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**E - BULLETIN**

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## TRADITIONAL SPORTS' GLOBAL JOURNEY CONTINUES

The World Ethnosport Union continues its activities on an international scale with the aim of reviving traditional sports and transferring them to future generations. As of today, the Union has achieved a more inclusive, stronger structure at the global level, having attained 44 member federations representing 30 countries from 5 continents.

### Global Network of Collaboration

Based on such common values as peace, respect, solidarity, and tradition, the World Ethnosport Union brings to life its works supporting cultural diversity on four continents. This understanding constitutes an example not only in the field of sports but also in cultural diplomacy, youth work, and social communication.

### New Members

As of 2025, the Belarusian Federation of Gorodki Sport, Qazak Kuresi Association and International Qusbegilik Federation have joined the World Ethnosport Union.

- Gorodki is a goal-oriented sport with a deep-rooted history in Belarus.
- Qusbegi represents a classical hunting tradition conducted with birds of prey in Central Asia.

These new memberships strengthen the Union's cultural representation and contribute to disseminating cultural values.



## Growing Role and Influence

The forums, workshops, and cultural events organized under the umbrella of the World Ethnosport Union are helping traditional sports gain a universal identity through the contributions of representatives from different geographies. The Union is currently continuing its leading role in protecting and preserving cultural heritage alongside its members from Europe, Asia, Africa, South America, and North America.





## 4<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL HIGHLAND FESTIVAL HELD IN AZERBAIJAN

### Promoting the Wealth of Nomadic Culture With International Participation

Held August 15-17, 2025 at the Khan Yurdu campus in the Göygöl district of Azerbaijan, the 4th National Highland Festival concluded with intense involvement and great enthusiasm. Aiming to preserve and promote the highland nomadic culture, the festival offered three days of unforgettable cultural experiences to local and international visitors.

### High-Level Participation

Supported by the World Ethnosport Union, the event was attended by Union President Necmeddin Bilal Erdoğan, Azerbaijani Youth and Sports Minister Farid Gayibov, Azerbaijani Agriculture Minister Majnun Mammadov, Göygöl Governor Elvin Pashayev, and high-level representatives from various countries. In this regard, the festival was not just a cultural meeting point but also a platform for international interaction and collaboration.

### Cultural Experiences

During the festival, visitors had the opportunity to become closely acquainted with cultural heritage through traditional highland games, handcrafts, art workshops, and folklore demonstrations. Showcasing the unique elements of life on the highlands, the events contributed to how younger generations meet with tradition.



## A Powerful Example of Cultural Continuity

Held this year for the fourth time, the National Highland Festival through its rich schedule has once again demonstrated its status as an important cultural platform, both locally and internationally. Realized through the support of the World Ethnosport Union, the festival has become a powerful example of how to preserve nomadic culture and strengthen cultural continuity.





## THE ETHNO-TRUCK MET WITH ANATOLIA OVER THE SUMMER

Conducted by the World Ethnosport Union to promote traditional sports and cultural heritage, the Ethno-Truck Project was successfully realized in four different cities during the summer of 2025.

The event calendar was implemented as follows:

- **July 29-31, 2025 - Yapraklı / Çankırı**
- **August 2-10, 2025 - Nevşehir**
- **August 16-24, 2025 - Erzurum (Within the scope of the Erzurum Culture Route Festival)**
- **September 6-14, 2025 - Kayseri**

The Ethno-Truck areas that were established in each province involved traditional sports (archery, arrow wars, mangala, mas wrestling), traditional children's games (pottery game, castle game, hoop, swing), and culture and art workshops (traditional marbling, linden print cloth bags).

These events aimed to promote **traditional sports, establish practical play areas for children and young people, provide handcraft experiences to visitors, and enable different segments of society to interact with cultural values.**

The Ethno-Truck project encountered great interest from both city residents and festival visitors during this time, with successful events having been carried out in collaboration with local governments and relevant stakeholders.



## CORPORATE VISITS

### Visit of the Bangladesh Youth & Sports Hon. Adviser (Minister) – 4 July 2025

**Mr. Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain, Hon. Adviser (Minister) of Youth and Sports of Bangladesh**, met with the **WEU President Mr. Necmeddin Bilal Erdoğan** to discuss cooperation on Rohingya refugee camps, traditional sports federations of Bangladesh, and joint initiatives. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed to formalize collaboration between the Ministry and WEU.

