

# **Minutes of the Annual Congress of the IWWF European Confederation**

**Hellenic Olympic Committee Headquarters, Athens, Greece  
Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2020, commencing at 09.00 hrs**

## **1. Welcome by the President of the EC Confederation**

Christianna Mamali welcomes the Congress on behalf of the President, Depy Papadimitriou, who hoped to be with us today but unfortunately developed an eye problem which was operated on yesterday. So at this moment in time she cannot be present, but she hopes to be with us later today and she has asked Christianna Mamali to read a message.

"Dear friends, welcome to Athens for our 2020 Congress! It is the fourth time Greece hosts the EC Annual Congress and I hope that it is as successful as the previous ones.

First, I would like to thank all the Admincom members for their hard and dedicated work. My health issues have often kept me away from meetings and events and I am grateful to the Bureau and Admincom members who have successfully kept things moving in my absence. Special thanks to Sid and Dominique.

When Alain resigned from President and member of the Admincom in 2016, I was asked, and was honored to accept, to fill in the position of the EC President in order to support the European Confederation in achieving its goals and eliminate any governance issues that may have occurred at the time.

Now it is time to pass the baton to a new active President! Both candidates for the position are skillful and have extensive experience and I am sure that whoever undertakes this role will significantly contribute to the further development of our sport.

Last year, all European Championships in all our disciplines were held with great success.

While, regretfully, we will not be able to organize the European Championships this year, we are looking forward to hosting successful Open Championships next year.

I believe that by organizing a titled event the country, the athletes and our sport benefit. Unfortunately, my fellow board members at the HWSF, opposed the Pamvotis Ski Club's bid to host the championships, so they created a number of issues and delays which forced the Club to withdraw its offer.

Due to ongoing conflict with the board members of the Hellenic Waterski Federation, I have decided to resign as President and member of the HWSF as of this moment. However, I will maintain my involvement in our sport through our European Confederation.

I know Candido will pay tribute to Jean Michel Cau in greater length; however, I would also like to mention that last year, I lost a friend. Jean Michel Cau was a kind man who dedicated his whole life to our sport, and as coach of the Greek team in the 70s, contributed significantly to the development of waterskiing in Greece.

In closing, I would like to extend a special thank you to Christianna Mamali for organizing this Congress, and to Dimos Alexopoulos, Ilias Dalainas and the employees of our federation for their assistance.

It is a pleasure to have you all here in Athens and I hope you have a successful Congress."

Christianna Mamami then explains the details for lunch and dinner arrangements.

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

The Secretary General, Sid Adriaensen, reminds the Congress that the Voting Powers have been sent to all Federations more than 30 days before the Congress and that there were no remarks. He then reads out the list of Federations represented at the Congress 2020, and notes that 28 out of 32 member Federations are represented today.

He then welcomes our special guests, IWWF President José Antonio Perez Priego, IWWF secretary general Gill Hill, IWWF Treasurer Peter Frei and Karen McClintock, secretary general of the PANAM Confederation. Also present today are some of our honorary members: Andy Harris, Gill Hill, Franz Kuhn, Louis Polome and Franz Kirsch.

Apologies were received from Paul Jensch (NED), another Honorary Member, and from Alain Amade (FRA) who just had an operation.

## **3. Appointment of Congress Chairperson**

Admincom met yesterday and proposes Morten Froulund as chair person of this Congress, and this needs Congress approval.

None against - approved by show of cards.

Morten Froulund thanks for the confidence of the Admincom and the Congress. Since it is his first time in this position, he asks to have patience should he make any mistakes today. He then explains the house rules for today's Congress.

He announces that we have unfortunately lost some people last year. Frans Stevens (BEL), Jean-Michel Cau (FRA), Marja Tuin (NED), Claudio Riva (ITA), Mireille Alard (BEL), William Delair (FRA), Dave Silver (GBR), Roy Mapple (GBR) and Dave Goode (USA). The chairman asks the Congress to stand for a minute in silence in honour of these persons.

## **4. Appointment of Scrutineers**

As there are a lot of elections this year, we need to appoint scrutineers. Admincom suggests Karen McLintock, Peter Frei, Franz Kirsch, Louis Polome and Maureen Wright. As Peter Frei needs to make a presentation for EMS during the count of the votes, he cannot take the function of scrutineer.

*Approved by Congress.*

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

Peter Froulund confirms that all documents have been circulated in time. Notice has been giving 60 days before and the list of Voting Powers has been sent 30 days before Congress to all Federations. There are no objections and the Chairman declares this Congress properly convened.

## **6. Approval of minutes 2019 Congress in Tel Aviv, Israel.**

No written comments were received and there are no comments today.

*Approved by Congress.*

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

### **7.1. The President**

There are no remarks and no questions to the report of the EC President, Depy Papadimitrou.

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

Sid Adriaensen explains a few more practical items for the course of today's Congress. In addition to his report, he says that Tournament will officially be called Waterski from now on, but that we will continue to use the name "Tournament" internally. Waterski is a label for the outside world.

*Applause - no questions.*

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

Ludo Vranckx comments that Barefoot had a successful season with good results. His council continues to monitor the participation, in 2019 they had 84 male skiers and 18 female skiers. They were made up of 24 Junior Boys, 28 Senior Men and 32 Open skiers. In the female category we had 8 Junior girls, 4 Senior women and 6 Open women. This compares to 88 men and 11 women in 2018.

On the World standing overall list we have two Open Men in the top five, a Junior Boy on the second place and three Junior Girls in the top five. Those are very good results against two Barefoot nations like the US and Australia.

All the other results are in his report and the members of his council are available for any more technical questions.

He thanks the Italian federation for organizing the 2019 E&A Championships and Great Britain for hosting the 2020 Championships. He also gives a big thanks to two long standing members that are leaving the council: Andy Harris and Rob Molenkamp. We have two new candidates standing for election: Peter Norberg (SWE) and Dylan Tellier (FRA). Unfortunately, Dylan is not present due to work obligations.

