.volleyballireland.com



ISL

ICELANDIC VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

President: Jason IVARSSON

Year of affiliation: 1974

Volleyball players registered: 2,536

Official website: www.bli.is



ISR

ISRAEL VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

President: Hanan BEN-DOR

Year of affiliation: 1973

Volleyball players registered: 4,570

Official website: www.iva.org.il

Top results at the Volleyball European Championship:

Men's European Championship: 10th in 1951; Women's

European Championship: 8th in 1967



ITA

FEDERAZIONE ITALIANA PALLAVOLO

President: Carlo MAGRI

Year of affiliation: 1973

Volleyball players registered: 352,106

Official website: www.federvolley.it

Top results at the Volleyball European Championship:

Men's European Championship: gold in 1989, 1993, 1995,

1999, 2003 and 2005; silver in 1991, 2001, 2011, and 2013;

bronze in 1997; Women's European Championship: gold in

2007 and 2009; silver in 2001 and 2005; bronze in 1989 and

1999



LAT

LATVIJAS VOLEJBOLA FEDERACIJA

President: Atis SAUSNITIS

Year of affiliation: 1992

Volleyball players registered: 5,925

Official website: www.volejbols.lv

Top results at the Volleyball European Championship:

Men's European Championship: 11th place in 1995;

Women's European Championship: 8th place in 1997



LIE

LIECHTENSTEINER VOLLEYBALL-VERBAND

President: Philippe SCHÜRMANN

Year of affiliation: 1978

Volleyball players registered: 400

Official website: www.lvbv.li



LTU

LITHUANIAN VOLLEYBALL FEDERATION

President: Marius VASILIAUSKAS

Year of affiliation: 1992

Volleyball players registered: 976

Official website: www.ltf.lt



LUX

FEDERATION LUXEMBOURGEOISE DE VOLLEYBALL

President: Guy ERPELDING

Year of affiliation: 1973

Volleyball players registered: 1,584

Official website: www.flvb.lu



MDA

VOLLEYBALL FEDERATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

President: Artur ROMASCAN
Year of affiliation: 1992
Volleyball players registered: 1,267



MKD

VOLLEYBALL FEDERATION OF THE FORMER Y.R. OF MACEDONIA

President: Petar JOVANOVSKI
Year of affiliation: 1993
Volleyball players registered: 1,656



MLT

MALTA VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

President: Branko VLAHOVIC
Year of affiliation: 1984
Volleyball players registered: 905
Official website: www.maltavolleyball.org



MNE

VOLLEYBALL FEDERATION OF MONTENEGRO

President: Cvetko PAJKOVIC
Year of affiliation: 2006
Volleyball players registered: 622
Official website: www.oscgm.me



MON

FEDERATION MONEGASQUE DE VOLLEYBALL

President: Christian PALMARO
Year of affiliation: 1988
Volleyball players registered: 250
Official website: www.federation-volleyball.mc



NED

NEDERLANDSE VOLLEYBAL BOND

President: Hans NIEUKERKE
Year of affiliation: 1973
Volleyball players registered: 116,928
Official website: www.volleybal.nl
Top results at the Volleyball European Championship:
Men's European Championship: gold in 1997, silver in 1993 and 1995, bronze in 1989 and 1991; Women's European Championship: gold in 1995, silver in 1991 and 2009, bronze in 1985



NIR

NORTHERN IRELAND VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

President: Paddy MURPHY
Year of affiliation: 1982
Volleyball players registered: 1,170
Official website: www.nivb.com



NOR

NORGES VOLLEYBALLFORBUND

President: Stein-Gunnar BONDEVIK
Year of affiliation: 1973
Volleyball players registered: 15,500
Official website: www.volleyball.no



