

# **Minutes of the Annual Congress of the IWWF Confederation E&A**

**H+ Hotel, Leipzig-Halle, Germany,  
Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 2018, commencing at 09.00 hrs**

## **1. Welcome by the Acting President of the E&A Confederation**

Depy Papadimitriou, the E&A Acting President, welcomes everybody to the Congress and invites Ulf Langrock, representative of the German Waterski and Wakeboarding Federation, to say a few words. M. Langrock also welcomes everybody and gives some practical details.

Andy Harris, an Admincom member, also welcomes the new IWWF President, Jose Antonio Perez Priego, and announces the new position for Peter Frei as IWWF Treasurer. Furthermore, he welcomes the IWWF Secretary General, Gill Hill, the IWWF Executive Director, Paul Fong, and Des Burke Kennedy, the IWWF Media Officer, to the Congress. Several Honorary Members are also in attendance: Franz Kuhn, Kuno Ritschard, Franz Kirsch, Andy Harris, Gill Hill and Louis Polome.

## **2. Verification of attendances and voting powers**

Sid Adriaensen, the E&A Secretary General, reads out the list of countries represented at Congress, and asks if there are any remarks to this or to the list of Voting Powers that had been published. *No remarks.*

## **3. Appointment of Congress Chair Person**

Depy Papadimitriou announces that the Admincom once more proposes Andy Harris as the Congress chairperson. *Accepted by acclamation.*

Andy Harris thanks the Congress for their confidence and then announces the house rules and the arrangements for the day. He requests the Congress to stand for a minute in silence to remember the water ski friends we lost in the past year, like Albert Kurer, Honorary Member and former president of his Federation, and Vern Oberg, the former President of the PANAM Region.

## **4. Appointment of Scrutineers**

Andy Harris announces that the Admincom proposes Franz Kuhn, Morten Froulund and Louis Polome as scrutineers for the duration of this Congress. *Approved.*

## **5. Opening of Congress and confirmation properly convened in accordance with Statutes Art 16**

The Chairperson, Andy Harris, confirms that this Congress is properly convened.

## **6. Approval of Minutes of the 2017 Annual Congress (Lausanne, Suisse)**

Andy Harris requests if there are any remarks the Minutes.

Des Burke-Kennedy wonders if Nuno Eca (Wakeboard Boat Council), who was going to look at the creation of Wake Surfing Guidelines, could report on his progress. Nuno Eca explains that he worked with Paul Fong on a global level on this, and that they tried to get an agreement with the USA, who use their own rules. They then decided to follow their own path. Switzerland is already going to have a National Tour this year. Nuno Eca invites the Congress to feel free to contact either him or Cyril Cornaro, as they already have a lot of information to share and they want to spread out through Europe. Both Guidelines and Rules are in preparation.

Des Burke-Kennedy asks if there could also be an update regarding the EMS system, and if Patrice Martin (FRA) has any information about the 2024 Olympics, and if a Show Skiing Council would be needed according to Sid Adriaensen.

Andy Harris proposes to handle this under AOB, if these issues have not been dealt before during Congress. He adds that these items were discussed in Admincom yesterday and that we will deal with them.

*Approved.*

## **7. Discussion and approval of Reports**

Andy Harris announces that all reports were circulated in due time, and proposes to approve them on block.

### **7.1. The President**

Depy Papadimitriou just wants to add that there will now be both a European and an African Confederation, and that she hopes the African Confederation will be as strong. She promises that we will continue to help. She also hopes that we will get into the 2024 Olympics in Paris; she will help with lobbying. She thanks the EB Bureau and everyone else for their good work. *No questions.*

### **7.2. The Secretary General**

Sid Adriaensen explains that the website contains all Congress documents. He asks to please advise him of any presentations to be made during the Congress. *No questions.*  
Andy Harris comments that the work Sid does is amazing, and that he can't imagine what it would be like without him.

### **7.3. The President of the Barefoot Council**

Rob Molenkamp has nothing to add to his report. *No questions.*

### **7.4. The President of the Cableski Council**

Marie-Anne Persoons has no comments to her report. *No questions.*

### **7.5. The President of the Council for Disabled**

Paul Airey has no comments to his report and there are no questions.

### **7.6. The President of the Racing Council**

Mike Waterman has no comments to his report and there are no questions.

### **7.7. The President of the Tournament Council**

Candido Moz adds that a page was handed out to all Federations this morning, with important details about new procedures to enter a Titled Event. He does not like having to apply fines, so he asks to please try and mind the deadlines. He then apologises to Austria because their organisers memento had not been giving at the E&A championships last year, and hands it over to Franz Hebenstreit (AUT).

Des Burke-Kennedy wonders if last years' problem of a lot of no shows at the Championships has been covered by the Tournament Council. Candido Moz is happy to announce that they had less than 5 percent difference last year on a European level. They are now working to have the same result on World level.

## **7.8. The President of the Wakeboard Boat Council**

Linda Johnston explains that she is the acting President, and that a number of changes are listed in the report.

