

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

held at the 'SeminarHotel', Unterägeri, Switzerland

on Saturday 26 January 2013

commencing at 09.00 hrs

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

Alain Amade (FRA) welcomes everyone and thanks Peter Frei (SUI) and the Swiss Waterski & Wakeboard Federation for organising the congress in this marvellous place, where you have a lake, the mountains and snow all at the same time.

Peter Frei also welcomes everyone and hopes we had a good trip over here. He explains the details for today and tells the Congress that the Boesch Boat company is the sponsor of the dinner tonight after the Congress. A visit to the factory of the famous hand-made Boesch water ski boats is planned for this evening.

Alain Amade asks the Honorary Members present to stand up so the newcomers to this Congress get to know them: Louis Polome (RSA), Paul Jensch (NED), Andy Harris (GBR), Hans Otte (GER), who started Cable Wakeboard in our Region, Franz Kuhn (AUT) and Kuno Rischard (SUI), who will join us this afternoon as he has just returned from Dubai.

Apologies were made by Aubrey Sheena (GBR), our former President, and by the Honorary Members Hugo Engelen (BEL) and Alain Nieles (BEL).

He then announces that waterskiing unfortunately lost a lot of people in 2012. Alain Suchet (SUI), an Honorary Member, who was Secretary General of then Group II WWSU when Aubrey Sheena was President. René Daumas (ARG), IWWF Hall of Fame member and a close friend of our Region. Piet Slot (NED), a Tournament team captain and coach of the Dutch team, who had two kids that also skied. Wilco de Vries (NED), an international Wakeboard Boat calculator. And also two young skiers, Bronia Machova (SVK) a former World Champion 3-event cableski, who died of cancer; and Richard Odin (FRA), a French team skier, who died of a heart attack. Victoria Shivardi (ITA), a driver. Robert Kristal (AUT), Barefoot. Wendy Wate (GBR), a calculator. (During the Congress we also received the news that Ci Naji (IRL), a young woman who was on the Irish national wakeboard team, had died that day.)

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 list of attendances for each country.

No remarks.

3. Appointment of Congress Chairperson

Alain Amade announces that the Admincom proposes Andy Harris (GBR) as chairman for this Congress and this is accepted with acclamation.

Andy Harris thanks everyone for accepting him, and the Admincom for their proposal. He says it is nice to be sitting up here and that he hopes for a good Congress, and that he can follow in the footsteps of Alan Goggin, who sends his apologies.

He then explains the rules for this Congress.

4. Appointment of Scrutineers

Andy Harris proposes Paul Jensch and Franz Kuhn as scrutineers.

Approved by acclamation.

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

Andy Harris confirms that everyone received the necessary documents on time. There are no objections.

Alain Amade adds that Brit Horemans will take the Minutes. He greets the new President of the Italian Federation, Michele Dell'Olio, who is present here, as well as the new President of the Polish Federation, Andrzej Marcinkowski, who has been involved in waterskiing for 20 years.

Alessandro Vanoi from the Italian Federation explains that Mr Dell'Olio does not speak English, but his wife teaches English at school, so she can translate. He is a lawyer and also a black belt in karate. Mr Dell'Olio has been working as Vice President in Sicily and on the National Board, and he also works with the Olympic Committee.

6. Approval of Minutes of 2012 Annual Congress (Thessaloniki, Greece)

Alain Amade checks that all received the Minutes of the previous Congress.

Des Burke-Kennedy (IRL) points out that on page 6 a one time Olympic fee was mentioned, and he wonders how many countries have paid by now. Alain Amade replies that at a last update 70% of the votes (votes, not countries) had been paid in Region E&A. In PANAM this was 30%, and in the AA 65%. The total is 40.000 US\$.

Ireland proposes, Belgium seconds - approved unanimously by show of cards.

7. Note items for AOB

Sid Adriaensen (BEL): the Statutes state that the list of meetings for the year should be read out during Congress. He will do so under AOB, as this item was not on the agenda.

8. Discussion and approval of Reports

Andy Harris invites the Presidents to add any remarks to their reports if they wish to do so.

8.01 The President

Alain Amade: the Olympic Committee decided in December 2012 by a 80% majority to create the European Games. He thinks this a great opportunity for us. Patrick Hickey, the President of the European Olympic Committee, did a lot of work for many years, and now finally there was a big approval.

