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WORLD KARATE CONFEDERATION

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5th WKC European Championships

Again the *Slovak Karate Federation SKF* hosted a WKC event. Back in 1998 the 1st European Championships took place in the capital of Slovakia, Bratislava. This year again the Slovaks stepped in and took over the responsibility to assist the WKC; this was mainly because of divisive problems caused last year by some individuals who left the WKC. Within a very short time only four months the Organising Committee of the Slovak federation organised a major WKC event headed by Mrs. *L. Klementisova*, Mrs. *Šebejova*, *L. Klementis* (WKC Technical Director) and SKF President *František Komora*.

The stadium *National Tennis Centre NTC* offered excellent facilities for a championships of this size with approximately 400 competitors. Everything was in time, the schedule was precise and two days were sufficient for a regional tournament. WKC President *Marko Nicovic* expressed his gratitude to the local organisers for their excellent preparations and great hospitality.

At the regional WKC meeting for Europe *M. Nicovic* thanked the long-time member of the WKC Organising Committee, *Dr. Juraj Štaffa*, for his dedication to the WKC and wished him all the best for the future. *Dr. Štaffa* has reluctantly resigned from his position due to his political obligations in Slovakia.

The *Karate Savez Republike Srpske KSRS* applied to host the 6th WKC European Championships in June 2008 in the city of Banja Luka. As there were no other candidates so far, the WKC Executive Committee will examine the bid and make a decision soon.

Highlights of the kumite events were the fights by the three brothers *Arsen*, *Artur* and *Shamil Magomedov* in the Shobu Sanbon divisions. Previously at the last World Championships in 2005 in Novi Sad the brothers performed for the first time at a WKC tournament they took one gold and one silver medal for their federation *Russian Shito Ryu Karate Federation*. This year all three brothers were on the podium: *Arsen* won the gold medal in the -78 kg, *Artur* silver and *Shamil* bronze in the +78 kg category. Is it any wonder that they also won the kumite team trophy in Sanbon. What a success for the three brothers!

In the Shobu Ippon male category the final was a USKO match: *Dmitry Formiryakov* took gold and *Nikolay Chipsanov* silver (in 2004 at the 4th European Championships he also was silver medallist. At the World Championships 2003 in St. Petersburg *N. Chipsanov* won the gold medal and *D. Formiryakov* bronze.

All in all Bratislava was a very good representation of WKC karate with fairness, technique and good behaviour. We look forward to another great success for the WKC at the next Senior World Championships in one year in Bergamo, Italy, when the *Federazione Italiana Arti Marziali FIAM* will be the hosting federation.