



## Minutes of the Region EAME Congress

26<sup>th</sup> of January, 2008

Hyatt Regency Hotel, Belgrade, Serbia

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### 1. Welcome by the President of Region EAME

The President, Alain Amade, welcomes everyone to the 2008 Congress in this very prestigious and well organised room. He especially greets the Honorary Members present today asks them to stand up: Mr Aubrey Sheena, Mr Paul Jensch, Mr Hugo Engelen, Mrs Lill Fitzpatrick, Mr Luis Mussach, Mr Franz Kuhn and Mr Louis Polome.

### 2. Verification of attendances and voting powers

Sid Adriaensen announces the changes to the list of Voting Powers. Bulgaria now has 3 votes for general business and 2 for Wakeboard Cable. France has no votes for Barefooting instead of 3. Israel gets 1 vote for Tournament instead of 0, and the UAE gets one vote for Wakeboard Boat instead of 0. He asks if there are any other remarks.

Michel Botton (FRA) says the French Federation promises to pay for the outstanding invoice for Barefoot, which is accepted, resulting in 3 votes for Barefoot for France.

No further remarks.

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

### 3. Appointment of Congress Chairperson

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

Alan Goggin thanks for the vote of confidence and explains the house rules.

#### **4. Appointment of Scrutineers**

Alan Goggin asks to approve the appointment of Aubrey Sheena as Chief Scrutineer and Lill Fitzpatrick, Hugo Engelen, Paul Jensch - Honorary Members- and Marco Marsova, a member of the local organising committee, as Scrutineers.

Accepted with acclamation.

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

Alan Goggin now declares the Congress officially convened as the convocation was sent on the 22nd of November 2007 to all Federations. He requests if anyone has not had their official notice. (no remarks)

Alain Amade reminds us that the Water Ski family lost a few members last year: Karl Brooks (GBR), a racing skier and European champion, who died practicing his favourite sport. Pierre Grimm (SUI), who was running the Swiss ski school, was a friend of many skiers and he joined us at last year's Championships in Linz. Ryan Birch (GBR), a 15-year old wakeboarder, was killed in a helicopter crash on his way from a competition.

He asks the Congress to stand for one minute of silence.

#### **6. Approval of Minutes of 2007 Annual Congress**

Alan Goggin announces that in last year's Congress Minutes there was an error in the spelling of the name of the Greek athlete, Vangelis Papakirykos, who died in 2006. Dimos Alexopoulos announces that the wife of this athlete published a book in his memory. This was the second book the Greek Federation issued. The first one was published 4 years ago at the occasion of 60 years of water Skiing in Greece. This new book was released in November and contains many pictures and a CD. It relates his dream of organising one of the best water ski events in the world in Greece with 30 skiers from all over the world, with 10 ex-record holders in slalom, and many actual elite skiers. He died a few months after this competition at age 36. The profits will to the children's hospital of Kaiafas – that is the lake where the European Championships were held a few years ago. In 2008 this book will be published in English also. Alan Goggin adds that all proceeds for this book will go to cancer research.

Alan Goggin asks if anyone has remarked any other errors. (none)

Austria proposes the approval of the Minutes and is seconded by Belgium.

All approve by show of cards, no abstentions.

#### **7. Note items for AOB**

Alan Goggin asks if anyone has any items at this point. (none)

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

Since all reports have been circulated already, Alan Goggin asks the Presidents of the Councils to merely highlight certain points or to add anything new.

### **8.1. The President**

Alain Amade thanks all the organisers of the 2007 events for doing a great job, and he also thanks all the officials who travel around Europe to make this happen.

### **8.2. The Secretary General**

Sid Adriaensen explains that sending everything by e-mail rather than normal mail cut costs in three years' time from 26.000 EURO to 8.000 EURO. (applause)  
The Congress Documents were put on the website and everyone was notified of this with 3 e-mail messages, explaining where to find everything. This was also a major factor in reducing mail costs.

He stresses that the organising Federations have to send out a letter of invitation in time – at least 3 months beforehand - so people can obtain their visa. The EAME Office cannot send letters or invitations for visa.

Also, insurance has to be taken care of by the Federation that sends out its officials, not by the organising Federation.

Alain Goggin asks if there are any remarks except for the letter of protest from the out-of-work Postmen's Association. (no remarks)

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

Alain Le Gac, the President of the Barefoot Council, could not attend this meeting and has asked Alexandra Vigoureux to apologise him and to speak on his behalf. He thought of it as a great honour to work for the sport these last 6 years. He is proud of EAME's presence at World level and stresses the need for young people coming to the sport to maintain excellence. That is why they organise Coach Clinics and work hard on promotion and development.

He reminds the Congress of the story of Heinrich SAM, a 15-year old South African skier who was diagnosed with chest bone cancer last year. Heinrich is much better now and he is already in the water which shows the kind of kid he is, and the Barefoot Council wishes him the best.

The Barefoot Council is still looking for organisers of a Barefoot Promotional tour, which can be an occasion to organise a major promotional event, initiate young people and have a wonderful tool of communication. It is already in motion thanks to Hungary, Serbia, Germany, Austria and Ireland who showed their interest. A DVD, available for Barefoot promotion, is shown.

Finally, Alain Le Gac wants to thank all Barefoot Council members for their work and dedication, and especially those, after many years of service, decided not to stand for the election: Simone Zuchetti (ITA), their Treasurer who made sure the Council had the means of its policy, Birte Holter (NOR), their top official who took care of our judges and Andy Harris (GBR), the World Barefoot Council Chairman, a great man that they know everyone in the world will miss.

Alexandra Vigoureux thanks Alain Le Gac for being a perfect leader, using people's skills and being encouraging and supporting. She thanks everyone and hopes to see them on the water in 2008.

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

Marie-Anne Persoons announces that the Cableski World Championships will be held in September 2008 in Great Britain and invites everyone to attend.

She says 2007 was a very good year for Cable Ski and she is very happy that the brochure for promotion of Cable skiing is now available in French and English. A copy in German and English will also be published. She points out that Mr Bruno Rixen, who invented Cable skis, is present at the Congress, and says we have to thank him for this economical way of doing our sport. He was entered in the IWSF Hall of Fame of Waterskiing in 2007 in Austria.

