

# Minutes of the annual Congress of the IWWF Confederation E&A

held at the Hotel Mercure St. Georges, Toulouse, France

on Saturday 31 January 2015

commencing at 08.30 hrs

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

Alain Amade welcomes everyone and announces the Airbus visit later this afternoon. He then invites Patrice Martin, the President of the French Waterski and Wakeboarding Federation, to take the stand. Patrice Martin says he is proud to welcome us for the 2015 Congress at Toulouse, a special town called “the pink town”. The World Tournament Championships were held here in 1985, and the European Championships in 1990. It is also the city of Alain Amade, our President, and today is a special day because it is his birthday ! After the Airbus visit there will be a reception at the Toulouse city hall. There is a copy of the yearbook of the French Federation on the tables for everyone here, unfortunately only in French – he jokes that the French are like that. He hopes we’ll enjoy the Congress.

Alain Amade thanks Patrice and announces that we’ll have a tough day since we must finish at 13.00 because the first bus for Airbus leaves at 14h00. He requests to be clear when asking questions and to avoid long discussions.

## 2. Verification of attendances and voting powers

Sid Adriaensen reads out the countries represented at this Congress.

*List of Delegates: see E&A website under Congress 2015.*

## 3. Appointment of Congress Chairperson

Alain Amade explains that the Admincom proposes Andy Harris to be the Congress chairperson. *Accepted with show of hands.*

Andy Harris thanks for this honour and asks to stand for a minute of silence for those we have lost in the past year: George Kambanis (GRE), for many years president of the Vouliagmeni Nautical Club and old president of the Hellenic Water Ski Federation; Stelios Vasilopoulos (GRE), pioneer of the first steps of waterskiing in Greece and former President of the Hellenic Snow skiing federation; Gisella Rixen (GER), the wife of patron member Mr. Rixen, John Hoiles (GBR), a Honorary Member and former president of the Racing Council; Ian Baker (AUS) from Racing, who died in an accident while he was observer during the practice for the Bridge-to-Bridge race; Thomas Wartberger (AUS), from Wakeboard Boat; Rupert Winterl (GER) from Disabled; Lesley Bauser (RSA) from Barefoot and Barbara Osborne (AUS).

## 4. Appointment of scrutineers

Andy Harris announces that the Admincom proposes to appoint the Honorary Members Gill Hill and Franz Kuhn as scrutineers.

*Accepted by acclamation.*

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

Andy Harris inquires if everyone has received the invitation to the Congress on time. There are no remarks and he declares this Congress properly convened.

He then welcomes some special guests: Kuno Ritschard, Honorary Member and IWWF President; Gill Hill, Honorary Member and IWWF Secretary General; Uwe Goldstein, Chairman of the IWWF/E&A Cableway Development Committee, Bruno Rixen of Rixen Cable Ways, patron member and Des Burke-Kennedy, Chairman of the IWWF Media Commission and of the Hall of Fame Committee. Other Honorary Members in attendance today are Franz Kuhn, Louis Polome, Franz Kirsch and Andy Harris himself.

Apologies for absence were received from Jerome Bauser, Hugo Engelen, Alain Nieves, Paul Jensch, Jean-Marie Cau and also from the Barefoot Council, who have chosen not to meet during this Congress weekend.

Aubrey Sheena, the past Region president, also asked to be excused. Earlier this month he sent a poignant message to Alain Amade to express his solidarity with the people of France after the terrible events in Paris. We as E&A and IWWF have worked together regardless of nationality, culture or faiths, says Aubrey Sheena, and he regrets the appalling fanaticism that we see in parts of the world.

Alain Amade adds that this is not only a French story, it can happen in any country. In our sport we never talk about politics or religion etc. and we will carefully continue like that, we love our sport, we do not care where people come from.

## **6. Approval of Minutes of 2014 Annual Congress (Milano, Italy)**

There are no remarks and the 2014 Congress Minutes are accepted unanimously.

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

### **7.1 The President**

Alain Amade has no remarks and there are no questions.

He congratulates Alexander Vasko (SVK), an E&A Cable skier who was named World Athlete of the year, and the new presidents of E&A Federations: Luciano Serafica of the Italian Federation, Piet Jongepier of the Dutch Federation, Patrick Fowley of the British Federation and also Ms. Rachel Backam of the Nigerian Federation, who will make a presentation later.

