



## Minutes of the Region EAME Congress

7th of February, 2009

Panorama Hotel, Zagreb, Croatia

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

Mr Arsen Sihtar, the President of the Croatian Water Ski Federation, welcomes everyone, especially the Mayor of the City of Zagreb, Mr Bandic, and Mr Ivan Varvodic, member of the Croatian Olympic Committee and of the Sports Committee, and Alain Amade, EAME President and Kuno Ritschard, IWSF President.

Mr Bandic also wishes everyone a warm welcome to Zagreb, the city of sports. He thinks that although waterskiing is not a big sport here, it is one of the prettiest sports in his city. He appreciates and respects the sport and would like to become the host of a big competition in future.

Mr Varvodic, member of the Croatian Olympic Committee, also welcomes the Congress on behalf of his President. He explains that the Croatian Olympic Committee is also a roof for non-Olympic sports, so they also support the Croatian Water Ski Federation.

The EAME President, Alain Amade, welcomes everyone to the 2009 Congress. Also, the Adriatic Sea is very important for this country. He stresses that EAME wants to be a bigger part of the Mediterranean Games, and he knows Croatia would like to organise these games. In June 2009 they will be held in Pescara, Italy : Mr Silvio Falcioni (ITA) will make a report about this later this day. Alain Amade wants Croatian skiers and riders to participate.

He thanks the people from the Turkish and the Rumanian Federation for joining us here, and the Croatian Federation for organising the Congress. He is proud to have Kuno Ritschard IWSF President attending this Congress and also thanks Gill Hill for her work on World and EAME level. He then Introduces Mr Uwe Goldstein, who is in charge of the development of Cableways in the World.

Alain Amade asks the Congress to stand up for a minute of silence for those who passed away last year : Mr Dzmitry Aksinevich (BLR), Mr Hugo Van Loon (BEL) and Mr Ray Rider (GBR).

He received apologies from some famous Honorary Members, such as Paul Jensch, who broke his arm while snow skiing. Andy Harris, who resigned from the Barefoot Council but is still active in the sport, only just returned from attending the World Barefoot Championships in New Zealand, just like Alexandra Vigoureux, the President of the Barefoot Council. Aubrey Sheena, a big name in our sport, also had to be

excused, perhaps for the first time, because this later date coincides with a family meeting. Peter Pearl is having difficulties travelling because of his age. Furthermore Louis Polome (RSA), Lill Fitzpatrick (IRL), Simon Khoury (JOR) and Tommi Holopainen (FIN), President of the Finnish Federation, are excused.

## **2. Verification of attendances and voting powers**

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 Ana Kera, Secretary General of the Croatian Federation, and Franz Kirsch, Honorary Member, 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 out in time to all Federations. He requests if anyone has not had their official notice. (no remarks)

## **6. Approval of Minutes of 2008 Annual Congress (Belgrade, Serbia)**

Alan Goggin asks if anyone has remarked any 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**

### **8.1. The President**

Alain Amade expresses his thanks to all EAME Officials who work all weekend for competitions. He has nothing further to add to his report that has been circulated.

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

Sid Adriaensen comments that we are now communicating by website and e-mail, and not by normal mail anymore. So far no complaints were received, so we will continue in this manner. He invites everyone to please visit our website for all sorts of information, e.g. about buying EAME garments. Only one part on this website, that contains the addresses of the Federations and Council members etc., is restricted for privacy reasons. Every Federation and Council Member has a password for this.

An explanation of how Subscription Fees are calculated was distributed to all present : any questions can be put to the Treasurer after Congress.

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

Alain Amade explains that Alexandra Vigoureux and all other members of the Barefoot Council are not present at this Congress because they just got back from the World Championships in New Zealand. There were good results for EAME at this event. Alexandra Vigoureux let Alain Amade know that she has nothing to add to her report.

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

Marie-Anne Persoons understands that there is an economical crisis and that it is difficult for organisers to get sponsors, but there are no organisers yet for the Cable Titled Events, so all offers are welcome.

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

Philippe Turchet explains that the Euro Tour format is changing. In the past there only was Disabled, now it will be a mixed competition with Tournament. Not many changes have to be made for such an event. If any countries are interested in such mixed competitions, he asks to please let him know.

