

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

held at the hotel 'Mediterranean Palace', Thessaloniki, Greece

on Saturday 28 January 2012

commencing at 09.00 hrs

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

Alain Amade (FRA) welcomes everyone and thanks Depy Papadimitriou (GRE) and the Hellenic Waterski Federation for organising the congress in this wonderful place. He points out that there are important people here today, and that three of them represent more than 30 years of waterski history. He introduces them to the newcomers : Aubrey Sheena (GBR), Kuno Ritschard (SUI) and Franz Kuhn (AUT), all former presidents of Confederation E&A / Region EAME / Group II. He thanks them for the interest they still show in our sport and our Confederation.

Mr Giorgio Orfanos, the Greece Minister of Sport, joins the Congress at this point. He is welcomed by Alain Amade, who explains to him that many countries came to Greece for this Congress, and that the Greek Federation is in the top list of our federations. He thanks Mr Orfanos for receiving us here and for his support.

Mr Giorgio Orfanos welcomes us to Thessaloniki, a city with 23 centuries of history from Alexander the Great on, and thanks us for our kind invitation. He thinks it is good for the Greek Federation to have us here in this critical period of crisis. Water ski is well supported here : everybody in Greece thinks sport is a way of life. He is happy to open the meeting and wishes us a good stay and success, good discussions and good decisions. Alain Amade presents Mr Orfanos with an E&A pennant and he confirms the people here are very warm and welcoming, no matter the difficult situation they are in.

Alain Amade tells the Congress that the Honorary Members Louis Polome (RSA) and Andy Harris (GBR) and the patron member Bruno Rixen (GER) are present here. He welcomes them all, as well as Kuno Rischard, Gill Hill (GBR) and Des Burke-Kennedy (IRL), the President, Secretary and Communication and Media Officer from IWWF. Apologies were received from Paul Jensch (NED), Hugo Engelen (BEL), Alain Nieles (BEL) and Hans Otte (GER), all of which remain important in our sport. Becoming an Honorary Member doesn't mean being inactive, these people are still doing a lot of effort to promote our sport.

Last year we lost Mireille Jamin, the first female president of the French Water Ski Federation; Alan Symonds, former president of the British Federation; Theo Verhofstadt, former President of the Dutch Federation; Peter Felix, Honorary Member and also former president of the British Federation; Reinier Caffée, international driver; Gordon Tye, international judge; and finally a friend, even if he was not from our Federation, who coached many top skiers into gold medals at the World Championships, Ray Stokes. The President asks the Congress to stand in silence for a minute in memory of these persons.

2. Verification of attendances and voting powers

There were no comments to the Voting Powers that were published on the website.

Sid Adriaensen reads out the Voting Powers for each country.

No remarks.

3. Appointment of Congress Chairperson

Alain Amade announces that the Admincom once more proposes Alan Goggin as chairman for this Congress and this is accepted with acclamation. Alan Goggin says it's an honour and a privilege, especially this year.

4. Appointment of Scrutineers

Alan Goggin proposes Aubrey Sheena and Franz Kuhn as scrutineers.

Approved by show of hands.

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

Alan Goggin confirms that everyone received the necessary documents on time.

6. Approval of Minutes of 2011 Annual Congress

Alain Amade checks that all received the minutes of the previous congress. Des Burke-Kennedy remarks that Candido Moz is from Italy, not Greece, and that the name of Natallia Berdnikava was misspelled.

Approved.

7. Note items for AOB

Alan Goggin checks if there are any AOB. Des Burke-Kennedy would like to add the subject of venues for future E&A Congresses.

8. Discussion and approval of Reports

Alan Goggin invites the Presidents to add any remarks to their reports if they wish to do so.

8.01 The President

Alain Amade - no remarks, no questions.

8.02 The Secretary General

Sid Adriaensen - no remarks, no questions.

8.03 The President of the Barefoot Council

Rob Molenkamp (NED) has no remarks. M.A. Persoons (BEL) comments she would prefer to have the real names of people in his report, and not their nicknames, so non-Barefoot people also know who they are.

8.04 The President of the Cableski Council

Marie-Anne Persoons - no remarks, no questions.