*No questions.*

### **7.2 The Secretary General**

Sid Adriaensen explains that his report is on the E&A website, as all other documents relating to the Congress. He adds that this has proven to be the best way these days to distribute this paperwork, instead of having to send it all over the world by post.

*No questions.*

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

Andy Harris speaks on behalf of Rob Molenkamp, who is not here today, and will be happy to answer any questions.

*No questions.*

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

Marie-Anne Persoons has nothing to add to her report and there are no questions.

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

Paul Airey has nothing to add to his report and there are no questions.

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

Mike Waterman has nothing to add to his report and there are no questions.

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

Candido Moz reminds the Congress of the new rule that is now in place regarding the training and entering at European Championships. He jokes that his council doesn't mind receiving money with this new fine, but that it is better for you if you avoid it.

*No questions.*

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

Florian Butty has nothing to add and there are no questions.

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

Carole Marmonier has nothing to add and there are no questions.

### **8. Financial Report : Chairperson**

#### **8.1 Presentation of Accounts up to 30.11.2014**

Dominique Lakens Douwes explains the accounts were published on website and that as many comments as possible were added to clarify the report.

*No questions.*

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

Franz Kuhn explains how he went about to draft his report.

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

Franz Kuhn accepts to continue as Honorary Auditor.

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

Sid Adriaensen announces that unfortunately two federations have not paid their subscription fees and are now lapsed : Mauritius, who never paid their contribution is not considered as a member anymore. Sudan did not pay for the two last years. He asks for the approval of Congress to consider them as lapsed, and if there are any queries.

*Approved unanimously by show of cards.*

Alain Amade reminds us that all federations are first a member of IWWF, and then they are organised in five Confederations. Europe and Africa have chosen to meet together, and so he has the pleasure to introduce the new president of the Nigerian Federation, Rachel Bakam, who shows a presentation of how waterskiing and wakeboard came to Nigeria. She thanks everyone and says they are very excited to become a member of the Confederation. A number of persons from her organisation also wanted to come but could not and they send their regards. She says that people in Nigeria are very keen on this sport and that private investors want to invest in this. It was an alien sport in Nigeria before Uwe Goldstein introduced it there. She presents Uwe Goldstein with a framed picture to thank him for his efforts. She hopes this joining of countries will bring more unity and peace. Alain Amade welcomes her to the Confederation and thanks her and Uwe Goldstein, and presents Rachel Bakam with a framed pennant.

*Presentation of the Nigerian Waterski & Wakeboard Federation: see E&A website under Congress 2015.*

## **10. Election of the IWWF Vice-Presidents candidates from E&A**

*(To be ratified by the 10/09/2015 IWWF Milano Congress)*

### **10.1 For Europe**

Andy Harris explains that Peter Frei is the only candidate.

*Approved by show of cards.*

### **10.2 For Africa**

Louis Polome (RSA) is the only candidate.

*Approved by show of cards.*

Both newly elected Vice Presidents are congratulated by Andy Harris.

## **11. Other reports**

### **11.1 The Development Commission**

Jean-Michel Cau has sent his apologies. Louis Polome (RSA) was informed that Jean-Michel Cau is stepping down and he wonders if there are any replacements. Alain Amade explains that there are two parts in development: first the political part, with finding new countries and then helping them to organise a Federation. For this, Alain thinks the Bureau or an Admincom member would be better placed. The other part is technical as it consists of training, and Alain thinks this is for the councils whenever possible. Jean-Marie Cau will still be available, but the idea that is being discussed is that there will be no longer be an official commission.

*No further questions.*

### **11.2 Other presentations**

A presentation about Racing is shown by Mike Waterman.

*see E&A website under Congress 2015*

## **12. List of meetings**

Sid Adriaensen announces the meetings planned for 2015 (see *Calendar on the E&A website*).

*No questions.*

## **13. Statutes changes - as circulated**

*None proposed this year.*

## **14. Bye-Law Changes - as circulated**

### **14.1. Subscription fee review (proposal) and voting power (art 2.1.2.).**

Andy Harris asks if everyone agrees to vote for the changes on block and this is accepted by Congress.

Sid Adriaensen reminds that some changes have been circulated and they have been distributed again today.

#### **Bye-Law 1.1.**

A change to the Rules of Eligibility would allow countries that have not yet developed a Federation to participate at Titled Events. For example Estonia is in the process of founding it's Federation, and with this change we could allow them to have their athletes participate already.

