

Minutes of the Region E&A Congress

30th of January, 2010

Auditorium of the Belgian Soccer Federation, Brussels, Belgium

1. Welcome by the President of Region EAME

Stéphane Delsaute, the President of the Royal Belgian Water Ski Federation, welcomes everyone and wishes everyone a good Congress. He apologises for any problems caused by the rare occasion of snow today.

Alain Amade thanks Stéphane Delsaute and says Belgium has played a big part in the history of water ski. Together with Switzerland and France, the Belgian Water Ski Federation started the story of water skiing by creating the World Water Ski Union. At that time, Philippe Debacker was the Belgian President. Frans Stevens, also from Belgium, later became an EAME (Region II) President, and Jean-Louis Delsaute, the father of Stéphane Delsaute, was the Belgian President for 26 years. Sid Adriaensen from Belgium has been the EAME Secretary General for many years now. Belgium also has world champions, like Guy and Claude Leclercq back in the forties and early fifties, and more recently Steven Van Gaeveren and Yolien Borremans (2009 Racing champions) and Sven Van De Velde (2009 Disabled champion). They also had Jan Baillien as World Games Barefoot champion and Kate Adriaensen the 2009 Tournament World Games overall champion, and they give a big contribution to the sport on a world level.

Alain Amade asks the Congress to stand up for a minute of silence for those who passed away last year and who wrote a page in the history of waterskiing. Peter Pearl (GBR) was an EAME Honorary Member and he also was secretary to Group II and secretary general of the World Water Ski Union. Edward Van Den Berg (GBR) was a founding member of the British Water Ski Federation. Sergio Zeinardi (ITA) was a famous driver. Richard Pakuzewski (BEL), Formula I Racer, Michael Appleford (GBR), a competitor for Disabled and Gerald Price (GBR), former chairman of the British Disabled Water Ski Federation (GBR).

Alain Amade welcomes the president of the IWWF, Kuno Ritschard, the IWWF Secretary General, Gill Hill, and the IWWF Vice President, Franz Kuhn. He gives a special welcome to the Honorary Members present : Aubrey Sheena, Paul Jensch, Hugo Engelen, Franz Kuhn, Louis Polome, Kuno Ritschard and Andy Harris. He announces that we also have the pleasure of having a patron member, Bruno Rixen, amongst us.

He then introduces the new Federation Presidents : Patrice Martin (FRA), Dr Günter Kuhnt (GER), Alexey Martynov (UKR) and Nadine De Villiers (RSA), a famous name in Barefoot. Alain Amade is very pleased that two world champions are now President of a Federation, being involved in the administration and experiencing how difficult it can

be to run a Federation. He also welcomes Aleco Keusseoglou (MON), who attends the Congress for the first time.

2. Verification of attendances and voting powers

Sid Adriaensen reads out the list of attendances and proxies - no remarks.

3. Appointment of Congress Chairperson

Alain Amade announces that the Admincom proposes Alan Goggin (GBR) as Congress Chairperson, as in the past years, and this is accepted with acclamation.

Alan Goggin welcomes everyone and explains the house rules and the rules for the election. He jokes that people are complaining that the hip flasks, which were given as a present, are too small and not full !

He also welcomes Brit Horemans, the EAME Office secretary, who will take the Minutes today and who he considers a great contact for anything to do with the Office.

4. Appointment of Scrutineers

Alan Goggin asks to approve the appointment of Aubrey Sheena, Paul Jensch and Hugo Engelen as scrutineers.

Accepted with acclamation.

5. Opening of Congress by Alan Goggin and confirmation properly convened in accordance with Statutes Art 16

Alan Goggin now declares the Congress officially convened, as the convocation was sent out on the 25th of November to all Federations and appointed delegates. He requests if anyone has not had their official notice. (no remarks)

6. Approval of Minutes of 2009 Annual Congress in Zagreb, Croatia

Alan Goggin asks if anyone has remarked any errors. (no remarks)

All approve by show of cards, no abstentions.

7. Note items for AOB

Des Burke-Kennedy (IRL) asks for an update on the discussion about IATA.

8. Discussion and approval of Reports

8.1. The President

Alain Amade comments that he mistakenly put into his report that Dimos Alexopoulos was Chief Judge at the Mediterranean Games, when it was actually Vincenzo D'Elia.

Des Burke-Kennedy (IRL) asks if the 10.000 € budgeted for environment needs to be approved by Congress. Alain Amade confirms this, and remarks that it is part

of the 2010 budget, and that we started using this budget last year for the partnership with the EBI (European Boating Industry).

Colin Hart (GBR) wonders if the countries from the Middle East still have voting powers at this Congress, after the change that was made to the composition of the Confederations at the World Congress. Sid Adriaensen replies that until the Statutes are changed, we are working under the old Statutes and so, at this point, the Middle East Region is still a member of our Confederation.

8.2. The Secretary General

Sid Adriaensen comments that the most important thing today is the name change and new logo for our region (under item 15). New stationary, badges, pins, flags, clothing... will have to be made after Congress has voted on the suggested changes.

The new phone number for the EAME Office was circulated. There will no longer be a fax number, as most people scan their documents and send them by e-mail.

All Congress information was made available on www.eame.be, under EAME Office Mailings - Congress, and everyone concerned was notified of the updates by e-mail. A new Guideline for presentations was circulated.