As Europe has so many competitions in all sports, it was difficult to find a good date, and to have 20 federations agree to participate. But now the first EG will be in 2015 in Baku, Azerbaijan. Normally the EG are open to Olympic sports and three non-Olympic sports. At the meeting in Rome, Alain Amade asked to add Waterski and Wakeboard, and for this he has prepared an application that will be sent to all Federations. This application needs the support of all European Federations, who should go to their NOC to promote the candidature. Admincom approved it yesterday, but it is very important that we are all in favour of this big opportunity. We are already in the Mediterranean, Asian and the PanAm Games, we should also be in the EG. We got great feedback from countries like Great Britain, France and Belarus. Things are moving very fast now. The European Olympic Committee will meet in Lausanne in February, and a decision for the programme will be made in March.

The problem with Azerbaijan is that they have no waterski Federation so far. Alain Amade plans to go there to meet people involved in water ski, to find a site and to have Baku on our side.

Lakis Anastassiou (CYP): do we know which sports will participate in these EG?

Alain Amade: we have chosen Tournament and Wakeboard Boat, like in the other continental Games, but we leave the door open to Cable Wakeboard, like in the demand to the IOC for the Olympics.

Andy Harris thanks Alain Amade for being such a wonderful representative of our sport. Alain Amade in turn thanks Silvio Falcioni (ITA) for doing a good job working with the Italian NOC, and for helping him to go to the IOC meeting in Rome.

No questions.

8.02 The Secretary General

Sid Adriaensen comments that we have been putting our Congress information on our website these last years instead of mailing or posting each separate document. Several e-mails were sent out to inform that all info is available on the website, and he hopes everyone got the information they needed that way.

No comments.

He goes on to say that the IWWF wants water skiing to create five continental Confederations. He thinks this makes sense for Asia, but the Admincom is not sure Africa can stand on its own. But it will probably be voted upon by the IWWF Congress anyway, so this might be the last time we see the African delegates at our Congress.

Andy Harris thanks Sid Adriaensen for all his work and for dedicating half his house to water ski.

No questions.

8.03 The President of the Barefoot Council

Andy Harris represents the Barefoot Council, as they are not meeting here this weekend. Rob Molenkamp has asked to excuse him, and there is nothing to add to the report.

No questions.

8.04 The President of the Cableski Council

Marie-Anne Persoons asks for an organiser for the E&A Senior and Junior Championships 2013 and 2014.

She has nothing else to add to her report.

No questions.

8.05 The President of the Council for Disabled

Paul Airey (GBR) for Philippe Turchet, who asked to be apologized, comments that the Council is always trying to widen the scope of disabled waterskiing.

The Council would like more Federations to be involved in their discipline and asks to contact them for any information regarding Disabled sports.

No questions.

8.06 The President of the Racing Council

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

8.07 The President of the Tournament Council

Candido Moz (ITA) stresses that it is mandatory to submit video tapes of competitions. Right now some are not submitted, and others are not according to the rulebook. This rule will get strictly enforced as of 2013. The videos have to be submitted in due time to the right address.

In Castelldefels, the Admincom agreed to buy the Splash Eye slalom end course software and the TC will make it available to all Federations by the end of February. All that is needed is a PC and a video capture card. More information will be sent out. Alain Amade adds that E&A will pay for this end course video system, with a cost of 10.000 euro, and that it will be offered free of charge to all Federations. Louis Polome (RSA) thinks this is great opportunity.

Finally Candido Moz announces that Tournament is still looking for an organiser for their 2014 Under-21 Championships.

8.08 The President of the Wakeboard Boat Council

Florian Butty (SUI) announces a small change to the Calendar: the Wakeboard Boat seminar will held in Latvia, 3-5 May.

Des Burke-Kennedy: to his delight, no foreign riders are allowed at National Championships from 2013 on, as this will show the real national champions. He wonders if any guests will be allowed. Florian Butty answers that this will be discussed in the Council meeting tomorrow.

8.09 The President of the Wakeboard Cable Council

Varna Laco (CRO): we received a bid from Poland for the 2014 E&A Championships, thank you.

No questions.

All reports are unanimously accepted on block by show of cards.

9. Financial Report & Budget 2012

9.1 Presentation of Accounts up to 30.11.2012

Dominique Lakens Douwes (NED), E&A treasurer, says the Balance Sheet and the Profit & Loss Account were published on the website, with notes to explain anything out of the ordinary. She thanks Sid Adriaensen and Sven, the E&A bookkeeper, for all their help.

The Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account unfortunately show a loss. The reasons are that we made a loan of 30.000 € to the IWVF; that we went over

budget on a number of points; that we wrote off the 23.000+ Euro debt of ID+MA, which we kept in the accounts for a number of years hoping to get some money back and, finally, that we got less money from the IOC and ARISF than expected.