Des Burke-Kennedy wonders if the council plans to continue with MasterCraft, since their contract with them ends in June? Linda Johnston replies that there have been productive meetings with MasterCraft. A specification is being written and they are planning to continue, but they are also open to other companies. The council will keep us informed on the progress.

## **7.9. The President of the Wakeboard Cable Council**

Suzy Nightingale replaces Simone Sivieri. She confirms Milan will be the venue for the Wakeboard Cable Championships.

Donal Connolly (Tournament Council) wonders, as a general remark, if Admincom might suggest the presentation of some highlights per council at the Congress. He thinks a lot is missing now, because not everyone reads the reports.

Andy Harris replies that the idea is to circulate reports prior to the meeting, so that everyone does read them. He says it takes a lot of time to put them together. He agrees that they are sometimes very detailed, which might put off readers, and he thanks Donal for his suggestion.

Colin Hart (Wakeboard Boat Council) suggest a show of hands if members would like more information. *About half of the hands are raised.*

Andy Harris says this will be talked about in Admincom.

Steffie Kirsch objects to voting for a report that has not been finalised, like the one for Barefoot. Rob Molenkamp replies that the report merely specifies that some decisions are still to be taken. Steffie Kirsch wonders if Rob is standing down or not.

Andy Harris asks for a vote for the approval of all reports by show of hands.

*None against, no abstentions.*

## **8. Financial Report**

### **8.1. Presentation of Accounts up to 30-11-2017**

The Treasurer, Dominique Lakens-Douwes, comments that her report contains five pages and jokes they make up fun reading material. She comments that the report speaks for itself and that there are notes to explain. She points out that there might seem to be a 16.000 euro loss when one looks at the profit and loss accounts, but actually there is a 15.000 euro profit. This difference is the result of the dowry that we decided to give to the African Confederation. She adds that a report from our accountant, Sven Van De Velde, is also in the accounts.

Colin Hart asks why the Auditor's report mentions less income then the year before. Dominique replies that in some years when there are more events, there is more income.

Andy Harris comments that there are normally a lot of questions from Des Burke-Kennedy, but that he already said that the report is so good and detailed that he has no questions.

Des Burke-Kennedy adds that he thinks the way the notes are attached is wonderful, it answers all questions.

### **8.2. Honorary Auditor's Report**

Andy Harris thanks Franz Kuhn, former president of this Confederation, for yet another report as Honorary Auditor.

Franz Kuhn has nothing to add and there are no questions to his report.

### 8.3. Appointment of Honorary Auditor

Andy Harris announces that Admincom would like to ask Franz Kuhn to be Honorary Auditor for next year also. He accepts.

## 9. Admission of new members and resignation of members

Sid Adriaensen announces there are no resignations, all Federations are still members of E&A. There is one new federation: Zimbabwe became an associate member.

Louis Polome explains that there is a big challenge to grow the sport in Africa, and he is glad to have Morocco and Zimbabwe as associate members, which is the first step to bring federations and athletes into our sport.

## 10. Elections

### 10.1. The procedure

Andy Harris reads out the procedure that is laid out in the Bye-Laws: at least 50 percent of the votes are needed for any candidate to be elected. Only the active federations get votes for the council concerned, and the ballot is secret.

Two councils, namely Tournament and Wakeboard Cable are electing nine members. They have requested to have two extra members at the 2017 Congress in Lausanne. These two extra members will be elected for 2 years only. If the councils continue to wish more members, they must request this in a years' time.

Sid Adriaensen reads out the list of countries that are represented at this Congress, and asks the scrutineers to hand out the envelopes that contain the appropriate number of voting slips per country.

Andy Harris then asks to check the Wakeboard Boat Council voting slips: Aaron Armborst has resigned, he must be crossed out from the list. Andy Harris reminds the Federations that they are voting for 9 candidates on both the Tournament and the Wakeboard Boat Council, and that they may cross out the persons they do not wish to vote for.

The votes for the Councils are collected one council at a time by the scrutineers.

### 10.2. Council members

Sid Adriaensen reads out the number of votes for each council member.

#### **Barefoot Council**

Out of 27 possible votes, HARRIS Andy (GBR) gets 25 votes, HEMPELMANN Svenja (GER) 27 votes, MOLENKAMP Rob (NED) 20 votes, SARACCO Nicola (ITA) 27 votes, TURNER Paul (GBR) 27 votes and VRANCX Ludo (BEL), a new candidate, 27 votes. All are elected.

Ludo Vrancx thanks everyone and looks forward to helping the council and the sport.

#### **Cableski Council**

All council members get 32 votes out of 32. CAINE Nicky (GBR), DE LEIJER Joost (NED), GRAW Martin (GER), KUNERT Elena (SVK), MOS Michal (POL), PERSOONS Marie-Anne (BEL) and TAL Maoz (ISR) are therefore all elected.