8.3. The President of the Barefoot Council

Alexandra Vigoureux is pleased with the excellent results for the EAME Barefoot skiers in 2009, both in EAME and in World Championships, especially for David Small (GBR) and Sam Heinrich (RSA).

The World Championships 2010 will be held in Brandenburg, Germany, and she asks everyone for their support.

Thea Klarenbeek (NED) remarks that the report is not on the internet yet.

8.4. The President of the Cableski Council

Marie-Anne Persoons has no remarks to her report.

8.5. The President of the Council for Disabled

Philippe Turchet thanks France and Italy for hosting the 2009 Disabled Championships and Tour. He also thanks all involved with Disabled Water Ski.

8.6. The President of the Racing Council

Mike Waterman thanks Belgium for hosting the 2009 World Championships and he also thanks all involved for all the work done.

8.7. The President of the Tournament Council

Stefan Rauchenwald has no remarks.

8.8. The President of the Wakeboard Boat Council

Wakeboard Boat has no president at the moment. Florian Butty, co-ordinator of the Wakeboard Boat Council, has no comments to his report.

Colin Hart remarks that Wakeboard has been around for 13 years now.

He requests all Federations to send delegates to their Seminar on 9-10 April, as it is very important for the development of a division to have officials. A first bulletin was already distributed and this year there also is a drivers' seminar.

8.9. The President of the Wakeboard Cable Council

Varna Laco has no comments to her report.

8.10. The President of the Medical Commission

Dr Lorenzo Benassa reads out his report (*see www.eame.be*), which is mainly about a new procedure to transplant a synthetic fabric cartilage into a much compromised athlete's knee.

Des Burke-Kennedy (IRL) wonders if we have an interesting PR opportunity here, with such innovative surgery, also on a World Champion like Ageliki Andriopoulou (GRE). Dr Benassa explains that this was the first year this procedure was used, with about 1.000 cases in the world. He stresses that the method is only possible when the damaged area is small.

Michael Kaz (ISR) wonders if a second surgery is possible if an athlete continues competing and damages the joint again. Dr. Benassa confirms this is possible, if the damage is not too extensive.

8.11. The President of the Coaching Subcommission

John Wood thanks the Spanish Federation for hosting their seminar last year. For this year, they are still looking for a hosting country, so all bids are welcome. He also thanks the Italian Federation for hosting the first Mediterranean Games in 2009, and the Admincom for continuing a subsidy for the training for skiers.

He explains that a diploma system for coaching is a new initiative.

Alain Amade explains to new members that the members of the Coaches Subcommission were initially nominated by the Tournament Council, and that reinforcements would be welcomed !

Alain Amade is very proud that EAME achieved very good results in 2009, also at the World Championships, and he congratulates everyone.

The reports are approved of en bloc by a show of cards. No abstentions.

9. Financial Report & budget 2010

9.1. Presentation of Accounts up to 30.11.2009

Alan Goggin welcomes the Treasurer, Dominique Lakens-Douwes. Her report was circulated before the Congress.

She comments that EAME now has accounts with different banks to get better interest rates, and also for security reasons because of the banking crisis, as we had too many assets in one account.

A lot of invoices were sent out in November. Therefore the list with the status on November 30th shows a lot of money that is owed to EAME, but many of those invoices have been paid by now.

On the Profit and Loss page there are old numbers in the Budget of 30 November 2009. The numbers circulated today are correct.

A lot more than planned was spent on development, mainly because of extra sponsoring of the Mediterranean Games, and on promotion, partly because of the Cable Ski brochure.

Des Burke-Kennedy (IRL) comments that the word "price" should be "prize". He also wonders how much money will be received from the IOC and ARISF in sponsorship of the Mediterranean Games. If it will be about 6.000 €, like it was last year, which could cover our 6.000 € loss. Kuno Ritschard (IWWF) cannot make any comments on that right now.

Regarding the 8.000 € budgeted for environment, Alain Amade thinks we will actually need 10.000 €. He adds that since we give over 3.000 € every year to

the IWWF for environment, because it is so important, IWWF should contribute to make up the difference if 10.000 € will be needed.

Accepted by show of cards, no remarks.

9.2. Professional Auditor's Report

The report was distributed to everyone, no comments.

Unanimously accepted by show of cards.

9.3. Honorary Auditor's Report

The report was distributed to everyone, no comments.

Unanimously accepted by show of cards.

9.4. Appointment of Professional Auditors

Alan Goggin announces Willem Freen is recommended by the Admincom and the Treasurer. His proposal is formally approved by show of cards.

Unanimously accepted by show of cards.

9.5. Appointment of Honorary Auditor

Lill Fitzpatrick is prepared to continue as Honorary Auditor, and this is accepted by Congress.

Unanimously accepted by show of cards.

9.6. Budget 2010

Dominique Lakens-Douwes has nothing to add to the notes that were circulated.

Des Burke-Kennedy wonders why Wakeboard Boat had a council budget of 10.500 € in 2009, but only 3.000 € was spent, and now in 2010 they have a budget of 3.000 € ? Dominique Lakens-Douwes replies they generated this extra income themselves, but a council cannot carry all of it over to the next year.

Unanimously accepted by show of cards.