*Applause - no questions.*

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

Marie-Anne Persoons comments that Cableski has had one more competition in the Philippines since her report was made. So now Cableski is expanding outside Europe. They had the South East Games, with a Cableski 3-event. This has added 20 skiers and five countries to the Cableski family, and there is a lot of enthusiasm to continue in that region. She thanks Nigel Talamo for helping them to organize this.

*Applause - no questions.*

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

Paul Airey has no comments to his report.

*Applause - no questions.*

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

Mike Waterman has no comments to his report.

*Applause - no questions.*

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

Candido Moz thanks two friends who decided to follow another path, Nigel Talamo, and Inessa Potes, who's husband is ill. He thanks them for what they have done and will still do for us.

*Applause - no questions.*

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

Linda Johnston has no comments to her report.

*Applause - no questions.*

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

Manuel Orlando has no comments to his report.

*Applause - no questions.*

## **8. Financial Report**

### **8.1. Presentation of Accounts up to 30-11-2019**

Dominique Lakens Douwes explains that the report has been published on the website and that notes and remarks were added to help explain. There was a small loss as was predicted. At the end of the year there are always a lot of new invoices, so they still appear open in the report, but most of them have been paid by now, so very little invoices are outstanding at the moment.

*Applause - no questions.*

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

Franz Kuhn has nothing to add to his report.

*Applause - no questions.*

### **8.3. Appointment of Honorary Auditor**

The Congress Chairman announces that Franz Kuhn has decided not to continue as Honorary Auditor. The Admincom suggests Alain Amade for this position.

*No other candidates present themselves and the Admincom proposal is approved unanimously by show of cards.*

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

Sid Adriaensen saw on the website of the European Olympic Committee that there are 50 affiliated countries, which is a good number. Of those 50, 32 are full member of EC, two associated member, and 16 countries are not yet a member of the EC Federation. So there is a potential of 16 new members. Those include of course small countries such as Andorra, San Marino and Lichtenstein, who might not form a Federation any time soon. We have had contacts with other countries on that list: Slovenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria... But they have no federation yet. Estonia paid to be a full member to be able to enter into the Championships, but sadly they haven't filled out the paperwork yet. There is Iceland, Kosovo... Malta used to be an affiliated member, but since a few years there is nothing anymore. Etc.

So if somebody has any contacts, maybe private contacts, if you can help to get any of those 16 countries affiliate, then please contact Sid Adriaensen for more information.

## **10. Elections**

### **10.1. The procedure**

Morten Froulund: All Federations were handed envelopes with the correct amount of voting slips and with the names for the different elections. Scratch out any names on the list you do not want to vote for before handing them back.

### **10.2. President, Secretary General and Treasurer**

Sid Adriaensen explains that the first part will be the elections for the Bureau, meaning the EC President, the Secretary General and the Treasurer. He reminds Congress that a person needs at least 50 percent of the votes to be elected.

Andy Harris announces that he withdraws his candidature for the presidency after a lot of thought about his present position and the time he can devote to the function. He is entirely supportive of his colleague and friend, Patrice Martin, and hopes the Congress agrees. Time is the main reason he stands down. Changes are coming up and he

thinks his best place is with Patrice, as a elected member of Admincom, for which he remains a candidate in these elections. He is grateful for the support he has had these last 8 years.

Patrice Martin thanks Andy for his kind words. They have been working on the succession plan for four years now, and he believes we can have a very good team at the Admincom, with Andy as Vice President doing more work from home and Patrice travelling more. As for the future, it will be important to get the new generation on board to make sure the work that is done today will be kept safe for the future.

The votes are collected, first for the Bureau and then for the Admincom.

When the votes have been counted, Martin Froulund announces that Patrice Martin was elected EC President with 288 votes.

Patrice thanks the Congress for voting for him and adds that being elected feels heavy on the shoulders, because he realises that we have a lot of work. He also thinks of the past presidents that he met when he was a skier: Frans Stevens, Aubrey Sheena, Kuno Ritschard, Franz Kuhn, Alain Amade and Depy Papadimitriou, who all did a very good work helping and growing our sport in the past, managing all the issues there have been over time and having more and more countries joining the EC.

There is still work to do: there are still 16 countries to try and get aboard. He will do his best to continue the line of work that has been done these past years. A lot of items are to be discussed; a lot projects are to be worked on and built.

But first of all our sport is a family sport. There is always a family member or a friend that gets us to ride on the water. We here are also a family. We shouldn't forget that we have to expand and grow, from the club to the federation, to Europe and world wide. We need to have a vision. If we want to be bigger, we need to focus on growing.

Some of our sports will stay kind of confidential. We can't forget them; we have to help them. And then some of our sports will grow even bigger, and that is the challenge for the future. We shouldn't forget our DNA, but we need to expand. Maybe, in the future, we will have to change our idea about what sport to promote first and which sport we have to help to stay afloat.

At the world level, we have put aside the idea of being in the Olympics. We may look at this again in five or eight years' time, the IOC might come back to us and see how we have evolved and grown.

We need to work on the technical issues. Our sports are more and more technical with devices that guarantee and protect the event, but this is also a big burden for the organizer, with all the videos, all the computers, all the equipment. Maybe we should have tournaments that are easier to organize also.

Last of all: to be able to do all this, we have to be agile and accessible to all of you. Any question, any remark, please tell us, we need to communicate. We have all the devices to communicate, but Patrice feels that in fact we communicate less and less. So when there is something to say, share it with us, so we can know if we do good things and correct our errors.

We having waiting for and thinking about EMS for years: it will now help us to be faster and to react better and sooner. So we will do a great job all together, with the spirit that pushed him to get better as a skier.

Morten Froulund then announces that Sid Adriaensen was elected Secretary General and Dominique Lakens Douwes Treasurer, both also with 288 votes.