#### **Disabled Council**

Out of 26 possible votes, AIREY Paul (GBR) gets 26 votes, BRENNA Heidi (NOR), a new candidate, 26 votes; DE BAKKER Dany (BEL) 26; FERRER Carmen (ESP) 24; FOSSE Ivar (NOR) 25 votes, ROSSI Dario (ITA) 26 votes, TURCHET Philippe (FRA) 26 votes. All are elected.

Heidi Brenna comments that she has been involved in waterski for 40 years now, also in the board of her Federation, and that she is looking forward to working for the council.

### **Racing Council**

Out of 16 possible votes, HEBENSTREIT Franz (AUT) gets 16 votes, HERNANDEZ Jonas (ESP) 15 votes, KLARENBEK Thea (NED) 16 votes, LEYSEN Jules (BEL) 16 votes, HERNAEZ Richard (FRA) 16 votes, VAN DEN BOSSCHE Vera (BEL) 16 votes, WATERMAN Mike (GBR) 16 votes. All are elected.

### **Tournament Council (9 candidates can be elected)**

Out of 68 possible votes, ALEXOPOULOS Dimos (GRE) gets 68 votes, BOTAS Ricardo (ESP) (new candidate) 62 votes, CONNOLLY Donal (IRL) 66 votes, DUVERGER Christophe (FRA) 64 votes, LILLEBERG Stian (NOR) 65 votes, MOZ Candido (ITA) 67 votes, POTESSE Inessa (BLR) 63 votes, RINTANEN Hannu (FIN), a new candidate, 68, TALAMO Nigel (GBR) 62 votes. All are elected.

Ricardo Botas thanks everyone and adds that he has been busy over the last 20 years building a site in Spain and organizing Championships.

Hannu Rintanen, who is a former council member, comments that he was amazed by the 68 votes. He thanks everyone and promises to continue the work.

### **Wakeboard Boat Council**

Out of 37 possible votes, BULGAKOVA Maryia (UKR) gets 37 votes, CORNARO Cyril (SUI), a new candidate 37 votes, DURANTI Stefano (ITA) 37 votes, ECA Nuno (POR) 35 votes, HART Colin (GBR) 34 votes, JOHNSTON Linda (IRL) 37 votes, SUBJOBERT Nicolas (FRA), a new candidate, 37 votes. All are elected.

Cyril Cornaro presents himself as a wakeboarder and thanks for voting for him.

Nicolas Subjobert thanks for the votes and promises he will do his best to develop this wonderful sport.

### **Wakeboard Cable Council (9 candidates can be elected)**

Out of 53 possible votes, BEN NATAN Roi (ISR) (new candidate) 53 votes, CHOCUN Franck (FRA) 53 votes (new candidate), GERKAU Lucien (GER) 50 votes, HUIZINGA Sebastiaan (NED) (new candidate) 53 votes, LACO Varna (CRO) 48 votes, LOJEK Marek (POL) (new candidate) 48 votes, NIGHTINGALE Suzi (GBR) 53 votes, ORLANDO Manuel (ITA) 53 votes, SIVIERI Simone (ESP) 53 votes. All are elected.

Marek Lojek and Sebastiaan Huizinga are not present.

Frank Chocun thanks everyone and promises to do his best.

Roy ben Natan thanks everyone and explains he is wakeboarder, a coach and a judge.

Andy Harris thanks all council members for their efforts; also on behalf of the President and Secretary, for making difficulties into challenges. He requests the councils to fill out the form with the names of the positions in their councils and the world delegates, and reminds them to also give their lists of meeting dates. He announces that the November meeting will held be in Split, Croatia.

Sid Adriaensen asks the new candidates to please provide their picture to the office to Sid or to Brit.

## **11. Other reports & presentations**

Andy Harris reminds Congress that because of a vacancy on the Admincom, nominations were requested from the Federations. Admincom decided to co-opt Stephano Duranti for the remainder of the term up to 2020. No confirmation is required from Congress for this procedure.

Stephano Duranti greets everyone and explains that he is an Italian but lives in Monaco, and he is a lawyer, and he jokes that he knows that's a bad thing (laughter). He goes to say that he is now a member of Admincom since November 2017, and that he is at disposal for any help needed.

### 11.1. Martin Graw on the development of Cableski

Martin Graw shows his presentation about his idea for the development of 3-event cableski. In his opinion, the sport nowadays is less successful, because any cableski site is used by a lot of people, and only one skier at a time can use the installation. A majority of skiers practices slow skiing, which impedes the faster skiers. He suggests that a two pylon system is needed for the sport to survive, as we need speed, and a stronger installation that does not move with speed slalom. This system also provides more visibility in case of accidents. Now there is a danger of cables touching when moving with slalom. All these restrictions need to be dealt with.

At present, there are standard 1.2 meter pylons between the cables, which is little and dangerous. WakeparX, for example, uses a new wide diameter wheel. It is a safer system, that can be used with the old installation. Martin Graw shows an example for this new type of installation that this company gave him, and explains a Three Event can be run on this 2 pylon system.

Donal Connolly wonders what happens in this example with a distance of, say, 10 meters between the cables ?