POL

POLSKI ZWIAZEK PIŁKI SIATKOWEJ

President: Mirosław PRZEDPELSKI
Year of affiliation: 1973
Volleyball players registered: 30,960
Official website: www.pzps.pl
Top results at the Volleyball European Championship:
Men's European Championship: gold in 2009; silver in 1975, 1977, 1979, 1981 and 1983; bronze in 1967 and 2011;
Women's European Championship: gold in 2003 and 2005, silver in 1950, 1951, 1963 and 1967; bronze in 1949, 1955, 1958, 1971 and 2009



POR

FEDERACAO PORTUGUESA DE VOLEIBOL

President: Vicente DE ARAUJO
Year of affiliation: 1973
Volleyball players registered: 213,240
Official website: www.fpvoleibol.pt
Top results at the Volleyball European Championship:
Men's European Championship: 4th place in 1948



ROU

FEDERATIA ROMANA DE VOLEI

President: Gheorghe VISAN
Year of affiliation: 1973
Volleyball players registered: 3,802
Official website: www.frvolei.ro
Top results at the Volleyball European Championship:
Men's European Championship: gold in 1963, silver 1955 and 1958, bronze in 1971 and 1977; Women's European Championship: bronze in 1963



RUS

VOLLEYBALL FEDERATION OF RUSSIA

President: Stanislav SHEVCHENKO
Year of affiliation: 1973 (as Soviet Union); 1992 (as Russia)
Volleyball players registered: 1,400,238
Official website: www.volley.ru
Top results at the Volleyball European Championship:
Men's European Championship: gold in 1950, 1951, 1967, 1971, 1975, 1977, 1979, 1981, 1983, 1985, 1987 and 1991 as Soviet Union; gold in 2013 (as Russia); silver in 1995, 2005 and 2007; bronze in 1958 and 1963 (as Soviet Union), in 1993, 2001 and 2003; Women's European Championship: gold in 1949, 1950, 1951, 1958, 1963, 1967, 1971, 1975, 1977,



1979, 1985, 1989 and 1991 (as Soviet Union), in 1993, 1997, 1999, 2001, and 2013 (as Russia); silver in 1955, 1981, 1983 and 1987 (as Soviet Union); bronze in 1995, 2005 and 2007 (as Russia)

SCO

SCOTTISH VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

President: Melissa COUTTS

Year of affiliation: 1973

Volleyball players registered: 1,638

Official website: www.scottishvolleyball.org



SLO

ODBOJKARSKA ZVEZA SLOVENIJE

President: Metod ROPRET

Year of affiliation: 1992

Volleyball players registered: 21,597

Official website: www.odbojka.si

Top results at the Volleyball European Championship:

Men's European Championship: 9th place in 2011



SMR

FEDERAZIONE SAMMARINESE PALLAVOLO

President: Gian Luigi LAZZARINI

Year of affiliation: 1987

Volleyball players registered: 235

Official website: www.federvolleysm.org



SRB

VOLLEYBALL FEDERATION OF SERBIA

President: Aleksandar BORICIC

Year of affiliation: 1973

Volleyball players registered: 24,368

Official website: www.ossrb.org

Top results at the Volleyball European Championship:

Men's European Championship: gold in 2001 (as Yugoslavia) and 2011; silver in 1997 (as Yugoslavia); bronze in 1975, 1979, 1995, and 1999 (as Yugoslavia), in 2005 (as Serbia Montenegro), in 2007 and in 2013 (as Serbia); Women's European Championship: gold in 2011, silver in 2007 (as Serbia), and bronze in 1951 (as Yugoslavia)



SVK

SLOVAK VOLLEYBALL FEDERATION

President: Lubor HALANDA

Year of affiliation: 1993

Volleyball players registered: 16,557

Official website: www.svf.sk

Top results at the Volleyball European Championship:

Men's European Championship: 5th place in 2011; Women's European Championship: 11th place in 2003



SWE

SVENSKA VOLLEYBOLFÖRBUNDET

President: Saffet ERAYBAR

Year of affiliation: 1973

Volleyball players registered: 9,000

Official website: www.volleyboll.se

Top results at the Volleyball European Championship:

Men's European Championship: silver in 1989; Women's

European Championship: 12th place in 1983



SUI

SWISS VOLLEY

President: Christoph STERN

Year of affiliation: 1973

Volleyball players registered: 38,000

Official website: www.volleyball.ch

Top results at the Volleyball European Championship:

Men's European Championship: 19th place in 1971;

Women's European Championship: 12th place in 1971



TUR

TURKIYE VOLEYBOL FEDERASYONU

President: Abdullah Özkan MUTLUGIL

Year of affiliation: 1973

Volleyball players registered: 30,300

Official website: www.tvf.org.tr

Top results at the Volleyball European Championship:

Men's European Championship: 11th place in 1963 and

2011; Women's European Championship: silver in 2003, bronze in 2011



UKR

UKRAINIAN VOLLEYBALL FEDERATION

President: Volodymyr TUROVSKYI

Year of affiliation: 1992

Volleyball players registered: 1,493

Official website: www.fvu.in.ua

Top results at the Volleyball European Championship:

Men's European Championship: 6th place in 1993; Women's

European Championship: bronze in 1993



WAL

VOLLEYBALL WALES

President: Yvonne SAKER

Year of affiliation: 1989; re-affiliated in 2008

Volleyball players registered: 139 (estimate)

Official website: www.volleyballwales.org



Zonal Associations



BALKAN VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION (BVA)

Established in: 1998

Members: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, F.Y.R. of Macedonia, Greece, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, and Turkey

President: Gheorghe VISAN (ROU)

Secretary General: Abullah Özkan MUTLUGIL (TUR)

Official website: www.balkanvolleyball.org



THE NORTHERN EUROPEAN VOLLEYBALL ZONAL ASSOCIATION (NEVZA)

Established in: 2003

Members: Denmark, England, Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden

President: Timo KENAKKALA (FIN)

Secretary General: Jussi JOKINEN (FIN)

Official website: <http://nevza.com>



EASTERN EUROPEAN VOLLEYBALL ZONAL ASSOCIATION (EEVZA)

Established in: 2005

Members: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, and Ukraine

President: Vladimir PATKIN (RUS)

Secretary General: Inara BROKANE (LAT)

Official website: www.eevza.eu



SMALL COUNTRIES DIVISION (SCD)

Established in: 1984

Members: Andorra, Cyprus, Faroe Islands, Gibraltar, Greenland, Iceland, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Northern Ireland, San Marino, Scotland, and Wales.

President: Margaret Ann FLEMING (SCO)

Secretary General: Marta IBÁÑEZ (AND)

Official website: www.cevscd.org



MIDDLE EUROPEAN VOLLEYBALL ZONAL ASSOCIATION (MEVZA)

Established in: 2002

Members: Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, and Slovenia

President: Karl HANZL (AUT)

Secretary General: Harald ROTTER (AUT)

Official website: <http://mevza.volley.net.at>



WESTERN EUROPEAN VOLLEYBALL ZONAL ASSOCIATION (WEVZA)

Established in: 2013

Members: Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland

President: Agustin MARTIN SANTOS (ESP)



ERRATA CORRIGE

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The Congress at which the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) was founded, was held on April 18-20, 1947, in Paris, with representatives from the following 14 countries: Belgium, Brazil, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Uruguay, United States of America and Yugoslavia.

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Aleksandar Boricic was made President of the Yugoslav Volleyball Federation in 1992, the position he then held through 2002.

A graduate of the College of Economic Sciences and the Advanced School of Volleyball Coaches from the University of Belgrade, Aleksandar Boricic joined the CEV Executive Committee and Board of Administration in 2001 and is an FIVB Board of Administration member since 2002.

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Vladimir Grbic also won one silver and one bronze medals from the 2003 and 2004 World League Finals that were held in Madrid and Rome, respectively.