10. Admission of new members and resignation of members

Alain Amade announces potential new members : Sudan, Tunisia, Morocco and Malta.

11. Elections

11.1. Council members

Sid Adriaensen reads out the number of votes for each country. He announces that Svenja Hempelmann (Barefoot) and Luciana Barbero-Duranti (Disabled) have withdrawn their candidacies and their names should be stricken from the voting slips.

Barefoot Council : there are 9 candidates for 7 places and 32 possible votes. Alan Goggin explains that at least 2 candidates should be crossed off the voting slip to have a valid vote. Are elected: Aartsen Evert (FIN)(32), Bauwens Marc (RSA)(32), Goldie Sue (GBR)(32), Molenkamp Rob (NED)(22), Saracco Nicola (ITA)(29), Vigoureux Alexandra (FRA)(32), Wehner Hilmar (GER)(25), Are not elected: Cohen Enrico (NED) and Zielman Arno (NED).

Cable: 36 possible votes, 8 persons for 7 positions. At least 1 candidate should be crossed off to have a valid vote. Are elected: Caine Nicky (GBR)(35), De Leyer Joost (NED)(29), Kunert Elena (SVK)(33), Mos Michal (POL)(31), Persoons Marie-Anne (BEL)(36), Pitz Juergen (GER)(34), Tal Maoz (ISR)(33). Not elected: Padaliak Mikhail (BLR).

For **Disabled**, there are a total of 30 votes. All 7 persons were elected. Airey Paul (GBR)(30), De Bakker Dany (BEL)(30), Ferrer Carmen (ESP)(25), Fosse Yvar (NOR)(30), Goossens Paul (BEL)(30), Rossi Dario (ITA)(25) and Turchet Philippe (FRA)(27).

For **Racing** all 7 candidates got the maximum of 20 votes. The new council members are: Escoda Josep (ESP), Hebenstreit Franz (AUT), Klarenbeek Thea (NED), Leysen Jules (BEL), Malbete René (FRA), Van Den Bossche Vera (BEL) and Waterman Mike (GBR).

For **Tournament** there are 74 possible votes for 7 candidates. All are elected: Alexopoulos Dimos (GRE)(61), Hill Gillian (GBR)(71), Lilleberg Stian (NOR)(69), Moz Candido (ITA)(71), Rauchenwald Stefan (AUT)(68), Raymond Marc (FRA)(71) and Rintanen Hannu (FIN)(69).

Wakeboard Boat : 8 nominations for 7 places with 38 possible votes, so at least 1 candidate has to be removed to make a valid vote. Are elected : Breivnik Remi (NOR)(32), Bulgakova Maryia (UKR)(31), Eca Nuno (POR)(35), Hart Colin (GBR)(36), Scheffer Claes (SWE)(30), Subjobert Nicolas (FRA)(34), Valerio Simona (ITA)(34). Butty Florian (SUI) was not elected.

For **Wakeboard Cable** there is a maximum of 39 votes. All 6 candidates are elected with no votes against : Gerkau Lucien (GER), Jansen Ferdie (NED), Koester Julie (GBR), Laco Varna (CRO), Marmonier Carole (FRA), Tanaskovic Nenad (SER).

Alain Amade congratulates all elected candidates and stresses that they are the work force, the people who run the sport. He is glad new, young people join the councils and hopes the friendly atmosphere will remain. He also announces that since Dario Rossi is a member of the Disabled Council now, and no longer with the Admincom, there is a vacancy in the Admincom. There will be no election for this now, but any proposals are welcome and later today the Admincom will co-opt a member to fill this vacancy.

Alan Goggin asks each council to come back after the lunch break and indicate the new composition of their council, as well as their meeting dates for 2010.

12. Environment update

Alain Amade comments that Dr Mayer not only works for ECNI, but also for the European Boat Industry, the EBI. ECNI has a few members, but EBI is much bigger. They agreed to work for us regarding the environmental issues. Waterskiing will be included in their yearly brochure this year. It was also agreed that the EBI will survey the impact of waterskiing on smaller lakes. The EBI is spending much more money on these projects than we are.

Dr Mayer from EBI should have made his report now but because of the snow, the driving conditions are very bad and he could not come.

An e-mail from Dr Mayer to Alain Amade reads: "Before entering into a major effort, a compact layout of a study and the major issues should be submitted to IWSF / EAME and discussed to arrive at common conclusions on the further work to be done. The rather obvious predominant impacts are those of noise, waves and interference with other water sports. The more complex issues are the natural fauna and flora near the banks of the waters.

A study should be concentrated on Europe only, a worldwide investigation, if required, might build on the methods and results achieved. The study will have to summarize and clarify those discussions already going on or started in certain areas in Europe, for example Norway, Ireland, Austria, Lake Constance, Lake Windermere, artificial mining lakes in Germany, etc. The EAME members will have to provide information on

environmental issues that are raised, on which aspects and by whom (citizens, public authorities, recreational associations, etc).

To define a reasonable outline of a future detailed study by identifying the environmental impacts to be covered and the methods to be followed (typical regions or waters to be investigated and, if necessary, visited, and specialists to be consulted, especially on the impact of waves and on water fauna as fishes and reptiles) may be done.”

