



As we approach the close of 2024 and the festive season, I wish to extend my warmest greetings to you all. It has been a remarkable year for us, marked by significant achievements & several memorable events – some more memorable than others! This is always a time of year when we reflect on those past events and look forward to the year to come. But let us concentrate on the positive not the negative whilst we learn from our mistakes.

### **The European Championships - Poland**

The competition held in Myslowice showcased exceptional talent, sportsmanship, and the unifying power of martial arts. Athletes from numerous countries competed with determination and respect, demonstrating the core values of IMAF. The Championships were not only a celebration of martial prowess but also a testament to the bonds of friendship and mutual respect that martial arts foster worldwide. Our thanks are extended to Piotr Witkowski and his team in IMAF Poland for organising what proved to be a successful weekend.

### **AGM - Niels, Belgium**

This year, we held a highly productive Annual General Meeting in Belgium, which brought together leaders and representatives from across Europe and beyond. The constructive discussions and collaborative decision-making during the AGM have set a clear direction for the Federation's continued growth and development. Major decisions on the future of our rules and regulations were passed, paving a way for a more productive and efficient future. Again, many thanks to Koen Entbrouck and JP van Vre of IMAF Belgium for hosting the AGM and accompanying seminars.

### **Constitutional Changes for a Stronger Future**

This year also marked a pivotal moment in our Federation's history with the adoption of important constitutional changes. These updates reflect our commitment to transparency, inclusivity, and the evolving needs of our members. Once the constitution has been revised and shortened it will equip us to meet the challenges of the future with greater agility and effectiveness while remaining true to our foundational principles.

### **Boosting Morale and Strengthening Community Bonds**

The resilience and unity of our community have been particularly heartening this year. Through attending various events we are fostering a sense of belonging and shared purpose. It is through regional gatherings, online engagement, and international projects, that the spirit of camaraderie within our Federation will become ever stronger.

### **Looking Ahead to 2025**

As we celebrate the successes of 2024, we also set our sights on the opportunities and challenges of the year ahead. Plans are already underway for exciting new events, expanded training programs, and initiatives that will further elevate the profile of martial arts on the global stage. Together, we will continue to honour the traditions of martial arts while embracing innovation and growth. Some of the key points for the coming year that we, the board of IMAFE Europe, wish to concentrate on and complete are:

1. Complete revision of the Constitution (almost complete)
2. Consolidation of the IMAF Competition rules for all disciplines
3. Review and amend our web and media presences
4. Attend as many events European wide as possible and meet you all in person.
5. Complete the update of the Dan Register



### **A Season of Gratitude and Joy**

In the spirit of the season, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you. Your dedication and passion are the driving forces behind our achievements. It is through your efforts that the International Martial Arts Federation thrives as a beacon of excellence and unity.

As we celebrate this festive season, may it bring joy, peace, and renewal to you and your loved ones. Let us carry forward the lessons and triumphs of 2024 into the new year, inspired by the shared values that bind us as a global martial arts family.

I would like to extend my personal thanks to Koen Entbrouxk, Robert Antosiak, JP van Vre and Ian Key, the Board of IMAF Europe, for their solid work throughout the year. It hasn't been easy and sometimes it has been downright frustrating but the work has been completed and we are in a better place than ever. Thank You!!!

Wishing you a Merry Christmas, a prosperous New Year, and continued success in all your endeavours.

With warm regards,  
David Buckley  
European President  
International Martial Arts Federation