The lesser provision for debtors this year is more in line with the real situation.

The previous years, we lost money on the IWWF subscription fee because of the exchange rate. Therefore, to compensate this loss we propose to raise this fee to 125 € per vote at the IWWF Congress.

Even if the losses for last year were exceptional, and not the same kind of loss is expected for next year, we cannot keep going down that amount of money each year.

Des Burke-Kennedy asks what the loan to IWWF is about. Dominique Lakens Douwes explains this loan was made because a lot of riders didn't receive their prize money at a wakeboard cable competition in Izmit, Turkey. Since the IWWF couldn't pay the riders, E&A decided to help.

Alain Amade: a 100.000 \$ in prize money was not paid and a lot of these riders were from E&A, so we gave a loan of 30.000 € to help the IWWF pay them. He thinks the situation is now solved, but unfortunately we might have a similar situation in Tokyo with another wakeboard cable competition.

Patrick Prior (GBR): how will we avoid such losses ?

Dominique Lakens Douwes: we should spend less and try to generate more ! Of course this is not easy because lots of things are fixed, like Council budgets etc.

Alain Amade confirms that he is aware of this situation. He is very concerned and thinks we cannot continue like this for several years. If you look at the administrative costs, these go down every year, but all other things cost more and more. We paid for a program of 10.000 € out of our own budget. And we plan a better and more useful website, but this is also costly. We have to struggle to find more income. The European Games are a possibility. The Olympic Games get money from TV rights: this money is then shared between the NOCs and the Federations, and Patrick Hickey wants to do the same for the EG.

Des Burke-Kennedy wonders if there is a risk factor to the 30.000 € loan, and if we should write it down over three years? Sid Adriaensen explains that the deal with IWWF is that this loan should be paid back by the end of 2015 at the latest, before the next elections of the Admincom so as not to saddle our successors with this situation.

Louis Polome thinks there is a significant improvement in money owed by debtors and wonders if we can improve this even more? Dominique Lakens Douwes thinks it is hard to get it down to zero. A lot of invoices are sent out very late in the financial year after the November Councils meetings. We try to push everyone to pay, but discussions with Feds etc. sometimes take a long time. Andy Harris advises everyone to pay their bills quickly !

Alain Amade notes that the Admincom is looking at a change to the Subscription Fees to help the Federations that have difficulty paying this yearly fee to E&A.

The Balance and Profit & Loss Account are accepted unanimously by show of cards.

9.2 Honorary Auditor's Report

Alain Goggin cannot be here today and asked to be excused. Dominique Lakens Douwes explains that he addresses the same points, and that he also asks if we will recover the ID+MA money. We are looking into this, but we fear the worst because the company has gone bankrupt. Another 8.000 € on the budget was money we expected from ARISF and the IOC, but we didn't get it, which was a drawback. The homologation fees from Cable Wakeboard are not included because that list wasn't received in time before the closing of the financial year, but they will be there next year.

No comments.

9.3 Appointment of Honorary Auditor

Alan Goggin is willing to continue if no-one else volunteers.

Accepted unanimously by show of cards.

Andy Harris mentions that Brit, Sid and Sven all work together and asks for an applause for Dominique Lakens Douwes's work.

10. Other reports

10.1 The Development Commission

Alain Amade thanks Jean-Michel Cau (FRA) for all his work for this Commission, travelling all over the world, also for the Mediterranean Games. He feels Turkey is very weakly organised concerning waterski and wakeboarding: we have to explain everything about our sport to the organising committee in Mersin. So this is hard work, as there is little help from the Turkish Federation. The other language and a different way of looking at things complicate the matter even more. Silvio Falcioni invited the Turkish Federation to the E&A Championships in Recetto, and it was very positive that they could see there how we organise a Championship.

Alessandro Vanoi (ITA) : the organisers of the Mediterranean Games want to reduce the number of specialities from 32 to 22.

Jean-Michel Cau: the best way for us to remain in the Mediterranean Games is to show up with a lot of competitors from many countries. So far 12 countries have agreed to send their athletes, but the question remains if they will show up in June. He urges all Federations to make sure their athletes go to the Mediterranean Games, and he works hard to keep the numbers high.

In 2015 the European Games will also be held, and he fears countries will not do both competitions.

Alain Amade agrees this will be a problem for countries that are both E&A and Mediterranean, as the Federations cannot cope with so many travel expenses. That is why many of them were not in favour of the European Games, having too many commitments.