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

Mike Waterman announces that the World Championships in Racing will be held in Belgium, and he thinks it will be very spectacular and he hopes many can come. A short promotional film will be shown later.

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

Stefan Rauchenwald has nothing to add to his report. No questions.

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

Colin Hart speaks instead of Stefano Duranti, who couldn't be here. He thanks the 11 Federations that were present in South Africa, and the 15 in France. He says that there are 22 events on the official calendar, but that we need more. For this purpose, the Homologation dossier is shortened. There is no organiser yet for the 2009 EAME Championships. A video will be shown about the 2008 Championships, and he thanks Ukraine for organising this wonderful event.

Alain Amade thanks Stefano Duranti, who is resigning from the Wakeboard Boat Council, for all his work in the past.

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

Varna Laco has nothing to add. No questions.

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 30.11.2008**

Alan Goggin welcomes the Treasurer, Dominique Lakens-Douwes. She thanks Sid and Brit for their help and says the reports are on the website.

She explains that there still is a lot owed because many invoices were sent in November, just before the end of the financial year.

The EAME bank accounts will be split up to get more bank insurance.

On page two there is an expenditure in "external expenses" of 5.000 € instead of 0 €. This is because of the purchase of the software of the Lion programme.

The Meeting Allowances have been raised from 100 € to 150 € because travel costs have also increased. The Councils spent more because they have been paying more allowances to their officials.

Des Burke-Kennedy asks why the expenses of the Admincom have been doubled. Dominique explains that this is mostly because of the cost of meeting rooms, especially when there are no meetings in Shinoussa (which are for free) in that year, but more in other venues.

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

The report was distributed to everyone. Mr Freen, who has been our Professional Auditor for a while now, reports that everything is in order.

No remarks.

### **9.3. Honorary Auditor's Report**

Des Burke-Kennedy speaks instead of Lill Fitzpatrick, who cannot come. She sent her detailed report and had the same remarks as were mentioned before. She agrees to stay on as Honorary Auditor if the Congress wishes this.

Alain Amade comments that he is bothered by the fact that no money was spent on environment. He has been in contact with Philippe Fourrier, the Director of ECNI, the European Confederation for Nautical Industries. Dr Mayer, who is in charge of environment at ECNI, is here at the Congress and will make a presentation on this. Alain Amade thinks the support of this Confederation is a good beginning of handling the environmental subject.

### **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.

## 10. Other Reports

### 10.1. The Representative of the Coaches Sub Commission

Mr John Wood thanks all organisers and asks to send people to the next CSC seminar in Spain. Especially Mediterranean Games coaches.. A maximum of entries is needed in Pescara.

Alain Amade thanks John Wood for developing the sport and finding new countries. He thinks there are many possibilities in Turkey for the promotion of water ski and asks John Wood to help the Turkish waterski federation with this.

### 10.2. The President of the Medical Commission

Dr Lorenzo Benassa thanks all that helped in the last year, especially Gill Hill, and reads his report regarding knee problems, more specifically chronic pain due to inflammation and how it is treated. (full report available on [www.eame.be](http://www.eame.be) under EAME Office Mailings - Congress)

No questions.

### 10.3. The Environment

Dr Mayer (GER) is honoured by our invitation and shows his presentation on the impact on the environment of nautical activities. (full report on [www.eame.be](http://www.eame.be))

**ECNI** stands for the European Confederation of Nautical Industries. Its members are France, Germany, Belgium and Austria and it is based in Brussels. ECNI is to represent the interest of industries. Dr Mayer himself is very much engaged in the environment, and specialises in boat engines.

He is not in favour of individual **regulations** for each sort of equipment and every lake, river and boat. He would rather see uniform legal measures, if possible world-wide, as the nautical industry is globalised and manufacturers of boat engines are internationally organised. A free movement of goods and the possibility of choice of equipment is needed. Otherwise someone would buy a boat and then not be allowed to use it on another countries' river.

Where legal measures are concerned, recreational boating is often mixed up with commercial shipping. Yet engine and sulphur exhaust and transfer of non-indigenous species, for example, are not relevant for recreational boating. Some international regulations regarding **engine exhaust** are already in place, in co-operation with the American Association, but Dr Mayer thinks that there is no real reason to be concerned about these regulations at this moment.

