**Judge 6**

**Kriss Stephany - Mister Bear Belgium 2017**

My name is Kriss, I am 37 years old, Mister Bear Belgium 2017.

If I had to give you some essential elements to understand who I am, I would say that I am Basque, pro-European, and that I was raised by my great grandparents, both survivors of the Auschwitz and Mauthausen Nazi extermination and concentration camps.

In 2015, I moved to Brussels, fell in love with Belgium and its people. At the end of 2016, I became Mister Bear Belgium 2017. During that year I made every effort possible to promote the Belgian Bear and fetish communities across Europe, and tried to federate the Bears of Europe around a common project, the fight against the abduction of gay men in Chechnya. With this project, I worked in close cooperation with the leather community, and today I am still fully engaged even if I do not wear a sash anymore. The projet is still active and is more needed than ever.

My nickname is Master Bear. Why ? Have a guess.