J.M. Cau is taking over as Chairman of the Development Committee from John Wood (GBR) after 10 years and he thanks him for the job he did.

They tried to have their seminar in Kiev, but that bid was retracted, and they are waiting for a bid from Russia, St Petersburg, for the same date. It has been a long time since the seminar was held in this part of our region. The main topic of the seminar will be the development of the judges' section.

He points out that every year it is a struggle to find a place for the Development Seminar, and he ask for everyone's help or bid for 2014, and even for 2015.

No questions.

10.2 The President of the Medical Commission

Dr Benassa (ITA) : in Italy we are discussing with water ski judges and technicians about the opportunity to change water ski safety rules to avoid critical situations rising during competitions. For example, slalom race field is really long and sometimes the rescue of the athletes is too slow; only one rescuer on half racing field, just on one side doesn't guarantee fast timing of intervention.

This meeting is a good opportunity to think about the theme of safety and he wants to make a plea to every national and international water ski commission to help us analyse other potentially dangerous situations and to suggest us new solutions considering all variables involved : logistic problems, water ski rules, economic matters etc.

Alain Amade agrees that sometimes a rescue takes too long and that we should consider this. Colin Hart says he will talk to Dr. Benassa about this.

No questions.

10.3 Presentations of Web Software

Chris Hilbert (LUX), the Vice President of the Luxembourg Federation, explains that he founded Youth Wakeboard in Luxembourg and found that no-one liked doing the paperwork. So they developed a software programme for all clubs, that now includes software for invoices, accounts, member management (licenses, medical forms, time sheets...). All this can be found at their website now, and can be accessed via iPhone, Android etc. A password is needed for access.

Paul Airey (GBR) suggests not showing the full date of birth for privacy reasons. Chris Hilbert (LUX) replies that can easily be changed to show only the year of birth.

The cost is 100 € per month for clubs, the price for a Federation would have to be discussed.

11. Admission of new members and resignation of members

Sid Adriaensen announces that Sudan is now an official member of E&A, if Congress agrees. Bulgaria was already a member, but there was no more contact with the old Federation. It seems a new Federation is now being formed. Mauritius and Kenya are possibilities.

The membership of Sudan is accepted by show of cards.

12. Election of the E&A candidate for IWWF Vice-President

Alain Amade : Silvio Falcioni has been Vice President for these past two years now. Andy Harris comments Silvio's English has improved a lot in that time!

Silvio Falcioni presents his speech (see website).

No-one requests a secret ballot. Elected unanimously by show of cards.

13. Changes to the Statutes - as circulated

None were submitted.

14. Changes to the Bye-Laws - as circulated

Sid Adriaensen: the Admincom is working on a review of the subscription fees' system. We do not have the intention to raise them, but rather to keep the income steady at the same level. The idea is to couple them with the actual activity of a country, rather than to the voting powers. Such a system would result in a lower fee for smaller countries that have little activity and a higher fee for the bigger federations, but within a very sensible range. It could also be used for policy ends. For example : there could be a reduction of the fee for having international officials, or for holding Titled Events. But E&A should be able to monitor and quantify all parameters, without the help of the federations. Establishing this new system takes a lot of time and work, so the Admincom would like to first ask for the approval of the Congress to continue on this road.

Chris Hilbert (LUX): we had 7 clubs, now only 5. We still pay the same fee. But we are a small country and we would not be entitled to many of those reductions.

Sid Adriaensen : but you would actually be one of the countries to profit from the new activity-based system, since you do not have a lot of activity.

Alain Amade suggests making a simulation and sending it to all Federations to ask for their opinion. The matter will be decided upon at the 2014 Congress.

Art. 2.1.1. - Annual Subscriptions

Sid Adriaensen points out that since we abolished the 10% fine for late payment last year, we should also take out the words *"and/or late payment penalty"*.

Des Burke-Kennedy wonders why the text says *"unless the Confederation or World titled event is taking place in April or May of the year to which the subscription relates"*. Sid Adriaensen explains there normally is two months' time to pay, and that we give some leniency.

Art 5.2. - Disciplinary action

To be added : *"Sanctions by a Divisional Council need ratification by the Bureau in order to keep standards the same."*

Louis Polome (RSA) asks if this applies to all competitions. Sid Adriaensen confirms this, adding that it is still up to the Judges to decide to sanction or even disqualify someone during a competition, of course.

The changes are accepted with one abstention (GBR) by show of cards.

15. Changes to the Letter of Agreement and list of Obligations - as circulated

IX. INSURANCE

The Admincom was unhappy with the provisions in this text and wants to stress in the new text the importance of a good public liability insurance for all involved.