8.05 The President of the Council for Disabled

Paul Airey (GBR) explains that their President, Philippe Turchet (FRA), is not present because he and his wife just had a baby. The Council is still looking for an organiser for the 2012 E&A Championships.

8.06 The President of the Racing Council

Mike Waterman (GBR) - no remarks, no questions.

8.07 The President of the Tournament Council

Gill Hill for Stefan Rauchenwald (AUT) - no remarks, no questions.

8.08 The President of the Wakeboard Boat Council

Florian Butty (SUI) explains their ranking list will be published at the beginning of March, because the 2011 Championships are still to be held in South Africa, with 127 participants from 16 countries. He requests all Federations to send their calculators to the seminar in Copenhagen because they need the support of every country. Their new calculation program will be a special topic at this seminar. A brochure with information on the seminar will be distributed to everyone.

No questions.

8.09 The President of the Wakeboard Cable Council

Varna Laco (CRO): no remarks, no questions.

All reports are accepted on block by acclamation.

9. Financial Report & Budget 2011

9.1 Presentation of Accounts up to 30.11.2011

Dominique Lakens Douwes (NED), E&A treasurer : the Balance Sheet and the Profit & Loss Account were published with notes to explain anything out of the ordinary.

Balance Sheet: the amount for the debtors is high, like every year, because many invoices are sent out just before the closure of the financial year. Most of those invoices have been paid by now. We now have three bank accounts less, that should make things more clear in the future. There is a lot of accrued income and charges, things that concern the previous year, but for which no invoices have been sent out or received yet. This is explained on the second page.

Profit and Loss Account: there is a loss of 20.000 €, mainly because the councils were very active last year and spent all their money. Three years ago we had a lot of profit, so that more or less evens it out.

No comments. Alan Goggin ask for an applause for Dominique's work.

9.2 Honorary Auditor's Report

Alan Goggin reminds the Congress that the Honorary Auditor is a position we have had for many years now, and that it is meant to be a look at the accounts from someone who isn't involved with water ski on a day-to-day basis.

Andy Harris has nothing to add to his report.

No comments.

9.3 Appointment of Honorary Auditor

Alain Amade comments that Andy Harris might become member of the Admincom, and then he cannot remain Honorary Auditor. He suggests Alan Goggin instead, who thanks him for this huge honour.

Accepted with acclamation.

9.4 Budget 2012

The Budget 2012 was distributed to everyone at Congress. Dominique Lakens Douwes explains that it is based on previous years' income and expenses. There are no major differences with the last years.

Louis Polome (RSA) : you gave the Councils the same budget as last year. Can their expenses not be reduced ? Dominique Lakens Douwes : they spent everything, nothing is to be carried over, so they will have to spend less than last year.

Des Burke-Kennedy: budgeting for a loss is never a healthy thing to do. Cash Prize income will probably not recover this year, but cannot something be done, like taking costs out ? Dominique Lakens Douwes : we are not happy about the loss as well, and we should not relax because we were financially stable before. We have purchased rather expensive programs etc. in the previous years. We will need to be more careful with large expenditures now and try and generate more money, for example with homologation fees and cash prizes.

Alain Amade: like every year, administration expenses are lower, so we have more money for the sport, which is our first goal.

The 2012 Budget is unanimously accepted by show of cards.

10. Admission of new members and resignation of members

Alain Amade : none.

11. Elections

Alan Goggin explains to any newcomers that a key element of the election process is that even if people are standing unopposed, our rules require them to get at least 50 per cent of the potential votes, to show that they have the support of the people in the room.

Sid Adriaensen reads out the list of relevant votes from the Federations that are represented at this Congress and the voting papers are handed out.

11.1 President, Secretary General and Treasurer

From a total of 102 votes: Alain Amade 94, Sid Adriaensen 93 and Dominique Lakens Douwes 93. All are duly elected.

11.2 Council members

Patrice Martin (FRA) announces that J.M. Poncey (FRA) is withdrawing from the election for the Barefoot Council, and Christine Tuaz (FRA) of the Wakeboard Boat Council is not standing for election.

For the **Barefoot** Council, with a maximum of 29 votes: Evert Aartsen 25, Christian Antos 26, Andy Harris 23, Svenja Hempelmann 23, Rob Molenkamp 21, Nicola Sarocco 29 and Paul Turner 26. All are elected.