For the Admincom, all 4 candidates were elected with at least 50 percent of the votes. Stefano Duranti: 321 votes. Morten Froulund: 321 votes. Andy Harris: 311 votes. Depy Papadimitriou: 306 votes.

### 10.3. Council members

#### **Cable Wakeboard Council**

Sid explains that the Cable Wakeboard Council can have 9 elected members, but 11 are standing for election. So this vote will be taken first, as it might take a second or even a third voting round.

Elena Kunert (SVK) announces that Martin Onco withdraws his candidature from the Cable Wakeboard Council because he meanwhile moved to Asia. So his name should be removed from the list.

Paco Fernandez (ESP) says that the Spanish Federation does not support Simone Sivieri. Sid Adriaensen explains that a person does not need the support of his/her federation if they have already been elected once; they can then stand in their own right.

Manuel Orlando: 52 votes, Suzy Nightingale: 52, Carole Marmonier: 52, Varna Laco: 50, Sebastiaan Huizinga: 50, Simone Sivieri: 47, Mia Knechtova: 46, Lucien Gerkau: 45, Marek Lojek: 33, Dan Milstein: 28, Martin Onco: 3 votes. This means that Dan Milstein and Martin Onco are not elected.

#### **Wakeboard Boat**

There are 7 candidates for 7 places; all are supported by their Federations except Nuno Eca (POR).

Cyril Cornaro: 38 votes, Stefano Duranti: 38, Nuno Eca: 36, Nicolas Subjobert: 35, Colin Hart: 33, Maria Bulgakova: 32, Linda Johnston: 32. All are elected.

#### **Disabled**

There are 7 candidates for 7 places, all supported by their Federations.

Paul Airey: 36 votes, Heidi Brenna: 36, Dany De Bakker: 36, Ivar Fosse: 36, Dario Rossi: 36, Philippe Turchet: 36, Carmen Ferrer-Bosch: 33 votes. All are elected.

#### **Barefoot**

There are 7 candidates for 7 places, all supported by their Federations, except Peter Norberg and Dylan Tellier.

All candidates are elected with 29 votes each.

#### **Cableski**

There are 6 candidates for 7 places, all supported by their Federations.

Nicky Caine: 31 votes, Joost De Leijer: 31, Elena Kunert: 31, Marie-Anne Persoons: 31, Maoz Tal: 31, Martin Graw: 30. All are elected.

#### **Racing**

There are 7 candidates for 7 places, all supported by their Federations.

Steve Cox: 15 votes, Franz Hebenstreit: 15, Julius Leysen: 15, Richard Hernaez: 15, Vera Van Den Bosche: 15, Mike Waterman: 15, Thea Klarenbeek: 12 votes. All are elected.

#### **Tournament (Waterski)**

The council has 7 candidates for 9 places. Sid Adriaensen says there are all supported by their Federations except Donal Connolly, but that this is a special situation, as he requested himself not to be supported by his federation.

Candido Moz: 68 votes, Hannu Rintanen: 66, Christophe Duverger: 66, Donal Connolly: 66, Dimos Alexopoulos: 65, Stian Lilleberg: 63, Ricardo Botas: 60. All are elected.

## 11. Other reports & presentations

### 11.1. Report from the IWWF

José Antonio Perez Priego greets everyone and thanks them for inviting him to the EC Congress for the third time. He is pleased with the growth he sees in the European Region every year.

IWWF has been working on several fronts. A lot of questions were raised these last days concerning the Olympic opportunities. They did a presentation last year for the Paris 2024 Organising Committee, with Sanne Meijer and Patrice Martin, and they felt it went well. They met all the guidelines, but for unknown reasons the committee did not consider our proposal. They changed their own format and decided to include just one sport, break dancing. We were very disappointed. Sanne Meijer spoke from her heart about her passion for the sport and this went a long way, but the decision was probably more politically based. Antonio decided not to pursue us entering into the Olympics as a main item right now, he would rather focus on internal growth. If another opportunity presents itself in the future, we can then of course pursue it.

EMS was a major item on the agenda; it is functioning now at a first stage. It will have several versions, as Peter Frei will explain later. It will be an assistant to help managing for federations, members, clubs and local tournaments. Most of the results will be included. A national federation will have full control of its administrative processes. EMS will interact with the scoring systems that are already in place, making it easier to organise tournaments and upload the results in real-time. The skiers and riders will be able to watch their performances and have a more accurate tracking of the ranking list.

At the Malaysia Championships for Tournament, a lot of skiers requested to organize the next tournament in a better place, not in open lake but in proper ski lake, to have the highest level of performance possible. So, for next year's 75th anniversary of IWWF we will hold a special celebration ON the water. Geoff Blaauw from the World Barefoot Council has kindly accepted the challenge to help us organize this. We plan to have a festival each evening with a showcase of each discipline, with bands, food trucks, at the same time as the Congress and the World Championships. The location will be in Florida, US, which is basically the birthplace of waterskiing. We are still looking for a location with several ski lakes and new cable systems.

It would not be fair on any event organizer to have to finance this event, which will include the congress and all these other events, as it says in the LAO. So we want to take this financial obligation away from the organizer. We are launching an IWWF international license for all disciplines to finance this. There will be a yearly license, or one for one event. We are still developing this project, which is tied to the EMS, and that will help IWWF to be more financially secure and move forward in a more competitive way with the organisation of the larger tournaments.

*applause - no questions.*

### 11.2. Report on the EMS

Peter Frei: it's a pleasure to be here and to make this presentation. Since November, some publications were made about the Event Management System (EMS), but in my experience a lot of people still do not know about it. The EMS Team essentially communicates with the Federations, so it is really important that they bring the information to everyone in their organisation; to the clubs, to the athletes, to the officials... so that they know about the project.

There is now an icon on the IWWF website with a link to the EMS system. A part is available for the public, and a part is reserved for members. "Event" means competition.