Martin Graw replies that only one skier at a time will be on this installation, which can also be used together with a boat on the same site. The rules are ready for a two pylon system, they have a partner and they have the technical expertise. They now need two or three really interested persons to install this prototype. Martin Graw asks Congress to please think about this and contact him if you are interested.

Lakis Anastasiou (Cyprus) asks what would be the approximate cost of this installation. Martin Graw replies that they cannot say yet.

Lakis Anastasiou then invites all Federations to send at least one skier to the World Championships in September. He considers this to be a small but important part to show the face of Water Skiing to the Olympic Committee, so we need many countries to participate. The Cable Council offers their help.

Andy Harris thanks Martin Graw for this innovating presentation.

### 11.2. Paul Fong, IWWF Exective Director

Paul Fong greets everyone. He has been travelling a lot over the last 2 years, meeting federations and sport's marketing companies. In his experience, he is always very welcome and people are very excited when water ski is mentioned. He also gets the same comments all the time: no-one really knows who we are there. We are fragmented, with a lot of super star players, but hard to see. Everyone is fighting for space in the same revenue streams. Not many people see us as one identity. He suggests a branding initiative, because he thinks it's important to show who is the organiser behind the events, so investors get interested. He thinks you can build a product, a brand, even without being an Olympic sport. Like IMG golf, you need to make noise. Some companies do this successfully, and they are smaller than us. In our logos, you cannot figure out who is behind. Adding IWWF to the logos might make it clearer. This will be mandatory in the event title and in all communication. Admincom agrees to make it mandatory on European level also. This will add value and help everyone. Paul Fong believes that when we all have the same uniform, the same colour, that will be very valuable to everyone. You can find all these logos on [www.iwwf.com](http://www.iwwf.com). You can download them, and ask us for support. (*applause*)

Lakis Anastasiou (Cyprus) thinks it should be exactly the same logo then. Paul Fong agrees.

Dimos Alexopoulos (GRE) hopes it will be mandatory. Paul Fong confirms this.

Paul Airey: will it be a logo with colours on top then?

Gill Hill: we ask only the mention of IWWF on the front page at this time, not the logo.

Chris Rydl: but people look at the logo, not the letters. The logo is very important.

Candido Moz: the logo will be everywhere, but now the name IWWF should be in the competition name also.

Varna Laco understands that if IWWF should be communicated everywhere, the logo should go on all print material also. She thanks the Racing Council for already doing this all the time.

Jose Antonio Perez Priego: we ask that you build your logo around the IWWF logo in an ideal world, but IWWF must be part of all logos and the titled of events. This enforces what we already have, to have a unified brand.

Patrice Martin thinks branding is a global issue, so all councils should also have IWWF in their names, and on the websites, to show we are one family.

Paul Fong confirms this is on the agenda.

Michal Kaz (ISR) wonders what legal protection there is regarding the use of these letters. What if someone who is not sanctioned to uses them?

Paul Fong will seek legal advice on that.

Ireland jokes that they were the first to use the name IWWF.

Tobias Aderum (SWE): what about EMS (*Event Management System*) ?

Paul Fong replies that he was asked to imply this everywhere, and proposals were submitted. They hope to reach decisions before the end of April. This EMS will be a valuable asset to our sport, making events run easier. He will be here all weekend to answer any questions.

### **11.3. Patrice Martin (FRA) on the 2024 Olympics**

Patrice Martin explains he is in charge of the Task Force 2024, to be set up to try to get waterski into the Olympics. The French OC and the French organising committee for the Olympics started discussions in January. It was decided meanwhile that adding one or two new sports will be decided upon at the end of 2020, after the Tokyo Games.

Meanwhile the sports' newspaper L'Equipe – without asking us for any information – published an article mentioning that for 12 possible sports like petanque, squash, billard, bowling, karate.. the results show that only 6 percent out of 21.000 votes went to Waterski. According to Patrice Martin, the main problem of our community is that in France most people who are into wakeboard cable decided not to vote, because it said “waterski” and not “wakeboard”.

Waterski has been in the top 5 before, but now it is just two sports that will be chosen by the French, and Patrick Martin is afraid France will not choose waterski. But the IOC will decide on three more sports. So the Task Force needs people to give us the history of Waterski, to show that we have been around for a long time. We need to show the IOC members a new kind of sport in the summer Olympics games. Snowboarding has been a new sport in the Winter Games, so we stand a chance with our parallel division. This will further be discussed with Jose Antonio Perez Priego.

Des Burke-Kennedy wonders what people outside of France can do to help. Patrice Martin asks them to find ways to integrate Waterski and Wakeboard, to show we are one family. Historically, we were “Waterski” and Wakeboard came later on. It is progressing fast and getting huge, but people don't know where it belongs. All Federations should be in contact with their OC; one of them might be member of the IOC. Show them what we have already done to make it spectator and TV friendly, and that we are present in a lot of countries.

Des Burke-Kennedy asks if it is a final decision to add two sports? Partrice Martin: it is still being debated, but it is unlikely to change.