For the **Cableski** Council, with a maximum of 32 votes: Nicky Caine 30, Joost De Leyer 32, Elena Kunert 31, Michal Mos 31, Marie-Anne Persoons 28, Jürgen Pitz 32 and Maoz Tal 32. All are elected.

For the Council for **Disabled**, with a maximum of 32 votes: Paul Airey 32, Dany De Bakker 32, Carmen Ferrer-Bosch 28, Ivar Fosse 32, Paul Goossens 30, Dario Rossi 32 and Philippe Turchet 30. All are elected.

For the **Racing** Council, with a maximum of 20 votes: Pepe Escoda 18, Franz Hebenstreit 20, Thea Klarenbeek 19, Jules Leysen 19, Richard Hernaez 18, Vera Van Den Bossche 19 and Mike Waterman 20. All are elected.

For the **Tournament** Council, with a maximum of 70 votes: Dimos Alexopoulos 63, Gill Hill 67, Stian Lilleberg 67, Candido Moz 70, Marc Raymond 70, Hannu Rintanen 67. All are elected.

For the **Wakeboard** Council, with a maximum of 40 votes: Remi Breivnik 37, Maryia Bulgakova 34, Florian Butty 28, Sue Creedy 18, Nuno Eca 33, Colin Hart 31, Claes Scheffer 40 and Simona Valerio 39. All are elected with the exception of Sue Creedy.

For the **Cable Wakeboard** Council, with a maximum of 47 votes: Aaron Armborst 46, Lucien Gerkau 39, Alex Koester 46, Varna Laco 47, Caroline Marmonier 46 and Nenad Tanaskovic 46. All are elected.

11.3 Admincom members

There are four nominations for four positions.

Out of a total of 106 votes, Peter Frei receives 102 votes, Andy Harris 90, Patrice Martin 102 and Depy Papadimitriou 103. All are elected.

Permission to destroy the voting papers is given by show of cards.

Alain Amade thanks the Congress for the elections and for the confidence in him. He hopes they can work together in the same spirit with the new people on the Councils and he is convinced that we are looking ahead to a big future in the next few years.

12. Commissions

12.1 The President of the Medical Commission

Dr Benassa (ITA) reads out his report (see attachment). No questions.

12.2 The Representative of the Development Commission

J.M. Cau (FRA): in 2011 the Development Commission concentrated on three main topics: organising seminars, preparing federations for the Mediterranean Games and helping new federations by giving advice, making programs, finding financial support etc.

The 2012 seminar for Judges and Coaches will now also include Wakeboard, because in the Mediterranean Games you now also have Slalom, Tricks and Wakeboard, and Wakeboard is developing more and more in the Mediterranean countries.

The Development Commission is still looking for a venue for their 2013 seminar. The 2013 Mediterranean Games will be held in Turkey and J.M. Cau feels honoured to be the technical delegate at this competition. He reminds the Congress of the meeting of the Mediterranean countries tomorrow at 09h00.

13. Report from the IWWF

13.1 Information by the IWWF President

Kuno Ritschard informs the Congress that the 2012 World Junior Championships will be held in Australia, in February or March 2013. He realises this is not easy for European federations, but we sometimes have to go to the southern hemisphere also.

For the World Games 2013 in Cali Colombia there will be a format change : only Waterski and Wakeboard, no Barefoot and only Slalom, Tricks and Jump, no Overall titles anymore. The number of athletes remains approx. unchanged. The 2017 World Games will take in place in Wroclaw, Poland at a very good location. Poland is also interested in having Cable Wakeboard in the World Games.

The organisation of the World Cup is again very late, with only one confirmation for March for Mandurah (60 km from Perth, AUS) for Trick, Jump and Wakeboard. The possibility of holding other events in Bogota is being discussed. Andres Botero, the former IWSF President is now Minister of Sport of Colombia. He is also an IOC member and he certainly can help us. Another stop will be held once more in Kushing, Malaysia, on a new site, probably with all three disciplines. For the adding of Cable Wakeboard to the World Cup to promote Cable Wakeboard, venues are still being discussed.

The IOC requests us to change our administrative structure to be in line with theirs. This means we should have 5 Confederations on an administrative level. On a sports' level, nothing changes.