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

Philippe Turchet says 2007 was a good year, as you can see in his report. This year the European Championships will be held in Italy, Recetto, but there is a problem for the next World Championships, as it will not be possible to hold them in the USA in 2009 as planned. If any Federation would be interested please let the Council know about this.

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

Mike Waterman says a copy of a promotional DVD for water ski Racing was handed out to everyone present at the Congress, a part of which is shown now. He congratulates Belgium for hosting the World Championships in July 2009.

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

Stefan Rauchenwald is proud to announce that out at the 2007 World Tournament Championships, with 41 countries participating, 18 medals out of 27 were won by EAME !

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

Colin Hart shows a short presentation for the promotion of Wakeboarding.

The EAME Wakeboard Championships will be held in South Africa in two weeks' time. That will conclude the 2007 season, so the Ranking List will be distributed after these Championships.

The 2008 Wakeskate & Wakeboard Championships will be held in France between 20-31 August: more information can be found at [www.tremolat-wake2008.com](http://www.tremolat-wake2008.com). 50 riders are expected for the Wakeskate in the first week, and more than 150 riders are expected for the second week. This will be the 10th anniversary of the EAME Championships, and Colin Hart thanks all Federations that hosted them - 5 out of 9 in EAME countries - and asks for a round of applause for these organisers.

It has also been 10 year for the Wakeboard development program, with officials helping young riders to give structure. Last year the first Wakeboard Boat seminar was held in addition to the Judging and Calculating seminar. There is a rigorous examination for all Officials' levels and we are the only Region in the World that has fully structured the officials' levels.

He asks all those involved to please attend the judging seminar and requests all Federations to consider hosting development programs and organising or attending competitions.

He thanks his Council members for helping them achieving so much in the past 10 years.

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

Varna Laco thanks Franz Kuhn for all his help and also Andreas Boes for organising the European Championships.

### **8.10. The President of the Medical Commission**

Dr Lorenzo Benassa shows the presentation of his report about the anti-doping application review, which he considers to be a big problem. He wants to improve our confidence with the doping issue.

The list of prohibited drugs can be found at the WADA website. Problems are arising when an athlete has to use one of these substances for some medical condition. He or she has to apply in time for a therapeutic use exemption (TUE), and a well documented medical condition is needed to support this.

Alan Goggin adds that drugs are a key issue in our sport, and that our history of drug free competitions is excellent.

### **8.11. The Representative of the Coaches Subcommittee**

John Wood emphasises that their next Coaches Development seminar, that will be held in Cyprus in March, will be focussed on the 2009 Mediterranean Games. The details will be published on the EAME website. He encourages all Federations to send any possible coaches to attend this specific development program, for which 15.000 EURO was allocated by EAME Admincom in the previous year and will be again this year.

Skiers from Cyprus, Croatia, Israel, Egypt, Lebanon and Serbia will be attending training camps in host countries, principally Italy, France and Greece to help them develop their skiers and riders. He specifically requests Serbia, Croatia, Egypt and Lebanon to give the names of their skiers.

This is a step to the Olympic platform, so EAME needs a good attendance in Pescara 2009. The Admincom has given funds to help develop this opportunity, now the Mediterranean Federations need to make the best of it.

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

## **9. Financial Report & budget 2008**

### **9.1. Presentation of Accounts up to 30.11.2007**

Alan Goggin thanks Dominique Lakens Douwes for stepping in during the year and for doing an excellent job, and he jokes she looks slightly nervous.

Dominique Lakens Douwes thanks everyone and explains she was asked to step in because she is Dutch, and the bank accounts are based in Holland and EAME has its Statutes in Holland. Even then it took months to sort out everything before she could finally make payments. She thanks Alain Amade and Sid Adriaensen for helping her and for the confidence they put in her.

Most of the financial report is quite straightforward, anything out of the ordinary is explained in the notes.

There is a positive result of 44.000 EURO. On the income side there were more Cash Prize fees and calendar change fees, as there were a lot more competitions, especially in Tournament. There also was some outstanding money from 2006 that was paid. There was also about 20.000 EURO less expenditure, mainly in administration, because now e-mails are used instead of regular mail.

On the Balance sheet there are unsettled invoices for about 78.000 EURO, but a lot of them have been settled by now.

On the Profit and Loss account Dominique comments that the income from Subscription Fees from Federations was lower than budgeted, as not all of them have been received yet.

“Other items sold” shows quite a high figure because the Racing Council’s dynamometer was sold, and that accounts for 4.000 EURO. The late entry fees show a strange figure because of some small change from someone’s pocket.

Admincom and Congress costs are lower because things like scarves and ties have been booked under Promotion now.

Des Burke-Kennedy (IRL) congratulates the new treasurer for putting in so many notes, meaning that there are no questions needed. He wonders why the money mentioned by John Wood from the Coaching Commission does not seem to appear on the accounts. Alain Amade explains that the project for the Mediterranean Games involved Federations such as France, Italy and Greece are helping young southern Mediterranean skiers to practice in their countries. The IOC sponsors this together with EAME, and it will be on next year’s budget.

Sami Abu Shaika (Qatar) thanks Dominique Lakens-Douwes for her good work. He asks what “personnel costs” are and Dominique explains this concerns the cost for the people who work at the Secretariat. Sami Abu Shaika then asks why Development was budgeted for 8.000 EURO like it was last year, while we only spent 294 EURO. Dominique explains this concerns money from the IOC that still has to be paid. Sami Abu Shaikha also wonders why the budget for Promotion is much lower this year than last year, and Dominique says this is because a lot was spent last year for the 60th anniversary of EAME.

Michel Botton (FRA) thinks the French Federation should not have to pay the travel expenses for the EAME President and also wonders why this does not appear in the figures. Alan Goggin replies that Great Britain also subsidises their delegates, and that they also get a government grant for this. He reminds Michel Botton that this proposal is on the agenda under point 18. Louis Polome (RSA) thinks this is an internal issue that should not be discussed here.

## **9.2. Professional Auditor’s Report**

This was distributed to everyone. No remarks.

