



EUROPEAN BOXING UNION (EBU) – NEWS (March 2024)

Dear boxing friends

The EBU-Bantamweight contest between the champion **Thomas Essomba (GB)** and the challenger **Elie KONKI (F)**, which took place in Sheffield (UK), on 9th February, 2024, was very contested with changing advantages. Finally **Essomba** kept his title with a very hard fought Split Decision. The French Party protested and the video of the fight was examined by a neutral and experienced judge, who confirmed the close result. It happens that boxing championship contests are very close and end with highly controversial scores. This is however nothing new; the judges have to evaluate the number and quality of the clean punches, the effectiveness and skill of both contestants and their aggressivity, and all this within very short time. The difference of one or two points may determine the winner, which is absolutely customary in boxing, and the EBU cannot always order a rematch after a close result.

Enock Poulsen (DK), challenged **Adam Azim (GB)** for the EBU-Superlightweight-title in London, on 3rd February, 2024. He has had shoulder problems in previous fights, and had to be counted out, again because of a dislocated shoulder. This is a medical problem that may destroy fights again and again, and it seems unfair for everybody to just risk it!

The most prestigious of all the EBU-titles, the Heavyweight championship, has been fought for the last time on 04/03/2023, almost one year ago. The EBU-champion, **Agit Kabayel (GER)**, succeeded to stop the no. 4 of the WBC-World Ratings, and consequently relinquished his EBU-title, and is now trying to fight for one of the world titles. After long discussions, the no. 4 of the EBU-Ratings, **Joe Joyce (GB)** and the no. 20, **Granit Shala (GER)**, eventually seemed ready to meet for the vacant title. Unfortunately the parties did not find an agreement, **Joe Joyce (GB)** pulled out, and the General Secretary is again on the lookout for a co-challenger available to fight **Granit Shala (GER)**..... time is running!!

It is my pleasure to let you know that our EBU-Council member **Alina Shaternikova** has received an award by the Ukrainian Army, presented by Ukrainian Major General Mr. **Anatoly Kazmirchuk** for her outstanding and volunteer activities by taking care of heavily wounded Ukrainian soldiers. (I did see heartbreaking pictures with young men in wheelchairs having lost their legs.) **Congratulations dear Alina, you are a heroine!**

Unfortunately and with increasing concern I have to notice that still boxers are contracted to fight, who are indicated by boxrec to be on «high risk B»! It means that boxers, who may already suffer from health (brain) damage due to their too long careers, due to having received too many punches to their heads, due to too many recent defeats etc. are allowed and authorized to fight strong, young and undefeated opponents, just to secure them another (stoppage) victory. Please be aware: boxrec has warned you, but you do not listen and authorize such fights; should an accident happen, you may be accused of being responsible!

Please show responsibility and care for all boxers not only for those that are licensed with you!

I thank you for having read these EBU-News; your comments are always welcome

With my warmest personal regards

Peter Stucki, EBU-President