Kuno Ritschard presents the **Olympic 2020 vision** (*see attachment*). He feels we have a good chance to be selected for the Olympics, even if we are small and relatively weak in certain elements, compared with the other sports. But on the other hand, Cable Wakeboard is a youth driven sport, and the IOC is under pressure to attract young people. They are looking for a youth involved sport. The present Olympic sports are also forced to create new disciplines to this end. Cable Wakeboard is the discipline where we will be judged upon, but any other discipline may take part if we are selected. This would mean financial support and a big profit for all Federations if we get in, so he asks everyone to help promote our sport.

A task force was created in Dubna to promote Cable Wakeboard. The problem is that in the Olympic family one third of all people has no idea what Wakeboard is, and half of them don't know how a cableway operates, so we have to explain this. To this end, a brochure was created to promote Cable Wakeboard, as well as a short and a long DVD that will be distributed soon, with interviews with athletes and some examples of return of investment of a Cable park. For the Olympic venue we would propose a design with a five buoy slalom course and a jump ramp.

As many countries as possible should be present at the E&A and World Cable Wakeboard Championships in 2012, *as everything will be judged this year*. If you cannot send a team, then please send at least one or two riders. We are competing against karate and squash, for example, where at least 100 countries will be present at their World Championships!

Last week the IWWF sent out invoices for a one time Olympic fee, as was decided at the World Congress in Dubna. This to support the budget of the Task Force, to produce all this documentation, and for the travelling expenses to promote it everywhere. Kuno Ritschard requests the Federations to pay this invoice asap and announces that the Rixen company is supporting our Olympic Wakeboard Vision with 50.000 EURO.

We are concerned about the environment, we have an environmental handbook and we must let the Olympic people know about this. There now is an electric Wakeboard boat, this might also help to bring our boat disciplines into the Olympic games.

Even if your Federation is not a member of the IOC of your country, please invite members of the IOC that you know to Cableski events, to show them how attractive it is.

Kuno announced last year that he would step down, but with all that is going on in the Olympics, he has chosen to remain for another 4 years, if he is re-elected at the World Congress.

Des Burke-Kennedy, the IWWF Media Officer, shows his presentation regarding the new media (see attachment). He comments that if we get into the Olympics, all our lives will be changed right down to club level, as we will have access to funds and media coverage we never had before, and it will be our fault if we miss it.

The new promotional presentation is titled the "Wakeboard 2020 Vision", with 20/20 vision in English meaning "perfect vision".

The IOC members know very little about our sport. There is a revolution happening these last years, at virtually no cost, that could solve this awareness problem. As E&A we can set a standard, if we want to.

He requests the Federations to check their data on www.iwwfed.com, which is maintained by Bob Corson. Most links to the websites don't work anymore! And unfortunately, most websites look like they are half asleep. You can change the image of your country just by putting in more recent and interesting pictures.

Not many people use (meta)tags for promotion. Tagging is very important, ask your webmaster how. Basically, it means going under Admin, and typing in names/words under "tags". Use catchy titles, use the Wakeboard 2020 Vision, put in links to other Federations if you want. Make the design of your website perfect for search engines.

YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and Google+ are not for young people only. Uploading your information there is very simple, it's free of charge and it can reach a huge audience. They will reach directly the persons you want to reach. Webcasting from a virtual studio e.g. also creates a very professional image. Interesting footage can be put on YouTube at no cost at all.

Many sports, like cricket, and sports we are competing with to get into the Olympics, are ahead of us in this respect and we need to catch up.

Aubrey Sheena asks Kuno Ritschard if we should not aim at the Paralympics as an "other interested party of the Olympic family". Should we not be twinning our approach to the IOC? And show that our site can be used for both the Olympics and the Paralympics? Des Burke-Kennedy: as we were requested to make a presentation about Cable Wakeboard, we should stick to that initially. It will open the door to all other possibilities. It would be an ideal marriage, and adding a disabled-friendly item would increase the return on investment of course. Kuno Ritschard agrees it would create confusion if we would add something else at this point.

Varna Laco, the Cable Wakeboard President, says they decided to include Disabled at the next E&A Cable Wakeboard Championships, so this will be visible for any visiting IOC member.