13. Report from the IWWF

13.1. Information by the IWWF President

Kuno Ritschard has distributed the ARISF brochure to all delegates at this Congress. ARISF is the Association of the IOC Recognised International Sport Federation and IWWF is a part of ARISF.

He thinks having 5 World Championships taking place within our Confederation will result in a very busy year for us. There is no organiser yet for the World University Championships, and all bids are welcome.

The American boat industry faced big financial problems and had to reduce production. Our 5-year agreement with MasterCraft and CorrectCraft ended last year. It was renewed for another 6 years with MasterCraft because they made a better offer than CorrectCraft, even if the IWWF isn't happy to work with just one company. In the past we shared income from the official boat with the organisers, but this unfortunately cannot happen anymore. MasterCraft could only promise to help any interested organiser to get a good price for the boats used at the Championships.

The next World Games in 2013 in Columbia will hopefully include Cable Wakeboard, if they are willing to construct a cableway. Kuno Ritschard will discuss this with the organiser in March.

We will apply for the next Youth Olympic Games, introducing Cable Wakeboard as a new youth sport. The decision will be made in 10 days by the IOC in Vancouver. Unfortunately, none of the possible host cities has a cable park at this time, but we might be able to convince them to install one.

Kuno Ritschard is pleased with the work of Uwe Goldstein for the Cable Development Committee. He considers it vital to develop Cable as much as possible, as it is - unofficially - favoured by the IOC with regards to noise and environment.

The Show Ski Committee was formed 2 years ago. China might organise a World Competition for Show Skiing this year. Any Federation that has people who might like to compete there can contact Kuno Ritschard about this.

Moving the Middle East countries to the AA region was one of the requests of the Olympic Council of Asia to be included in future games in Asia. A first step towards this is now having Wakeboard and Shortboard (Tricks) as a part of the Asian Beach Games in December, Oman.

There are problems with organising the World Cup Calendar for this year ;another 3-4 weeks will be needed to complete it. We want to have good events and no financial problems, so we prefer having fewer stops on the World Cup.

The World Council or Committee members can buy a shirt with new IWWF logo for 15 € each.

13.2. Information by the IWWF Vice-President from EAME

Franz Kuhn is happy to have so many friends in water skiing.

The last year was quite hard and he thanks Kuno Ritschard for all his work.

Franz Kuhn attended a lot of meetings last year, and Cable Wakeboard was very often the topic of these meetings. The division is growing and that can cause problems. A new list of Obligations and Agreements for IWWF Cable Wakeboard is being made, and a new contract is under construction with Andreas Boes-Nockerman from ID+MA.

He enjoyed assisting at the Barefoot Championships in Austria and the IWSF World Racing Championships in Belgium. He only regrets that the prize giving ceremony in Belgium was held very late due to the officials, the organisers not to blame at all.

He will once more take care of the medals, the trophies for the athletes of the year and the framed pennants. They will have to be changed this year because of the new names and logos, so more time will be needed to prepare them.

Franz Kuhn considers the co-operation with Uwe Goldstein for Cable Wakeboard to be very important and making the work easier for him. He also thanks Andreas Boes for his help, and Mr and Mrs Bruno Rixen, our sponsors, who are present at this Congress.

He will organise the next Admincom meeting in Salzburg.

At the last IWSF Congress he was re-elected for the next 2 years as EAME Vice President. He is grateful for being elected with no votes against, and he promises to do his best again in the next period. He encourages everyone to come to the next IWWF Congress in Dubna, Russia, in 2011, at which time the World Championships will also be held.

At our previous EAME Congress, Romania promised that it might form a new federation. Last week they phoned Franz Kuhn to announce that they cannot come to this Congress, but that their Federation will be ready by the middle of March. We will continue working to create opportunities with other countries, like Montenegro and Slovenia.

No questions.

Alain Amade thanks both Kuno Ritschard and Franz Kuhn for all their hard work, also in Eastern countries that are new to the way a Federation is run and how we work in Water Ski.

He wants to stress that it was *not* EAME's decision to move the Middle East countries to the AA Confederation. They are still welcome at any Congress, meeting, competition or seminar that EAME will organise, except for the EAME Titled Events of course. EAME will continue to help them, as we all are members of IWWF, and he thanks all these countries for their contribution to their sport in the past.

Alain Amade thinks our youngest sport, Cable Wakeboard, has a very good future and he thanks Franz Kuhn for his support and Andreas Boes for the good partnership we have with him.

13.3. Information from the IWWF Cable Development Committee

Uwe Goldstein introduces himself and he thinks probably few people know him because he is quite new here. He reads out his report (*see www.iwwf-ea.eu*).

He shows a short presentation of the last Cable Wake Championships and comments it was a very successful competition. For this year, he would welcome a co-operation with Cable and Disabled.

Kuno Ritschard comments that he looks forward to continuing the good working relationship with Uwe Goldstein. They recently visited China together, where the

first cable parks will most likely be built this year. He says cable also is a mass sport, not only a competition sport, and there is a lot of potential for this in countries like China. He also invited Uwe Goldstein to present cableways as a sport for all at the Sport For All convention in Finland.

Kuno Ritschard adds that the IWWF, together with the World Cup, will distribute more than a million US \$ to the athletes for at this year's competitions, and a large part of this will go to the E&A athletes. He thinks it is very important that our professional skiers get some living out of the competitions.

