



EUROPEAN BOXING UNION (EBU) – NEWS February 2026)

Dear boxing friends

The New Year 2026 gifted us the following EBU-title-contests:

31.01.2026, Newcastle (UK), Superfeatherweight, **Josh Padley (UK)** WTKO2 **Jaouad Belmehdi (F)**

14.02.2026, Lahr (GER), Heavyweight, **Labinot Xhoxhaj (KOS/GER)** WKO4 **Pezhman Seifkhani (S)**

27.02.2026, Cave (It), Silver-Fly, **Rakyb Mohamed Radji (F)** WKO5 **Manuel Rizzieri (It)**

08.02.2026, Genova (It), Fem-S-bantam, **Narymane Benloucif Berche (F)** Wop10 **Michela Braga (It)**

Labinot Xhoxhaj (KOS/GER) won his third consecutive EBU-Heavyweight-title contest in his residence town Lahr (GER) and surprised again. He is now a full Heavyweight with 115 kgs, but seems with more weight much more explosive, and he made it clear from the begin, being not only the more aggressive but as well the more effective boxer who really wanted to win. **Xhoxhaj** proved that he is a worthy EBU-champion and that he may now be ready to face top-contenders. What he actually wants is to defend his EBU-title in his native Kosovo, where he is already now a hero.

Several times already I begged you **not to authorize unbalanced, onesided and dangerous contests**, which may damage the health of the weaker opponent. Very unfortunately I recently met again an undercard, where six of seven contests had been arranged against opponents, who had been qualified by boxrec as being at high-risk B because of too many defeats, too long careers or age. With one exception they all lost their fights of course inside the distance. This may be positive for the winner's boxing record, but it is an extreme risk for the loser's health, whose life may be at risk.

I seriously remind our member Federations not to authorize any more such unbalanced fights as it is not only dangerous for the boxer's health but as well a high risk for the responsible authorizing Federation. In case of an accident with a following judicial investigation the judge may get aware that the boxer was, according to boxrec, at high risk B, and that the authorizing Federation as well as the Promoter had therefore been warned and should take on responsibility. At the same time the losing boxer may continue developing CTE (Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy) and be damaged for all his life. By the way such onesided fights have no sporting worth and are not of interest for the public.

In the interest of our boxers, in the interest of your Federation, the EBU and boxing in general I beg you **to pay more attention and to be much more careful.**

We need to protect boxing and our boxers, and we can take care only when we are careful and attentive. It is not just a matter of business, of money or of sensation. It is a matter of care, responsibility and human respect. I may be naive or blue-eyed, but in spite of my age and experience I still believe we can run boxing in a decent way.

Let us continue to collaborate with friendship and correctness, always maintaining high standards when health and safety of our boxers are concerned.

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

With my warmest personal regards

Peter Stucki, EBU-President