Mike Waterman (GBR): a year ago, we asked all E&A Federations to let us know if they had a civil liability insurance. Of the 31 replies, 16 answered that they had such an insurance, and 15 did not! He stresses the importance of event insurance. If a serious claim of negligence should arise, this is likely to be settled for a very serious amount, impacting the budget of a Federation.

Andy Harris adds that insurances go for the weakest link. That may also be individuals, if you are the director of your Federation for example, the lawyers could come after you personally. That is why we want to change the wording of the LAO.

Louis Polome suggests to change the wording to “a minimum of 1.000.000,00 EUR” (instead of a “recommended minimum”) to make it a 100% clear - *amendment accepted*.

Louis Polome also asks if E&A considered insuring all Titled Events in a group. Mike Waterman confirms such a request was made, but this seems to be difficult and is a work in progress.

X. DRUG TESTING

Sid Adriaensen explains our rule : Drug testing shall take place. The cost of such tests shall be the responsibility of the organiser.

A new *Appendix B* has been adopted : “*Procedures for testing at Europe & Africa Championships*”. It was felt that the old text was incomplete and vague, as well as to the number of tests required as to the procedures to be followed.

Gill Hill explains that the basic drug testing in a competition is a minimum of four tests. This isn't enough really, and it costs a lot of money, which is a problem for all of us. Some Federations have the support of their Anti-Doping agency that does the test for less or for free.

Andy Harris wonders how many countries get these tests for free ? From the replies in the room it appears only a few, and most have to pay.

Patrick Prior (GBR) suggest asking all Federations how much drug testing costs them every year to know the real cost of events. Andy Harris agrees we might consider this. Colin Hart points out that there are different sorts of tests. If we are to compare countries, we should know the sort of testing they do.

Alessandro Vanoi (ITA): from 2013 on the Italian Anti-Doping Committee will no longer pay for the tests. Last year 15 urine sample tests cost 3.000 €!

Nicky Caine (GBR): in the UK, all skiers need to prove they have had a “drug education”. But we cannot prove this for non-UK competitors. Daniel Fetz (AUT): our National Doping Committee came to the event to give this education. But we have no database for this, so no numbers to give to the IOC. Nicky Caine: perhaps we should hold a small seminar to educate all competitors present at an event.

Des Burke-Kennedy, who is a doping officer himself, suggests adding this “education” to the LAO and to record it in the minutes. He holds a short presentation just before the prize giving so all hear. Ageliki Andrioupoulou (GRE) agrees this is a better moment than before an event, as some competitors will only show up right before they have to get on the water.

Patrick Prior thinks that it might raise problems when a drug testing agency does not accept the “education” given in another country. If we know how it works in other countries, we might get them to agree.

Gill Hill comments that we have to do this via the Federations, and that we will try to establish a programme all Federations can access with Sport Accord. She feels we need to do this to be a credible sport. We try to be as lenient as possible.

Peter Frei thinks Nicky Caine's proposal is a good idea to at least get a minimum of coverage, and that E&A could extend this from the team captain's meeting to skiers and riders.

Alain Amade feels we have a duty to our athletes as a Federation, and that we need the data. He says the French National Olympic Committee already provides this sort of education at competitions, and suggests contacting your local NOC's for this. He thinks the question is *who* will give such an education, as it will have to be done at all Titled Events - this will be discussed in the Admincom.

Marie-Anne Persoons (BEL): in Belgium it works the same way as in South Africa. If we organise a competition we need to pay for drug testing to get it. The authorities may come or not come. Only when they show up without us asking them to come, their testing is free, but we cannot be sure they will turn up.

Guenther Kuhnt (GER): the risk is for everybody. If one skier is tested positive, Germany will cancel the prize money. We need low costs, but you will get other problems if you try to cut costs here.

Austria asks if and how it is actually being checked that an Organiser follows the rules listed in the LAO. Andy Harris wonders if we can and should police this. This will be discussed in the Admincom and next year the Congress can decide on this.

APPENDIX A : Entry Fees

Sid Adriaensen explains the Entry Fees have not been raised since 2001. Also, there have been problems in the past recuperating money from Federations and Organisers for the medals, as they both point the finger at each other for payment. In fact it is E&A who should pay for the medals, not the Organisers, like some Federations suggest.

So the proposal is to raise the Entry Fees with 20 €, resulting in a 10 € raise per competitor for the Organiser, and not having to pay for the medals anymore, which might encourage more of them to host Titled Events. E&A will also get a 10 € raise per competitor, which will cover the costs of the medals.