#### **2.3.1.6.**

Here we propose to scratch one sentence *“They will however not assume the title of President or Secretary General of the EC.”* In the actual composition of the European and African Boards of directors, 90% are votes from European Federations anyways, and the President and the Secretary General have to be on the board of IWWF, according to E&A Statutes.

#### **4.5.1.5. Late entries for titled events.**

The Organisers get the intentions to enter two months before the competition, but at that time the federations do not know who will enter, therefore these intentions to enter are not reliable. So we propose to extend the deadline for the Entry Forms from 10 to 15 days, which is better for organisers to know what to provide in terms of training and catering etc.

#### **4.5.1.8. Prize-giving ceremony**

An empty spot on the podium is not nice, especially if it concerns the winner ! We think this should be considered as unsportsmanlike conduct.

#### **4.7. Invitation Protocol**

Sometimes athletes from outside E&A want to participate for personal scores only. We discourage this, but sometimes it happens under pressure from the organiser or the sponsor etc. But the council still has to approve it, and not the local organiser, so we want to add this possibility.

#### **4.10.3. Cash Prize Fees**

A levy “will” be made becomes “can” be made. Some councils want to encourage cash prize competitions, and a levy might discourage organisers.

#### **4.10.4. Fee for sponsor titled competitions on the official Calendar**

The fee for sponsor invoices is sometimes annulled, when it is in the best interest of the division. But when an organiser wants to link his name to an E&A Titled Event, it will always be invoiced.

#### **4.11.2. Personal insurance – Officials**

E&A doesn't recognize international non-Calendar competitions, so we would like to change the text accordingly to exclude them from the insurance.

Carole Marmonier (FRA) wonders if you are a member of your federation, and the insurance is included in this membership, don't you have a double insurance ? Louis Polome (RSA) replies that not all Federations have insurance, and we don't always know what is covered, even *when* they are insured.

#### **4.13 Obligations of Officials**

In the old text it wasn't clear that an official had to be a member of “his” federation, or just of “a” federation, so we would like to add” *“All E&A officials must be a member of their national federation”*.

A few people ask why this change is needed. Candido Moz (ITA) thinks that if a federation spends money to prepare a judge, and then this person changes country, it's unfair towards this federation. Andy Harris (GBR) thinks this is between the federation and the person, and that we do not propose to prohibit the change, but we do ask to be a member of “a” federation. If some-one changes to another federation, this does not revoke their license to officiate. Any problems that might arise can be discussed. Candido Moz (ITA) thinks the rules of the federation have to be applied. Marie-Anne Persoons (BEL) says that Belgium is small country, and officials from the Netherlands are sometimes trained by the Belgian federation, and she does not see the problem In that. Gill Hill explains that this has been discussed in Admincom several times, and that we did decide we would not do this to the officials (ban them for 12 months), this is not good because we do not have enough officials. She explains that she had moved from Great Britain to France and that she is still a member of the British Water Ski Federation, but their insurance policy does no longer cover her ! She thinks you just

have to be member of “a” federation, because we do things for the sport as an official for all countries. It’s not the same as a skier’s situation. Dimos Alexopoulos (GRE) would like to comment that not all federations have a membership system, and he thinks that perhaps we should add “have been approved by federation” instead of “member”.

Andy Harris agrees that the basic thing is that the federation should endorse the person. What about officials of other confederations? Is that acceptable too?

Patrice Martin (FRA) wants to clarify with Gill that since she is a resident of France, she can become member of the French Federation and stay a British member also, so the rule of eligibility could apply. But it starts to be a problem: is it your nationality that should be listed, or your membership of a federation?

Alain Amade thinks that officials of the E&A Confederation are not judging as French or Belarus, they must be fair to everyone, the nationality is second.

Peter Frei (SUI) thinks a mix is possible, for example a Dutch person for Belgium, and a Swiss might live closer to a French club or vice versa; he thinks we should allow this.

Vera Van Den Bossche (BEL) comments that what M.A. Persoons said about judges from Belgium and the Netherlands also applies to Racing, with co-operation.

Candido Moz (ITA) says it’s not about judging elsewhere. If you belong to a federation, you should follow the policy of this federation. We should be careful with this rule not to overrule a federations’ rule, he doesn’t know if E&A is allowed to do this. Or, he jokes, we should all become E&A judges, and then E&A should support the judges instead of the federations! Which is not possible, of course.