#### **11.4. Dimos Alexopoulos on the Mediterranean games**

Participation goes through the NOC's. Contact them. Now !

Dimos Alexopoulos stresses that we need a minimum of 8 countries for men and 6 for women, or we are out of the Games in May. They are under IOC patronage, so it is also a good way to represent our sport to the IOC family.

The Mediterranean Beach Games will also be held in 2019 and are also under IOC patronage.

At November 30<sup>th</sup>, last year, there was a meeting in Cyprus with 18 OC present from the Mediterranean countries, with Mr Addadi (ALG), the President of the Mediterranean Games. It was decided to strengthen the cooperation between the Greek, Addadi and the Cyprus minister of sports and strengthen the participation to the Mediterranean games; so those NOC already have decided to participate.

Dimos Alexopoulos asks to go to the NOC's on time, to get the funding to send your skiers. The Games are held in a port, so the purpose will be to win, not to make a record, but on the same level as a major international competition for the IOC. The 22<sup>nd</sup> of March is the deadline.

Candido Moz: so there is a minimum of 8 countries, but only 8 countries from the Mediterranean region are present here: so they all need to be at the Games. He wonders about the participation of Lebanon, who is not represented at this Congress.

Jose Antonio Perez Priego (IWWF): in PANAM we attend all Beach Games; and we have been represented at the PANAM games since 1960. To national federations it provides a lot of visibility towards IOC, and also important resources for the federation, if they play it right. We need to send our athletes and present a good entertainment for the public. Even if slalom will be done slower because we will have to do it in a port instead of on the river, we need to do it well. He asks the federations to list everyone they know, as they will have to submit the short list of actual candidates later.

Karim Soliman (EGY) says that two years ago, Wakeboard was in the Mediterranean Games in Egypt, resulting in a lot of recognition and funds for IOC. He wonders if we are submitting to the fact that we are now out of them?

Andy Harris replies that this subject will be addressed later and thanks everyone for their presentations.

#### **12. Nominations by the Divisional Councils**

Sid Adriaensen reads out names of President, Secretary, Treasurer, Admincom member and three World Council delegates for each council, plus their substitutes. The new president for Barefoot is Ludo Vrancx (BEL).

#### **13. List of meetings**

Sid Adriaensen reads out list of meetings that the councils have decided upon.

#### **14. Report from the IWWF**

##### **14.1. The President J-A. Perez Priego**

J-A. Perez Priego thanks the Congress for inviting him here. He knows a lot of faces by now, and he knows we all put a lot of time into our sport to push it forward.

He feels that Patrice Martin needs to be supported and that we need to be visible for the IOC and the OC's. He considers the European and Mediterranean Games to be very important. Wakeboarding is not in the Games anymore, because of lack of participants at the last competition, because these events are not in special venues according to the



riders, and they get no financial incentives. We might need to help them with this in any way we can, because it is critical that we attend these events and make them a success. A liaison person is very important; someone who speaks the language and knows the region.

At the second bureau meeting since he became president, a lot of idle commissions were identified. The IWWF bureau is going to ask them to use their resources, or scrapping or consolidating them.

J-A. Perez Priego wants no more errors at World Titled Events and he wants to tackle all reasons to avoid this. He has been part of the technical team many times, and thinks we are unfortunately not up to the task. We need the best judges for the best athletes to judge professionally, unbiased and technically smooth. We should be invisible, the star should be the athlete.

He wants to develop a single test for World level officials, to make sure they are up to speed with everything. The financial burden is making it harder for organisers, so the Bureau is looking into some ideas to generate a regional income for the Federations and to make World Titled Events cheaper, so we can choose the best venues. We want to attract a new breed of judges, not the ones that can finance themselves, but the most capable ones and help finance them. World judges have no own country, they have to be fair to everyone.

We were not able to hold the Wakeboard Boat Championships in 2017. There is a window of three months to hold them in 2018. We are bound by a boat membership deal to hold these championships, or we have to pay a fine. So we decided to be flexible, and the Championship was awarded to Argentina. It is going to be a great Championship, at a site run by the head of the Wakeboard Boat Council.

The Cableski Worlds will be held in fall, together with the EB meeting. We want EB members to understand our disciplines.

We are creating a new sports' business committee to create new products for the federations. Paul Fong will explain more about this. We want to become serious about this commercial side, with a formal structure and a professional manager, to help our sport grow and have a presentable product for future sponsors.

Colin Hart: the World Wakeboard Cup took a lot of time and effort, how can we recover this? It was a showcase event, at the pinnacle of our sport.

J-A. Perez Priego agrees this is a very important question. Several task forces are looking into EMS and also into the World Cup for diagnostic. David Skillen (AUS) presented his findings a few days ago. Unfortunately he has had to stand down for personal reasons, we hope he will be back. Last year the World Cup had just one stop for Cable. It is declining and it's no product to present to sponsors. Shanghai was poorly attended by the public, so our promotional value is questionable. We need to take a hard look at this. Three World stops are in preparation by Uwe Goldstein, they are all Cable stops. We want to reformat the World Cup to be interesting to an organiser. It is too expensive now, unless you have a lot of sponsorships. Right now we do not get asked back the next year because this year was a success.