Frank Tengberg-Hansen (DEN) asks Kuno Ritschard if IWWF plans to change to iwwf.com? Kuno Ritschard replies that he decided not to spend a lot of money to buy www.iwwf.com. The official IWWF website will become www.iwwf.sport as soon as this domain becomes available.

Frank Tengberg-Hansen (DEN) also asks how many Federations worldwide have added "Wakeboard" into their name and logo. Kuno Ritschard replies he doesn't know exactly how many Federations have changed their name yet. Jim Grew, one of the IWWF Vice Presidents, produced a document with reasons for the name change and when this is finished, it will be distributed to all member Federations to recommend the name change.

14. Nominations by the Divisional Councils

The Councils name their President, Secretary, Treasurer, Admincom member and three World Council delegates + one substitute.

The meeting dates of the year are communicated.

(see "*Composition of Councils and Committees*" and "*2010 meeting dates*")

15. Changes to the Statutes - as circulated

General: Sid Adriaensen explains that now that the Middle East countries will no longer be a part of EAME, we will need a new name and abbreviation. In the new IWWF Articles of Association, we are now the "Confederation of Europe and Africa".

The Admincom proposes that we will be called "*Europe and Africa Confederation (E&A)*".

Patrick Martin (FRA) would prefer EAC as it is easier to spell for other languages.

Pepe Escoda (ESP) comments that "&" (ampersand) is a protected character for internet encoding, and that it might present a problem when it has to be used on the internet.

Colin Hart (GBR) suggests to simply use E&A without "Confederation" etc., because then there is more room to add the divisional name on the logo.

Aubrey Sheena jokes he would prefer "ACE" because "you can't beat an ace".

Michael Kaz (ISR) points out that Israel wishes to stay with Europe, as a Mediterranean country, although being part of the Middle East. Alain Amade confirms this. Louis Polome (RSA) says that the boundaries are actually not defined in the text. Sid Adriaensen concludes that it would be best to change the first paragraphs of our Statutes by adding "and including Israel".

Kuno Ritschard thinks the abbreviation should not be used too much because "Europe and Africa" sounds more organised. He would also prefer

EAC. He adds that there are plans to create an African Confederation, not to split from E&A, but to be in contact with the African countries.

Alain Amade replies that on all official papers, it will always be Europe and Africa in full.

Alan Goggin suggests cutting this discussion short by going for a vote on the recommended name and abbreviation.

Voted upon by show of cards. Carried with one vote against and one abstention.

Art. 1. Sid Adriaensen: IWSF was changed to IWWF and “Wakeboard” was added. Also, three lines were added as requested by IWWF:

“E&A agrees to submit to the IWWF Articles of Association, in particular to accept the Articles 12 to 16 ‘Continental Confederations’.

E&A agrees to submit to the IWWF Memorandum of Association.

E&A agrees to submit to the IWWF Bye-Laws, in particular to Article 7 ‘Confederations’.”

Voted upon by show of cards. Accepted unanimously, no abstentions.

Art. 12. On request of IWWF, the last paragraph was added: *“Any dispute arising from, or related to, these Statutes or the Bye-laws, or any decisions, directives, rules and regulations issued by the Governing Body shall be submitted exclusively by way of appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland, which shall resolve the dispute definitively in accordance with the Code of Sport-related Arbitration.”*

(website of the Court of Arbitration: <http://www.tas-cas.org>)

Andy Harris (GBR) wonders if it is correct that there is no appeal process within our Confederation. Sid Adriaensen replies that the Bye-Laws, Art.6. Appeals Committee, Art.7. Arbitration, state that we have this provision within our own body. Kuno Ritschard says it is an obligation to have this article in all Statutes to be a member of the recognised sports’ federation of the IOC.

Voted upon by show of cards. Accepted unanimously, no abstentions.

Art. 19 *“The President and the Secretary General will represent E&A on the Executive Board of the IWWF.”*

This change was decided at the last Congress in Zagreb.

Voted upon by show of cards. Accepted unanimously, no abstentions.

Art. 21.d Added : *“These divisions shall be listed in the E&A Bye-Laws.”*

Voted upon by show of cards. Accepted unanimously, no abstentions.

Art. 23 Added : *“They shall also elect three members and one alternate member to serve on the relevant World Council.”* The omission was corrected here.

Voted upon by show of cards. Accepted unanimously, no abstentions.

A proposition for a new logo, chosen by Admincom, is presented by Dominique Lakens-Douwes (NED).

Patrice Martin (FRA) fears you will not be able to read “Europe and Africa” on a small pin. He thinks more solutions should be presented in the future, so that a choice is possible. Gill Hill (GBR) jokingly suggests putting Europe & Africa stickers on the IWWF flags, in the interest of economy. Mikhail Padaliak (BLR) does not agree with the composition of the logo.

Alain Amade explains that a lot of designs were tried out and that all designers had their own idea about the logo. Dominique Lakens-Douwes adds that the idea was to keep the IWWF logo intact and still have “Europe and Africa” visible on all sorts of sizes and materials.

Andy Harris (GBR) asks Kuno Ritschard if the two other Confederations will do something similar. He is happy to support the suggested logo and thinks it’s important for our sport that there is continuity to be seen as a family. Kuno Ritschard thinks there will be no discussion about this, as the others Confederations are not so interested in these matters. He himself prefers the logo that is presented.

