

Minutes of the Annual Congress of the IWWF European Confederation

**Antalya, Turkey,
Saturday 4th of February 2023 - commencing at 09.00 hrs.**

1. Welcome by the President of the IWWF European Confederation

Patrice Martin, the EC President, welcomes everyone here in Antalya at this wonderful hotel and hopes we will have a successful Congress today. He realises it has been difficult for some of our friends to be here, to make the reservation, to know what to pay ... but you did it. He is very happy to see everyone here and to exchange face to face. Some of the Councils had meetings yesterday and will go on this afternoon.

Patrice Martin says this is also a time to remember our friends from our community who passed away in the last year. Mike Waterman (GBR), very well known by everybody as the IWWF and EC Racing Council President; Simony Khoury (LEB), a past World champion and Honorary Member; Pierre Carmin (FRA), a member of the French national team; Jacek Zasepa (POL), an international Homologator and Glen Polsen (NOR), who was a Disabled international athlete. The President requests the Congress to stand for a minute of silence in remembrance of those persons.

Patrice Martin then announces that we have some special guests this weekend. He thanks and welcomes the President of the IWWF, Mr José Antonio Perez Priego and the IWWF Secretary General, Louis Polome, and Karen McClintock, the PANAM Secretary General. He also asks to please acknowledge our honorary members present: Louis Polome, and Franz Kirsch, who is always being present at all international events and World Championships.

Patrice received apologies from people who couldn't make it: Gill Hill, Aubrey Sheena, Franz Kuhn, Alain Amade, Andy Harris and Paul Jensch, all Honorary Members; Ludo Vrancx, the Barefoot Council President; Manuel Orlando, the Wakeboard Cable Council President; Richard Hernaez, the Racing Council President; Chris Rydl, the Racing Council Secretary; Thea Klarenbeek and Vera Van Den Bossche, members of the Racing Council; Varna Laco, the Wakeboard Cable representative to the Admincom; Emmanuel Pagnini, the athletes' representative in the Wakeboard Cable Council; Brit Horemans, EC Administration; Bruno Fekete, President of the Serbian Federation and Lukas Horky from the Czech Federation; and also our honorary Vice President and Honorary Member, Depy Papadimitriou.

2. Verification of attendances and voting powers (full list: see iwwf-europe.eu under Congress 2023)

Sid Adriaensen (Admincom) calls out the voting delegates from the Federations to confirm their presence at the Congress. He asks if there are any comments on the Voting Powers that were posted.

No comments.

3. Appointment of Congress Chairperson

Patrice Martin announces that Admincom would like to appoint Morten Froulund (Admincom) as Congress Chairman.

There are no objections, accepted by Congress.

Morten Froulund welcomes everybody and gives some practical information for the Congress.

4. Appointment of Scrutineers

Morten explains that this point on the agenda is dismissed as this is not an election Congress. If needed, Dany De Bakker (Disabled) and Nicky Caine (Cableski) can be appointed as scrutineers.

There are no objections, accepted by Congress.

5. Opening of Congress by the Chairman and confirmation properly convened in accordance with Statutes Art 24

Morten Froulund comments that the Congress Convocation was sent out 60 days beforehand and that all Congress related documents can be found on the website with their date stamp. The Agenda was also sent out at least 30 days before Congress. So every formal matter for the Congress is in place.

There are no objections, and the Chairman declares this Congress properly convened.

6. Approval of Minutes of the 2022 Annual Congress, held in Monaco

Morten Froulund asks if there are any remarks to these Minutes, that were also published on the website. There are none and the Minutes are accepted as approved.

7. Discussion and approval of Reports

Morten Froulund asks the Presidents if they have anything to add to their report.

7.1 The EC President

Patrice Martin explains that his report was not on the website yet.

He comments that 2022 was a big year. After 2020 and 2021, we resumed to normal; we had a full year with tournaments and titled events in all divisions and disciplines, except for Racing. It was wonderful to be back on the water and on the site and see everybody. We had exceptional performances in all disciplines.