## **9.3. Honorary Auditor’s Report**

Lill Fitzpatrick comments her report contains a glowing reference to Dominique and congratulates the Admincom, management of the EAME, because of the increase of income. She is pleased that the situation of non-insurance was handled, but she thinks it is unfortunate that while environment is so terribly important and that it will have a huge impact on our sport, yet the budget of 8.000 EURO has not yet been put to use. Alain Amade made a proposal to the Congress last year about this and this should really be addressed. He and Sid Adriaensen tried hard to find someone, without any success, and he knows how much Aubrey Sheena (GBR) is concerned with this. Alain Amade thinks it will be easier to find a part-time professional in environment matters, and pay this person, instead of looking for a volunteer. He has been in contact with the European Boating Union in Brussels, and hopefully they will come up with a specialist in engines and environment to help us make the dossier and to answer questions.

## **9.4. Appointment of Professional Auditors**

Alan Goggin announces Willem Freen is recommended by the Admincom and the Treasurer. His proposal is formally approved by show of cards. None against, no abstentions.

### **9.5. Appointment of Honorary Auditor**

Lill Fitzpatrick is prepared to continue as Honorary Auditor, and this is accepted by Congress. None against, no abstentions.

### **9.6. Budget 2008**

Dominique Lakens-Douwes explains that the budget for 2008 was confirmed by Admincom yesterday and was distributed to all present. There are notes explaining anything out of the ordinary. The budget reflects the actual expenses of 2007, with some small adjustments to compensate for the higher number of EAME Championships in 2008 etc. Also the personnel costs were budgeted a bit higher to have some reserves there, for example to cover the cost of a computer expert.

She explains that this budget has taken into account the proposal to change the system of Council budgets, and that some money for development for 2007 from the IOC still has to come in.

Peter Frei (SUI) wonders why there is a considerable increase of the budget for the councils. He thinks this budget is meant for promotion and for paying judges, but that it should not be used for allowances and travel costs to the Council members. He feels this should come from the Admincom. Dominique Lakens-Douwes confirms this and says the underlying idea is that Councils should get the possibility to raise their own money for other purposes.

The budget is accepted by the Congress with no objections or abstentions.

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

Alain Amade announces that the Water Ski Federation of Zimbabwe is dissolved and that they will probably not be back in the near future. Monaco has a federation now and they want to apply for membership, but their application has not been received yet. Morocco, Tunisia and Kazakhstan are also interested in membership. Sami Abu Shaikha (Qatar) is working very hard to make more Arabic federations join.

## **11. Changes to the Statutes changes - as circulated (none)**

No changes.

## **12. Changes to the Bye-Laws - as circulated**

Sid Adriaensen explains that the Tournament Council submitted a proposal, that was adopted by the Admincom, concerning the Calendar. At this moment no competitions can be added after May 31<sup>st</sup>. and they want to change Art. 4.4., allowing additions after this date, 30 days before the competition, at the cost of a 400€ fee and with the approval of the relevant council.

Another change is that the sentence on the Intention to Enter form that read "entered 60 days before" had better read "entered 2 months before" to avoid confusion.

At the moment the Homologation Fees are 200 EURO for international competitions and 100 EURO for national competitions. But it wouldn't be fair to make an organiser pay more just because one French skier turns up at the German competition. The proposal is to charge 100 EURO for any normal homologation dossier and 200 EURO for dossiers for the ranking list or a record capability, or the equivalent of this according to the division. This way the organisers will know beforehand how much they will have to pay.

In the past, the personal insurance coverage for Committee and Council members and international officials was 500.000 SWFR with a Swiss company. This was moved to Great Britain and the coverage now is 350.000 EURO, which makes up only a small difference.

The major change is in Appendix B of the Bye-Laws. The proposal is to change the Council budget system, with the underlying idea is that who is active gets more money to spend on their division.

Des Burke-Kennedy (IRL) asks if it would be possible to extend the personal insurance to cover all officials of the EAME Federations, also the national ones, if this could mean a lower cost. Mike Waterman (GBR), who is the insurance broker who handles this insurance, will look into this possibility. Alan Goggin (GBR) asks if not most countries have their own insurance, as they do in Great Britain. Dimos Alexopoulos (GRE) says Greece has none. Stefan Rauchenwald (AUT) remarks the term “non-calendar international competitions” will no longer be used by the Tournament Council, to them they are all “international competitions”. Patrice Martin (FRA) says the French Federation takes care of all costs of it’s representatives and he doesn’t think anyone should receive extra allowances on top of that, for example Council members who get meeting allowances from EAME. He thinks that the expenses of the EAME President should be in charge of EAME, and not of the Federation, as not all Federations might be able to afford this. Michel Botton (FRA) thinks it is unfair that EAME is not paying for the judges who are going to EAME Titled Events. The Chairman reminds him that this will be discussed under point 18. Gill Hill (GBR) replies to Michel Botton that the British Federation covers these costs also, while the EAME allowances go to the British Federation. Any grants from EAME are deducted from what the British Federation gives to its members.

Louis Polome (RSA) wonders if the change to the Bye-Laws regarding the fines for adding a competition after May 31<sup>st</sup> might pose problems for countries in the southern hemisphere. Gill Hill replies the councils can now decide for themselves to fine or not, and she thinks they will take the situation of countries in the southern hemisphere into consideration.

All changes are accepted by the Congress by a show of cards. No objections or abstentions.

## **13. Elections**

### **13.1. President**

The Chairman explains that there are two nominations for this position. Sid Adriaensen will announce how many votes each Federation has and they will receive as many voting sheets as they have votes.

Michel Botton (FRA) says he is withdrawing his candidature as President and Admincom member, as he agrees that politics inside the French Federation should not interfere with EAME. He would rather change things from outside EAME instead of from inside. He wishes to work on world-wide TV coverage of the sport, advertisement and sponsoring. For example, he made an agreement with the Italian Federation to show any TV-videos produced in either country in both countries. He asks other federations to join in on this and he wants to work with everyone to get water ski and wakeboard into the Olympics.