EMS will have several versions. Like all such projects, it will take time, not all possibilities are available yet. For example, Cable Wakeboard is not yet included in this version: this will come in a later version.

The system contains all you need to run a competition; calendar, news, athlete profiles that they can update themselves; all the officials will be in the system with their level and official status; the competition sites; a federation directory; and of course, the registration of the athletes for a competition. For the Europe region, the data from the Emmanuel Lion system will all be downloaded into the system, meaning all the results and the ranking list from years back. For the Worlds this will be based on Bob Corson's databases.

There will be links to Lion's scoring system for all disciplines. When an athlete registers in EMS for a competition, there is an automatic download from EMS to the scoring system. When the competition is running, the scoring system publishes live scores, which are also transferred to EMS. So in the future you will see the live scores in EMS like you see it in the Emmanuel Lion system. You will see the start list, and at the end of the competition, the final results will be uploaded to the EMS. The publication of the ranking list will be in the next few days.

The second version will be enhanced with the experiences of pilot Federations such as France and test persons. The license project that was mentioned by José Antonio Perez will be implemented in this version. Also, the organiser of a competition will be able to collect the entry fees through PayPal or through a credit card account, if they have one, avoiding cash on site or bank transfers. There will be an automated process for titled events, Confederation or World Championships, with the participants' list, with entry fees with invoices for the federations, and an enhanced athlete's profile. By the end of this year the Cable Wakeboard information will also get included. This council already has a very advanced and complex system. We will incorporate all their requirements by January 2021 in version two of the EMS system.

There is only a small team for all this work, working with all the Federations. The team is composed of Peter Frei as project manager, dealing with development and enhancements. Martin Froulund and Hannu Rintanen are responsible for the implementation, which is a huge work, because we have to give information to the Federations. We do Skype presentations to explain how to work with the EMS system. Hannu Rintanen is the EMS Administrator, so users will be able to contact him by email for any questions or problems.

The experience with some pilot federations was very successful. They learned very easily to use the system, even without an introduction.

In February, all European federations should become online and then they will go to the other regions in the world. Some implementation work was already done in Australia.

In September, IWWF licenses will be available for all competition registrations from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2021 onwards. There is a license for 7 dollar for one event, and 25 dollar for all year. So any registration in 2020 for a competition in 2021 will already require this license.

All federations, councils and other EMS users were sent information, but we ask all Federations to inform their users, so all clubs and athletes etc. know about the system. We have a lot of differences in our organization, which makes this very complex. For example, all disciplines have their own categories, up to 45 for some!

Peter Frei gives a short presentation of the EMS system. He remarks that if your internet connection is slow, your password may get a timeout and you might have to log in again.

Each athlete or a member of the Federation administration can log in and add their information or register for a competition. There are filters to search for a country, a federation, one athlete or a group of athletes, officials, competition sites etc.

The key information of EMS concerns the competitions. Organizers can upload contact and site details, pictures, a bulletin etc. The athletes can register for a competition and



find all information about it. The Scorer will have the appropriate access rights to download the list of participants and upload the results, and there will be a live streaming link.

In the future EMS will completely replace the Lion system. In 2020 they will work in parallel, so you will see the information in both systems. Not all Federations are ready to run their competitions through EMS yet because this needs support and it takes time, but the aim is that this should be the case by the end of this year.

Peter Frei thanks Morten Froulund and Hannu Rintanen for their big contribution and asks all Federations once more to support them with getting the information to their members.

The EMS team will invite administrators from Federations to take over the role to implement the system in their organisation.

Paul Turner (Barefoot Council): When a skier registers for a competition, how do we know that he is a member of his federation? Sometimes the actual registration of the membership takes a long time.

Peter Frei: The athlete needs to be invited to be a user by the federation, through the EMS system. One cannot create his or her own login.

Paul Turner: Is that then every year?

Peter Frei: No, it is just once. When a user registers, the federation gets an email informing them about it. They can then check whether this person has paid his membership for that year etc. An interface with the federation can store information about their license data file: in that case no mail will be sent to federation if a person is already registered with them.

Lakis Anastassiou (CYP): Is the system smart phone or tablet ready?

Peter Frei: There isn't really a different system, but EMS looks good on smart phone also.

Paul Airey (GBR): Is there an off line version for scoring for when we don't have decent internet connection on a site?

Peter Frei: The Lion system remains the scoring system, and this will remain available offline. So the scoring programs remains as they are, only the *website* for the results and ranking lists will be replaced by EMS.

Nicky Caine (GBR): Will we be able to see that an athlete has a British license as well as an IWWF license? Can there be an automatic integration with the Federations?

Peter Frei: For the moment this is not planned. The problem is that there are a lot of differences from one federation to another.

Allesandro Vanoi (ITA): In Italy you need a medical license to be allowed to compete. So who is responsible if something happens to our athlete outside of our country, if someone enters without our approval?

Peter Frei: You, the federation, are responsible. You are informed through the system that an athlete registers. You have to check if he has this medical certificate. Sometimes, some Federations do the registrations instead of the athletes for the international competitions - so you have this possibility also.

Dimos Alexopoulos (TC): The major change for Tournament and for other disciplines is that an athlete cannot register in EMS *AT* a competition. Before, with the Lion system, he could just arrive and register. This created huge problems, with names entered into the database such as "Donald Duck". Dimos emphasizes that the Federations know their athletes, so please register real names and no more Donald Duck or Minnie Mouse please!

Andy Harris (GBR): Please explain what the IWWF license provides an athlete in relation to the ranking lists.

Peter Frei: It is *NOT* a ranking list license. It is an *IWWF license*, to help IWWF financially, especially with finding organiser for World Championships. Waterski has a very high sanction fee, and when an organiser also has to fund the Congress, this costs about 35.000 dollars. IWWF needs to find the financial means to lower sanction fees and to take over the organisation of a Congress, and one way to do this will be the IWWF license. Everybody participating in *any ranking list competition* must have the IWWF license, whether he wants to be on the ranking list or not.