### Visit of the General Consul of Georgia in Istanbul – 7 August 2025

**The Georgian Consul General, Mr. Aleksandre Jishkariani**, met with **Mr. M. Abdulhalim Aksu, WEU Secretary-General**, to discuss promoting Georgian traditional sports in Türkiye and participation of Georgia in the 2026 Ethnosport Culture Festival. Cooperation could include traditional sports demonstrations, academic research, and elements of Georgian gastronomy, with potential expansion of TSG festivals throughout the country.

### Visit of the Kurash and Traditional Wrestling Italian Federation – 22 August 2025

At the WEU Headquarters, **Mr. Vittorio Giorgi, President of the Kurash and Traditional Wrestling Italian Federation**, discussed promoting traditional wrestling in Italy and plans for the first local tournament in 2026. He highlighted challenges in legal recognition, shared local wrestling styles, and presented the revival project of medieval **“Lucta Italica.”** Collaboration opportunities for exhibitions, Ethnosports 2027, and WEU events were explored, recommending a more inclusive approach for wrestling disciplines.

**Visit of the Uzbekistan Belbogli Kurash Federation – 1 September 2025**

**Mr. Ravshan Dastirov, President of the Uzbekistan Belbogli Kurash Federation,** met WEU to discuss upcoming international tournaments and cooperation for Ethnosports 2027. Topics included standardizing rules, uniforms, and refereeing, as well as supporting the inclusion of Belbogli Kurash in the WNG.

**Visit of the Consul General of Bangladesh in Istanbul - 8 September 2025**

**Mr. Muhammad Mizanur Rahman, Consul General of Bangladesh** in Istanbul, met with WEU to discuss cooperation on youth and community initiatives, including support for refugee programs and traditional sports federations. The meeting focused on strengthening partnership opportunities between Bangladesh and WEU.

**Visit of the International Centre for Sport Security - 26 September 2025**

A meeting was held with **Massimiliano Montanari, CEO of the International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS)**, to discuss potential cooperation between the World Ethnosport Union (WEU) and ICSS. The discussion focused on the promotion of collaboration in the field of volunteering, with an emphasis on the development of a sustainable young volunteers program within the organizations.





## NECMEDDIN BILAL ERDOĞAN PARTICIPATES IN THE 16TH EL JADIDA HORSE FAIR

Necmeddin Bilal Erdoğan, President of the World Ethnosport Union, attended the 16th El Jadida Horse Fair held in El Jadida, Morocco, under the High Patronage of King Mohammed VI, where he met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Moulay El Hassan. During the visit, evaluations were made on traditional sports, equestrian heritage, and international cooperation.

Held from September 30 to October 5 under the theme “Horse Welfare: A Bond Connecting Equestrian Practices”, the fair featured exhibitions, competitions, panels, and traditional tbourida performances, making it one of the most prestigious events in the equestrian world.

The World Ethnosport Union conducts international efforts to increase the recognition and promotion of traditional sports and games. With 44 member federations from 30 countries, the Union functions as a systematic umbrella organization. Through organized events, major competitions, cultural festivals, and digital projects, it contributes to transmitting this ancient heritage to younger generations.

Participation in the El Jadida Horse Fair, which has become an international meeting point over the years under the High Patronage of King Mohammed VI, represents a significant contribution to the World Ethnosport Union’s work in promoting traditional sports globally and preserving cultural diversity for future generations. This participation also enhances the Union’s international visibility and opens avenues for new partnerships.



## AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WORLD ETHNOSPORT UNION AND MOROCCO

The **World Ethnosport Union** participated in the **16th El Jadida Horse Fair** held in **El Jadida, Morocco**, from September 30 to October 5. The fair, under the theme **“Horse Welfare: A Bond Connecting Equestrian Practices”**, featured exhibitions, competitions, panels, and traditional tbourida performances, making it one of the most prestigious events in the equestrian world.

Within this framework, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the **World Ethnosport Union** and the **Ministry of National Education, Preschool and Sports of the Kingdom of Morocco**. The MoU aims to strengthen cooperation for the promotion and dissemination of traditional sports and to foster the development of new projects in this field.

The El Jadida Horse Fair provides a significant platform for promoting traditional sports at an international level. Through this agreement and the related promotional activities, the World Ethnosport Union has enhanced its relations with North African countries and aims to develop new collaborations in the field of traditional sports and games.



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