He wants to thank the Turkish Underwater Sports Federation and its representatives, especially Mr Zafer Yuksel, General Coordinator and Mr. Vasif Akdeniz, Head of Foreign Affairs, for helping to organise the Congress. We will probably see them later on the day.

We cannot put aside what happened in Ukraine. Last year in Monaco, we didn't know where it would be going, but then the war started and it did effect the relation between our Federation and the judges, the athletes and the officials. In a certain way, it was difficult to manage, but we had to make a point and we followed the IOC guideline up to now. Yesterday they issued some information saying that all international federations have to adhere with the relation between those international countries.

It did influence the participation in our Titled Events. We also have some judges from both countries who couldn't come to our Titled Events, and the World University Championships that were scheduled to be held in Belarus had to be cancelled.

We hope that things will come back to normal in the future. We need to get back to full strength. It is difficult today; with Covid, some people went for something else in their lives. So we have to work to get officials and volunteers back with us. We have to think in all our different councils what can be done to get them on board in the future. We hope to get more people on our side to organise important events.

Last but not least, the President thanks all organisers, volunteers and officials who took part in the Titled Events this year and reads out the list of Championships that were held in 2022 from his report.

He hopes to see everyone on the site in 2023.

There are no questions or remarks.

7.2 The Secretary General

Sid Adriaensen says his report was posted on the website. He adds that he feels that we should not only thank the President and the Board and the Admincom and Council Members, but *everybody* who is involved in our sport. He is still amazed how much time and effort some people put into our sport, and he feels we have to thank all of them.

Applause - there are no questions or remarks.

7.3 The President of the Barefoot Council

Paul Turner represents Ludo Vrancx, who is not present at the Congress. He has nothing further to add to the report.

There are no questions or remarks.

7.4 The President of the Cableski Council

Marie-Anne Persoons adds to her report that Cableski is still looking for a host for the 2024 Worlds and asks any Federation that would be interested to contact her or Nigel Talamo, the President of the World Cable Council.

The Council has been working on their Rule Book and the new version will put online in about two weeks. Nigel has worked very hard to get nice pictures of the different cable systems you can use on Cableski; clockwise and counter-clockwise. Counter-clockwise is the more standard system, but we have the drawings on how to set up the 3 event system for clockwise for two pylon cables. It's really easy, if you have a cable that you think might be too short, not 100% suitable, go and look at in the Rule Book what would be the proposed setup for your site.

The Council came up with the idea to create a Cableski development fund, and with the help of Dominique Lakens Douwes (Admincom) we now have an account for this.

Marie-Anne jokes that those who have too much money, can now donate to this !

Nicky Caine has the details on this. The money that goes there is for the development of Cableski. There is also the money for challenges and competitions, that typically nobody knows what to do with when the challenge has not been accepted.

If the jury then gets that money, we will donate it to the Cableski development fund.

They believe that will give them a good way to spend that money.

She has nothing more to add to her report that was posted on the website.

There are no questions or remarks.

7.5 The President of the Council for Disabled

Dany De Bakker has nothing to add to her report.

There are no questions or remarks.

7.6 The President of the Racing Council

Morten Froulund says there is no representative for the Racing Council present, but the report is on the website.

There are no questions or remarks.

7.7 The President of the Wakeboard Boat Council

Nuno Eca has nothing to add.

There are no questions or remarks.

7.8 The President of the Wakeboard Cable Council

Suzi Nightingale represents the Wakeboard Cable Council. She has nothing to add.

Marie-Anne Persoons comments that she really likes the report, because the layout is very modern and new and it really invites you to read it. She can't do the same for Cable, but she congratulates Wakeboard Cable for this very nice report.

Applause, there are no questions or remarks.

