



ESPORTS EUROPE FEDERATION: FRANCE ESPORTS ADOPTS A CAUTIOUS STANCE

The Esports Europe Federation (EEF) was founded on 21 February 2020 and have the ambition to bring together the National Esports Organisations of European countries to create an entity that defends their common interests.

Although France Esports has been involved in the project since its inception, the association has chosen not to apply to Esports Europe. This choice, which was difficult to make, was motivated by a lack of clarity about the objectives of the European body. From the beginning, we have been convinced that, together with all the esports stakeholders, we should build an entity that is representative of the European ecosystem.

The genesis of an international vision

Since 2018, France Esports has shown its willingness to build a global vision by bringing together its counterparts to identify common issues. We have created an internal department dedicated to international relations. Its objective is to establish a mapping of National Associations working on issues similar to ours and to initiate closer relations with our peers. We have, between European national actors, wished to develop a strong vision of Europe in order to speak in a unified voice.

This was the origin of the Dojo Esport's international summit that took place in Paris in January 2019. This first initiative led by France Esports brought together 8 countries in order to share views on their respective national developments. We identified many gaps between countries, from their structures to their missions.

Following the Dojo Esport, Germany organised a new meeting in April 2019 bringing together 12 countries to find a common will to unify European associations concluded by the signature of the Berlin Declaration. The growing interest among the countries was noticeable, but the main issue was the ability to make concrete progress on the definition of common missions.

Following this event, 17 countries met in Lausanne at the initiative of Switzerland to discuss the essential elements for the creation of a European body (governance, statutes, objectives, relations with the various international stakeholders in the industry and rights owners, etc.). Five countries have been mandated (Belgium, France, Germany, Israel, and Russia) to form the Establishment Committee (EC) to draft the official documents that will enable the creation of this entity.

From June 2019 to January 2020, the International Department of France Esports was rigorously and diligently involved in the Establishment Committee (EC), created the statutes as well as the membership criteria for countries applying as founding members. The objective was to have a solid and credible base of founders.

France Esports participated in the creation of specific rating membership criteria for National Associations membership: representation of a maximum number of esports stakeholders, legitimacy towards their national authorities, their missions and projects, the diversity and a democratic process to designate their leadership.

At the end of 2019, the Board of France Esports decided not to apply to the European body despite our involvement and central position from the early stage. This decision, which was discussed at length, was motivated in particular by the association's wish to wait until the objectives and scope of Esports Europe's actions were explicitly clarified.

A temporary distancing

France Esports think that the finalised European project lacked clarity and currently does not correspond exactly to our expectations. The Board of France Esports decided to monitor closely the evolution of Esports Europe in the coming months, especially the definition of its missions and field of action.

However, France Esports remains convinced of the need to work harmoniously at European level. Our position is not irrevocable and our association continues to maintain regular exchanges with the Esports Europe Federation. We are deeply committed to participating in a European approach to the issues we address on a daily basis at national level.

We would like to congratulate the entire EEF's Board and the Advisory Committee for their election as well as the International Department of France Esports for their wholehearted involvement.