Relevant for recreational boating are garbage and other waste, black water, sewage, paint and anti-fouling paint. There are no general rules for the environmental impact of boating, as there are different regions and types of applications. The "aquatic consumer" himself should be aware of responsible navigation and maintenance of his boat.

**Spilling losses** are not regulated in the European Union, but in USA they are, especially in California, where technical equipment on boats is imposed.

**Noise** is a specific problem with water skiing. There are no regulations yet in the USA, but in the EU limits are in place : 75 to 78 decibels, depending on the KW of the boat. All details can be found in the BWS guide. In Switzerland for example, motor scooters cannot be operated because of their noise level. Noise level and the perception hereof are two different issues and can be more sensitive depending on the area.

It seems perceivable things, such as noise, damage to shore lines and garbage, are more in the focus of concerned citizens, and less the spilling etc. Also a high density of boats give the perception of problems, resulting in speed limitations like on lake Windemere. The behaviour of less disciplined boat owners results in

frictions with other boat owners in attractive and popular areas. The local government has to take the concerns of its citizens into consideration, so this **perception** is important.

In comparison with other man-made pollutants, the average **engine exhaust emissions** of recreational boats are negligible statistically. Still, individual situations have to be considered. In our sport we operate very powerful engines on petrol, mainly of American origin and catalysts don't make sporting easier: they are costly and not easy to design or operate.

As far as pollutants are concerned, recreational boating creates very small amounts of **hydrocarbons**. On the other hand, **NOx** make some plants grow quicker than normal and this makes the water dirty.

It is assumed that running a boat in the water should bring more **oxygen** in the water, but this effect is irrelevant because this extra amount of oxygen is very minor without consequences for the plants.

Kuno Ritschard comments that the IWSF also is concerned about the environment and that the IWSF leaflet regarding the Environment Program is distributed at this Congress.

Alain Amade thanks Dr Mayer for his presentation and asks if there are any questions.

Des Burke-Kennedy (IRL) observed that there is a serious problem with **invasive species** sticking onto boat hulls when moving boats from one lake to another. Such boats should be pressure-washed. In Ireland, very large lakes have been destroyed by Far-East mussels or other little plant life that alters the biotope.

Dr Mayer had learned that this is a problem especially with big oceans and that it is not yet known on inland waterways. He has no view on any figures, but he agrees washing should be done. He knows transfer also take place by baskets from fishermen, and thinks this should be looked into.

Dimos Alexopoulos (GRE) says the IWSF environment handbook emphasises that **oxygen** in water produced by propellers and skiers is a benefit and we use this benefit to persuade outsiders. Dr Mayer would be careful using this argument, considering the amount of time recreational boats are running : just 50-75 hours per year, so even if the effect is there, it should be small. He wouldn't dare to use it.

Dimos Alexopoulos (GRE) thinks the impact of the **waves** created e.g. by wakeboarding on some shores is stronger than Dr Mayer thinks. Dr Mayer thinks every area is very different, so no general rules should be imposed. He agrees there might be a big influence in certain areas.

Steve Sopp (GBR) says that in Great Britain the **fuel** used for leisure and competition is the cheapest they can get, and that now is LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas), because it is not taxed. In countries such as the USA on the other hand, these costs are unimportant. He wonders what the best fuel is in overall cost to the environment. Dr Mayer thinks LPG is preferable. He has no view on the overall costs, but surely these are not (much) higher than the costs for petrol and diesel. He agrees that taxation is also an issue regarding the costs.

Kuno Ritschard thinks the impact of the oxygenation and the impact on the shores is much bigger in small lakes. He would like to see a yearly update of these studies in a brochure.

Dr Mayer will stay with us today for any other questions.

#### **10.4. Promotion of Water Ski & Wakeboard**

Peter Frei (SUI) shows his report on the promotion of Water Ski and Wakeboard through increased EBU (European Broadcasting Union) TV coverage.

He comments that our TV-coverage unfortunately is very low, even in countries where we have excellent athletes. Our aim is perhaps not live coverage, but standard reports which consist of 15 minutes of highlights of an event, including interviews with top athletes.

IWSF works with Dominique Curchod Communications in Monaco and all World Cup stops are produced by this company.

Joseph Escoda (ESP) comments that internet could be a cheaper alternative.

Peter Frei replies that we should also go that way, but that right now the major spread is through international TV-stations.