Colin Hart (GBR) and Louis Polome (RSA) think the line of “Europe & Africa” should come a bit lower, below the “wake of a boat”. John Wood (GBR) thinks the problem actually is the IWWF logo. Where were the Confederations’ names meant to go when it was designed?

Dimos Alexopoulos (GBR) says we can discuss all day about this. He wonders if we should have our own logo, or a common logo with IWWF, and thinks this should be voted upon. Kuno Ritschard recommends keeping the IWWF logo. Alain Amade thinks we are too small as a sport and we should keep the same logo.

Voted upon by show of cards. Accepted with 3 abstentions.

16. Changes to the Bye-Laws - as circulated

Sid Adriaensen explains that the changes are mainly cosmetic and involve the name changes. Also, a list of the 7 recognised councils is now included under 1.3.

Furthermore, in 4.4.3. there is a change in the procedure of the entry forms: they should be sent to the organising Federation and *to the E&A divisional council representative to the event*. So the wording in the Bye-Laws actually is the practice of the last 2 years.

Under 7.5 “*Lausanne*” was added.

Andy Harris (GBR) wonders if the matter of the Voting Powers (Appendix A) for Senior Championships will be addressed this year. Sid Adriaensen replies that up to last year there was only a World Seniors Trophy. Since we now have the World Senior Championships it is logical to add this competition to the list to be rewarded with a vote. Dimos Alexopoulos adds that it should actually be World 35+ Championships, not World Senior. Sid thanks Dimos for this good remark.

All changed are accepted with show of cards, no abstentions.

The Rules of Eligibility are an addendum to the Bye-Laws. Under point 4. the following text was added: “*Persons eligible from a country where no National Federation exists may compete in Confederation E&A titled events for one year only. Being qualified for a country requires the person to be in possession of a passport and the proof of residency for more than 5 years in this country. After this one year exception period, the participation is only possible through an approved E&A National Federation member.*”

Peter Frei explains that we want to give countries with no existing Federation a one year exception, so that they can send skiers to the E&A Championships under the conditions mentioned. Romania is an example of this.

Louis Polome (RSA) wonders if any Voting rights will be accumulated this way. Peter Frei replies that since these Federations are not members yet, they will have no rights, so no voting powers either. Des Burke-Kennedy (IRL) suggests a small change in the wording: “and have proof of residency for more than 5 years *in the country concerned*”.

Alain Amade thinks it is a necessary tool to help create Federations. The rules in all countries are different, in some countries it is allowed to have more than one Water Ski Federation for example. We will only allow 1 skier or rider for 1 year.

Des Burke-Kennedy (IRL) says he knows this situation, and has solved this before by inscribing such people as guests. Their scores will not be included in the final official scores, but it might encourage people to take part and later organise a Federation.

Michael Kaz (ISR) wonders what about sanctioning then, if there is no Federation? Peter Frei agrees that is a good point. Patrice Martin (FRA) asks what happens if there is more than one athlete? Peter Frei: the general rule is only one skier can participate without qualification. Patrice Martin (FRA) thinks there should always be a qualification.

Aubrey Sheena (GBR): can this exception system be repeated the next year or the year after? Peter Frei answers that it can only be for one year. Dominique Lakens-Douwes (NED) and Andy Harris (GBR) agree with Aubrey Sheena (GBR) that the present wording would allow different persons coming year after year.

Depy Papadimitriou (GRE): if there is no Federation, who will decide which athlete to send?

Dimos Alexopoulos (GRE) agrees with the principle, but would like to know if 1 person can be sent to every division for 1 year? Peter Frei confirms this.

Börje Broström (SWE) remarks that in Sweden it is not allowed that skiers that have no national Federation compete.

Kuno Ritschard remarks that this wording can only be discussed at the next World Congress, because the Rules of Eligibility are coming from the World level. Alan Goggin replies that this is about E&A Championships, not World Championships. Gill Hill agrees with Kuno Ritschard this is an IWWF document and she suggest taking the proposed paragraph out of the E&A document. Kuno Ritschard says the IWWF had decided on an exception for Cable Wakeboarding only. He would not recommend widening this to all divisions or making a difference between E&A Championships and World Championships.

Aubrey Sheena is concerned at some of the changes where “*E&A agrees to submit to the IWWF Articles of Association... etc*”. He fears this will mean losing control of our own Statutes and Bye-Laws as we would automatically have to absorb any changes the IWWF makes to those documents. He thinks the two other Confederations should then also have to comply to this. Kuno Ritschard sees no problem; the wording is only about the administrative structure and some key articles. He doesn't think the Confederations need not have exactly the same wording; they should keep their own structure. Aubrey Sheena replies that he agrees this is the case now, but what when IWWF decides to change its structure or statutes? Kuno Ritschard thinks this problem would never pose itself, as a 2/3 majority has to decide on changes in the World Congress. Aubrey Sheena just wanted everyone to be aware of what they are accepting.

Alain Amade thinks that some IWWF rules (anti-doping, WADA, arbitration...) are mandatory, but not all. Also, Federations are first of all members of IWWF, and then of their Confederation. He sees no problems with the present situation.