Andy Harris (GBR): Talking as the devils' advocate: someone who just wants to ski and not be on the Ranking List will wonder why he has to pay?

Peter Frei: It is an appeal to the athletes to be fair and to participate. We know it costs them a lot of money to compete, so these 7 for one competition or 25 dollar a year will not make the difference.

*Applause - no more questions.*

### **11.3. Report from the African Confederation**

Louis Polome, the delegate of the African Confederation, thanks us for the invitation. He would like to add to his report - which is on the internet - that there still is a strong link between EC and AC concerning the technical side and he thanks us for our assistance.

Since we met a year ago, there now is a new federation in Africa, which is Ghana. They are now fully recognized by their country and in the process of establishing a site in the capital.

Another bit of good news is that the Egyptian federation managed to get a very large grant for the development of Wakeboard Youth from the Sports' department of their government; this is an entirely new program. So this looks positive for that part of the world.

*Applause - no questions.*

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

Sid Adriaensen reads out the nominations given to him by the councils (*see [www.iwwf-europe.eu](http://www.iwwf-europe.eu) under Congress 2020*).

Marie-Anne Persoons (CAB) announces that the Cableski Council had seven places but only six members for the elections. They have meanwhile co-opted a 7th person, formerly from the Tournament Council, Nigel Talamo (GBR).

The Tournament Council announces that it has co-opted James Timothy (GBR) who will be the council's secretary.

## **13. List of Meetings**

Sid Adriaensen reads out the list of meetings given to him by the Councils. (*see [www.iwwf-europe.eu](http://www.iwwf-europe.eu) under Congress 2020*.)

The November meetings will be held in Great Britain, near Heathrow airport.

Andy Harris comments that it has been some time since Great Britain organised a large meeting in the London region and he is looking forward to it. There is a 6 £ shuttle bus from Heathrow airport to the hotel. London is close, but not that close. He warns everybody to please *only* fly to Heathrow!

## 14. Statutes changes – as circulated

Sid explains that all the changes were published on the website.

### **Art. 3 - Official Seat and Offices**

As we are a company under Dutch law, we need to have an official seat in The Netherlands. But EC no longer has an official address in Amsterdam since Dominique Lakens Douwes doesn't live there anymore. The address is now that of Joost de Leijer, who lives in the Netherlands, but not in Amsterdam. So the suggestion is simply to leave out "*in the city of Amsterdam*".

### **Art 14 - Powers (of Congress)**

A bid for a titled event must come from a Federation, not from a local organizer. The divisional council then has to approve the technical aspects. Only when the council approves, we can sign the bid with the organizer, if there is nothing that opposes it according to the Council, it can go onto the Calendar as an approved Championship. For many years, the Congress hasn't voted on this anymore. So Admincom propose to delete points "e." and "f." We will go through the calendar later on, the Congress still has a say about everything at that point.

### **Art. 16 – Convening of meetings – Agenda.**

The elections are now every two years for the divisional councils and every four years for the Bureau and the Admincom. The Admincom suggests to split up the elections so that they will no longer be all together and take less time. This will also give the councils four years instead of two to work out their agenda. We suggest to start such a four year cycle for the councils in 2022, and to have the usual Bureau and Admincom elections in 2024 etc.

Allesandro Vanoi (ITA) and Nuno Eca (WBC) feel that it would be better to then elect all these teams at the same time, and so to have the same team all over for four years. Nuno Eca doesn't feel the combined elections of today took up a lot of time.

Andy Harris does feel that a complete change can be difficult to manage, he thinks there should be a continuity. The councils work independently from the Admincom and the Bureau anyway.

Gill Hill asks Congress to consider that election congresses are historically better attended than the non-election ones. So Admincom felt having one election congress every four years might not encourage the federations to come every two years at least, and then we might lose touch with those Federations.

The congress chairman, Morten Froulund, asks the Congress to vote for this item separately.

*The change proposed by Admincom is accepted with four against, all others in favour. All other changes are then afterwards voted upon and accepted unanimously.*

## 15. Bye-Law changes - as circulated

### **Bye-Law 3.6. - Divisional Councils**

*Second paragraph.*

Congress approved a few years ago that councils that have a lot of work can have nine members instead of seven, and also that they should re-apply for more members in a non-election year. This last text was never applied and seems to have been forgotten about. Admincom proposes to let a Council continue with an increased number at the discretion of Admincom and approved by Congress.

*Fifth paragraph.*

Admincom would like to include that meetings by Skype and conference calls also count as a meeting, so they should be attended to remain in the council. If you are not present 2-3 times you are out, you should not just be a name on the list.

#### **Bye-Law 4.5.1.1. - Bidding for titled events.**

*First & second paragraph.*

Six years for bidding ahead of an event is very long time, so Admincom advises a limit of four years to allow the organiser to set up the competition.

#### **Bye-Law 4.5.1.2. - Precedence.**

The order of precedence should include the EC Ambassador. The presence of such an Ambassador is at no cost for the organizer. One is present at only two or three events each year, for example when a member of the royal family is coming to the competition, and it is also good to make contact for future events.

#### **Appendix F – GDPR Policy**

A complete new text in order to get compliant with the European GDPR directive.

*There are no comments and the changes are accepted "en block" by show of cards.*

### **16. List of Obligations – as circulated**

Barefoot has requested an increase of their entry fees (see appendix A).

The Anti-Doping drug testing requirement is part of the LAO. This appendix changes from time to time with new regulations. But is the LAO that was *signed* by the organiser that will be enforced, even if the actual competition will be held 2-3 years later.

Gill Hill, the author of this document, comments that there are no fundamental changes to the new version, just that a lot of details were taken out and a number of tests for each event were reviewed. The average of tests is now five instead of six.

The host federation must arrange for the testing with a WADA approved anti-doping organisation.

Testing during training might be cheaper since it would be mid-week.