The Chairman says that even with only candidature, voting is necessary, and at least 50% is necessary to get elected. He requests the Federations to vote with either yes, no, or abstention.



At this election round 112 ballot papers were handed out, but 5 weren't returned, so there is a total of 107 votes cast.

Alain Amade is re-elected as EAME President with 103 votes and 4 abstentions. He thanks everyone for their confidence and says development is a very important issue for him, that has been discussed again at the Admincom meeting of November, and that one of their members will be in charge of this. He thinks environment and promotion are also very important. He thanks all the councils for working hard to make the best skiers or riders of the world.

### **13.2. Secretary General**

There is also only one application for this position and Sid Adriaensen is re-elected with the maximum of 107 votes and no abstention.

He thanks for the confidence and the maximum of votes. He's glad to have a good team, as one individual cannot accomplish what a team can do. Sid Adriaensen wants to be noted that the Secretary General and the President of EAME also represent EAME at World level and with the IWSF Executive Board, as they know something of what is going on in the Councils, and he hopes the Congress approves of this. Approval by applause.

### **13.3. Treasurer**

There are two nominations: Dominique Lakens-Douwes and Peter Frei, but Peter Frei withdraws his application.

Dominique Lakens-Douwes is elected with 104 votes and 3 abstentions. She thanks everyone for their confidence and says she enjoyed the learning of the job last year.

Alain Amade says glad to be able to work with the team with Sid and Dominique Lakens-Douwes now that they are also re-elected.

### **13.4. Council members**

Alan Goggin explains the numbers (1) and (2) on the list of candidates mean that these persons are standing for re-election in their own right (1), and/or supported by their Federation (2).

A small change is to be made: Norway sent an e-mail to confirm their support of Ivar Fosse (Disabled), Remi Breivik (Wakeboard Boat) and Stian Lilleberg (Tournament). For the Wakeboard Council Marianne Sandner has withdrawn as she has been appointed as the athlete's representative.

For the Racing Council there is comment to be made. A person can only stand for office or be promoted for a discipline if his or her Federation has had skiers or officials in a Titled Event for this particular division, or if it has organised such an event in the last 4 years. This means that France cannot nominate an individual for Racing. This was not noticed by the Office at the time of nomination: therefore the French nomination was accepted by the Admincom in this particular case, if the Congress agrees. Accepted by show of cards, no-one against.

Sid Adriaensen reads out the number of votes each Federation has for each division and Alan Goggin checks if everyone agrees with their number of votes.

Countries have a vote only if they have a participating element. To be elected any council member needs 50%.

Meanwhile, the Serbian Deputy Minister of Sports, Mr Aleksander Sostar, joins the Congress. He welcomes us to Belgrade in the name of the Ministry of Sports from Serbia and says that Serbia always was, is and will be a country of sports, that spends a lot of time and money on sport. The government of Serbia supports competitions and manifestations like this to represent Serbia as a country of sports. Alain Amade thanks him for coming and presents him an EAME tie and a plaque.

Sid Adriaensen asks each council to come back after the lunch break and indicate the new composition of their council.

For the **Barefoot Council** there are no nominations or withdrawals. 8 individuals are standing for 7 positions. The Chairman explains at least one person should be struck out on the list to make a valid vote. There are 31 possible votes. Are elected: Evert Aartsen (FIN) 28 votes, Chico Cohen (NED) 28 votes, Sue Goldie (GBR) 28 votes, Giorgio Marullo (ITA) 29 votes, Andrew Mc Donald (IRE) with 28 votes, Alexandra Vigoureux (FRA) 26 votes, Hilmar Wehner (GER) 26 votes. Not elected: Arnaud Renoux (FRA) with 3 votes.

In the **Cableski Council** no-one is standing down and there are 7 individuals for 7 positions. Out of a total of 33 votes Nicky Caine (GBR) is elected with 33 votes, Joost De Leijer (NED) 33 votes, Mikhail Padaliak (BLR) 33 votes, Marie-Anne Persoons (BEL) 33 votes, Juergen Pitz (GER) 33 votes, Maoz Tal (ISR) 33 votes. Arnaud Demontal (FRA) gets 2 votes, which results in 6 candidates in the first round, meaning a second round is needed according to the Bye-Laws art. 3.1.1. In this second round also 50% of the votes is needed to be elected. The same list of persons is circulated and the Federations are requested to again vote with yes, no or abstention. If only 6 persons should get elected, the council has the choice to co-opt a 7<sup>th</sup> person or run with one less. A second round is held, but with again 2 votes out of 33 votes in this round Arnaud Demontal is eliminated.

All current members of the **Council for the Disabled** are standing for elections, resulting in 7 persons for 7 positions. Out of a possible of 30 votes Luciana Barberi (ITA) receives 26 votes, Dany De Bakker (BEL) 29 votes, Carmen Ferrer-Bosch (ESP) 27 votes, Yvar Fosse (NOR) 30 votes, Paul Goossens (BEL) 29 votes, Alan Murray (GBR) 29 votes and Philippe Turchet (FRA) 27 votes. All are re-elected.

For the **Racing Council**, 8 persons are standing for 7 positions, so here again at least one person has to be deleted from the list to make a valid vote. There is a total of 18 votes. Are elected: Josep Escoda (ESP) 18 votes, Franz Hebenstreit (AUT) 18 votes, Thea Klarenbeek (NED) 18 votes, Jules Leysen (BEL) 18 votes, Howard Smith (GBR) 18 votes, Vera Van Den Bossche (BEL) 18 votes and Mike Waterman (GBR) with 18 votes. Not elected: René Malbete (FRA) with 0 votes.

For the **Tournament Council** also 8 persons are standing for 7 positions. There is a total of 72 votes. Are elected: Dimos Alexopoulos (GRE) 66 votes, Gill Hill (GBR) 68 votes, Stian Lilleberg (NOR) 62 votes, Candido Moz (ITA) 65 votes, Stefan Rauchenwald (AUT) 65 votes, Marc Raymond (FRA) 61 votes, Hannu Rintanen (FIN) 61 votes. Not elected: Emmanuel Lion (FRA) with 25 votes. No second round needed as all 7 positions have been filled.