7.9 The President of the Waterski Council

Candido Moz adds to his report that he received an email yesterday from the President of the Mediterranean Countries. We are supposed to participate in Greece, to the Mediterranean Beach Games. But the organiser wants to limit the participation to those sports who have minimum eight countries participating for men, and six for women, for Waterski or Wakeboard. The entries to the Games will be done through the Olympic Committee of each country. So please, all Federations that are here, when you are into these Games, ask your Olympic Committee to submit the entry form, or we will not be in the Games.

There are no questions or remarks.

8. Financial Report

8.1. Presentation of Accounts up to 30-11-2022

Dominique Lakens Douwes, the EC Treasurer, explains that the report with its notes and explanations was put on the website.

On the Balance sheet it says that we have 22.000 EURO outstanding in debtors, an all-time low, which is really nice, and she thanks all Federations for paying their bills !

She checked with the bookkeeper, and as per the 31st of January, it's even lower: it's now 13.000 EURO. Also, the payments listed under point 4 on the Balance sheet have by now been recovered.

She has no further comments.

There are no questions or remarks.

8.2. Honorary Auditor's Report

Alain Amade (HM), who could not be with us today, sent in his report and it is on the website.

There are no questions or remarks.

8.3. Appointment of the Financial Committee (both auditors)

Sid Adriaensen explains to the Congress that the financial committee is composed of two persons; the Honorary Auditor and the Professional Auditor, Sven Van De Velde, our bookkeeper, who is a registered accountant.

If nobody in this room wants to put him or herself forward for the post of Honorary Auditor, then we can always fall back on Alain Amade again.

No-one proposes for the post and there are no questions or remarks.

9. Admission of new members and resignation of members

Sid Adriaensen says that, as already announced at the Congress in Monaco, the Romanian federation became a full member in 2022.

There are no further changes in Federations, except that as a result from the war in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia are now considered being lapsed Federations. This means they can become a member again upon simple recommendation from Admincom, but this has to be ratified by the ensuing Congress. We have to follow the guidelines from the IWWF before we take that step.

There are no questions or remarks.

10. Composition of our elected bodies

10.1. Any change of country of representation of elected members must be reported to the EC Congress

Sid Adriaensen explains that it says in the Articles of Association that any change of country from an elected member has to be reported to the EC Congress. In this case we have to report to Congress that Ms Aliaksandra Berazouskaya, a member of the Waterski Council, has changed her Federation from Belarus to France.

11. Other reports & presentations

11.1. Report from the IWWF

José Antonio thanks for having him here at the Congress. He adds some comments to his report (full report on www.iwwf-ea.eu under Congress 2023).

Cancellation of 2022 FISU World University Waterski & Wakeboard Championships in Belarus

These championships were cancelled by FISU as a result of the war. The next edition in 2024 was signed with FISU and scheduled to be held in Ukraine, but we are assuming that will not be happening.

The contract with FISU lapsed at the end of 2022. The last edition with Waterski was in 2016; since then we have not been able to find a host for that, because the obligations are very onerous on the national organiser. So we are thinking of stepping out of FISU all together and not renew the contract, and try to organise our own University Championships, sanctioned by IWWF and not by FISU. This will be discussed at the next EB meeting and we will keep you posted.

IWWF resolution on the conflict In Ukraine

Following the IOC resolution on the conflict in Ukraine, the IWWF issued a resolution in March 2022, banning Russian and Belarus' athletes from competing. We are now almost ready to make some changes. The final decision will be made by the EB in the next meeting in a month's time. We are assuming that it will be some kind of relaxation to allow some kind of participation.

The World Games 2022

The World Games in Birmingham, Alabama, were a total success, even if the site wasn't perfect for slalom. All tickets were sold out for the finals! This excellent result puts us in a good position for the next World Games in 2025 in Chengdu, where we are also supposed to attend. We are trying to get more disciplines involved. We are seeing with the Chinese Federation if they are able to have a full size Cable in Chengdu. We will try to push for the inclusion of Cable Waterski and Cable Wakeboard at those Games, in addition to Wakeboard Boat and Waterski. Today Chengdu does have a two pylon Cable operating already, so Cable Wake is possible without any more infrastructure: Cable Waterski will be a challenge, because it's a short cable.