Alain Amade replies that this does not apply in all countries; some have no insurance, etc. He thinks we have to be flexible for judges who might not be able to judge in those circumstances: maybe we have to add that national regulations will apply anyways.

Gill Hill wonders why we don’t just take it out ? She thinks we are creating something here that is not an issue.

Vera Van Den Bossche (BEL): some judges change federations because of a conflict. Maybe a person was a bad judge and the new federation doesn’t know?

Andy Harris thinks the feeling is apparently that we need to remove this. Candido Moz (ITA) agrees to leave it out and to follow the rule of the Federation if any is in place.

Sid Adriaensen asks for a show of cards.

*All agree to withdraw this.*

When questioned about this, Sid Adriaensen replies that we are insured with Crispin Speers & Partners.

## **Appendix B - Income for the Divisional Councils**

The service and ranking fee for Cable Wakeboard was added to Appendix B.

### **Additional change proposed by Admincom**

Sid Adriaensen: yesterday at the Admincom meeting - and this is not in your papers – we discussed about federations with long outstanding debts that are not being paid in spite of reminders etc. As a fine would not be paid either, the only thing that works is not to allow a country to send athletes to Titled Events. So the Admincom proposes that federations having outstanding debts from a former financial year will lose the right to enter their athletes in E&A Titled Events. In other words, a Federation with an unpaid invoice from before 30 Nov 2013 will not be allowed to send athletes to E&A titled events in 2015.

Nicky Caine (GBR) wonders if in case of cash flow questions, a skier could pay on his federation’s behalf ? Sid Adriaensen replies that this has happened already in the past.

Vera Van Den Bossche (BEL): for us the license counts, we do not know if a federation has paid or not, how can we check this?

Andy Harris explains that this will apply to titled events only, and then all entries have to be endorsed by federations. Our administration will make sure that people are aware that there is an issue.

Sid Adriaensen: before the season starts, I send a list to all councils with the federations that are allowed to compete.

Candido Moz (ITA): can we not send the short list of those who are NOT allowed to compete to all federations and organisers ?

Andy Harris: we are a family and we don't want to lose people, but bills have to be paid, and we are getting a bit tougher now to get money in. We still allow for a year to get your bills paid.

Andy Harris asks for on block approval of changes, leaving out the 4.13. change.  
*All in favour, none against or abstentions.*

## **15. European confederation (EC) and African confederation (AC)**

### **15.1. Nomination of the EC and AC Board of Directors**

Sid Adriaensen explains this is a new bye-law, and the European and African Confederation exist only separate on paper, but we still need the approval of Congress.

For the European Confederation Board of Directors we propose Alain Amade as President, Sid Adriaensen as Secretary General, Dominique Lakens Douwes as Treasurer, and Depy Papadimitriou, Alain Harris, Peter Frei and Patrice Martin as board members.

For the African Confederation Board of Directors we propose Jerome Bauser as President, Martin Schmidt as Secretary General, Louis Polome as Vice-President and Alain Amade and Sid Adriaensen as board members.

*Approved.*

### **15.2. Nomination of the EC and AC representatives to the IWWF**

The European Confederation is represented by Peter Frei as the IWWF Vice President from Europe and by Alain Amade and Sid Adriaensen as Executive Board members.

The African Confederation is represented by Louis Polome as the IWWF Vice President from Africa and by Jerome Bauser and Martin Schmidt as EB members.

*Approved.*

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

Andy Harris explains that this List of Obligations (LOA) is very relevant for the hosting of events, it is a very important document, and we need to insure that it is correct. Some changes have to be made. He asks to vote "on block" at the end.

*See document on the E&A website: "Proposed Changes to the List of Obligations"*

### **III. Method Of Bidding And Sanctions**

To be added : ... *a penalty of 1.000 EURO shall be levied on and payable by the withdrawing organising Federation.*

### **V. Commercial and TV Rights**

To be added under **2 B**: ...*or the E&A representative.* This applies to television and film contracts etc. For example, if a drone company wishes to sponsor a competition, the E&A representative can also refuse any drones on-site.