For the **Wakeboard Boat Council** 7 persons are standing for 7 positions. There is a total of 35 votes. All are elected: Remi Breivnik (NOR) 35 votes, Florian Butty (SUI) 35 votes, Stefano Duranti (ITA) 35 votes, Colin Hart (GBR) 29 votes, Alain Nieves (BEL) 35 votes, Jean-Phillippe Richonnier (FRA) 35 votes and Claes Scheffer (SWE) with 32 votes.

For the **Wakeboard Cable Council** 8 persons are standing for 7 positions. There is a total 39 votes. Are elected: Lior Eliyahu (ISR) 35 votes, Lucien Gerkau (GER) 32 votes, Ferdie Jansen (NED) 34 votes, Julie Koester (GBR) 32 votes, Varna Laco (CRO) 35 votes, Bénédicte Saulem (FRA) 29 votes, Nenad Tanaskovic (SER) with 34 votes. Not elected : Oliver Leberre (FRA) with 8 votes.

Alain Amade thanks those not standing for re-election, Andy Harris (GBR), Birte Holter (NOR), Alain Le Gac (FRA) and Simone Zucchetti (ITA) from the Barefoot Council, Martin Kocur (CZE) and Jean-Yves Parpette (FRA) from the Cableski Council, Thomas Ludwig (GER) from the Tournament Council and Christine Tuaz (FRA) from the Wakeboard Council for all their work and asks the Congress to give them an applause.

### 13.5 Admincom members

Alan Goggin announces 4 people are now standing for 4 positions as Michel Botton withdrew his candidature. Sid Adriaensen reads out the number of votes for general business for each Federation. Out of 112 votes, 108 were cast and 4 were returned invalid. All are elected: Peter Frei (SUI) with 88 votes, Alan Goggin (GBR) 96 votes, Depy Papadimitrou (GRE) 100 votes and Dario Rossi (ITA) 95 votes.

The Chairman thanks the scrutineers and asks for the formal approval of the Congress to destroy the voting slips. All in favour, no abstentions.

### 14. Nominations by the Divisional Councils

The different councils name their President, Secretary, Treasurer, representative to the Admincom and the three World Council delegates + one substitute, and the meeting dates of the year (*see attachments*).

### 15. Report from the IWSF

Franz Kuhn congratulates the new EAME team on behalf of the IWSF. He hopes to continue the excellent teamwork in the next 4 years and promises his help whenever needed. He thanks the Serbian Federation, especially his friend Bruno Fekete, and the Astakos team for organising this Congress.

Kuno Ritschard, the IWSF President, is in the Far East now and greets the Congress. Franz Kuhn, vice-president of the IWSF, Gill Hill, secretary-general of the IWSF and Des Burke-Kennedy, the media officer, are here to answer any questions.

Franz Kuhn reads out the message Kuno Ritschard sent him (*see attachment*).

He then comments that all Councils have organised a lot of competitions. In 2007, 5 World Championships were held over the whole world in 2007, and the Tournament Championship in Linz, Austria, really was a top competition for the athletes. He notes that organising such a competition is not only good for the sport, but also for the reputation of a city or a country. In his experience, governments who spend a lot of money on these competitions can be very sensitive about this reputation, and they expect sufficient media coverage !

The **World Congress** was attended by more than 120 delegates. At the same occasion the Bureau, the Executive Board and the Tournament Council also held their meetings. A lot of people came to the Hall of Fame festival, not 60-70 as before, but a 123 came ! The reservation was only for 100 persons, so 2 persons were sitting on 1 chair and it was very warm inside, but the atmosphere was excellent. The EAME Honorary Members also organised a party that was attended by 50 people.

For **2008** there are six competitions on the Calendar. The World Barefoot Championships in New Zealand will be held in January 2009 but they are a part of the 2008 calendar. The World Cable Ski Championships will be held in Great Britain, the World University Championships in China, the World Tournament Senior Trophy in Spain and the World Cable Wakeboard will probably be in Russia.

Franz Kuhn explains he often works together with Varna Laco, the chairman of the **Cable Wakeboard** Council, as he is involved in the development of this discipline. He thanks Andreas Boes from ID+MA for organising the 2006 World Cable Wakeboard Championships in Austria, Feldkirchen. People from the Philippines' Federation attended these Championships and they wanted to organise the 2008 World Cable Wakeboard Championships. The inspection checked out ok and the agreement was

signed. Afterwards they cancelled as they wanted to organise another competition with WWA. Then the LOB was signed by Ukraine (Kiev), but the problem arose that the organisers founded their own federation in the same city. This is impossible by IOC rules, which allow only one federation per country. So there could be no deal. During new discussions in Munich, Bruno Rixen suggested Russia. The Russian Federation agreed, but there is one problem: at the site, which is near the Black Sea, a clockwise cable is used, instead of the counter clockwise cable what we are used to. So there will be more discussion with team captains and top riders checking how they feel about it. There are other clockwise cable ski installations in Europe, for example in The Netherlands, Germany and France.

The EAME Cable Wakeboard Championships 2008 will be held in Turkey, Bursa, in a brand new place. The opening competition there will be at end of March or the beginning of April with EAME riders to do demonstrations.

At the last Congress we mentioned we have a committee in the **doping commission of the IOC**. Their meeting in Lausanne in March 2007 was attended by Franz Kuhn, Gill Hill (GBR), Sylvia Terraciano (ITA) and Jeffrey Smith, the chief judge from the World Championships, who is the president of our committee. The next meeting will be in April. Franz Kuhn says that one problem at these meetings is understanding and interpreting the terminology the doctors use.

The organisation of the **World Games** 2009 is going well. Unfortunately there might be a clash of dates that will need to be discussed between the World Senior Trophy, World Cable and World Cable Wakeboard Championships.

The **World Cup** issue is expanded upon by Des Burke-Kennedy. He reminds the Congress that they have decision making power and that an effort will be needed, because after 50 years of hard work we are still a minor sport with no sponsorship income. There are not many spectators at national championships, rarely over 500. There is a shortage of development capital and there is not much sign of growth. More sponsorship would greatly change things as there is a lot of money involved in advertising in sports. There also is a lot of potential in internet advertising. Yet at present, we charge ourselves for almost all the income we get.

