

EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

Monday, November 26th 2018

To the attention of

The Presidents of all European NBOs

Cc: EBL Executive Committee

Dear Presidents,

Some of you will probably recall an idea of the EBL URBAN Inter City Teams Championship. It was discussed lastly during our 9th EBL NBO Officers' Seminar in Belfast in February this year. Below, please find a link to the EBL site where you can find a relevant presentation on this project:

<http://www.eurobridge.org/education/officers/2018-belfast-presentations/>.

During last EBL's Executive Committee (EC) meeting in Opatija it was decided that we shall examine potential interest and involvement of NBOs in this project. EC asked me to take care of this matter. In short, this Championship is targeting cities in member countries of the EBL which would be interested to promote bridge and to organize – in cooperation with a local NBO and the EBL – a team event in the Open category played using the BBO platform. There was no planned limitation as far as the number of teams and number of participating cities is concerned. Teams would be required to be notified to and approved by local NBOs. Teams would play a knockout stage first which would lead to elimination of all but four teams. A Grand Final of Four Teams could be played in Brussels. Of course, these were preliminary Championship's assumptions discussed in Belfast and may be further modified as required. For example extension of four to eight teams in the final to increase interest in the event should be discussed.

Why URBAN? First, because of cities involved and second, because of a planned cooperation with URBAN Intergroup at the European Parliament (EP). The URBAN Intergroup (<http://urban-intergroup.eu/about-us/>) is a cross-party and cross-committee grouping focused on urban related issues which works with more than 100 partners that represent interests of Europe's towns and cities. It's important to stress however that so far the EBL has not signed any agreement with the URBAN Intergroup in respect of this Championship and discussions with this partner held in the previous term of the EC had a very preliminary character. Potential next steps towards this grouping should be taken following feedback to this letter and following elections to EP in May 2019.

EC finds idea of the URBAN Inter City Teams Championship potentially interesting and is ready to assist in its development provided we find enough number of interested local NBOs who will take



responsibility for this project in their countries. What in practice should be done? We hereby ask local NBOs to check whether you have adequate contacts with local municipalities who would be interested to take part in this project. It's important that finally **it should be the cities which will take part in the Championship** (with support of local NBOs) and which would host teams participating in the knockout stage of the Championship. Most probably municipalities would finance organization of this event, however amount of the financing required should not be excessive. NBOs' role would be to secure coordination on the national level, including nomination of a person responsible for the project in your country and assisting the municipality in organizing the event. The EBL will be i.a. in charge of organizing the Grand Final potentially in cooperation with EP.

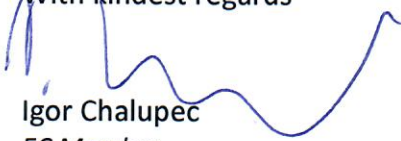
Preliminary idea was to organize this event in the season 2018/19 with a Final scheduled for November 2019. Taking into account that not much happened in this respect after Belfast and keeping in mind the upcoming elections to EP in May 2019, EC decided to move this agenda by one year – again provided we secure enough interest from local NBOs.

In conclusion, EC asks for your feedback regarding this project not later than by the end of February 2019. We ask you kindly to answer to the following specific questions:

1. Is your NBO interested to participate in the EBL URBAN Inter City Teams Championship?
2. If no, could you kindly present reasons for not participating in the event (no cities interested, lack of proper contacts, no person in charge, bad formula for the Championship, etc.)
3. If yes, please indicate a person which will be responsible for the project in your NBO.
4. If yes, please present potential cities which would/could take part in the Championship and present stage of negotiations with a city government. However, at this point we do not expect you to finalize anything with the municipalities as a final Yes and concrete formula for the Championship will depend on results of this survey.

Please, send answers/feedbacks to the EBL Secretariat at secretariat@europeanbridge.org.

With kindest regards



Igor Chalupec
EC Member