The athletes loved it, we do not want to lose this; but we need to find a way to make it also more interesting for the general public. We would like to provide a proper water ski show and give people value for their ticket.

Lucien Gerkau asks if there are there plans for more World events besides the World Cup and World Championships?

J-A. Perez Priego says there is a draft, which is not finalised and for which he would love to have input, for a Pro Tour with Tournament 3 Events. If this proves to be successful there could be a Wakeboard Boat Pro Tour etc. Based on existing events, like tennis with major and minor events, and different ranking lists etc., we could impose

that athletes need to attend 8 out of 9 of these events to be able to attend a final with cash prizes.

It is easier to talk to a sponsor with a formal calendar. The goals are to have every year the same event at the same venue and at the same date. We are bound by a strict boat agreement; this new tour is not for one boat company to sponsor, so our legal advisors should look into that, to allow smaller venues to organise events with their own sponsors.

WWA holds small events, with little chance to gain a prize, but the athletes are happy to go there because they have been convinced it is a good event!

Des Burke-Kennedy congratulates J-A. Perez Priego on these very interesting new ideas. He asks if conclusions were drawn on correct data, such as prize money, and he hopes to look into this with José Priego. According to Des, an enormous volunteer contribution was the motor before, but times have changed. Marketing and media require paid professionals now, as too much time is needed for follow-up, but he's not sure where to find the money for that. He fears no-one would do his job as a volunteer.

J-A. Perez Priego agrees and says they are open to the idea to have paid people for commerce and media. They are getting the house in order, so to speak, to save money for this. They can work on performance based work and they welcome any ideas.

Allesandro Vanoi (ITA) thinks that to have a sponsor, we need a good product from TV. In the Mediterranean Games in Pescara, the most important moment was the final head to head to decide the winner. Everyone was watching then. But our format is now too long. For TV, one hour is a normal format, and the head to head is important. The officials should be helped financially, but not only by the organiser.

J-A Perez Priego : a rider met people from the Cable Wake council who asked him to become an official; he was enthusiastic to be able to go to important competitions for free and still be able to train in the morning, even if he does not compete. He himself has never heard a serious complaint at a Cable competition, because the officials are always up to par. He doesn't mind that the judges would be from one country, as long as they are competent. He doesn't want to play with our format, only at the ProTour, and publish the results at the end of the run for example, and have a head to head. He has talked to the athletes a lot, and they say in tennis there are mandatory events: so a new venue could be made mandatory to get enough participants.

J-A. Perez Priego thinks first the national federations, then the athletes and then the sponsors should get to get their say. A restrictive, one-sided agreement with a sponsor is not good. We must be able to develop another tour. We must do what is best for us, not for a sponsor. We need to have diversity, so other boat companies also get a shot at offering their material for training.

#### **14.2. The European representative on the IWWF Executive Board**

Gill Hill agrees with the Chairman that this subject has already been covered before during this Congress.

#### **14.3. The African representative on the IWWF Executive Board**

Louis Polome agrees with the Chairman that this subject has already been covered before during this Congress.

### **15. Items raised in writing by the federations (deadline = 45 days prior to the Congress)**

Andy Harris confirms there were none.

## 16. The splitting up of E&A in the European and the African Confederation

### 16.1. The Memorandum of Understanding

Sid Adriaensen: first and most important: last year the Congress approved the draft of the Memorandum of Understanding. No changes to the document have been made, it now needs to be approved. This will cause the ceasing of E&A, which will become the EC, the European Confederation. The African Confederation will have its own Congress at another time and place.

Louis Polome: this split is the follow up of the Congress decision. We will continue to make sure African athletes can still participate in events in Europe. Africa can nominate one person in each council. We only have Karim Soliman in Wakeboard Boat right now. Europe has agreed to continue helping to manage the events, nothing is changing as far as they are concerned.

Karim Soliman thinks the African countries are not ready for this and will be lost as a result of the split. He fears Egypt will not continue to participate in European Championships, and he doesn't understand why we are sacrificing the African countries.

Chris Rydl thinks this split goes against the spirit of water ski.

Andy Harris reminds Congress that we were told to do this, and it is done, with all respect to Karim and to others.

J-A. Perez Priego: this decision was made because we are chasing the Olympic dream and we needed to be 5 regions, as the IOC sees the world that way. This was discussed in Frankfurt. It does make sense to have 3 regions, but this is impossible to turn back now. On paper we will be separate, but we can still help each other.

Varna Laco believes it is about emancipating Africa, not sacrificing it.

Colin Hart understands Karim is asking for help or another solution, but he also feels things are too complicated to be unravelled again now.

Paul Fong says Oceania and Asia had the same situation, and that they thought of it as a restructuration, and kept holding big joint championships.

Karim Soliman thinks one cannot compare the two regions, since there are a lot more riders in that region than in Africa. He is afraid we will realise in the future that this is a big mistake.