The 2021 IWWF World Wakeboard Boat Championships

The World Wakeboard Boat Championships 2021 were hosted by the Italian Waterski & Wakeboard Federation in August 2022, and José Antonio thanks the team and Stefano Duranti in particular for doing an amazing job at organizing an extraordinary event. The branding and advertising all throughout Rieti was incredible, and it resulted in a very big attendance at the shores.

1st IWWF 2-Tower Cable Wakeboard World Cup held in Aarhus, Denmark

The co-organiser, FISE, is a French extreme sport organiser with a big event in Montpellier, where they are based. They basically do urban sports such as BMX, skateboard... We signed a contract with them a few years back, but nothing came to pass until last year. It was a very successful event with good media presence. The actual name for the management company is Hurricane Sports, and the deal is that they look for hosts and organise the event, and IWWF provides the rules, the officials and the sanctioning. This has worked well for us and we will continue to expand on that.

2022 IWWF World Over 35 Waterski Championships held in Baurech, France

All skiers were very positive about it. José wants to comment the judges and the Waterski Council for being able to manage a very complicated site, because the competition was supposed to be run concurrently on two lakes, but in reality that was not entirely possible, so they had to re-arrange the program.

Launch of www.iwwf.sport

In October, IWWF launched a new site under a new domain name, *www.iwwf.sport*. This domain is hosted by GAISF, the umbrella organisation that used to encompass all recognised Federations. GAISF was dissolved two months ago, it's now integrated under SportAccord, an organisation who controls the .sport domain names. Our new website is better and faster. We would love to get your comments on that.

IWWF World Waterski Show Tournament held in Florida

The event was very well attended because this is the birth place of Show Skiing. Nautic Boat Corporation, with whom we have an agreement for sponsorship, supplies the boats for most of our tournaments, but not for show ski. The US Federation decided to approach them and they supported them there, and now they want to extend their support for us, so they will also be able to provide boats for the Show Ski Worlds 2025 in Australia. This is a testament that our biggest sponsor is really happy with what is happening in IWWF.

Florida selected again to Host IWWF World Waterski Championships in 2023

After the two countries that made a bid for these Championships finally couldn't do it, we were approached again by Lake County, Florida. The Lake County Sports Authority funded us in 2021 for the last World Championships, and the economic impact of that event was very successful for them, so they were even prepared to give us more money. Last time they gave us about 130.000 dollars sponsorship; and according to their economic impact metrics, they received more than 2.500.000 dollars! That's how much money the waterski community generated there. If we show these figures to another city, it's a no-brainer to have different hosts coming forward. We are working on the paperwork to show this to other cities. 150.000 dollars is even too low, we should ask for more, since the economic impact is really high.

2022 SINGHA IWWF World Cable Wakeboard & Wakeskate Championships

José thanks the Council for doing an amazing job. A lot of people were there and not a single complaint about the organization, only compliments! The food was great, the site was great, the hospitality... everything was perfect. José appreciated that the podium was very democratic, with a lot of medals for Asia, which is extremely important; there

were medals for South America and Europe, so the community is very well entrenched throughout the world, it's not one country or one region that is the strongest.

Announcement of 2023 IWWF International Hall of Fame Inductees

We changed the rules for the Hall of Fame. Now the inductees are going to be presented at their own World Championships.

IWWF commits to safeguarding nature under new framework

Prior to the meeting of the seven most powerful nations in the world, there is a business summit, in this case it was a Cop25 or 26. This one was held in Montreal. We signed an agreement with that organization to become sustainable, basically, green.

For example, our World Championships are completely paperless. We are not printing anymore results or running orders, everything is on-line. We try to make sure that we have no waste, that there are recycling bins at the site, etc, to move to the more sustainable side of the sport.