Dario Rossi (ITA) thinks organisers should have the rights to the sponsoring on the bibs, as they get most of their money from this. Peter Frei proposes a co-use, like on the upper and lower part of the body.

Des Burke-Kennedy says the World Cup has resulted in 26 TV-productions up to now, and he knows getting the report ready on time is murder. He recommends hiring camera men with some water ski experience, and getting shots of spectators clapping. The organiser has to get "bums on seats" to get a positive image through, and this implies marketing beforehand. He cautions that the public perception, the creation of our "brand", is difficult with so many sorts of events. He thinks we should be selective about what we show the world. In his experience, YouTube is an excellent medium.

Peter Frei agrees that we have to control what goes out and that we should be thinking about the 1.000 receivers and what gives most publicity.

Steve Sopp (GBR) agrees with Italy re. sponsorship on the bibs. He wonders why we shouldn't use the production that the host nation is already making, rather than paying extra to an external company. Peter Frei says this would be preferable, of course, if there is a professional producer. But for the 2008 WakeCable events, for example, this wasn't not possible because those producers were not used to reporting on such an event.

Colin Hart (GBR) thinks we need more promotion, and research into what promoters are interested in, and backs up Des Burke-Kennedy and his experience.

Kuno Ritschard (SUI) says an investment is needed to get the job properly done.

Alan Goggin (GBR) recapitulates that the question is whether to have a quick new flash or proper exposure, and he thinks a lot of discussion is needed during lunch!

#### **10.5. The IATA Situation**

Peter Frei shows the report that Alain Amade asked him to make on the situation with IATA, the International Airline and Transport Association. All airlines are now allowed to have their own rules re. baggage, and this has resulted in many problems for skiers/riders who want to take their equipment on board of an airplane.

EAME will prepare a small ID card for the top skiers in the EAME region (members of the national team) with a comment to the airlines asking them to apply the IATA rules and accept the skiers' equipment. This is of course no guarantee, it is just a tool to help you at check-in.

Nicky Caine (GBR) asks how to obtain these cards and Peter Frei replies all Federations will be informed about this.

Alan Goggin suggests Federations can also do this for their own teams, of course.

Börje Broström (SWE) found that sending the skies two days before with Fedex is the cheapest way, since SAS and Lufthansa charge 300 EURO one way for skis !

Ageliki Andrioupolou (GRE) thinks letters from Federation can help, but that EAME should keep pounding on the doors of companies. Any company that agrees to have reasonable charges for skiers/riders equipment would be supported by EAME, and be used by the skiers of course.

Stian Lilleberg (NOR) comments that the agreement between Norway and SAS is that you order the ticket through the agency, not by internet.

Franz Kirsch suggests calling it *ski bag*, not *water ski bag*. Also, when you book your flight, book it in right away, two ways, so there will be no discussion afterwards.

Alain Amade knows skis are sometimes not accepted at all because of their length. An official letter will be written to all official companies to ask them to make an effort for the top athletes.

Dimos Alexopoulos (GRE) asks to please write down all this information, also about TV coverage and distribute it. In his experience, when you research Cable on the internet, you can't find much, except for on YouTube, which he thinks we should use more.

Des Burke-Kennedy (IRL) suggests discussing with Fedex about an international rate.

Ivar Fosse (DEN) asks what about other sports? The Sport Federations should all talk to airlines about this.

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

Alain Amade announces Monaco is now an official member of IWSF and EAME. The discussion with Montenegro, that will join us, is ongoing. The President of the Romanian Federation is here. There are contacts with Tunesia and Morocco. The Mediterranean Games are very important for them and a good way for us to get them closer. There is a lot of wakeboard and water ski there. Kazakhstan also is a possible new member of IWSF.

The President of the Romanian Federation, Mr Rotaru, explains that his Federation is making a child's footsteps only at present. A first event was organised last year, where they were joined by France. They will have a long way to go to make a Federation but he will do his best for it. There was a Cable there but it is not operating anymore. Alain Amade assures him of our support and asks John Wood to help them in their development.

## **12. Election of the EAME candidate for IWSF Vice-President**

There is but one candidate : Mr Franz Kuhn. Des Burke-Kennedy (IRL) requests a show of cards since there is only one candidate. Franz Kuhn is running for the third time for this position and promises to do his best. No-one against, no abstentions.