Andy Harris wonders why Karim thinks that Egypt would stop competing. He says all the arguments of today have been taken into account during the talks these last 2,5 years, and that we will still be united in many ways, and the whole thing might be reviewed in the future if needed.

Louis Polome sees this as a challenge. We have had Morocco and Zimbabwe join, this is a new start. Things will continue as usual without any change for the athletes, Africa will only have to work out its own finances. He thinks we should try it, and go for it.

Andy Harris thinks such autonomy is also an opportunity for the African countries.

Marie-Anne Persoons says that last year, the general concept was approved by show of cards. Nobody had any remarks on last year's minutes either, and Louis Polome is merely making an introduction here, so let's just stop this.

Michael Kaz (ISR) asks how will we decide in 2 years' time if this is going to work?

Louis Polome: we need to make this work, not presume it is not be ok.

The Chairman, Andy Harris, stops the discussion and asks for a vote for accepting the Memorandum of Understanding.

*Approved by show of hands. Against: one. Abstentions: none.*

## 16.2. The EC Statutes

Sid Adriaensen explains that when changing the old E&A statutes to EC, there were two changes in the text besides the name changes.

Art. 13: the President – and not the chairman – opens and closes the Congress.

Art. 14: there will no more be any IWWF Vice-President position to be elected.

*Unanimously approved.*

With this vote E&A has officially ceased to exist and the name change has been approved to be International Waterski and Wakeboard Federation – European Confederation (IWWF-EC).

## 16.3. The EC Bye-Laws

Sid Adriaensen explains that here also the name change was the essential change. Some paragraphs about subconfederations were dropped.

3.2. Meetings: June 10th instead of June 1st, to be able to have a meeting the first weekend of June.

4.5.1.: new second paragraph: although the confederations...

4.5.1.1. Bidding up to six years in advance, as in the World rules. First the relevant council approves a bid. Any contract signed by the organizer before signing the LAO is at the organiser's own risk.

Two new appendixes: the Rules of Eligibility (as they were) and the IWWF Associate Membership information.

*Approved by show of hands.*

## 16.4. The AC Statutes & Bye-Laws

Michael Kaz (ISR): so an African athlete can compete in an EC champ, what about judges? And can an African country be a venue for an EC Championship?

Louis Polome confirms both and Andy Harris confirms this is part of the Memorandum of Understanding. He jokes it's a bit like Brexit.

Louis Polome: in the AC Bye Laws, it will also say that European athletes and judges are welcome also, it is two way traffic. We put in a bid for 2019 for the Cable Wakeboard Championships in South-Africa for example.

Vera Van Den Bossche: can an African athlete become a European champion and the other way around? Louis Polome confirms this, and says we will still have IWWF Euro-African Championships.

*Against: none. Adopted unanimously.*

Louis Polome comments that the AC statutes have been put into place, and that they are a mirror image of the EC statutes with a few changes. The AC will have a Congress every second year. The Bye-Laws will need more changes, a working document is in place.

Andy Harris thinks we had the best interest of the sport at heart here, and a lot of work was done by Louis Polome with the African federations, and he asks for a round of applause for Louis. (*applause*)

## 17. List of Obligations

Sid Adriaensen confirms that here also the name change was the most important change. Through the delegate to the EC councils, the AC can still cooperate with us, and there will still be E&A championships.

Point 4: not the organiser, but the calculator or the scorer, puts the results on the website.

Two councils, Tournament and Cable Wakeboard, request that the entry fees should be paid to the council instead of to the organiser.

Candido Moz comments that a document will be formalised to be given to the federations to explain this. The Tournament Council wants to get the money to the organiser on time. For some Championships, 30 days beforehand would be possible, but for the Youths it is impossible. So in Europe we keep the 15 days deadline.

Sid Adriaensen explains that in the procedure for bidding, first the council has to approve the bid. The procedure will go with the LAO.

*Approved by show of hands.*

## 18. Calendar of Titled Events

See [www.iwwf-europe.eu](http://www.iwwf-europe.eu) → Calendar

## 19. Future EC Congresses

### 19.1. February 02nd, 2019 - presentation for Eilat, Israël

Maoz Tal presents the next venue in Eilat, which is situated next to Aqaba and the Egyptian border. Eilat has good facilities and good weather. Especially in the winter time there a lot of sport activities. The artificial lake will be open January or February next year. The hotel we chose can host a congress at a reasonable price. We got a special price, because it's normally like Monte Carlo. It will be 154 euro for a double room and 139 euro for a single room, which is 40-50 percent off. Lunch/dinner are 21 euro. The Dead Sea is 220 km away. The new Ramon Eilat Airport is 20 km away from Eilat and cheap flights are possible from most cities in Europe. There is a free airport/hotel shuttle.

The average temperature in February is 26 degrees. The special hotel room price can be prolonged if you wish. You can ski there also. Nearby attractions are the Dead Sea (220 km). Bethlehem and Jeruzalem are 450 km away.