Alan Goggin assumes the majority here is in favour of this concept and concludes the wording will have to be changed first by the Admincom. The proposal is withdrawn. Peter Frei stresses this document is *only meant for E&A*.

17. Changes to the List of Obligations - as circulated

Sid Adriaensen says the main thing is the name change, and a few small changes, that will be explained by Peter Frei.

Art. XII. European Broadcasting Union

Peter Frei clarifies that this a recommendation to the Organiser of a Titled Event to provide sufficient access to the internet, for the benefit of the press, and to the person that should be allocated to publish the results on-line, in

real time. Des Burke-Kennedy (IRL) suggests a few small additions to the text to make it more clear.

Peter Frei says we are lacking TV-coverage, and we want to push the organisers towards this, if possible not only in their own country, but also by using the EBU that will transfer it to its 1.000 members, for example.

Dimos Alexopoulos (GRE) adds that web TV is also a cheap and interesting way to go, and it was used at a few championships in 2009. He wonders who would be allowed to do this during a competition. Peter Frei knows that some organisers already do this, and he agrees it is an additional possibility that could be clarified in the Letter of Agreement.

Alain Amade stresses that we need the media and we really want to steer the organisers into this direction. The situation in the past was that you could not even get any report on the national television.

Voted upon by show of cards. Accepted unanimously, no abstentions.

Art. XIII. Bibs

Also commented upon by Peter Frei, who jokingly asks to please not shoot the messenger! Many sports use bibs for sponsorship. In paragraph 4 it now says "*EAME reserves the use of the upper part of the front and the back of the BIB...*" This sponsorship will be used to finance TV-productions and the lower part can still be used by the organiser. If the organiser finances the full cost of the TV-coverage, they can use the whole bib.

To avoiding clashing sponsors, E&A should announce their sponsor(s) 12 months beforehand. If 6 months prior to the event E&A has no sponsor, it will give up the right to have a sponsor on the bib to the organiser.

This will only be valid for the Open Championships, and an exception can be made in the Letter of Agreement and Obligations.

Voted upon by show of cards. 1 against, no abstentions.

18. Calendar of Titled Events

Sid Adriaensen sums up the additions and changes to the Calendars and asks for any bids for events that are still open. (*see Calendar of Titled Events*).

A presentation from the RSA for the 2012 Under 21 championships is shown. It is remarked that the timing might not be ideal for skiers from the northern hemisphere. Louis Polome says that if it is absolutely necessary, the date could be changed, but February-March really is their best time of the year.

19. Proposals by the Federations - none

20. Honorary Membership

Alain Amade announces that the Admincom decided to bestow Honorary Membership to Alain Nieves (BEL). He describes him as a young guy, who was involved with Wakeboarding from the very beginning.

Colin Hart (GBR) says it's a great pleasure to be able to do this today. He first met Alain Nieves at a Wakeboard Seminar in 1997 and noticed that he had a thirst for information and knowledge, and that it was important for him to be objective. Back then there were no obstacles and no twintip boards, no obstacles ... all we had was back rolls, air rallies and scare crows. There even wasn't a wakeboard boat; it was a ski boat with a long pole. It hasn't been easy, but we have come a long way and we have

seen the sport grow, just look at the name change of IWSF. What led the way through was his passion for the sport and his desire to make it better.

It's essential to have dialogue, and that is why Alain Nieves became part of the Committee. He was EAME Wakeboard President for 7 years and part of the World Council. He developed the divisional website and the program that we had to start with. He was reliable and someone we could count on.

Colin Hart congratulates him with being the first person in Wakeboard becoming a Honorary Member.

Alain Nieves thanks everyone. He enjoyed taking part in this story but would like to slow down a bit now. He will continue as a judge and volunteers to help the Council if necessary.

21. Distribution of Certificates & Awards

The Council Presidents present their certificates.

The **Barefoot** athletes of the year 2009 are Kasimir Ronkainen (FIN) (male) and Flora Giacuzzo (FRA) (female). The council wanted to give these rewards to young athletes that made a breakthrough. There are a lot of records that need to be checked first, and the certificates for these records will be given at the E&A Championships.

The **Cable** athletes of the year 2009 are Iryna Tourets (BEL) (female) and Mateusz Krzywinski (POL) (male). The Harry De Laat Memorial Trophy will go to the best overall skier of the U15 category, which is once more Hanna Straltsova (BLR). The trophy is to be given back after the season and after 12 years the trophy will be given to the Hall of Fame in Orlando.

The **Disabled** athletes of the year 2009 are Delphine Le Sausse (FRA) (female) and Christian Lanthaler (ITA) (male). The Euro Tour and the World Championships were held in 2009, and two countries just emerged from these competitions. For Italy, 6 World and EAME records were broken by Tomaso Di Pilato (jump record of 16,2 meters and 17,3 meters), Daniele Casiolli (slalom record of 5@14,25 and of 5,5@14,25), Christian Lanthaler (jump record of 20,8 meters) and Giancarlo Cosio (slalom record of 4,5@49). For Great Britain, Jacky Stimpson and Adaline Fahey both set the same new record of 17,3 meters in Jump.