Paul Airey (GBR) asks how the sustainability regarding the entry lists works in practice ?

José answers that they put up a poster with a QR code for the team captains or athletes to scan to get directed to the website with the running orders, the starting lists, the results, the trick sheets etc. Before the managers' meeting, a link is distributed to the team captains to a WhatsApp group for each tournament, and all information is circulated there. It has been used this so far at the Worlds' U17, Boat Wake and the Show Ski, and it worked really well, without glitches. For the Europeans and the trick sheets they still do it on paper, because we need a hard copy in case of complaints or whatever.

Calendar

José reads out the different events on the calendar in his report and hopes to see everyone at the Congress in Florida.

Meanwhile they received a bid for the Racing Championships 2023 in Australia.

Information on bidding for IWWF Events

On the IWWF's website under "Titled Events" you can find all the requirements, the costs, everything you need to know about a Tournament that you might be interested in hosting and you can see which ones are open for bidding.

There are no further questions or remarks.

11.2 Report from the African Confederation

Louis Polome thanks for the invitation, he feels it's always great to be part of the Congress. He comments that the report was written by Howard Ramsden, the Secretary General of the African Confederation.

He adds to the last comment in the report that they are holding quarterly meetings with as many countries as possible, just to get together and to get a feel of what is happening in that part of the world. At the last meeting, there was Ghana, Benin, Nigeria, Egypt, Morocco, South Africa... and we try to bring more and more countries. Some of the countries are not even formally associated to the African Confederation, but we just try to get them to engage with us and make sure that they understand what waterski is all about, and that the African Confederation is there to help them. So that's the very good news, that this is happening in the African Confederation.

There are no questions or remarks.

12. Changes to the Articles of Association (none)

Sid Adriaensen explains that to make changes to the Articles of Association, we need to go to the notary in Amsterdam and deposit these changes, and we have to go the Chambre of

Commerce. The changes have to be approved by Congress with at least 2/3 of the member Federations present or represented, and we need a 2/3 majority for any change. Almost-60 % is present or represented here today; but we don't have a 2/3 majority, so we couldn't do it today anyway.

So it's not so easy to make these changes, it's a lot of work and it costs money, it's like a change to the constitution. It's much easier to change something to the Bye-Laws. Those can be changed at any moment by the Admincom, to be later ratified by the Congress, and that is what we will do later when we talk about the Bye-Laws.

The third tier of our rules and regulations is the LAO, the letter of agreement and list of obligations, that has to be signed for each titled event. Formerly, we had "the" LAO. Now we don't have that anymore, now we have an LAO that is specific for each titled event. So it's not feasible anymore to discuss this in detail here at the Congress. But in the Bye-Laws, it still says that the LAO is part of the Bye-Laws. So we propose to take out that sentence, as it doesn't make sense anymore, also because the LAO is negotiable, so it makes no sense to try and make an LAO made in stone.

There is no objection to this change of the Bye-Laws.

Finally, the fourth leg of our rules and regulations are the Guidelines, which are just a compilation of decisions made by the Admincom over the years, which is not important for the Congress.

So we have no changes to the Articles of Association.

13. Bye-Law Changes - as circulated (see www.iwwf-europe.eu under Congress 2023)

Sid Adriaensen explains that as was agreed at the Monaco Congress, the Admincom has worked out the wording of the chapters 5-6-7 (Discipline, Appeals, Arbitration), and these need to be ratified by Congress now. The changes were posted on the Congress website; Sid asks if there are any remarks.

There are no remarks, ratified by Congress.

The Rules of Eligibility have been changed on IWWF World level, so we need to follow that and do the same. The only difference is that on World level they speak about the Executive Board, and we speak about the Admincom. So apart from some small things, we have the same rules as on World level. There is one exception: we left in a paragraph in an addendum for EC & AC Titled Events, regarding countries without a proper Federation, like for example Estonia, that has athletes that like to participate in for example the Cable Wakeboard Championships.

