

Case: Trib_2025/03

Opening of Disciplinary Proceedings

issued by the
Chairperson of the Boxing Independent Integrity Unit's Tribunal,

on
29 June 2025

against
Mr. Eyassu Wossen Berhanu (Ethiopia), former President of the African Boxing
Confederation (AFBC)

eyassu1@gmail.com

Accused Party

and
Mr. Giulio Palermo, BIIU Investigation and Prosecution Officer
Ruelle du Couchant, CH1211, Geneva, Switzerland

gpalermo@archipel.law

Accusing Party

Decree:

1. The Accused Party is informed that the Boxing Independent Integrity Unit's ("BIIU") Tribunal ("Tribunal") received a written complaint (the "Complaint") from the International Boxing Association ("IBA" or the "Complainant") Head Office on 25 June 2025. The Complaint presents that, in relation to the letter titled "Unity, Sovereignty, and Our Unshakable Position" and issued by Mr. Eyassu Wossen Berhanu (the "Accused Party") on 25 June 2025 and other words and actions taken by the Accused Party in relation to the AFBC Normalisation Committee, appointed by means of the IBA Board decision on 03 April 2025, the Accused Party is alleged to have committed a breach of the following rules:
 - **Article 14.5 of the IBA Constitution amended on 07 December 2024 – non-compliance with the Normalisation Committee's decision;**
 - **Article 15 of the IBA Disciplinary and Ethics Code adopted by the IBA Board on 08 December 2023 ("DEC") – Violation of Constitution and Regulations; and**
 - **Article 20.1 of the DEC – Disparagement of IBA's Reputation and Interests.**
2. Subsequent to the abovementioned Complaint, and in accordance with the Tribunal competencies as per Article 6 DEC, the Chairperson of the Tribunal is hereby formally opening disciplinary proceedings against the Accused Party based on Article 9.1 of the BIIU Procedural Rules adopted by the IBA Board on 25 August 2023 ("BIIUPR").
3. The Accused Party is informed that, upon a decision of the BIIU Managing Director on 11 June 2025 in accordance with Article 24.2 BIIUPR, Mr. Guilio Palermo, Italian attorney-at-law based in Switzerland has been appointed as an Investigation and Prosecution Officer ("IPO") in this case, and therefore has been granted the status of the Accusing Party. Consistent with Articles 24.1, 25.2, 25.3 and 25.4 BIIUPR, the IPO shall have full power to investigate and prosecute any breach of Regulations before the Tribunal, including at the investigation stage, collecting evidence, summoning experts, examining witnesses as well as anyone (s)he deems appropriate, requesting the application of provisional measures or sanctions, and addressing written inquiries to the parties and any other person.
4. The IPO shall provide the Tribunal with the motivated written submission, in addition to all relevant evidence and proposals on any possible sanction, **by 15 August 2025**, extensible once subject to the prior approval of the Chairperson of the Tribunal.
5. The Chairperson of the Tribunal considers that, based on the evidence available, it is likely that an infringement has been committed by the Accused Party; however, a final decision on the merits cannot be rendered with sufficient urgency. In particular, notwithstanding the allegedly lodged appeal before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), the Accused Party's fiduciary duties as a senior official of IBA require him to refrain from any conduct that undermines institutional integrity, in direct contradiction to the decisions adopted by the IBA Board. His recent actions — including the dissemination of communications that openly rejected the legitimacy of the AFBC Normalisation Committee and encouraged National

Federations to disengage on the grounds that he and the former AFBC Board should represent the sole legitimate authority of the Confederation — constitute a clear attempt to obstruct the transitional governance process, and therefore seriously impact on IBA interest and reputation. These actions pose a serious risk of irreparable harm to the already fragile governance framework of African boxing and may exacerbate existing divisions among member federations, potentially leading to institutional paralysis or open conflict, which the Normalisation Committee was expressly mandated to prevent following protracted AFBC leadership disputes since 2024.

6. Given the foregoing, the Chairperson of the Tribunal resolves, *ex officio* and without the obligation to hear any of the Parties at this stage, that the imposition of a defined-term provisional measure is both necessary and proportionate considering the seriousness and urgency of the situation. Accordingly, and pursuant to Article 17.3 BIIUPR, the Chairperson hereby orders the **provisional suspension of the Accused Party from all AFBC and IBA-related activities, in any capacity, for a period of ninety (90) days.**
7. Any further relief sought by the Complainant is denied, without prejudice to the Tribunal's right to impose additional provisional measures in the event of repeated violations or non-compliance with this decision.
8. This decision shall be notified to the Parties as of its date of issuance and the provisional suspension shall be immediately enforceable.

Yours sincerely,



Boxing Independent Integrity Unit's Tribunal
Malek Badri, Chairman

There is no independent right of appeal against this decree.

Attachments:

- the letter titled "*Unity, Sovereignty, and Our Unshakable Position*" signed by Mr. Eyassu Wossen Berhanu and dated 25 June 2025
- IBA's Complaint about potential violation of Mr. Eyassu Wossen Berhanu including 4 Exhibits

Boxing Independent Integrity Unit
–
Tribunal



Copy by email to:

- Boxing Independent Integrity Unit (BIIU), Managing Director, director@biu.sport
- International Boxing Association (IBA) represented by its CEO and Secretary General, info@iba.sport **as Complainant**
- African Boxing Confederation Normalisation Committee, normalisationcommittee@iba.sport; PMuir@ers.org.sz