The **Racing** Council is very proud to present many certificates for excellent performances. As Racing is a team effort, the Council also wants to congratulate all drivers and observers. Alphabetically: for Austria: Katharina Hebenstreit, 3rd place Ladies Formula 2 and Kathrin Ortlieb, World Racing Champion Ladies Formula 2. For Belgium: Christel Magdeleyns, Vice-World Racing Champion Ladies Formula 2; Yolien Borremans, World Racing Champion Junior Girls; Steven Van Gaeveren, World Racing Champion Formula 2 Men. For Great Britain, we have amongst us tomorrow Kim Lumley-Manchett, our athlete's representative and World Racing Champion Formula 1 Ladies. Also, the Belgian Team got 3rd place (bronze) at the Racing Junior Championships and the British Team reached 3rd place Formula 1 Men Racing Championships and 2nd place at overall Formula II Racing Championships. The Racing athletes of the year 2009 are Kim Lumley (GBR) (female) and Steven Van Gaeveren (BEL) (male).

The **Tournament** athletes of the year 2009 are Adam Sedlmajer (CZE) (male) and Ageliki Andriopoulou (GRE) (female). Certificates for new EAME records are presented to France for Clementine Lucine, who has set an EAME Trick Record of 8840 points, and to Belarus for Natalia Berndikova, a very young skier still, who set a new EAME Trick Record of 9080 points.

More **Wakeboard** certificates, based on the ranking list, will be presented at the Championships. Athletes of the year : Caroline Djupsjö (SWE) (female) and Massimiliano Piffaretti (ITA) (male).

The **Wakeboard Cable** athletes of the year 2009 are Majanka Janssen (NED) (female), and Dominique Gührs (GER) (male).

22. Athlete of the year

Alain Amade announces that the Admincom decided that Kim Lumley (GBR) from Racing, is the female athlete of the year. Adam Sedlmajer (CZE) from Tournament, who had an amazing World and EAME Championship, is the male athlete of the year. These will be the last certificates with the old EAME logo !

23. Future Congresses

23.1. 2011, January 29th : Aarhus, Denmark

A short presentation is shown by the President of the Danish Water Ski Federation who hopes to welcome us all in Aarhus, Denmark.

23.2. 2012, January 28 :, Greece

Depy Papadimitriou (GRE) will give more details soon and she will enjoy welcoming us in her country again. Alan Goggin is sure the hospitality will be excellent.

23.3. 2013, January 26 : No firm bid yet

There is a bid from Monaco. Gill Hill jokes that the Tournament Council would like to have the Congress in June then, during the Grand Prix, and at a cheap hotel !

23.4. 2014, January 25 : No firm bid yet

None.

24. A.O.B.

Mr. Yılmaz Akyunus, the Vice-President of the **Turkish** Water Sport Federation voices his concern that the IWWF arranges competition organizations that will provide financial interest to a few persons and entities only (*see our website - letter from Turkish Federation*). Alain Amade thinks there is big misunderstanding here. The E&A Letter of Agreement and Obligations states that a Federation has to pay when they want to organize a competition, and a sanction fee is asked from the Organizer. If a Federation provides a lot of things towards the organization, it's normal that they get some money in return. Kuno Ritschard doesn't want to get into this discussion again. He thinks the Turkish Federation should encourage an organiser, not punish them by asking a sanction fee of 20.000 EURO. He stresses that nothing is done behind the back of the Federations. Mr Yılmaz Akyunus disagrees with this. Alan Goggin thinks this isn't the right arena for this, and offers to meet afterwards to discuss this.

On **IATA**, Alain Amade comments that we made special cards for the athletes, asking the companies to be fair with supplementary fares. We got very few answers from the Federations to our question of a list of athletes. The feedback was that some athletes actually didn't have to pay anything on show of this card. We would like going on with program for selected athletes on the ranking list, and we will need a picture of those athletes to do this. Des Burke-Kennedy (IRL) asks if there were any special rates negotiated last year. John Wood (GBR): a fixed price of 50 £ was agreed for the 3-event bags with British Airways. Alain Amade: the French NOC actually got a better deal with Air Canada than with Air France.

25. Closing of the Congress

Alain Amade thanks Alan Goggin for being an excellent chairperson again. He also thanks the Admincom Members, especially Depy Papadimitriou for all her work for water ski in the world and for trying to get waterskiing into the Olympics. Depy Papadimitriou suggests organising a parallel event if we do not get into the Olympics in Brazil. Alain Amade thanks Brit Horemans for taking the minutes and for all her work for E&A, and Mike Adriaensen and the other technical people.

He also thanks Stéphane Delsaute and André Hendrickx, the presidents of the Belgian Water Ski Federation, for organising this unusually snowy Congress here in Brussels, Belgium.

He thanks everyone for a positive Congress and wishes everyone a good trip home.

On behalf of the RBWSF, André Hendrickx thanks everyone for their presence and invites all to a reception offered by the RBWSF in the hall of the building.

Attachments - see www.iwwf-ea.eu → E&A Office Mailings → CONGRESS

- List of delegates
- Composition of Councils and Committees
- Report of the Chairman of the Cable Wakeboard and Cable Waterski Development Committee
- Report of the Medical Commission (text and PowerPoint presentation)
- Titled Events Calendar
- 2010 meeting dates
- Letter from Mr Yılmaz Akyunus, vice president of Turkish Underwater Sports Federation