



16. Mr. BINEV Slavtcho (Slavi)

- Current Position: MNA President • Gender: Male
- Date of Birth: December 10, 1965 • Nationality: Bulgaria
- Language: Bulgarian, English, French, Russian, Italian

A. Qualification & Experience in Taekwondo

Taekwondo has been a part of my life for over 50 years. As an athlete, I became a multiple national champion and won many international tournaments. A highlight was my 1992 victory in Celje, Slovenia—at a competition under mixed WTF and ITF rules, considered one of the unofficial European Championships of the time.

In the early years of martial arts in Bulgaria, I held multiple roles—competitor, head coach of the national team, and coach of the country's largest club, CSKA.

In 2019, Kukkiwon honored me as the first non-Korean elected to its Board of Directors. I was re-elected in 2022 and continue to serve with full dedication.

Academically, I hold a Bachelor's degree in Sports from the National Sports Academy, a Master's in Professional Coaching, and I'm currently pursuing a PhD in Social Psychology at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. My approach to leadership is grounded in knowledge, ethics, and athlete-centered development.

I have been President of the Bulgarian Taekwondo Federation for the past nine years—now the fastest-growing federation in the country. Internationally, I've had the privilege to serve three terms as Vice President of the European Taekwondo Union, contributing to shaping the sport across Europe. It would be a great honor to continue serving the global Taekwondo community as a Council Member—preserving its traditions and guiding its future. I believe my lifelong dedication and experience make me fully prepared for this responsibility.

B. Experience in Other Areas (Other Sports, Business or Professional)

Taekwondo has been part of my life for over 50 years—as an athlete, coach, and, I hope, as a successful leader. I've climbed every step of the development ladder. But what truly prepares me for the WT Council is my broader experience—as a member of the Bulgarian Olympic Committee (BOC) Executive Board, Chair of various BOC committees, and currently again Vice President of the BOC. These qualities were recognized by the European Taekwondo Union (ETU), where I'm now serving my third term as Vice President.

Twenty years ago, I was honored with the aristocratic church title Archon, received in the Famous Santa Maria Maggiore Cathedral—awarded jointly by the Orthodox and Catholic Church.

As a businessman, I founded and led R-System Holding—active in real estate, construction, hospitality, and media. Under my leadership, it became one of Bulgaria’s top 34 private companies in the 1990s and early 2000s—without state contracts or privatization. This journey earned me the label of a true self-made entrepreneur, featured in The Washington Post under the title “The New Kids in the Eastern Block.”

In public service, I’ve been twice elected as a Member of the European Parliament and once to the Bulgarian Parliament. I was also chosen as Chairman of the Sport Intergroup in the European Parliament—effectively acting as an informal EU Minister of Sport.

This wide-ranging experience in sports, business, and politics equips me with a unique perspective to support World Taekwondo's global mission—offering vision, pragmatism, and dedication.

C. Education

I was born December 10, 1965 in Sofia. My academic way started at the 47th Sports School “Emil Markov” (1973–1979).

Afterwards followed the prestigious 9th French Language High School in Sofia. During my higher education, I attended the National Sports Academy “Vasil Levski” (1986–1990), earning a Master’s degree from the Pedagogical Faculty with dual major specializations in Tennis and Boxing.

Expanding my expertise in athletic instruction and sports science, I undertook numerous international training courses over the world.

Currently, I am pursuing a Doctoral Degree (PhD) in social psychology at the Institute of Psychology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

I have reached the 5th DAN Kukkiwon and am also a holder of Honorary 8th DAN Kukkiwon. This academic preparation gives me reason to believe that I can be one of the most prepared WT Council members.

This educational background underlines my strong dedication to sports education, coaching, international specialization in taekwondo, and ongoing academic development—qualities that strongly support my candidacy for a leadership role in the World Taekwondo.

D. Vision for WT in next 4-years

As I’ve shown in previous presentations, I have significant influence over key public groups. Through my past engagements, I’ve gained valuable experience and built connections that can strongly contribute to the global promotion of taekwondo—both through media exposure and by expanding

our community with new audiences and partners.

This will strengthen our corporate partnerships, increase financial resources, and elevate our social commitments. As a council member, I plan to secure contracts with global companies and position taekwondo on their shortlists, accelerating deals on continental, national, and local levels.

In terms of competition, relying solely on electronic systems is no longer sufficient. It's time to integrate artificial intelligence to reduce wasted time and resources. This innovation will eliminate human error, making judging fully transparent and objective—resolving one of our biggest issues and making the sport more attractive to broadcasters. Our partners and sponsors will proudly support a modern, fair-play sport.

As Vice President of the Bulgarian Olympic Committee, I am committed to maintaining taekwondo's place in the Olympic program and advocating for the inclusion of more categories, including poomsae.

Those who know me, understand my dedication. Any organization striving to grow and lead would benefit from the energy and commitment I bring. I believe strong leaders surround themselves with strong allies— and I am one of them.

Kamsahamnida!