Sid noticed that some of the Articles in the Bye-Laws are now completely out of date because of the EMS, so Admincom will have to work on that in the coming year.

Gary Propst, who is in charge of anti-doping on World level, remarked that we need to insert a paragraph under Bye-Laws Art 1.6, which essentially means we have to follow IWWF rules for anti-doping.

All this was posted on the website. Sid asks if there are any questions.

There are no remarks or questions.

14. Letter of Agreement and List of Obligations – as circulated (see www.iwwf-europe.eu under Congress 2023)

Sid Adriaensen comments that there is a generic List of Obligations, but now we have a specific LAO for each Titled Event.

Admincom has decided to ask 10 EURO for every competitor at any Titled Event for the WADA fund. It's a participation in the cost of anti-doping testing. So this 10 EURO goes into a big pot, and from that pot, EC Central will pay 50% of the drug testing costs of the organiser of an E&A Titled Event. This was decided because we were faced with potential organisers that said that doping testing is too expensive.

Joost de Leijer (NED) says that last year, they did a Titled Event in his country and had to organise drug testing. The problem was that it was very expensive in his country. So they started looking at other countries, and they found that it was much cheaper to bring people from another country to do the drug test. He suggests other organisers do the same - the difference was 5.000 euro!

There are no further questions.

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

Patrice Martin comments that a letter was received from the Dutch Federation regarding the matter of a Barefooter, who was originally from the Netherlands, but who moved to Finland. We do feel this matter regards the Barefoot Council, so we hand it over to them to deal with this.

16. Calendar of Titled Events, including major meetings

Sid Adriaensen comments that the calendar that was circulated is for internal use only, the real calendar is on EMS.

16.1. The 2023 calendar

Sid reads out the events on the calendar.

He comments that Cable Wakeboard has many different seminars in many places, not just one seminar for everyone in the same place. Their Age Categories will be held in Hungary at the end of August, beginning of September.

For Waterski U21 there is be a potential bid from Baurech, France for the week starting August 14th.

Maoz Tal shows a short presentation of the 2023 Cableski Championships in Tel Aviv. After the success of the Dutch Waterski Federation last year, they decided to also organise the Juniors, Seniors and the Open Championships, to have as much countries as possible to participate. The weather in October is about 25°, not too hot, so it's nice weather, also to enjoy the beach. Everything is really close and restaurants and pubs are open 24/7. The Israeli Federation already organised the 2010 World Cableski Championships, which was a big success, and the 2016 European Cable Wakeboarding Championships. The hotel is really new and very big. It has a sports' centre, a spa, a gym, an indoor and outdoor swimming pool. The athletes can use the sport village for free. They negotiated a really good price with this five star hotel. In fact, any three star hotel or AirB&B in Tel Aviv isn't cheaper. He invites everyone there.

A short presentation for the November meetings in Budapest, Hungaria is also shown.

Applause, no remarks.

16.2. The 2024 calendar

Sid reads out the events on the calendar.

He comments that he added the dates of the Olympics, so organisers are aware of the dates of such a big event.

The FISU World University Championships in Dnipro, Ukraine, will not take place.

There are two bids for the 2025 E&A Waterski 35+ Championships: the Council still needs to decide which one will be retained.

No comments.

17. Future EC Congresses

Morten Froulund announces that two Congress venues are listed on the Calendar.

17.1. February 03rd 2024, Paris, France

Patrice Martin shows a presentation for the venue. The hotel will be the same that was used for the Waterski Worlds in 2017, the Best Western close to Orly airport. It's very accessible by plane, train or car and it is fully equipped. The general manager is a slalom skier, so we will be dealing with people who know our sport. They know how to run a Congress, so it will be easy to manage it. We will have the official dinner on Saturday night, at a site that will be reserved for us. We will be very happy to welcome you in early 2024, before the Olympics.

17.2. February 1st 2025, Rotterdam, the Netherlands

A presentation will be shown next year in Paris.

