

Minutes of the Annual Congress of the IWWF European Confederation

**Monte Carlo, Monaco,
Saturday 05th of February 2022 - commencing at 09.00 hrs.**

0. Introduction: the procedures by which this Congress will be run.

Andy Harris reminds everyone that we are still in a world of Covid, so please take care. He explains the general procedures by which the Congress will be run and reminds everyone that this whole meeting is being recorded.

1. Welcome by the President of the EC Confederation

Patrice Martin, the EC President, welcomes everyone and thanks them for making the effort to be here on this very nice day, because we can finally meet again physically, after two years. He hopes we will be able to have a real, normal year in 2022 for our different disciplines and that we will be able to organise all our events. He feels that it was very important for us to be able to meet physically. Some of those who couldn't come wanted to have a "mixed" Congress, live and also by Zoom, but this is difficult to organise. We have to push ourselves to meet physically, because we cannot do our sport on the internet, we have to do it on the sites, on the lakes, we have to meet again. Our sport is about sharing, volunteering and having a good time together.

Patrice then introduces Aleco Keusseoglou, the president of the Monegasque Waterski Federation, who says it's a pleasure for him to welcome everyone here, in this beautiful hotel in Monaco, for the first post-Covid Congress. He announces that his highness Prince Albert II would have loved to be here, and asked to pass his very best wishes to you all, but unfortunately he cannot be with us this weekend because he is in China attending the Winter Olympics. He jokes that any complaints should be addressed to Patrice.

Patrice thanks Aleco and says that he really appreciates the efforts made by the Monegasque Federation.

2. Verification of attendances and voting powers (full list: see iwwf-europe.eu under Congress 2022)

Sid Adriaensen (Admincom) calls out the voting delegates to confirm their presence at the Congress.

3. Appointment of Congress Chairperson

Patrice Martin jokes that it was a difficult decision to make, but that Admincom would like to appoint Andy Harris as Congress Chairman. *(there are no objections, accepted by Congress)*

Andy Harris thanks for the honour of being the Congress Chairman once again. He then announces that at this point of Congress, it is time to remember people who are no longer with us. Kuno Ritschard (SUI), IWWF President Emeritus and past EC President; Tony Green (GBR), Board member British Waterski & Wakeboard; Chris West (GBR); Maurice Hazelwood

(GBR), former Chairman British Waterski & Wakeboard; Jill Howard (GBR), Waterski international judge for Waterski; Ken Heuer (RSA), international driver for Waterski; Aldo Franchi (ITA), past Italian Federation President and Hugo Engelen (BEL), Honorary Member and past Racing Council President.

He asks Congress to stand in a moment of silence in memory of our dear friends.

Andy Harris then asks Congress to welcome some special guests that are with us today; the President of the IWWF, Mr José Antonio Perez Priego and the new IWWF Secretary General, Louis Polome. He thanks them both for traveling a long way. He also asks to please acknowledge our honorary members present apart from himself: Alain Amade, Chantal Amade-Escot, Gill Hill and Louis Polome.

Apologies for absence were received from Depy Papadimitrou (HM and Honorary Vice President); Aubrey Sheena (HM), Simon Khoury (HM), Stefan Rauchenwald (HM), Dominique Lakens Douwes (EC Treasurer), Brit Horemans (EC Administration), Mike Waterman (President Racing Council), Thea Klarenbeek (Racing), Amanda Scherer (Waterski Council candidate), Linda Johnston (President Wakeboard Boat Council) and Vera Van Den Bossche (Racing Council Secretary).

The Cable Wakeboard Council have also advised us that they are not present.

4. Appointment of Scrutineers

Andy Harris announces that Admincom proposed the following scrutineers by secret ballot, and he jokes that some people might be disappointed by the result: Louis Polome, Alain Amade et Chantal Amade-Escot.

There are no questions or objections.

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

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

6. Approval of Minutes of the 2021 Annual Congress (held by ZOOM)

Andy Harris says he is glad this year's Congress is not held by Zoom like last year's. He asks if there are any remarks. There are none and the Minutes are accepted as approved by show of hands.

7. Discussion and approval of Reports

Andy Harris suggests that Congress votes the approval of the reports "en block" and asks the Presidents if they have anything to add to their report.