Gill will contact the organisers of the event to decide when the tests will be done. But she urges not to tell the athletes, it should always be a surprise!

Gill Hill is working with Gary Propst to help Federations to organise the testing more efficiently. She is aware of how much this all costs, but it is a requirement and a necessary evil. A standard urine test will be applied as much as possible.

At the moment, IWWF agreed not to test at Senior Championships, but this is not how it ought to be and it might change again.

The submission of the documents concerning these tests is not always working smoothly, unfortunately, so please allow for enough time.

All information is on the IWWF website with videos etc.

*There are no questions and both changes are approved by show of cards.*

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

There were none.

## **18. Calendar of Titled Events**

Sid Adriaensen reads out the list given to him by the Councils.  
(see [www.iwwf-europe.eu](http://www.iwwf-europe.eu) under *Calendar for the latest updates*)

The Cableski Council is looking for another date for the Age Categories.

Candido Moz (TOU) explains that, since Ioannina is unfortunately no longer able to organise the Disabled and Tournament Championships, Spain has made a bid for the U21 and Youth in Sesena. The venue for Disabled Open and Tournament Open is yet to be decided.

Maria Bulgakova (WBC): after the inspection by FISU and IWWF it was decided that both the Waterski and the Wakeboard events at FISU University Championships in Ukraine, Dnipro, can be held at the same time, since there will be 2 stadiums available. The 22<sup>nd</sup> of September will be the date of arrival, and both events start the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Aaron Armbrorst (CWC) gives a short presentation of the site in Beckum (GER) that will host the E&A Cable Wakeboard Championships 2020. He explains that it is easy to reach from several airports and that several events were already hosted there. There are many other activities on site, like an Aqua Park, a nice restaurant and beach area. They manage to attract a lot of spectators. There will be live stream with a big LED wall and they will try to do everything online, and filmed by a drone, so that those at home can also follow the event on social media. Athletes will be asked to register six weeks in advance instead of four weeks to allow for the preparation of a nice customized bib. As the Worlds start in Thailand shortly afterwards, they propose to help with the transport from Germany. Aaron especially welcomes any competitors from Africa.

Sid Adriaensen says there is not much on the calendar yet for 2021 and he invites all Federations to make bids.

Vera Van Den Bossche (RAC) confirms that Scotland has retracted their bid for the 2021 Racing Worlds. The council is now in contact with the Spanish Federation about a bid for Tenerife, Lanzarote.

## **19. Future Congresses**

The bid from Monaco for hosting the 2021 congress was approved at last year's Congress in Tel Aviv. Stefano Duranti (Admincom) shows a presentation. There is transport per helicopter or taxi from Nice Airport, or a shuttle which is 33 euro two ways. The hotel will be the Monte Carlo Bay, where the 2018 November meetings were also held. It's a very good hotel and the people from the Monaco Federation got us an excellent price.

Sid announces that there is a potential offer for the 2022 Congress from Turkey in Istanbul.

## **20. The EC budget 2020 (01/12/2019 - 30/11/2020)**

There are no questions.

The budget is accepted unanimously by show of cards.

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

### **21.1. By the divisional councils**

The Barefoot President, Ludo Vranckx, announces that Barefoot will hand out their certificates for female and male athlete of the year at the Championships.

The president of the Cableski Council, Marie-Anne Persoons, announces that Aviv Levy (ISR) is their male athlete of the year. Their female athlete of the year is also the World female athlete of the year: Irina Tourets (BLR)! She broke the record for both EC and World with a Jump Record of 50.80 metres. Cableski changed their tricks to one pass only, so they now have two new world records: Katsiaryna Kisialiova (BLR) with 5320 points and Aliaksandr Mikhailou (BLR) with 8170 points. There is also a new World record for Jana Wittenbrock (GER) of 3/55/10.25m in Women Slalom.

Dany De Bakker, the new president of the Disabled Council, announces that Delphine Le Sausse (FRA) is their female athlete of 2019, and their male athlete of the year is Daniele Cassioli (ITA). There is also a World record for Daniele Cassioli, at 1.00/58/11.25 m. Dany comments that this record for Daniele is all the more amazing as he does it all in the dark, being completely blind. There are two World records in Tricks for Delphine Le Sausse, as she broke it twice! And there is a Slalom record for her as well. In Tricks, there is a record for Christophe Fasel (SUI). There is a Slalom record for Christian Lanthaler (ITA) and a Trick record for Philippe Turchet (FRA), and Philippe also won the Trick and the Jump event in the EuroTour. The EuroTour Slalom event was won by Alona Cambay (FRA), and the Overall Event by Daniele Cassioli (ITA).

Racing Council: Vera Van Den Bossche comments that the 2019 World Championships in Vichy were very successful and she is glad to say that Europe did very well at these Worlds. There was a Gold medal for Sylvia de Spiegeleire (BEL) in Formula 2 and a bronze medal in Open Women for Vicky Leysen (BEL). There was bronze also in Men Open for Tim Lisens (BEL) and in Formula 2 Men for Jack Frame (GBR). Belgium took the second place in the Team Trophy. The female athlete of the year for Racing is Sylvia de Spiegeleire (BEL) for her gold medal, and their male athlete of the year, with a bronze medal, is Tim Lisens (BEL).

The president of the Tournament Council, Candido Moz, announces that they nominated Manon Costard (FRA) as their female athlete of the year and Freddy Winter (GBR) as their male athlete of the year. There were no records in 2019.

Linda Johnston, the president of the Wakeboard Boat Council, announces that their female athlete of the year is Sanne Meijer (NED), and their male athlete of the year: Massimiliano Pifaretti (ITA).

Manuel Orlando, the Wakeboard Cable Council president, announces that his Council decided to give the trophy at the competition, and the certificates now. Their female athlete of the year is also their Riders' Representative, and the World Rider of the Year: Sanne Meijer (NED)! This is the first time someone wins "Rider of the Year" in two different disciplines! Their male athlete of the year, also for World: Max Milde (GER).