In his experience we have limited television and media exposure and we are sending out a confusing image to the outside world with all the different sorts of waterskiing. He suggests choosing one item and keep feeding that to the press to show we have an exciting sport. Marathon timetables with up to 8 hours of finals is not the action-packed thing spectators and media like. Scores should come up faster on the boards for the public and the skiers to see, and not the next day as it happens sometimes now.

Des Burke-Kennedy proposes setting up a think tank team to work on event streamlining and generate a far more exciting sport. Also, federations should identify potential sponsors and secure an introduction for IWSF.

Steve Sopp (GBR) agrees with most of what Des Burke-Kennedy said, but he wonders that if we want to attract sponsors and spectators, then why haven't we come up with a new format by now? He is not in favour of changing the fundamentals of the sport, but he thinks that at a World Cup stop or at a Cash Prize Event some changes could be made to change the public perception of our sport. Des Burke-Kennedy says setting up the World Cup was a way to try and find a formula to do this. He says a mental change is needed and in his opinion, we can still do things for the public without changing the fundamentals of our sport.

Alexandra Vigoureux (FRA) agrees that the rules are too complicated. As a World Council member, she knows how hard it is to change even a line of these rules on a world level and asks Des Burke-Kennedy to write a letter to the other World Council member to help convince them of the need for these changes. Also, she feels that a competition like "Splash of the Titans" already has an interesting format that could

attract sponsors. Yet the Barefoot Council is still told to find the money needed themselves to get this format into the World Cup. Des Burke-Kennedy agrees that this seems a contradiction. He thinks the problem is that with Barefoot it's hard for the public to see what is going on, unless you have a big screen, and that this is a challenge for every discipline.

Colin Hart (GBR) noticed that in the IWSF four year plan there is the objective to hire an executive director and he wonders why the IWSF would spend money on this, while their objective clearly is to put the money back into the sport. Des Burke-Kennedy replies that their track record of 21 World Cup stops and media coverage will now attract sponsors. The money that they invest isn't needed as much as in the past for individual events, as these are now more or less funded locally. So the idea is to use some of this sponsor money to pay a person who sees this function as a career. The underlying idea is that the current IWSF President is not a young man anymore, and that the concept of him travelling all over the world indefinitely is not realistic.

Alain Amade, the EAME President, agrees with what Steve Sopp said. He thinks people here in EAME are open to creating a new format, and that the problem with making changes actually lies in convincing the other Regions. He thinks judging at EAME championships already is very fast and he would like to improve the level of the judges.

Dimos Alexopoulos (GRE) agrees with Des Burke-Kennedy in doubting that everyone understands that major changes would be needed to make our sport more interesting for the media. He would like the Congress to vote upon the need to have a think tank team as suggested.

The EAME President stresses there is a big difference between a Titled Event and a Cash Prize event, for example. At a Titled Event the skier has to have the best circumstances possible, while at a World Cup or Cash Prize event you might experiment a bit.

Andy Harris (GBR) stresses there has to be a culture change, resulting in a more user friendly i.e. public sport. He wonders what happened to the HSBC Bank, who was a big sponsor at the World Championships. Des Burke-Kennedy explains that at the time Paul Fong was an executive at the Singapore branch. The Bank later reviewed it's policy and decided to use their sponsorship budget for golf.

Michel Botton (FRA) says France would be willing to be a member of the think tank team. He noticed there are a lot more "users" and a lot less "members" and that the general concept still is that waterskiing is an expensive and exclusive sport. He suggests to all Federations to organise a competition at a certain weekend to demonstrate and promote the sport. He thanks Patrice Martin for his help to the sport.

Depy Papadimitrou (GRE) thanks everyone for their vote of confidence. She says we are all here because we love waterskiing, sacrificing time with our family and our social activities. Still we are not an Olympic sport, which might help us to get more sponsors. Because of a building contract she came into contact with the government in Brazil, and she told them she will lobby to have the 2016 Olympics in Brazil, if they agree to put waterskiing in the Olympics. The presidency and the minister of sport replied they would be interested in meeting her : Andres Botero will join her. She says that we will try, as we have nothing to loose ! She will report back and if she is successful, she would like the Federations to lobby with their countries' IOC to vote for Brazil for the 2016 Olympics. She adds that South Africa and Qatar are also candidates for organising the 2016 Olympics, and that she does not want to close any doors.

## **16. Changes to the List of Obligations - as circulated**

Sid Adriaensen explains that the change is meant to clear up any confusion re. the price of the final banquet.

## **17. Calendar of Titled Events**

Sid Adriaensen comments the Titled Events Calendar up to 2013 is on the website and that there are no changes for **2008** at the moment. Fortunately, a lot of competitions are covered.

For **2009** an organiser is still needed for the EAME Cableski Championships and for the World Disabled Championships, since the PANAM Region is not able to do this. In Tournament, only the Senior Championships are not covered yet. Gill Hill adds holding the 2009 Youth Tournament Championships might not be possible for the current organiser, so a new one will be needed. For Wakeboard Boat organisers are needed for the World and EAME Championships. For Wakeboard Cable the EAME Championships have not been covered yet.

France makes a bid for holding the EAME Under 21 in **2010** in Meuzac.

Norway proposes to host the Tournament Under 21 Championships in **2009** and the Open Championships in **2011**. Sports Director Michael Kjellander shows their presentation.

## **18. Proposals by the Federations**

### **18.1 Proposal by the French Federation - as circulated**

Michel Botton (FRA) asks for a vote to have the travel expenses of officials going to EAME Titled Events paid by EAME, because he thinks it's discriminating that less wealthy countries cannot send officials to EAME events.

Dimos Alexopoulos (GRE) says that regarding this problem of richer and poorer federations the Tournament Council has developed a system to help pay a percentage of the officials' travel expenses for going to EAME Titled events, that way helping the less wealthy countries. He sees no real discrimination between countries, and he thinks the object is to get the best panel, not to help rich judges or judges that get a lot of funding from their Federation.