Accepted by majority by show of cards, one vote against (GER).

16. Report from IWWF

16.1. The President

Kuno Ritschard welcomes all to his home city and says they are living in a wonderful countryside, unfortunately he is not often at home to enjoy it! Even yesterday he came home from a long travel, that is why he wasn't here this morning.

2013 will be a very busy competition year (see Calendar for events). He hopes many will travel to Chile to attend the IWWF Congress there. Also the World Games are near, a very important competition for us. The number of skiers and riders is limited, all Federations selected have received information and will be updated. The format was changed. This year there will be medals and titles in all disciplines. Barefoot was removed by the World Games Council because they think it is not a good spectator sport. We still hope to bring it back to the World Games. The next World Games will be held in Wroclaw, Poland. We are working to have Cable Wakeboard there again like in Duisburg.

The World Cup stops are expensive events, so it is hard to find organisers. Two years ago we decided to add Cable Wakeboard. Only one event up until now was held, in Tokyo. Then it was decided no longer to have Cable Wakeboard in the World Cup because the organisers do not want to fulfil the requests from the council. Kuno is working with Varna Laco on this. There is a new World Cup brochure available.

Cable Wakeboard is a shortlisted sport for the 2020 Olympics, as you all know. Since the World Congress in Dubna we have worked to promote Cable Wakeboard in the Olympic family. Many people there have never heard about Cable Wakeboard, so we have a lot of work there. We are very small and not very well represented. But the advantage is that per individual user a cableway costs much less than a boat and is easy to install.

Seven sports made a presentation to the IOC. Several important people were there, who at the end of the day probably made a recommendation to the IOC board. They did not select one single sport, but a few ones, leaving it up to the IOC Programme Commission to make the final choice. Kuno feels Cable Wakeboard is on the list of possibilities.

Alain Amade and Silvio Falcioni attended the European Olympic Committee meeting and they agree it is very important to be present there.

The PowerPoint presentation that was shown to the IOC board in Lausanne on December 18, 2012 is commented by Des Burke-Kennedy. He explains that they had just 20 minutes to make a presentation with six persons! They presented the team, showing their experience and the structure of our group. They explained cableways, and how an event is run, and that money can be made with this system. Des comments that during these presentations, the IOC made sure the different sports didn't meet each other; and that the board was very smart and to the point.

Daniel Fetz (AUT), the riders' representative for World and E&A, then comments the video that was presented. He felt honoured to be there in Lausanne. He explains that in Cable Wakeboard first there were no obstacles on the course, and now there are many, which makes the sport spectacular. What is so wonderful is that there are so many tricks possible, and the kids like this a lot. There are 500 ways just to do a single trick! The results of the competitions are immediately shown for all to see, which makes it easy for public and media to follow.

Des Burke-Kennedy comments the videos of all major events can be found at www.iwwf.tv. He adds that after the Olympic Games, the IOC consider the World Games as the next most important event. A very low showing of us at these World Games would be detrimental to our case. We will be watched closely on this. So please send your riders and skiers to the World Games!

Kuno Ritschard: we tried to show the IOC that we are a young lifestyle sport, that can bring attractions to the Olympic Games, like snow board to the Winter Games. Our greatest negative point is that we are really very small compared to other sports.

All this promotion costs money, so we invoiced the one time Olympic fee to our federations. Our total budget is 150.000 €. From the Federations we received 50.000 €, from Rixen 50.000 € and 30.000 from other sponsors. The cable owners only raised 10.000 €, they are not so interested it seems. Kuno Ritschard then reads out the list of Federations that have not yet paid the one time Olympic fee and urges them to do so asap.

Varna Laco remarks that only the German Rixen cable owners got the letter asking for a contribution. Lucien Gerkau and herself are now working to send a letter to more cable owners.

Louis Polome: the Five Confederations issue is still at an early stage of discussion. South Africa and Namibia feel we should think about the interest of the riders and skiers first. What is our plan for the worst case scenario, if the IOC bid is not successful ?

Des Burke-Kennedy: we must be aware that 2020 is a vision, we might not get there. A huge amount of people in sports now know we exist, but many other sports have made that effort also. We need to mentally adjust for not getting in and for possible negative comments.

Allesandro Vanoi thanks for the work done on the presentation, and wonders why we have to reduce the number of entries to 30 men and 30 women.

Kuno Ritschard explains this was only a presentation, not a definitive decision. We had to show that we are a well organised sport. The selection for the

Olympics is an ongoing process, if we are not successful for 2020, then there will be a new discussion for 2024. The money invested is not lost, also because more and more people have now learned about us.