### **VI. Income**

Under **f. Entry Fees** is to be added : *Late payment shall result in the loss of its voting rights to the next Congress for the relevant discipline.*

## **VII. Costs**

To be added : *The Organiser shall provide enough cash money to cover the distribution of travel grants to officials (if any). NOTE: this is not a cost to organisers as the money to cover this is included in the E&A share of the entry fee.*

Börje Broström (SWE): why cash money? Alain Amade: all judges that are coming to competitions often pay themselves. This way cash can be given to them straight away, and their federation does not have to pay them.

## **XI. Technical Equipment**

This should be updated to include other media now. Also new is that the organiser has to appoint a technical officer who will be responsible for this media.

## **XII. Press, TV, Publicity and Results**

Here also an addition to provide for new technologies: protected wireless access, public access etc. Candido Moz (ITA) asks why this should be mandatory? He thinks it will not be possible everywhere and suggests to recommend it, rather than make it mandatory. Alain Amade: in the near future, it will be necessary to make it mandatory, but we could put "recommended" for now. He agrees that many water ski sites are in the middle of nowhere, but then there are satellite possibilities. Nuno Eca (POR) says he can provide information on this if needed.

The mentions for "EBU" will be removed because this agreement is no longer in place.

## **XIV. Ceremonies**

The opening ceremony is ideally held on the first day, before the skiing starts.

Alain Amade comments that he tries to make *all* the presentations on the site, also for the medals, because then the athletes are wearing their national track suit etc. It avoids having to organise a podium, a microphone, flags, national anthems etc. on the final night party. Also some teams travel by car and they cannot come to the final night party.

Dimos Alexopoulos (GRE): so should we recommend this?

Andy Harris requests the Congress to put this in as a recommendation, as it seems to be the feeling in the room.

## **XVI. Transport**

This should also be free of charge for the E&A representative and the council representative.

## **Appendix A**

The additional levy of 20 Euro to assist the officials with their travel was already applied in 2014 and is now put into writing.

Gill Hill (GBR) comments that for Tournament, the team entry fee needs to be removed and also the word Seniors.

Florian Butty asks to remove "wakeskate" under Wakeboard Boat.

Alain Amade explains to the Federations that we do not ask for a sanction fee. There is only the entry fee per skier to which 20 € is added for officials' travel expenses. 50% of the entry fees is for the organiser and 50% for E&A, this way the organiser gets his money.

Lucien Gerkau wonders if the late entry fee is changed to 15€ ? Sid Adriaensen: no, it is still 10€ per day late, but it starts counting now from 15 DAYS instead of 10 days before the start of the competition.

## **Appendix B - Anti doping 5.7**

To be added: *"This document sets out those tests required at E&A Championships."*

Andy Harris asks if all is clear and if there are any queries.

Candido Moz (ITA) asks if the changes we discussed will be included?

Andy Harris confirms this.

*Vote by show of cards: all in favour, none against, no abstentions.*



## 17. Report from the IWWF

### 17.1 The President

Kuno Ritschard welcomes Rachel Bakam, the President of the Nigerian Federation, in our family on behalf of the World Federation. He feels it is great to have such a famous ambassador for our sports. He wishes her great success and luck and he is looking forward to his next visit to Nigeria.

The most important item is still the developments in the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the future of new sports in the Olympic Games. In Monaco, the IOC decided that the Olympic Games program for 2024 will be based on 300 medal events instead of 28 sports. This could open the door to new disciplines like water ski, or wakeboard, but we still need to be approved by the IOC in 2017 already.

It was also decided that every organiser of Olympic Games has the right to propose 2 or 3 events to the IOC three years beforehand, which also opens the door for organisers to add new sports. For example the organising committee for Tokyo will decide on this in August, in Kuala Lumpur. In Japan softball and baseball are famous sports, so we will have to see what happens. The Youth Olympic Games 2018 might present us with a bigger chance to get a foot in the Olympic program, we are close there to a positive answer. Kuno will keep us informed on any developments.

Regarding the World Cup, the IMG company contacted us to work with us for Wakeboard. An agreement is finished and will be signed soon. This is a great opportunity. 15-20 years ago we also worked with IMG, but they were not able to bring new sponsors to our sport then, we will have to wait and see if things have changed.

For this year there are five confirmed stops for the World Cup already. There have been discussions with 3-4 more organisers but nothing has been signed yet.

For the World Games 2017 in Wroclaw it was decided that Cable Wakeboard will be no part of it.