*All certificates are handed over to the representatives of the athletes' countries.*

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

Patrice Martin, the EC President is happy to announce the name of the male athlete of the year for Region Europe: Frederick Winter (GBR). The certificate is handed over to the representative of the German federation.

As for the female athlete of the year, we have a first in the history of our Confederation, because the girl was nominated by two different disciplines. So we wondered if we should add the votes or not? But she came overall first for Wakeboard Boat and second for Wakeboard Cable anyway! It is Sanne Meijer (NED), who is with us today and accepts the certificate herself.

## **21.3. Honorary Members**

Patrice Martin, the EC President, asks Candido Moz, the President of the Tournament Council, to do the presentation of the next certificate.

Candido Moz says it is an honour for him, and the TC, to give this particular certificate because we decided to give an Honorary Membership to one of our friends.

Jean Michel Cau has always evolved in the sports world. Being young he practiced skiing, water skiing and rugby. He studied as a physical education and sports teacher. From the start of his career he also taught and trained an alpine ski team. He then abandoned teaching to devote himself solely to the supervision of athletes in alpine skiing and water skiing.

He got closer to the countries around the Mediterranean Sea and more particularly to Greece where he trained many skiers and helped develop competitive water skiing. He has contributed to the development of water skiing in many countries: Greece of course, and also Cyprus, Lebanon, Egypt, Turkey, Morocco, Tunisia...

Given his activity and the results obtained, he was contacted by the French Water Ski Federation in 1980, which entrusted him with the sports management of the French teams. It structured competitive sport and allowed French athletes to obtain numerous medals in all titled competitions.

Given his knowledge, Jean Michel was concerned with the training of young people and coaches. He was at the origin of training courses with Belarus, with the creation of the competition of young skiers: France - Italy - Great Britain which was a good way to discover future champions of water skiing. He has collaborated on behalf of the IWWF in training coaches worldwide. At the beginning he worked a lot with John Wood (GBR) and Maurizio Grillo (ITA). Then other coaches also participated like Riccardo Casilli (ITA) and Larry Gisler (ARG). They then trained coaches around the world to improve the practice of water skiing.

During the last 10 years Jean-Michel extended his coaching seminars to include Judging qualifications around the world. These were devised and run by his wife Maureen and were especially successful in our Asian Confederation, bringing in many new officials.

Jean Michel had become a key figure in world water skiing. He had put forward ideas that could have developed our sport but he was often confronted with the political choices of national and international federations. Jean Michel absolutely deserves this recognition from the IWWF, his work, his passion for our sport, his desire to always improve and develop the activity are worth being honored.

We are delighted that Maureen can be with us here today to receive his Honorary Membership.

*(long applause)*

Maureen Cau thanks Candido and comments that Jean-Michel loved the sport, it was his life, he spent over 40 years working for it and trying to develop it, and he always said nothing was insurmountable. He gave so many coaching and development seminars, in over 35 countries at least. Maureen believes that it were his positivity and determination that kept him alive so long. He refused to give in, and when the doctors said nothing else could be done, he asked to be put forward for experimental drugs, because "no stone unturned" was his belief.

Maureen was overwhelmed with so many condolences coming in from around the world from all those people who loved and respected him. She just wished he could be here to accept this award.

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

## 23. Colloquium

### 23.1. Wakesurfing

Maria Bulgakova: The Wakesurfing committee was created at the end of 2018 and simple, basic rules were released in April 2019. These are online on the [www.iwwf.sport](http://www.iwwf.sport) website. Wakesurfing is included in our software program. We held the first Confederation event in September 2019 in Thailand. These results are also online. We held a few smaller IWWF Wakesurf events in Lebanon and in Ukraine and Nationals in China. We hope to encourage federations to hold national events and to have more Confederation events over the world. We gave three Wakesurf Judging seminars in Asia so far, and most passed the exam for the basic national level. For spring 2020 two seminars are planned in the European Confederation: first in Italy, *which is open for foreign attendances*, and then Austria. We have been contacted for a national by the UK already. Please don't hesitate to contact me for any other proposition.

Gregory Saint Genies (FRA): There is a lot of interest for Wakesurfing in France and there already is the CWC association, of which a lot of athletes and clubs are already member, so Gregory wonders how can we handle this? Maria: you can be a member of both, because CWC is an association, not a Federation. The council and CWC should be able to dialog about this.

Gill Hill asks how many federations are active in Wakesurfing. Maria: a lot replied to the mail that was sent that they were interested. So far, she only has contact with the Swiss Federation. Morten Froulund, the Congress Chairman, asks for a raise of cards from the Federations present here at the Congress to show their interest to have some indication. 15 federations raise their card.

Dimos Alexopoulos (GRE) regrets being the devil's advocate, but he wonders if this is like when we tried to incorporate the World Wakeboard Association 30 years ago and all the problems that resulted? Maria suggests to just try to do this and communicate, if that doesn't work, we will each develop our part. They are not a federation.

José Antonio Perez Priego (IWWF) attended a meeting of the trade industry for US water sport. He met with the CWC and had a very good conversation with them. They are willing to incorporate with us, but the problem is our sponsorship agreement with Global Nautic and with Centurion boats, which is another division of CorrectCraft. We have the right to organize World Wakesurf Championships with Centurion boats. But Centurion is not very interested, because they basically control CWC. To participate in their next championships, you have to qualify in the previous events. Two years ago, the events were only held in the US: they call it a "Worlds", but it is very much a US competition. Holding the first Worlds with us would be the way to go with Centurion. All the boat companies sell most of their boats for wakesurfing these days, more than for wakeboarding, so the industry is very interested. The CWC is the oldest, but WWA now also has Wakesurf series. We, as a sanctioning body, should have the upper hand. We need to start working on this, that is why we started the Wakesurfing committee, and he thanks Maria for accepting this uphill battle. He encourages all Federations to participate in the training seminar. Everything is ready for you to start running competitions, and we will help you in any way we can. Hopefully there will be a first IWWF World Championships in 2021, *but we need competitors*, otherwise we will have only a few Americans.