Gill Hill thanks Kuno for his update and she thinks Des' presentation is very interesting. She would like to see a "Des Burke-Kennedy quick guide" on how to get started sent to the Federations. She urges the Federations to act now, we need this publicity, **and next year will be too late**. Des agrees to put together a guide, but he also stresses contacting the administrators/webmasters right away.

Kuno Ritschard: regarding Disabled: the IOC decision has nothing to do with the Paralympics, which is a totally different body. Furthermore, we don't even have enough Federations active in Disabled at the moment to compete at the

Paralympics, and every year there are less countries at the World Disabled Championships.

Andy Harris also thanks Des for his great presentation and suggests sending it to the federations. He agrees that maintaining these social pages is important. The British Federation has considered these new media options. But you need someone to monitor these sites all the time, to get the right message out, and this is almost a full-time job! Des thinks we can do the initial stage ourselves. We should get it off the ground and find out how much time is involved. Of course we cannot continue as amateurs, a paid person will be needed.

Louis Polome loves the presentation and wonders if we could start to have Facebook and Twitter at the E&A level, because he fears many Federations will not be able to cope with the administration.

Bruno Rixen wonders what we need to be able to compete with the other disciplines that want a place in the Olympics.

13.2 Information by the IWWF Vice-President from E&A

Sylvio Falcioni (ITA) adds to his report (*see attachment*) that their new Cable Snow site in the mountains has been a big success, because apart from our own riders, it also brought in people from snowboarding. In summer it will be used with water.

13.3 Information from the IWWF Cable Development Committee

Uwe Goldstein (GER) presents his report (*see attachment*).

Andy Harris wonders what the Cable and Tournament Council think about the suggested new size of the cable sites. Marie Anne Persoons comments that it was merely an idea, to be part of the Olympics, and that they are not thinking about changing their rules right now. Candido Moz for Tournament adds that there is no solution regarding the size at this moment, and that there is no reason for change now. In the future, anything can be done if needed.

14. Nominations by the Divisional Councils

Sid Adriaensen reads out the lists of Divisional Councils' Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers, Admincom members and three World Council delegates + one substitute (*see attachment*).

The meeting dates of the year are also announced (*see E&A Calendar*).

Sid Adriaensen stresses the importance of Councils attending the November meeting.

15. Changes to the Statutes - as circulated

The Chairman asks if there are any remarks - none.

Unanimously accepted en bloc.

16. Changes to the Bye-Laws - as circulated

Patrice Martin would like to know re. article 4.5.1.7., medals: when are you giving a title? Sid Adriaensen and Alain Amade reply that every council decides this independently and can generate their own, more accurate rules. Colin Hart (GBR) thinks the wording could be better, the word "title" should be mentioned somewhere. Andy Harris thinks a medal = a title.

Article 4.5.1.7. is amended to "1 competitor: no title, no medal...."

Bruno Fekete (SRB): article 2.1.6. Medical Representative: if this is deleted, then how can the Medical Commission work without any data from the Federations? How will we get any information or statistics ? If an IOC asks if this is a safe sport, then how can we prove it? Sid Adriaensen replies that only two answers were received from all Federations when asked who their medical representative is. Alain Amade: we cannot force the Federations to reply. There still is a Medical Commission. Lorenzo Benassa: in the time of Aubrey Sheena we started reporting, we asked many times for the names of the medical representatives, but only few Federations answered in many years. Aubrey Sheena agrees and thinks it would be interesting to have Federations show hands if they have a medical commission (6 countries). He asks them to give names to Lorenzo Benassa so he can start working with them and encourage others to do the same. **Article 2.1.6. will be left unchanged.**

The other changes are accepted unanimously by show of cards.

17. Changes to the List of Obligations

Sid Adriaensen: the Admincom proposes that in the future, instead of sending out an invoice for the medals at the end of the season, the medals will be billed at the competition itself. Now Federations get an invoice late in the season, and then there is a lot of discussion because some say the organiser has to pay etc.

Accepted.

18. Calendar of Titled Events

Sid Adriaensen reads out the changes to the Calendar (see E&A Calendar).