For the 2020 World Games in Birmingham, Alabama USA, there is no Cable Wakeboard part yet, but 2020 is far away, maybe the Olympic decision could help us.

2015 will be very busy for all of us. Starting in April there are the Racing World Championships in New Zealand, then the U21 World Championships in Sesena, Madrid (ESP), the World Championships in Milan (ITA) during the World Expo. The World Disabled Championships will be held in California and finally there are the World Wakeboard Championships in Cancun (MEX) at the end of October.

In Chili the World Congress decided to hire a full-time paid professional who will start 2016, Jan 1<sup>st</sup> to take over part of Kuno's job. This job opportunity is open for candidates from any country.

The World Congress will be held in Milan together with the World Championships and Kuno hopes that all European feds will be present there. The Hall of Fame ceremony will probably be held the day before Congress and Kuno asks to propose candidates to Des Burke-Kennedy.

Alain Amade says that the Admincom had a long discussion yesterday about the contract with IMG, which seems to be a very complicated document, written by lawyers etc. He wonders why we call it IMG, as the contract talks about Transworld International, and not IMG? He agrees a two year period without any risks for the IWWF is good, of course, but he wonders what is the cost for IWWF during these two years and if there is a budget for this? Alain adds that maybe this is not the right place to discuss this, but that the Admincom is very concerned.

Kuno Ritschard replies that we have been approached by *them*, not the other way around. For the World Cups, we had discussions with companies, but we were never ready to propose the World Cup to them. Des Burke-Kennedy and Kuno himself have spent hours discussing this with IMG. Kuno Ritschard also awaits the results after the trial period, nothing is changed right now, so we will lose nothing. We do not have to pay anything: we expect IMG to bring money to us, and we have no obligations at the

moment. In the past we had to pay for TV distribution, IMG will do this for us free of charge now, so this leaves us with some spare money. We will know where we stand in 30 months. Transworld International is the owner of IMG, they have taken over IMG.

Des Burke-Kennedy thinks it's fascinating that IMG wants to monetise our sport with a 50/50 split and he and Kuno think it will be very hard for them, but they are professionals and we might be pleasantly surprised with what they come up with. They have been through the contract many times and they have already made lots of changes to it.

Kuno Ritschard thinks the World Cup is also a possibility for all athletes to profit from.

Moaz Tal (ISR) regrets Cable Wakeboard is no part of the World Games, and he thinks we should fight to get into the 2020 Games. Kuno Ritschard says we have applied with a big dossier, but the World Games Committee and the organising city make this decision, not IWWF, we can only promote. Des Burke-Kennedy adds that this is the first year of the European Games, and they are on a scale pretty close to the Olympic Games. After our presentation Mr Hickey, the Irish President of the European Olympic Committee, regretted that it was too late for 2015, but he said he loved to have it in in 2017.

Alain Amade: Patrick Hickey let us know in an official letter that we could have a chance for the future games.

### **17.2 The Vice-President from the European Confederation**

Peter Frei (SUI) wants to add to Kuno Ritschard's report that he enjoyed his first year as Vice President and that he was impressed by all the topics that were discussed, the very active discussions of the global committees, and the masses of emails between the President and the board members. The summary of his own comments is in his report, in which he has also listed the impressive number of internal sport organisations we are member of and have to attend meetings of. A positive message is that there is a new sponsor for World Tournament: Nautique Correct Craft will sponsor yearly over 100.000 \$.

### **17.3 The Vice-President from the African Confederation**

Louis Polome (RSA) apologises that no digital report was sent in before, the hard copy is on the table now.

RSA still has strong management links with Europe, and he is grateful for this.

Meanwhile a new federation was founded in Nigeria and the African Confederation is happy to welcome this new member. Louis Polome thanks Uwe Goldstein for his efforts.

He says the problems with the Namibian authorities have been sorted out.

Wakeboard is most popular in RSA and his federation is trying to bring new, disadvantaged, skiers into the sport.

Benin and Kenia are potential new federations.

A lot of hard work is still to be done: Africa is a big continent with a lot of potential.

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

*(There are none proposed this year).*

## **19. Calendar of Titled Events**

Sid Adriaensen reads out the list of Titled Events (see Calendar).

Regarding the Cableski Championships 2015, Marie-Anne Persoons thanks the German Federation and the organiser for changing the date to a week before the Tournament Worlds.