## **13. Changes to the Statutes - as circulated**

There are none proposed this year. An adaptation to the IWSF Statutes will be discussed and prepared for next year's Congress.



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

Sid Adriaensen explains that point 3.1.1., the election's procedure, has been put on the website and this was notified to all. It needed to be cleared up what is meant by "directly engaged" : meaning having voting rights.

The recommendation of the Tournament Council is that there is the date for the national Championships is not a rule anymore. For Cable this is already the case.

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

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

Sid Adriaensen explains that in the List of Obligations the term "dauphins and juniors" was still used, while many divisions now just call them "Youth Championships". Börje Broström (SWE) asks about the cost of the medals, and Sid Adriaensen replies that the cost of the medals for the athletes at Youth Championships are paid by EAME.

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

#### **16. Guidelines**

Sid Adriaensen explains that the Guidelines can be found on the EAME website. While the Statutes are very stable and hard to change, and the Bye-laws also have to be approved by Congress, the Guidelines simply outline the way we are conducting EAME, for instance a guideline on how to organise a Congress.

#### **17. Report from the IWSF**

##### **17.1. The President**

Kuno Ritschard points out that most of information in his report is also in the Executive Board minutes that were circulated.

He was very disappointed that there was so little support from the Federations to Tournament skiers in World Games, up to a point where the organisers of the World Games sent a letter that they don't want to have water ski anymore. The skiers sent to the World Games should be overall skiers with a good standard.

A show committee was formed, with Sherman Shaft as chairman, to bring together amateur shows from around the world. Also an IWSF Cable Development Committee was formed, chaired by Uwe Goldstein (GER) from Rixen.

IWSF asked Confederations to create a four-year plan.

Kuno Ritschard congratulates Dimos Alexopoulos for being appointed Chief Judge in Calgary, where a World Championships Festival will be organised.

Regarding the Olympic situation, it is clear that we will not be participating in 2012. Also, the IOC sticks to 28 sports maximum, and this means that we have little chance that waterskiing will be added. Raising this maximum is not up for discussion before 2024.

In the near future IWSF might decide to create 5 Confederations, following the IOC structure : then there would no longer be "EAME", but an European, Oceanic, Asian, African and Middle East Confederation.

Calendar : (see Titled Events Calendars) this year the World Games (Kahsiung-Taiwan) are close to the World Tournament Champs in Calgary. As already mentioned this means that the federations will be in difficulty to send skiers to Kahsiung. The World games are also clashing with World Racing Championships in Belgium.

24-29 Aug World Wakeboard Champs Korea.

1<sup>st</sup> of October demonstration to Olympic Committee in Copenhagen.

2010 intention to bid for the World Junior Championships from ITA.

Alain Amade comments that the President of the International World Games Association, Ron Froehlich, is a member of the IOC, and also a member of the commission that decides which sport goes to Olympics. So if Water Ski is out of the World Games, we can forget about the Olympics. The IOC says the National Olympic Committees have to help their Federations to get athletes participating to the World Games.

Dimos Alexopoulos (GRE) says there is a virtual Olympic Congress on the internet at [www.2009congress.olympic.org](http://www.2009congress.olympic.org), and he wonders if we should send in something before the deadline of February 28th. He also suggests sending a 1.000 e-mails to the IOC might help. He agrees that countries do not understand the importance of the World Games.

Steven Sopp (GBR) is glad to hear our realistic chances to get into the Olympics. He agrees we have to support the World Games, but also seriously thinks we should consider if the effort of making changes to the sport is worth the small chance of ever getting into the Olympics.

Des Burke-Kennedy (IRL) thinks the World Games are very committed to our sport. At the last summer's trial event, 3 million US dollars were spent to get rid of the backwash for us ! So they ARE interested.

Alain Amade says 5.000 athletes participate in the World Games, resulting in 5-6 hours of live TV coverage every day. We would be missing a big chance for the exposure for water ski. Taiwan and China are growing, and if IWSF does not participate at their competitions, it's a big shame for us.

John Wood (GBR) considers it a disaster of our own making. Why plan the World Championships two weeks after the World Games, when our funding is based on World Championships, not the World Games ? We need to get the calendars straightened out every four years to be able to send our top skiers to the World Games.