Alexandra Vigoureux (FRA) says the Barefoot Council thinks it should be a case-by-case thing, as some officials already get paid by their Federations, and some Federations get funds from their government.

Marie-Anne Persoons (BEL) says the Cableski Council's aim of helping with the travel costs of the judges is to get the best panel. It's actually the judges from the Western countries that they have to encourage to come over to Eastern Europe.

Alan Goggin (GBR) adds this was also discussed in the Barefoot Council and that they would rather not pay for officials from Federations who can afford it or get government funds.

Marie-Anne Persoons (BEL) comments that the Cable Council also started giving a small amount to officials 3 years ago, because eastern Europe is not so accessible. Most of the officials come from the "poor" countries, so they actually had to encourage the "rich" countries to send their officials.

Patrice Martin (FRA) thinks EAME should pay the travel expenses for the Titled Events and that this should be in the Bye-Laws. He knows the money is not there now but we should think about this for the future.

The EAME President, Alain Amade, thinks any Federation would agree to this proposition, but he wonders where the money would come from. A simulation shows that for the EAME Titled Events 100.000 to 120.000 EURO on average each year would be needed. That would mean doubling the Federations' subscription fee and that is now already a problem for some. Those Federations would get into problems when they would no longer be able to pay for their membership. Alain Amade never heard of any judges' discrimination and suggests thinking of another system. In his opinion having the organiser pay for the travel expenses is not the best solution either, because then it's hard to find an organiser.

Lill Fitzpatrick (IRL) says this has been on a lot of minds, but if it's already being talked about in the Councils, maybe they should consider this proposal and tell the Admincom how they feel about this.

The Chairman says a roll call is the normal procedure in this case and asks the Congress to vote in favour or against by show of cards first, to see if there is a strong tendency towards a yes or a no, because a roll call would take some time.

Louis Polome (RSA) asks to consider the Irish proposition as an alternative. The Chairman replies that we cannot take any proposals ad hoc, and that if anyone is in favour of the proposal Lill Fitzpatrick (IRL), then they can vote "no" on the proposal from France.

Dimos Alexopoulos (GRE) asks if we are voting for the principle or for 2008 and he adds that if he were an organiser, he would of course go for the cheapest official he can find. The Chairman confirms the result of the voting will come into immediate effect, and he adds that nothing is for free: someone always has to pay.

Steve Sopp (GBR) reminds the Congress that some LOA have already been signed without this information.

At a show of cards, there are only three green cards and too many red cards to go to a roll call. The Chairman tells the French Federation that their motion is lost, but that their point was well made and that it will be discussed. He also thanks Lill Fitzpatrick for her proposal on the matter.

## 19. Honorary Membership

Alain Amade explains that we not only have Honorary Members, but also Patron Members, as was accepted last year at the EAME Congress. Patron Members are not member of any Federation, but have contributed a lot to the development of the sport by sponsorship or technical improvements. He then requests the Chairman to say a few words.

Alan Goggin explains he was asked to prepare a "laudatio" about Andy Harris. He has known him since 1979, when they met at a lake where Alan Goggin was skiing and Andy Harris was drag racing. They actually had the same Master Craft engine and got into talking about that when Alan's broke down. Andy Harris was later asked to come on the Eastern Region team because he was the only one who had gloves and a life jacket they could all borrow! (*laughter*) Then the Great Britain team needed a commentator for their demonstrations and events, and Andy, who used to run a mobile disco, doubled as one. He wanted to become more involved, but since he couldn't ski very well or drive a boat in a straight line, he had to become a judge! (*laughter*) He joined the British Barefoot Committee and became a national judge in 1981 and an international judge in 1983. His first Europeans were in Vienna, where his talents as a

commentator started getting noticed. He spoke every European language by shortening the words, miss out the little ones, and SHOUT at people! (*laughter*)

His first Worlds were in 1986, and in 1988, when Alan Goggin retired, he was at the Moomba Worlds, and he also was the chief judge at the first World Cash Prize. In the early nineties the world lifted its ban on South Africa taking part in sporting events, and that very week their first team event was at the Lake Side Barefoot Event where Andy Harris was judging. They actually won some trophies, but unfortunately the organisers weren't prepared for this and didn't have the South African national anthem. They apologised about this to an 18 year old representative who had won a gold medal, who then *sang* his national anthem, showing how proud he was of his country. It was a memorable moment and it made clear how important sport is in world politics.

Andy Harris became member of the EAME Barefoot Council in 1995, Council Secretary in 1996, President in 1998, World Barefoot President in 2004 and President of the British Water Ski Federation in 2006. Many organisations have benefited from his enthusiasm and 100% commitment and we are proud of him.

He was personally responsible for the dress code at EAME conferences, because he used to turn up in such rubbish outfits that we had to decide to impose a reasonable dress code (*laughter*).

He is retiring this year from EAME, he's staying on as Great Britain's Chairman: EAME's loss is Great Britain's gain. Please stand up and applause Andy Harris. (*warm applause*)

Andy Harris feels this is a great honour and a very cherished moment for him. He's going to miss the meetings and the friendships, but he's not going to be far away. He wants to especially mention Alan Goggin, who got him into the sport at a time he couldn't ski and didn't even know why he should sign up. He was an engineer and a drag racer, in cars that have the same F1 engines, so there were lots of associations. To Andy Harris the sport is about passion, and that's why we do it, even if we don't agree on things sometimes. Secondly he wants to thank a person who constantly reminds him she taught him everything he knows (*laughter*): Gill Hill, who has been one of his closest friends and also his boss. He says she's the one you want on your side when you're having an argument! Andy Harris thanks the President, the Admincom and the Congress for bestowing this honour on him.