17.3. February 7th 2026 - open for bids

There are no other bids at the moment.

There are no remarks or questions.

18. The EC budget

18.1. The 2023 budget (01/12-2022 – 30/11/2023)

Dominique has nothing to add and asks if there are any questions. The document had to be approved by Admincom first, so it was not on the website. It was circulated today for approval by Congress.

There are no remarks or questions- approved by Congress.

18.2. The 2024 budget (01/12-2023 – 30/11/2024)

Patrice reminds the Congress that the subscription fee for all countries was changed in 2016, with five groups of countries sorted according to their GDP Nominal.

The top countries pay more, the smaller countries less. We didn't change anything in 2020, but for 2024 the Admincom felt that the highest group is a big group with a big gap between those that were just above the next group and others that were really high up in the group. So we felt we need to start with a new group, and have six.

Admincom would like to get this approved now for next year, because we will have to prepare next year's budget with this new system for the subscription fee.

We also propose a raise of 10% of the Subscription Fee, except for the lowest group because it has new countries entering our Federation, so that would stay at 500 euro.

Also, the highest group will be raised 10% more than number two.

All prices are up a lot, for travel and all household expenses. If you compare 2016 with today, the raise is in fact close to 25%, whereas we propose a raise of 10%.

GDP groups 2016-2023	subscription fee
Group 5 : under 40 thousand millions US\$	500 EURO
Group 4 : 40 - 70	1000 EURO
Group 3 : 70 - 225	2000 EURO
Group 2 : 225 - 550	2500 EURO
Group 1 : + 550	3000 EURO

GDP groups from 2024 on	subscription fee
Group 6 : under 50 thousand millions US\$	500 EURO
Group 5 : 50 - 100	1100 EURO
Group 4 : 100 - 250	2200 EURO
Group 3 : 250 - 700	2750 EURO
Group 2 : 700 - 1700	3300 EURO
Group 1 : + 1700	3600 EURO

Gavin Kelly (Waterski, GBR) asks if this will come into effect in 2024. Patrice Martin confirms the change will take place in 2024 and will then remain in place until 2027. This year, 2023, it will remain the same.

There are no further questions or remarks, approved by Congress.

19. Distribution of Certificates and Awards

19.1. By the divisional councils

Morten Froulund calls out all Council presidents to come and announce the recipients of any certificates or awards.

For **Barefoot**, Paul Turner announces that their female athlete of the year is Kimberly Smit (NED), a remarkable young lady, a great skier and who has worked hard hosting competitions. The male athlete of the year is Tom Heaps (GBR), who took a break from sports after winning his Junior World Championships in 2016, and has come back and did remarkably good last year and won the European Championships.

For **Cableski**, Marie-Anne Persoons announces that there were no records in 2022, even if they did have some discipline best or age category best in Open. Their female athlete of the year is Laura Hillenbrand (GER). For their male athlete of the year, we in fact stay in same club: they are both very hard working members of the same club: it is Niklas Heinicke (GER).

For **Disabled**, Dany De Bakker announces that they do have a certificate for an E&A record in Tricks for Christophe Fasel (SUI). The Eurotour winners are Christian Lanthaler (ITA) for Slalom, Christophe Fasel (SUI) for Tricks and for Jump and Overall it is Matteo Franchini (ITA). Their female athlete of the year is Delphine Le Sausse (FRA) and their male athlete of the year is Christophe Fasel (SUI).

Morten Froulund announces that there are no representatives for the **Racing Council**.

For **Wakeboard Boat**, Nuno Eca announces that their female rider of the year is Chiara Virag (ITA), who won the national and European Championships and was second at the World Games. Their male athlete of the year is a junior rider, Stefano Comollo (ITA), who was World and European Champion, and become second on the World Games, even though he was competing against the best. So it's super well deserved, even though he is a junior.

For **Wakeboard Cable**, Suzi Nightingale announces that they have awards for two incredible athletes. Their female athlete of the year is Vanessa Tittarelli (ITA) and the male athlete of the year is Carlo Hüsing (GER).