Kuno Ritschard agrees it was very hard to accept the date from Canada, but it was a "take it or leave it" decision.

Gill Hill (GBR) wonders if any Federations have now changed their minds about not sending athletes to the World Games.

Sid Adriaensen (BEL) says that in his country the World Games are more important for the recognition of our sport than the World Championships.

Günter Kuhnt (GER) says it is the same in Germany and he wonders if it is only a money problem.

Ageliki Andriopoulos (GRE) says that as an athlete she makes her money from the World Championships, not from the World Games. She thinks the most important thing is to send a skier, even if not the best. She wonders why Russia, who has a lot more skiers, is not at all going.

Peter Frei (SUI) thinks it is a funding problem – no subsidies.

Alain Amade agrees the IWSF has to make some progress in the organisation so that there are no more clashes with the World Games. He thinks we have to think of the athletes first.

## **17.2. The Vice-President from EAME**

Franz Kuhn comments that he spends a lot of his time on Cable Wakeboard. He has been on the lookout for Eastern Europe countries to join IWSF and EAME, and he takes charge of the medals etc.

In Belgrade he informed the Congress about the problems organising the World Championships in Cable Wakeboard. A Russian organiser was found, with a great location, but only European riders came, and then less than 50, which was not very good.

He had a meeting in March with Varna Laco in Slovenia. It could be possible to start a new Federation there, but nothing happens and he asks for help for Slovenia. At this point they are an associate member only. He says Romania also needs our help.

He had a long discussion with the manufacturer of the medals, pennants and trophies, and they agreed all prices will remain the same in 2009.

He attended the FISU Championships in China with Kuno Ritschard. There were good student skiers from all continents, but not (many) from Europe because of financial issues.

The Cable Wakeboard EAME Championships were held in Bursa, Turkey. October was rather late, but it was nice and warm there. There was a very good competition and good TV coverage. There was a bit of a problem because normally the agreement should be signed first by the organisers.

Mr Obruk, the President of the Turkish Federation, replies that when there is no written agreement, they cannot make a program.

## **18. Calendar of Titled Events**

Sid Adriaensen announces that at least 7 presentations will be made today and that the Calendar of Titled Events is available on the website.

Silvio Falcioni (ITA) shows a presentation of the Mediterranean games in Pescara, 2009 and says the success depends on the participation of federations. Alain Amade comments there will be the same medals and the same conditions as for all the athletes and officials of any discipline.

Sid Adriaensen checks the dates and places of the current situation of the Calendar with the Councils  
(see Calendar of Titled Events at <http://www.eame.be/waterski/Calendar.nsf>).

Vera Vandenbossche (Racing, BEL) shows a presentation for the 2009 World Championships Racing. She says there are 5.000 to 10.000 spectators at the yearly Diamond Race ! More info can be found at [www.wskreame.org](http://www.wskreame.org).

There are two bids for the 2009 Tournament Veterans Championships : one from the Netherlands and one from Greece. Congress votes by show of hands to go to the Netherlands.

The Danish Federation shows a presentation about the 2009 Open Tournament Championships that will be held in Vallensbaek, Denmark.

Moaz Tal (ISR) has a presentation for the 2010 Cable World Championships and announces the first bulletin will be sent out shortly.

The Swedish Federation shows a presentation regarding their bid for the 2010 Wakeboard and 2011 Tournament Championships for Fagersta, Sweden.

Varna thanks all Federations who sent their riders to the 2008 Cable Wakeboard Championships, even after all the changes. She shows a promotional film about the

2009 Cable Wakeboard Championships that will be held in Finland at the end of August or the beginning of September.

## 19. Proposals by the Federations

There were none before the deadline.

## 20. Honorary Membership

None this year.

## 21. 2009 Budget

Copies with the 2009 budget are distributed. This budget is based on last years' numbers. Dominique Lakens-Douwes has not much to add.

Voted upon, none against, unanimously accepted.

## 22. Distribution of Certificates & Awards

### 22.1. Announcement of the Athlete of the Year awards

Alain Amade announces that the Female athlete of the year is Clementine Lucine (FRA) from Tournament. The Male athlete of the year is Daniele Cassioli (ITA) from Disabled Water Ski. Alain Amade presents the certificates to the President of the Italian Federation and to Marc Raymond (FRA). He comments that it would perhaps be better to change the voting procedure for this award, because the World Athlete of the Year is already known before the voting on the EAME Athlete of the Year is completed...