The Netherlands and Greece make a presentation for their bid for the 2012 E&A Tournament Youth Championships. The Netherlands win the vote by secret ballot with 39 votes against Greece with 30 votes.

Louis Polome is disappointed by the very limited response to the E&A Tournament U21 Championships in South Africa. He understands that Africa is very remote, but he feels this is bad for the Federation and for the organiser, and it doesn't look good with the government, because waterski is a very minor sport in South Africa and needs to be promoted. In the end it is bad for E&A as well. If any Federations could still send more athletes, this would be very much appreciated. For the future, he would like to know what the issues are, is it timing or funds? For the Wakeboard Boat Championships in South Africa, on the other hand, there is a very big turn up, which is fantastic.

Sid Adriaensen thinks the date is the major problem, because the European athletes are out of condition in February-March, so that is possibly why they are not so interested. Candido Moz (ITA) adds that there are also the school duties at that time of the year, especially for the U21. At the beginning of the season, athletes need to practice 20 days at least before the events. Alain Amade thinks money is also an issue at this time, if athletes have to go abroad to prepare themselves. Louis Polome still feels there should be a possibility to find an optimum date, as they are willing to be flexible.

19. Proposals by the Federations

Alan Goggin announces that there are none submitted.

20. Honorary Membership

Alain Amade: Stefan Rauchenwald, a friend of us all, started out as a competitor and team member at European and World level. Because of a bad injury, he moved to the official side. This was a big benefit for water ski, because he spent 34 years in the E&A Tournament Council, 28 years of which as Chairman. He was also a member of the World Council, which Alain knows is a difficult place to defend our interest. Stefan always stressed the fact that things should be done in the interest of the sport and of the skier, not the personal interest.

He invites the Tournament Council members to join him and presents Stefan Rauchenwald with an Honorary Membership. *(long applause from the Congress)*

Stefan Rauchenwald thanks everyone for their friendship and advice. After this long time he feels it's time to leave the council, but he "threatens" he'll still be around in the future.

Dimos Alexopoulos: Stefan Rauchenwald: friend, mentor, advisor, brother, party animal, hard worker, tough, fighter, difficult English; serious, trustworthy, and many other words that could fill many pages. Thank you for leading the E&A Tournament and stick with us as long as you are able to help us.

Candido Moz, the new Tournament Council President, says he met Stefan Rauchenwald 40 years ago when he was one of the best Group II skiers competing, and says that he has always been an example to follow and a goal to reach. As the new President he will try to continue his work and follow the line he and the other friends have marked. In his mind Stefan Rauchenwald will always be their President. He jokingly promises he will never again run a competition with three buoys on the same side.

Alain Amade: like I said, being an Honorary Member doesn't mean being inactive, so we are counting on you to be there at the next seminar in Bratislava.

21. Distribution of Certificates & Awards

The Council Presidents distribute the certificates to the delegates of the countries concerned.

Rob Molenkamp, for **Barefoot**: male and female athlete of the year: Clement Maillard (FRA) and Svenja Hempelmann (GER).

Marie-Anne Persoons, for **Cable**: male and female athlete of the year: Simon Hermann (GER) and Jana Wittenbrock (GER). There also is a certificate for Ilya Labkovic (BLR) for an E&A and World Cable Trick Record and for Simon Hermann (GER) for his E&A and World Cable Slalom Record, setting it at 1 buoy at 9.50m rope.

Paul Airey, for **Disabled** : male and female athlete of the year: Christian Lanthaler (ITA) and Delphine Le Sausse (FRA). Delphine Le Sausse (FRA) receives a certificate for her E&A and World Tricks record; Emmanuel Guillon (FRA) for an E&A Tricks record; Daniele Cassioli (ITA) for an E&A and World Jump record. Emanuele Pagnini (ITA) E&A: Jump Record. Roger Pop (NED): two E&A Slalom records. Christian Lanthaler (ITA): E&A Slalom and Jump Record. Pietro De Maria (ITA): E&A Slalom Record. Daniele Cassioli (ITA): E&A and World Disabled Tricks Record.