### 19.2. February 01st 2020 - bid for Athens, Greece

Depy Papadimitriou announces that she will make a formal presentation at the next congress. *There are no other bids. The bid is accepted by show of hands.*

### 19.3 February 06th 2021 - intention to bid by Monaco

Patrice Martin explains that Aleco Keusseoglou (MON) managed to organise a meeting in Monaco that went very well. No further information is available at this point. Monaco is one hour drive from Nice.

## **20. The EC budget 2018 (01/12/2017 – 30/11/2018)**

Dominique Lakens Douwes explains that this budget was approved by Admincom yesterday. There are no huge changes from last year, and there are annotations to explain. There is slightly less income from the subscription fees because of the split EC / EA. There is also no certainty about the income from IOC. Extra administration costs were budgeted because of extra work for Brit with new accounts and their follow-up. The amount for the entry fees corresponds to the even year's budget, when more competitions are held than in the odd years. *Approved by show of hands.*

## **21. Distribution of Certificates & Awards**

### **21.1. By the divisional councils and announced by the Council Presidents**

Rob Molenkamp, former president of the Barefoot council, announces that the Barefoot female and male athletes of the year 2017 are Céline Vranckx (BEL) and Andrea Emma (ITA). They choose two juniors, because they are the future, and they choose them not only for their results but also for their personality and voluntary work.

Marie-Anne Persoons announces that the Cableski female and male athletes of the year 2017 are Hanna Straltsova (BLR) and Nikita Papakul (BLR). There were no new records. Hanna was behind the boat and a week later she got two gold medals with the cable!

Paul Airey: the Disabled female and male athletes of the year 2017 are Delphine Le Sausse (FRA) and Daniele Cassioli (ITA). Delphine set both a new Slalom and Tricks E&A record in the Female MP4 category at the Championnats de France HANDI 2017, and Daniele set a new Tricks and Slalom record in the Men V1 category at the Trofeo Tomassini ET Stop in Recetto, Italy. Claire Ellis (GBR) set a new Jump record of 13.6 mtr in the Female A/L2 category at the Turps Trophy in Gosfield Lake, Great Britain.

The Euro Tour winners for 2017 are Christian Lanthaler (ITA) in Slalom, Delphine Le Sausse (FRA) in Tricks, Bjorn Gulbrandsen (NOR) in Jump and Daniele Cassioli (ITA) in Overall.

Mike Waterman: the Racing female and male athletes of the year 2017 are Kathrin Ortlieb (AUT) and Steven Van Gaeveren (BEL). Kathrin Ortlieb (AUT) won the silver medal in the F1 Open Women division at the World championships Racing in Seattle, USA, and Steven Van Gaeveren gets a special nomination for attaining 4th place at the World Championships Racing 2017 in Seattle, USA at the F1 Open Men. He was the 1st European skier on results. Austria wins the Team Trophy with a 3rd place Team Trophy at the World Racing Championships 2017 in Seattle, USA.

Candido Moz: the Tournament female and male athletes of the year 2017 are Natalia Berdnikava (BLR) and Frederick Winter (GBR). A new Women Slalom E&A Record was set by Manon Costard (FRA) with a score of 1 buoy at 10,25 metres 55 km/h at the San Gervasio ProAm, Italy. A new Men Overall E&A Record of 2820.79 pts was set by Adam Sedlmajer (CZE) at the Isles Spring Invitational, Winter Garden, FL, USA. After 10 years.

Linda Johnston: The Wakeboard Boat female and male athletes of the year 2017 are Sanne Meijer (NED) and David O'Caioimh (IRL).

Suzi Nightingale: The Wakeboard Cable female and male athletes of the year 2017 are Julia Rick (GER) and Antonio Blanik (GER).

### **21.2. Announcement of the Athlete of the year awards**

Andy Harris explains that these were voted for by Admincom.

Depy Papadimitriou announces that the 2017 Female Athlete of the Year is Delphine Le Sausse (FRA) from Disabled Water Ski. The 2017 Male Athlete of the Year is Frederick Winter (GBR) from Tournament.

### **21.3. Patron member**

Depy Papadimitriou announces that the Admincom has decided to make Emmanuel Lion a Patron Member.

## **22. A.O.B.**

Sid Adriaensen comments that only two Federations showed an interest in show skiing: Belgium and Germany. But the World Show Ski Council also had France on their list. However, the French federation didn't know the person on the list! We need more than two federations. Is anybody interested? (*no replies*) Sid: so we put it on hold for another year.

Dimos Alexopoulos reminds the Mediterranean countries that there will be an informal meeting tomorrow at 8h30, for 20 minutes. Their Annual General Meeting will be held in Terragona at the time of the Games.

## **23. Closing of the Congress**

Depy Papadimitriou hands over a plaque to Ulf Langrock for all his work. She thanks all for being here and asking questions that make us think, and hopes to see all of us at next Congress.

Andy Harris asks to please acknowledge Brit and the works she does.

*A copy of the reports and presentations is available at [www.iwwf-europe.eu](http://www.iwwf-europe.eu) under Office Mailings.*