Alain Amade announces the first nominations for **patron members** are:

- **Bruno Rixen** (GER), an engineer who invented a new way of water skiing, making EAME a big country that way. In Linz he was taken into the Hall of Fame. Alain Amade hands him a framed certificate. Bruno Rixen tells a story about the first Cable site, in a summer where there was more rain than sunshine. A young boy protested he had been waiting all day in the rain and he wanted to ski. But when he took off, the speed was set too slow, and the boy took his corners totally under water because of the slack in the cable. But afterwards he said it was great, except for the fact that he had to stop breathing every corner!
- **Olaf Boettcher** (GER), another engineer from the same country, made a lot of technical adjustments to make judging more accurate. He works on a voluntary basis most of the time and he does his best to improve the level of our skiers. His system is used at every World Championship. Olaf Boettcher thanks everyone and hopes to see us at the sites, finding fair results.
- **Klaus Boesch** from Boesch Boat Company, and **Peter Medven** from Correct Craft, who sponsors many EAME events, are apologised because they are on the big boat show in Germany. **Ian Birdsall** of MasterCraft also sponsored many events in Tournament and Wakeboarding: he sent an e-mail saying it's an honour to be invited as a patron member of IWSF/EAME. His satisfaction is seeing the growing strength of our region and the success of our athletes. Over the years, he had the pleasure to



work with many dedicated people all over the world and looks forward to being a part of this successful team for many years to come. (*applause*)

## 20. Distribution of Certificates & Awards

The Council Presidents are invited to present the certificates and/or awards to the athlete's Federations.

**Barefoot** Council: no certificates.

For the **Cableski** Council, Marie-Anne Persoons announces that there are no records this year, but that she has certificates for the Female Skier of the Year : Olga Pavlova (BLR) and the Male Skier of the Year : Moshe Tzdaka (ISR)

For the Council for the **Disabled**, Philippe Turchet says there were many World records by EAME skiers, but that he will only mention the EAME records now.

Female Skier of the Year for Disabled : Jacky Stimpson (GBR) who had a lot of records.

Male Skier of the Year for Disabled : Eamonn Prunty (IRL) who also did an excellent performance.

Jacky Stimpson (GBR) has also set an EAME Disabled Jump Record in the Women's MP2 category of 13.6 meter in the final round of the World Championships of Townsville, Australia, May 20, 2007.

Janet Gray (GBR), a blind skier, has set an EAME Disabled Slalom Record in the Women's V1 category of 5,5/52/18.25 in the final round of the World Championships Townsville, Australia, May 20, 2007.

Christian Lanthaler (ITA) has set an EAME Disabled Slalom Record in the Men's L category of 1,5/58/16.00 at the Italian Nationals at Recetto, Italy, July 20, 2007.

A left over certificate from last year is Hervé Dumas (FRA), who set an EAME Disabled Jump Record in the Men's MP3 category of 22,1 meter at the European Championships at Heron Lake, Great Britain, on August 25, 2006.

Mike Waterman announces the **Racing** Female Skier of the Year is Kim Lumley (GBR). The Racing Male Skier of the Year is Karl Brooks (GBR) who is sadly no longer with us. Mike Waterman also presents a certificate to the British Federation for Kim Lumley (GBR), the 2007 World Silver Medal Winner Ladies Open in Rotorua, New Zealand.

Stefan Rauchenwald announces the **Tournament** Female Skier of the year is Clementine Lucine (FRA), who won two World gold medals last year. The Tournament Male Skier of the Year is Marco Riva (ITA) who became third at the Men's overall at the Worlds, which was a fantastic competition.

Colin Hart announces the **Wakeboard Boat** Female Rider of the Year is Estelle Tuaz (FRA), who already won the girls' division 3 times at the age of 15. She also won the Master Juniors' division in 2007 in the USA and has a great future in front of her. The Wakeboard Boat Male Rider of the Year is Dan Nott (GBR), who elevated himself to a new level in the Wakeboard fraternity and won a bronze medal at the World Championships in Qatar in 2007.

Varna Laco announces that the **Wakeboard Cable** Female Rider of the Year is Ginger Pfenning (GER). The Wakeboard Cable Male Rider of the Year is Nick Davies (GBR).

## 21. Athlete of the year

Alain Amade announces Admincom chose as Female Athlete of the Year : Clementine Lucine (FRA) from **Tournament**. The Male Athlete of the Year is Nick Davies (GBR) from **Wakeboard Cable**.

## **22. Future Congresses**

### **22.1 2009 31/01 Zagreb, Croatia**

Varna Laco says she will be very honoured to welcome us in Zagreb, the Croatian capital of a million people, of a country that loves the sport. Slalom. The Sheraton hotel is recommended and the room rates are 84 EURO for a single room and 92 EURO for a double room.

### **22.2 2010 30/01 Brussels, Belgium**

Marie-Anne Persoons explains this Congress will be organised in Brussels by Stephane Delsaute, one of the two presidents of the Belgian federation. The hotel will be located in the Expo area, where the bi-annual car exhibition will be held in 2010, which means all the hotels will be fully booked very quickly. So please make sure you book in time. The official hotel will normally be the Holiday Inn, which is within walking distance from the car exhibition. Prices have been negotiated at 120 EURO for a double room and 110 for a single, but we are trying to lower these costs and also find a cheaper alternative hotel. The meeting room will be that of the Football Federation, which is also within walking distance from the hotel. The lunch and an end of meeting drink will be offered by the Belgian Federation. The banquet on Saturday will be held at the hotel.

### **22.3 2011 29/01 No firm bid yet**

Alain Amade announces Denmark is looking into this.

### **22.4 2012 28/01 Athens, Greece**

No comments at this point in time.

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

None.

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

Alan Goggin, the Chairman, thanks the sound engineers for their excellent jobs and on behalf of the Congress he also thanks the hotel staff for their excellent service. He thanks the Congress for the elections.

Alain Amade reminds the new Admincom members of their meeting right after the Congress. He thanks Alan Goggin for his work and for bringing the good atmosphere in the Congress, and he thanks the Serbian Federation for the warm welcome here and the excellent organisation.

Bruno Fekete, the President of the Serbian Federation, says he's proud to have us here as dear friends, and he thanks the people from his Federation, the hotel staff, the Astakos people and the whole Congress.

Alain Amade closes the congress and hopes to see everyone in Zagreb, next year, or at the championships this summer.

Attached documents:

- ? List of Attendances and Proxies
- ? List of Council and Committee Members
- ? List of World Council Delegates
- ? Meeting dates of the year
- ? List of Voting Powers
- ? Message from the IWSF President