Alain Amade thinks it is already a success, because many people have heard about Cable Wakeboard, also press and media and sponsors who now see a new sport, and this is very good for the development of our sport.

Colin Hart also thanks for the excellent presentation and the effort put in there. But he thinks one event in this presentation is on the WWA website, and asks to be careful that there is no mix up there. Varna Laco replies that the event was not properly registered but definitely not WWA.

The report from the President of the IWWF is accepted unanimously by show of cards.

16.2. The Vice-President from E&A

Silvio Falcioni has nothing to add to Kuno Ritschard's report that covered everything.

16.3. The Five Confederations issue

Kuno Ritschard: the IOC strongly requests our sport to have the same structure, based on continental confederations, but Africa and Oceania are not very strongly developed. For administration matters, we need the names of people working there to promote our sport in the Olympic Committee. We made good progress in Asia, we need to do the same in Africa and Oceania. We need to get these people to show up at the yearly continental Olympic Congresses. There is only a small change on paper that says we now have five Confederations, but not much has changed in reality.

Alain Amade looks at the E&A perspective on this issue. When we received the message we spoke about it for several hours at the bureau meeting, at the Admincom, and with Louis Polome. We are principally in favour, but we must not forget the interest of skiers and riders, because if they are penalised it is a bad decision. We plan to have a meeting in Namibia during the World U21's, to speak with South Africa and Namibia, to try and create this African Confederation and to find a solution so that they can continue to participate at E&A events.

What is more, a Change of Statutes is a lot of administration, and changes of Bye-Laws and LAO will follow such a change.

Should Europe continue to help Africa to organise seminars etc? Who will do development? Is Africa allowed to participate at E&A competitions? We have about 30 questions that need to be answered first. We have to think deeply about these new situation to make a good decision.

Gavin Brain (AUS) emailed he had the same questions for Oceania, and they found a solution it seems.

Louis Polome: in South Africa we had an executive committee meeting about this, and there it became clear that our main worry is that we do not understand the process very well.

Sid Adriaensen: the problem presents itself not only for Africa, but there are also consequences for Europe. One of the IWWF Bye-law changes recommends that of the three E&A representatives on each divisional IWWF Council one should come from Africa.

17. Calendar of Titled Events

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

Louis Polome says Namibia has confirmed their bid for the World U21. He was disappointed with the entries at the last E&A U21 Championships and hopes for the support from all of Confederation E&A this year.

Alain Amade thanks all Federations that agreed to host Titled Events, filling the Calendar for 2013, and even for most of 2014.

Sid Adriaensen announces that the hotel price for the November 2013 meetings of the Admincom and Councils in Kiev would be 55 € for a single room and 75 € for a double room.

18. Budget 2013 (01/12/2012 – 30/11/2013)

The Budget 2013 was distributed to everyone at Congress.

Dominique Lakens Douwes: the notes to the Budget explain any extraordinary things. The Entry Fees were raised, on the other hand the medals will not be invoiced anymore. The IWWF Subscription Fee is raised to compensate for the loss in exchange rates. 3rd parties: no money from ARISF or IOC this year.

Expenditure : the administrative costs remain the same. There was an extra cost for 50% of a software purchase. The meeting allowances have been increased and will be again in 2014 to compensate for the higher costs, after that they stay the same. As more people use Skype etc. for virtual meetings, the Admincom has agreed to reduce the number of Council meetings that are eligible to meeting allowances to 3 per year : the one during the Congress weekend, one in between and the one during the November meetings.

J.M. Cau requests to take the wording "Coaching" out of the documents, as this is now the Development Commission.

Des Burke-Kennedy feels it is bad to budget for a loss, and asks why the budget for the Councils has gone up 8.000 €. Dominique Lakens Douwes explains that the Councils actually spent less last year, and the present budget is what they are entitled to. So it's not a real increase. Des Burke-Kennedy still thinks we should consider making changes there, as this is the biggest cost, because it looks now as if E&A has no plan to get out of this yearly deficit situation.

Alain Amade agrees we need to stabilize or reverse the downward trend. The impact from the crisis is apparent everywhere; we have discussed this a lot and will continue to do so.

Louis Polome: if we think there will be less interests received, can we not consider investing our money somewhere else? Dominique Lakens Douwes: this is worth looking at of course, but large amounts are hard to move in the E&A bank structure. Andy Harris thinks the interest rates of the Dutch bank are actually great, compared to the ones in the UK.