### 23.2. Grassroots development

The Chairman announces that Tobias Aderum (SWE) unfortunately could not be with us today to make his presentation.



### 23.3. Social Media

Julia Castro is a cable wakeboarder and kite surfer from Spain. She thanks the Congress for giving her the occasion to give a presentation about social media.

She was the 2018 vice World kiting champion and has worked for IWWF in the past and for the World Surf League, which always involved social media.

She thinks that Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, Twitter etc. are what we need to work on, as they are the new marketing ways. At the moment, Instagram is the most powerful for young people. Up and coming is Tik Tok for younger people. We can use these to share with the world what we do. By posting a picture here and there, we can share our story, connect with people and show our passion and that we enjoy what we are doing. We can also check through social media if we are going into the right direction with our sport. And we can sell our product and share all of our experiences.

The advantage of modern social media is that it can be for free, while newspapers and tv etc. are not. A lot of traffic can be directed to our website, and that actually is a way to *win* money. We can interact with the customers and target a certain public. It helps with brand awareness and creates a good name for our sport. And one of the best things is that it is real time, so we can share immediately what happens, for example that Sanne Meijer was made athlete of the year! We can then give value to our sponsors, and that way money comes to the Federation.

How can we do this? She suggests to find one person how knows a bit about social media, and to ask him to help you get start started with it on your phone or laptop.

Ideally you need a team of 10 to 12 people to have excellent media coverage of an event, with - ideally - a photographer and an assistant; 2 persons that film; an editor; and if you want a good live stream, you need 5 people for that; a social media manager and a press contact.

But a team of *three people*, consisting of one person that films, one social media manager and one photographer can also do the work.

Other "old school" sports like gymnastics, football, swimming etc. are using pretty much all of these social media. Swimming and basketball are even using Chinese social media!

Julia's conclusion is that we *can* get more followers, we have a pretty cool product to sell, so there is work to do. She is sure someone in your federation or at a competition would love to take care of social media, we just have to learn to ask. It's free, it's fast, we can reach the public and the sponsors with it, it only has benefits.

Colin Hart (WBC) wonders if WakeSurf is growing enough. IWWF has something like 11772 Facebook followers, against 17300 for the competitive WakeSurf Association. But, for example, beach volley has 1.376.000 followers! Sponsors want to have this data, and we don't have a lot to give them at this moment. He thinks this presentation was excellent, and asks the representatives at this Congress to please talk to their federation about this to help moving the sport forward. Morten Froulund thanks Colin for this very good point.

Paul Johnston (WBC): Right now, each event holder is creating their own page for their event or for their own club. We need to concentrate all this content on the main IWWF page, to boost the number followers by not dividing all the events. Julia totally agrees that we need to make a bigger effort to all row in the same direction.

Colin Hart thinks IWWF should have the main news on its' site, and that each discipline should have one page also, because a barefooter might not want to know so much about wakeboarding, for example. Right now there are several website per discipline. Things should be formulated, let's speak about this, also with José Antonio Perez Priego to get things moving forward.

Dimos agrees with Colin and he thinks that news doesn't come from discipline councils, it comes from organizers, from athletes themselves, and from federations. Most

federations have no structure or money to have a press officer. So anyone who has access or time will upload something, somewhere. He doesn't know if we can get help to organize all this.

Julia: In each nationals, for example, there is a secretary organising; so my federation could ask someone like me to take care of social media and send something to the press. You could ask a student in journalism, etc. We need to learn to ask.

Dimos Alexopoulos: Most organisers struggle to pay for everything, are there free solutions?

Peter Norberg (SWE): A lot of money goes into live stream, it is very expensive, but we couldn't get big sponsors for it. Every country has its' own page for Barefoot, but we get no sponsors for it.

Julia: You need to tell people about what you are doing, that you will have live stream, to find sponsors.

Packo Fernandez (ESP) is surprised she offers to help her own federation with media. The Spanish Federation is helping her and paying her because she is a competition rider, to send her to competitions and focus on skiing, because she is young and has a least two more years in the high level. That is why her federation doesn't contact her for social media.

Julia replies that she always enjoyed doing both things together, even if it was a bit stressful sometimes, and that she would tell them if it were too much at some time.

Packo then says that the Federation might contact her about handling social media later, when she will no longer be competing. He wonders why she stopped working at IWWF.

Julia replies that she saw things differently and preferred not to continue with the work.

Morten Froulund thinks we should not make this personal and thanks Julia for the inspiration. He feels this topic is very important for all disciplines in our sport, and he hopes everyone will take something back from here.

## **24. Closing of the Congress**

Patrice Martin presents a pennant to Greece, the organizing country, to Dimos Alexopoulos. Patrice thanks the Federation in the name of the European Confederation for the Greek hospitality and the excellent organization of this weekend.

He realizes after the presentations of WakeSurf and social media that there is a lot of interesting work to do to combine all these things. This can be done through EMS, we all need to start using it, to centralize all this information, so that people will know that they have to go there. It can be our trademark. The athletes, for example, need to be able to find their information there, and things to share on their social media. The history of an event can be put in there, and videos and photos that can then be downloaded etc. If we are not dreaming today, it won't happen tomorrow! He believes in the future.

He agrees that CWC is a private organization, mostly in the States, but we need to be open minded. We will need to work with professional organizers, organize a Pro event with them, and work with them on the amateur side also. We can make this a win-win situation for the future. We will surely be discussing this with José Antonio Perez Priego to work on the expansion of our different disciplines.

Finally, he wants to announce that Admincom has decided to appoint Andy Harris as Vice President.

Patrice then closes the Congress and says he is very happy to welcome us at next year's Congress in Monaco. A big season is coming on, and he will be delighted to see us on the site of all different lakes.