Mike Waterman, for **Racing**: female and male athlete of the year: Kathrin Ortlieb (AUT) and Steven Van Gaeveren (BEL). Yolien Bormans (BEL) receives a certificate for being the Vice World Champion Junior Girls. Katharina Hebenstreit (AUT): bronze in the Formula 2 Ladies. Kathrin Ortlieb (AUT): bronze in the Formula 1 Ladies. Great Britain team: bronze in the Team Trophy Juniors and in the Team Trophy Formula 1 and 2, which is a unique achievement.

Stefan Rauchenwald, for **Tournament**: female and male athlete of the year: Natalia Berdnikava (BLR) and Adam Sedlmajer (CZE). Clementine Lucine (FRA) has set 2 E&A Trick Records. Natallia Berdnikava (BLR) has set two E&A Overall Records and a Jump record. Alexei Zharnasek (BLR) has set an E&A and (*now also confirmed*) World Trick Record.

Florian Butty, for **Wakeboard Boat**: female and male rider of the year: Giorgia Gregorio (ITA) and Cyril Cornaro (SUI).

Varna Laco, for **Wakeboard Cable**: female and male rider of the year: Denise De Haan (NED) and Steffen Vollert (GER), both the best ranked riders of the World.

22. Athlete of the year

Alain Amade announces the Female and Male Athlete of the year 2011: Natallia Berdnikava (BLR) and Adam Sedlmajer (CZE).

23. Future Congresses

23.1 2013 = 26/01 Intention to bid : Turkey & Switzerland

Alain Amade comments that the paperwork for the 2013 Congress was sent to Turkey, but that no reaction has been received so far.

Switzerland offers to make a bid and Peter Frei shows a presentation. The venue would be the scenic place Unteraegeri, one hour drive from Zürich airport, and the home town of Kuno Ritschard, the IWWF President. Sometimes there is snow in January, as they are at 800 m elevation. Shuttle buses will be organised from Friday at 20€ for both ways. The Congress hotel is perfectly equipped. With the Euro crisis, the Swiss currency is very strong, so the prices are perhaps a bit high, but 130€ for a single and 195€ for a double is a reasonable price for Switzerland. There would be a contribution of 40€ per delegate for lunch and coffee brakes.

The Boesch Boats Company has offered to sponsor the Saturday evening dinner and to organise a small tour of their factory, with a demonstration of how they build their handmade boats and a cocktail afterwards. Alain Amade jokes a visit to the wine cellar of Kuno Ritschard will also be organised.

The bid is unanimously accepted by show of cards.

23.2 2014 = 25/01: bid from Italy

23.3 2015 = 31/01: no firm bid yet

24. A.O.B.

Des Burke-Kennedy brings up the issue of venues of future congress for his Federation. He feels the days are past that people went to congress and did some sightseeing, visited a lake etc. He thinks a central inexpensive point would make more sense, to cut costs in these difficult days, and to make the place very efficient. He suggests going to Barcelona and flying with Ryanair.

Alain Amade thinks Switzerland would be more central, but also more expensive of course. Sometimes travel is expensive and the room isn't, or the other way around, or you have to pay for the lunch or the dinner, or not, etc. He's not in favour of a central point because it takes away the possibility for the organising country to invite their Minister of Sports or their President of the Olympic Committee etc. That way, these

people get into contact with our organisation. Otherwise even a Skype meeting would do. Hans Tengberg-Hansen (DEN) agrees on the importance of this personal contact. Louis Polome thinks the cost is also still an issue.

25. Closing of the Congress

Alan Goggin thanks the Congress for having him as Chairman at so many Congresses, and for what water ski has given to him and his family over the last 40 years, because it allows anyone to be the best they can be as a judge, as an athlete, or as a parent.
(*applause*)

Alain Amade thanks the Hellenic Waterski Federation, the Thessaloniki Water Ski Club and Depy Papadimitriou and her team once more for this organisation, and Brit Horemans for her work at the Congress and during the whole year. He appreciates the Greek hospitality and says there has been a good atmosphere. He thanks everyone here present, and especially Alan Goggin for running all those Congresses, and closes the Congress.

attachments (see www.iwwf-ea.eu)

- report from Dr. Benassa, Medical Committee
- report from Sylvio Falcioni, the IWWF Vice President
- presentation of Des-Burke Kennedy, IWWF Media Officer on the new media
- list of council and committee members
- list of meetings (see Calendar)
- the Wakeboard 2020 Vision