The budget is accepted by majority by show of cards with one abstention (GBR).

19. Distribution of Certificates & Awards (at Congress Dinner)

19.1. By the Divisional Councils

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

Andy Harris, for **Barefoot**: male and female athlete of the year: Stefan Wimmer (AUT) and Steffi Kirsch (GER).

Marie-Anne Persoons, for **Cable**: male and female athlete of the year: Nikita Papakul (BLR) and Iryna Turets (BLR). Iryna Turets has set a new World and E&A record in Women's Jump of 48.5 meters. Gift certificates for a one week training camp with Joulia Meier-Gromyko are also given to two "up and coming skiers": Hanna Straltsova (BLR) and Kamil Borysewicz (POL).

Paul Airey, for **Disabled** : male and female athlete of the year: Daniele Cassioli (ITA) and Claire Ellis (GBR). Claire Ellis (GBR) and Delphine Le Sausse (FRA) have set new World records in Slalom and Daniele Cassioli (ITA) has set a new E&A record, also in Slalom.

Mike Waterman, for **Racing**: female and male athlete of the year: Kathrin Ortlieb (AUT) and Steven Van Gaeveren (BEL). Furthermore there are certificates for gold medals won by E&A skiers in 2012: Tommy Laeremans (BEL), Euro-Kids A; Tom Smith (GBR), Euro-Kids B; Roy de Weert (BEL), Juniors; Gitte Van Gool (BEL), Formula 3 ladies; Sabine Ortlieb (AUT), Formula 2 Ladies; Christel Magdeleyns (BEL), Formula 1 ladies; Russel Cox (GBR), Seniors; Kelly Nulens (BEL), Formula 3 Men; Yves Verboven (BEL), Formula 2 Men; Steven Van Gaeveren (BEL), Formula 1 Men. Belgium receives the Nation Trophy 2012 with a maximum score of 16000 points.

Candido Moz, for **Tournament**: female and male athlete of the year: Natalia Berdnikava (BLR) and Franz Obertleitner (AUT). Natallia Berdnikava (BLR) has set all the E&A overall and jump Records for 2012.

Florian Butty, for **Wakeboard Boat**: female and male rider of the year: Sian Hurst (IRL) and Massimiliano Piffaretti (ITA).

Varna Laco, for **Wakeboard Cable**: female and male rider of the year: Sophia Maria Reimers (GER) and Frederic von Osten (GER).

19.2. Announcement of the Athlete of the year awards

Alain Amade announces that the Female Athlete of the year 2012 is Iryna Turets (BLR) from Cableski, with 81 votes out of a possible 91, and the Male Athlete of the year is Nikita Papakul (BLR), also from Cableski, with 79 votes.

19.3. Honorary Member

Alain Amade announces that John Wood (GBR), the resigning Chairman of the Development Committee, is made Honorary Member.

20. Future Congresses

20.1 2014 Italy (Milan)

A presentation is shown by Alessandro Vanoi (ITA). The hotel will be the Klima Hotel Milano Fiere, a four stars superior hotel that is also a "green" hotel, meaning it is self-sufficient in energy. It is located opposite the entry of the Expo area. There is an easy subway connection to the downtown area. It is located 20 km from Linate airport and 45 km from Malpensa airport.

The price for a single room will be 105 or 110 €, including breakfast, and a double room will be 130 or 140 €, depending on the 2014 tax rate in Italy.

Alain Amade adds this will be an election Congress for the Councils.

The bid is unanimously accepted by show of cards.

20.2 2015 = 31/01: no firm bid yet (no elections)

20.3 2016 = 30/01: no firm bid yet (full elections)

21. A.O.B.

Sid reads out the meeting dates of the year (see Calendar on www.iwwf-ea.eu).

22. Closing of the Congress

Andy Harris thanks the Congress for having him as Chairman.

Alain Amade thanks Andy Harris for his first time as Chairman with his English sense of humour. He also thanks the Swiss Waterski Federation and its President Peter Frei and his wife, Josette Frei, who organised everything on their own. He also thanks Nicky Caine and Florian Butty, who carried around the microphones to the speakers.

Peter Frei thinks it was an interesting Congress full of activities, and thanks his wife for her help. He explains that the members of the Swiss Federation are located more in the French speaking part, so to avoid having them have to come all the way over here, they did the organisation without them.

Attachments (see www.iwwf-ea.eu website under Office Mailings, Congress 2013)

- ♦ Speech Silvio Falcioni, IWWF Vice President from E&A
- ♦ List of delegates