

**Message from EKO President
Shihan Koen Scharrenberg**



Osu!

As president of the European Karate Organization EKO and as vice-president of World Karate Organization WKO, I am very happy and proud to have the honour to witness this historic first 'virtual' World championship in kata.

The Lithuanian Kyokushin Karate Federation, with its long history of one of the world's greatest karate nations, proves by organizing this The 1st World Online Kata Cup that karate makes us resilient and able to 'survive' a very difficult situation.

Never before has there been such a threatening epidemic as with the Corona-crisis. And never before has full contact karate shown that there is so much power and motivation to continue training and competing – even in a virtual event.

We hope that the threat of the virus is receding, maybe it will bounce back in some ways. But already it is proven that even the greatest crisis has not enough power to beat the fullcontact karate family.

Thanks to you all, we show the world the strength of the spirit of the beloved karate of Sosai Masutatsu Oyama. Guided by strong organizers and leaders in Europe and Japan and worldwide, from all full contact organizations.

On behalf of EKO board, I wish you a great competition. We are all looking forward to meeting again in person of course. But in the meantime, we all will share this wonderful memory of a unique World Championship.

Koen Scharrenberg