



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **2015 Arena European Diving Championships, Rostock (GER) – Day 1 Again, Bazhina and Minibaev won the Team Event**

**Nadezhda Bazhina and Victor Minibaev won the first event of the Arena European Diving Championships in Rostock. They successfully defended last year's title in the Team Event. With 406.50 points to their name, the Russians relegated host Germany to second place. Maria Kurjo and Patrick Hausding were given 399.15 points for their three dives each. With a total of 383.50 points Illya Kvasha and Iuliia Prokopchuk (Ukraine) claimed the bronze medal.**

“It was the good start into the championships that we expected and we were able to defend our title,” said Nadezhda Bazhina after her victory.

“Our plan worked out. The silver medal is a good start. Today, four or five nations were represented by their best teams and we demonstrated that we're able to keep up with them. However, my mandatory dive was not ideal,” Germany's Patrick Hausding said.

Prior to the first event David Sparkes (Great Britain) officially declared the championships open. “I thank the city for their continuous support of the sport of diving in Rostock and the refurbishment of the Neptun Schwimmhalle,” the General Secretary of the European Swimming Federation, LEN, said. Rostock's Mayor Roland Methling mentioned investments amounting €7.5 million the city of Rostock contributed to the refurbishment of the Neptun Schwimmhalle.

The LEN General Secretary, however, arrived with a “surprise” in his luggage. For the first time at a diving championship, LEN will offer prize money for all medal winners. “Additionally, there's an extra payment towards the travel expenses of all participating nations,” Sparkes added. The total sum on offer is about €100,000.

At the same time David Sparkes announced that there would be a similar arrangement (including prize money for medal winners) at the European Short Course Championships in Netanya, Israel at the end of this year (December 2-6). “This is the beginning of a new era within LEN,” Sparkes said.

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