Congress will have to decide about going to Ukraine or not for the Tournament Youth Championships. Candido Moz (ITA) spoke with Mariya Bulgakova (UKR) and she said Ukraine cannot guarantee the safety of the officials and athletes, so he prefers not to go to Ukraine, and he asks if there are any other organisers?

Alain Amade thinks the Tournament Youth Championships are a very important competition, which is very interesting to organise also. Regarding the political situation in Greece, we will have to wait, it could be positive. He is sorry about the Ukrainian situation, as the Federation is doing a lot to develop the sport. There is a new Cable site which is of a very good World level. We try to be above politics and religion, but sometimes we cannot avoid this. Mariya Bulgakova (UKR) can only say they are really sorry, they have a very good site and hotel, and they just hope the problems will be over soon.

Candido Moz (ITA): the Youth Championships are a most important event for our discipline, it is the future of our sport, we are really looking for an organiser.

Alain Amade wants to make it clear that if we vote, we do not vote against the Ukrainian Federation, but on the problem of the war and unsafety.

Andy Harris asks for a show of cards if you agree not going to Ukraine and re-opening the bid.

*Unanimously accepted by show of cards.*

Greece has expressed an interest and there are no other bids, but Alain Amade says the Greeks are heroes, they always do impossible things. Andy Harris jokingly says: did you say they are euros? (*laughter*).

Lakis Anastasiou (CYP) asks if we can have the Beach Games on the Calendar? Sid Adriaensen replies it is already there under Miscellaneous.

A short presentation from the Spanish Federation is shown concerning the U21 Championships in Lleida by Carmen Ferrer-Bosch (ESP) (*see E&A website under Congress 2015*).

The Wakeboard Boat World Championships in Cancun will be held in the last week of October. There will be no more Wakeskate, only the Open, Disabled and Age Categories.

For 2016 there are not many bids yet (*see Calendar*).

## **20. Budget 2015 (01/12/2014 – 30/11/2015)**

Dominique Lakens Douwes explains that during the Admincom meeting the budget was finalised and the papers are now on the tables. There are not many changes to last year. Notes were added to answer as many questions as possible.

Börje Broström (SWE) is glad to see that there is now sponsor money on the budget.

Alain Amade comments that for the subscription fee income for E&A there is about the same amount as last year, but a completely new system was developed. Information about this new calculation system was sent out in December. Last year we had good input during the discussion on our previous proposal, and we agree that a system where a federation is penalised for sending in more skiers is not good. So we decided to disconnect the number of votes from the subscription fee, and to base the subscription fee on the ranking of the economic weight of a country. Only Russia reacted negatively, their situation is very bad of course, the others reacted positively. This new system avoids all the exceptions etc. we have had to make because people cannot pay. This Congress will have to vote on it.

Sid Adriaensen thinks there is a second benefit: there will no more be a link between the work you do, the teams you send etc. and the Subscription Fee you have to pay. If Congress agrees on the new Subscription Fee system, we then can propose a change to the Bye Laws to put it into working order.

Sid Adriaensen adds that Admincom wants to shift so that big federations, based in economically strong countries, have to pay a bit more, and small federations, mostly based in smaller countries, have to pay a bit less. Our income will remain the same, it will just be

distributed differently, based on a countries' economic income, as described by the World Bank. Linked to this proposal, we will have to vote on a change to the voting system under the Bye-Laws, so that having more votes, because a Federation works more, will no longer result in having to pay more.

Dimos Alexopoulos (GRE) says he is not an economist, but he does not think Greece should be in Group 2! He suggest finding more actual figures and then they will be happy to accept what you find out. Marie-Anne Persoons (BEL) explains the calculation is always based on the numbers of 2 years before, as in January/February we don't have the numbers of the previous year yet.

*All approve by show of cards: none against, no abstentions.*

Regarding the Bye-Law change, Sid Adriaensen comments that Austria, for example, will have 17 votes for general business at next year's Congress instead of the current 4 votes, if the new system is approved.

Andy Harris believes this new system will recognise the ability of a Federation to work harder to represent itself with more votes. He thinks the benefits of this system will be clear next Congress.

Thea Klarenbeek (NED) thinks Belgium works harder than the Netherlands.

## **20.1 Website investment - event management system "EMS"**

Peter Frei comments that this is still related to the budget. Last year's Congress agreed to start the development of this system. There were questions about how to finance this project, and Peter Frei shows 4 possible solutions.