For **Waterski**, Candido Moz says that a skier of 40 years old setting the new slalom records is an amazing result. It means that in our sport, you can keep skiing at a really high level for many years. William Asher (GBR) is their male athlete of the year, and he has set a new European record of 2 buoys at 58/9.75. Their female athlete of year is Alicia Bagnoli (ITA).

Patrice Martin comments that he thinks that we need to change the age categories, as +35 doesn't mean anything, if athletes of 40 years old are at the top level for Open!

19.2. Announcement of the Athlete of the year awards

Patrice Martin presents the female Athlete of the Year for the European Confederation for Laura Hillenbrand (GER) and the male Athlete of the Year for William Asher (GBR).

19.3. Honorary members

Morten Froulund announces that there are no propositions for Honorary Membership this year.

20. A.O.B.

Eye Trick

Candido Moz shows a short presentation of Eye Trick. About five years ago, Donal Connolly came to the Congress and explained his new way of calling tricks. Meanwhile he has developed the system and it has been used last year in some events worldwide, at the Pro Tour and everything. So each judge has his own tablet, and on the tablet you call the trick. The three or five tablets are connected to software that automatically calculates the score and everything. The Scorer still has to check that nothing is wrong, but everything is automatic. Europe has approved the use in its events; the process for approval at World level is ongoing. They do approve, but their rules still have to be changed.

It's not mandatory, it's an optional feature, but it's an incredible thing. With this system, you have the score of the skier 20 seconds after the pass. Everything is recorded on the PC, so no paper is needed, everything is on line. The system is created so that after that the tricks are posted online, it will automatically propose the next trick. If the entry has not been made according to the system, you can go back and find anything you need. But the system will automatically propose a list of tricks that can be performed as the next one. It's really quick but people have to get used to it, that is why it is not mandatory in any rule book. Donal is doing a training work in process to teach people how to do it.

It can be used in all events. You need to get used to it; it's different, it's new technology. With some adaptation, it can be implemented for all the other disciplines. If you are not familiar with it, please go to the website and see all the demonstrations.

Candido believes this has been an amazing job. Tricks have always been the more difficult event to score. The score came afterwards: you had to wait, there might be a protest, so it took long. We do believe this will save a lot of time and will help resolving all these issues.

Candido thanks Donal for all the work he has been doing for four years now to develop this new system and get to this point. Originally, we wanted to work with a weblink, but that didn't work out because wifi connection is not good enough worldwide. So Donal had to create a whole new system.

Patrice Martin comments that he thinks this is very interesting, and he encourages every organiser to use it. This will help our audience to understand our sport, since the Trick scoring was always a problem before, as it could take a day to find out who the winner was, for example. With this new technology, it will be almost on the spot. Then we can go back to live television and present the winner when the Trick event is over. Patrice believes this technology can also work for other disciplines in the future.

Wakeboard Boat Council situation

Nuno Eca (Wakeboard Boat) would like to address the Congress in regard of the delicate situation they are having in their Council, with a Russian and a Ukrainian member. Because of the war, it has been proved very difficult for them to travel or to participate on the Council, and psychologically they are not in the best place. So the Council would like to ask the Congress' permission to co-opt two extra members for the time being, until the next election. Hopefully by then the situation with the war will be solved.

The Council will then take the decision to lower back to seven members on the Council, or to maintain nine members and then re-apply for the extension of those two members..

Patrice Martin comments that in these special times it is wise to prepare for the future, and that when two members of the Council can no longer participate in it, we can all agree to accept this proposal.

No questions or remarks. There are no other items.

21. Closing of the Congress

Patrice Martin jokes that Congress went really fast thanks to Eye Trick! He thanks everyone for participating in today's Congress and invites them to tonight's dinner and hopes to see them again at the lakes.

Sidney Adriaensen
Secretary-General

Patrice Martin
President