### 21.2. By the Divisional Councils

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

**Barefoot Council** : no-one present. Their Female Athlete of the Year is Emily Goldie (GBR) and their Male Athlete is Sam Heinrich (RSA).

For the **Cableski** Council, Marie-Anne Persoons has certificates for the Female Athlete of the Year : Iryna Turets, also World Cable Skier of the year, and the Male Athlete of the Year : Nikita Papakul, both from Belarus. No new records were broken this year !

For the Council for the **Disabled**, Philippe Turchet announces that the Female Skier of the Year for Disabled is Vivienne Orchard (GBR) and the Male Skier of the Year for Disabled is Daniele Cassioli (ITA). Furthermore, Vivienne Orchard (GBR) (L Category), Susanna Prada (ITA) (V1 Category), Daniele Cassioli (ITA) (V1 Category), Jacky Stimpson (GBR) (MP2 Category), Giancarlo Cosio (ITA) (A+L2 Category) and Ellis Claire (GBR) all set an EAME and World Slalom record within their category. He also hands out the certificates for the 2007 World records.

Mike Waterman announces the **Racing** Female Skier of the Year is Kim Lumley (GBR). The Racing Male Skier of the Year is Dimitri Bertels (BEL). Mike Waterman also presents certificates to the European 2008 Championships in the

different divisions, and to Belgium for winning the European Nations Trophy. Belgium had a really good year with several winners.

Stefan Rauchenwald announces the **Tournament** Female Skier of the year is Clementine Lucine (FRA). The Tournament Male Skier of the Year is Genadi Guralia (GEO). He also presents a certificate to Nicole Arthur (GBR) for her EAME Slalom record.

Colin Hart announces the **Wakeboard Boat** Female Rider of the Year is Elke Venken (BEL). The Wakeboard Boat Male Rider of the Year is Nick Davies (GBR).

Varna Laco announces that the **Wakeboard Cable** Female Rider of the Year is Anna-Laura Brabänder (GER). The Wakeboard Cable Male Rider of the Year is Frederic von Osten (GER).

## **23. Future Congresses**

### **23.1. January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010 • Brussels, Belgium**

Stephan Delsaute, co-President of the Royal Belgian Water Ski Federation, invites everyone to next year's Congress in Brussels and shows his presentation. He comments that Belgium has organised many championships and has the largest amount of officials compared to inhabitants. He works together with the Belgian Olympic and Interfederal Committee. The Congress will be held in the buildings of the Belgian Football League. This is easily accessible by car, plane (from Zaventem airport) or train. The Holiday Inn is 150 meters located from there. It will also be the last weekend of the annual car show, so please book your hotel as soon as possible. There are many places of interest nearby.

### **23.2. January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011 • Denmark (intention to bid)**

Alain Amade says Great Britain has withdrawn, so only Denmark is left. Mr Frank Tengberg-Hansen, President of the Danish Water Ski Federation, shows a presentation about Aarhus, where the 2011 Congress will be held.

Voted upon, none against, unanimously accepted.

### **23.3. January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012 • Greece (intention to bid)**

Depy Papadimitriou will let the Congress know in what city the 2012 Congress will be held, as it might not be in Athens.

Voted upon, none against, unanimously accepted.

## **24. Meeting dates for the year 2009**

Sid Adriaensen reads out the meeting dates that were given to him and checks with the Councils (see Titled Events Calendar).

## **25. A.O.B.**

Alan Goggin asks if there are any comments.

Adolf Marx (GER) said goodbye to IWSF two years ago. He now says goodbye to EAME as well and thanks everyone. In three weeks a new president will be elected, and the candidate is Mr Günter Kuhnt, here also present. (Applause for Mr Marx)

## **26. Closing of the Congress**

Alan Goggin, the Chairman, thanks the Congress for the privilege of being chair person.

Alain Amade is very happy with Alan Goggin, and thanks the organiser, Mr Arsen Sihtar and his people, for all his work and presents him with a framed IWSF EAME 2009 pennant. He thanks all present and promises next year the focus will be more on the environment.

Alain Amade closes the Congress and wishes the EAME athletes in Calgary good luck.