1. Capitalize the investment of euro 32.400 and depreciate it over a period of 8 years.
2. Include the costs in our expenditure budgets 2015/16.
3. Book the costs as a reduction of the working capital (balance euro 335.028,97 by 31/12/2014) during the booking years 2015/16.
4. Allocate & reserve fund "software investments" of euro 32.400 in the profit & loss account 2014 (reduction of profit 2014 from euro 46.059,54 to 13.659,54).

This 4<sup>th</sup> option is preferred by Admincom. The cash is there in our accounts, we can easily pay this investment.

Börje Broström (SWE) thinks this is a funny way to calculate. He says that we already voted on the financial report, and now we will split this money: he thinks we should have voted on this before.

Alain Amade explains that this decision was made by Admincom only last night, and that we could not change all financial documents at that point.

Peter Frei says the situation of the project is that it will unfortunately not be in place for 2015, it will be 2016. The provider would be Emmanuel Lion and he is in delay. We have agreed that we need more technical details before we sign his contract - nothing has been signed yet - so we know what to expect.

Andy Harris comments that this is an exciting new and big project. We need a vote on proposal n° 4 to amend the accounts - this will appear as a provision for an expenditure item. He agrees this is an administrative error, because the accounts were already approved.

*All agree by show of cards with one abstention from Belarus.*

Inessa Potes (BLR) comments that she had to abstain because she did not understand what was discussed.

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

### **21.1 Divisional councils**

The certificates will be presented by the Council Presidents at the gala dinner.

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

Sid Adriaensen announces that the female E&A Athlete of the year is Natalia Berndnikava (BLR) and the male athlete is Alexander Vasko (SVK).

### **21.3 Honorary members**

Marie-Anne Persoons has the honour to announce a person who was actually not a member of a council for a long time: Mikhail Padaliak (BLR). Marie-Anne knows Mikhail for more than 25 years now. He worked hard to have his skiers be part of the USSR team and made sure that they got what they needed, financial support, visa requests etc., also when Cableski became an official sport. He was always very involved with the Cableski Council and he was a member for a short time. He is still one of the judges in Cableski we can count on. Marie-Anne Persoons thanks Mikhail for all he has done and still does for our sport, and asks him to organise one more big event in Belarus before he retires, and she will surely attend this event.

Inessa Potes (BLR) thanks us on behalf of Belarussian Federation and she says Mikhail regrets he could not come. She adds that he was one of the first skiers in Belarus.

## **22. Future Congresses**

### **22.1 January 30th 2016**

**(open to bids)**

Alain Amade reminds the Federations present that next year will be a full voting Congress for every position in E&A. So far there are some possibilities; Lisbon has very good facilities, and the new president Francisco Simoes said it could be done, but it is a lot of work for a few people. In the Slovak Republic, Bratislava is also a possibility. Any venue should be easy to reach for all federations.

### **22.2 January 28th 2017**

**(open to bids)**

No bids yet.

### **22.3 January 27th 2018**

**(open to bids)**

No bids yet.

## **23. A.O.B.**

Louis Polome (RSA) is a bit worried about the demise of the development commission. He thinks it is critical to have such a committee and he hopes for a good replacement and the right people should be appointed to continue the work.

Patrice Martin (FRA) shows a short presentation (*see E&A website under Congress 2015*) regarding the E&A Championships in Paris that will be sent out to all sponsors.

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

Alain Amade closes the Congress and thanks everyone, especially the French Federation and their team for the organisation of this Congress, and also the hotel staff. Valérie (FFSN) jokingly says Alain should discuss about the price for of the sono, which had a few hiccups.

Alain Amade thanks Andy Harris for being the chairman at this Congress, and Brit Horemans for taking the minutes. He asks everyone to be in time for the bus that leaves for the Air Bus visit. At 18h00 there will be a drink in the Town Hall, and the gala dinner will be at the hotel at 20h30.

Attachments (see website [www.iwwf-ea.eu](http://www.iwwf-ea.eu))

*list of delegates*

*presentation of the Nigerian Waterski & Wakeboard Federation*

*proposed changes to the Bye-Laws*

*proposed changes to the List of Obligations*

*presentation of the 2015 U21 Championships in Lleida*

*presentation of the E&A Championships in Paris*