7.1 The President

Patrice Martin says the most important thing is that all the councils worked very hard to keep our sport alive, during two difficult years of trying to run as many events as possible. We had young kids going to competitions, and last year we have a full year of championships, including the 2020-2021 European Championships, which was difficult but manageable, with excellent scores and performances. He thanks the Council and Admincom members and the Federations for their hard work and dedication, especially when having to do a lot by Zoom. He is looking forward to seeing everyone again on the lakes.

7.2 The Secretary General

Sid Adriaensen reminds Congress that all reports and documents needed to follow the Congress are on the www.iwwf-europe.eu website, and that this information was sent to everyone. He has nothing to add to his report.

7.3 The President of the Barefoot Council

Ludo Vrancx is happy to see familiar faces here. He is glad his discipline can start off again in the new year and that they will be able to hold their European Championships in France. He has nothing further to add to his report.

7.4 The President of the Cableski Council

Marie-Anne Persoons has nothing to add to her report.

7.5 The President of the Council for Disabled

Dany De Bakker has nothing to add to her report.

7.6 The President of the Racing Council

Chris Rydl announces that Mike Waterman is excusing himself and regrets not to be here. His report mentioned that the UK and Belgium had some Racing. Chris Rydl believes Tenerife also had some Racing. For 2022 they hope to organise a European Championships in Belgium. She has nothing further to add to the report.

7.7 The President of the Waterski Council

Candido Moz thanks three of his Council members, who are going to step down: James Timothy, Donal Connolly and Christophe Duverger. They will remain close to us and help us to run our job. There will be 9 candidates for 9 places and Candido asks Congress to vote for all of them, because the Council needs them.

He reminds Congress that for all Titled Events the registration of the teams and the individuals needs to be done through EMS. A demonstration video explaining how the system works is being prepared. When you do the entry, you have to pay by credit card because that is the only payment system available with EMS for the Titled Events. If you have a reserve, you put him on the second part, so you don't need to pay for the reserve. But you need to *enter* him, because if they are entered late, you will have to pay a fine.

7.8 The President of the Wakeboard Boat Council

Andy Harris announces that Linda Johnston unfortunately cannot be with us because she tested positive for Covid at the last moment. Colin Hart comments that there has unfortunately not been a lot of activity due to the pandemic, and that they hope 2022 will be better.

7.9 The President of the Wakeboard Cable Council

Andy Harris says no-one from the Cable Wakeboard Council is present today, so we will have to omit any questions.

There are no further questions or remarks to the reports. The reports are accepted unanimously by show of hands.

8. Financial Report

8.1. Presentation of Accounts up to 30-11-2021

Dominique Lakens Douwes, the EC Treasurer, could not be with us today.

Sid Adriaensen will replace her. He says the good news is that we still showed a profit of 13.710 Euro in the end, which is an achievement in a Covid year.

There is 41.000 Euro in Debtors, because at the end of the financial year, 30th of November, most of our invoices are sent to the Federations for homologation etc. Meanwhile less than 10.000 Euro is still outstanding.

Stian Lilleberg (WS) has announced that there has been found a solution for the money that was blocked in a PayPal account.

The fund for software for EMS had been in provision in our books. We agreed to pay it to IWWF in 2021 now that the EMS system has been rolled out.

The reserve fund for African development, after the split up of AC and EC, consisting of 8% of what we had at that time was still in our books at 30/11/2021 but has meanwhile also been paid to the African Confederation as was agreed. They have their own accounts now and they are on their own feet.

In the Profit and Loss Account, there is the income from subscription fees for the Federations, at 71.000 Euro just like it was budgeted, which is nice, it means it is working as it should.

There are also nearly 32.000 Euro in subscription fees that we collect on behalf of the IWWF, which we then have to pay to IWWF of course with some differences because of exchange rates.

The income of the councils was less due to less activity because of Covid. Income from entry fees is a lot less, since we were asked by the some organisers to split the income from the entry fees not 50/50 but 75% for the organiser and 25% for EC Central. We agreed to this proposal (for 2021 only !) in order to be able to have events. If not, that would have been very difficult in a Covid year.

The administration costs are more or less the same every year.

Where external cost are concerned, insurance will go up, as will be discussed later with the 2021 Budget, because EC now has insurance for public liability for its officers and officials..

We had only one live meeting, which were the November meetings, and not three meetings as usual, that is why the Meeting Allowances are a lot less.

The councils always spent less than was budgeted, which is good, but that way they build up large reserves. We will come to that again with the Budget.

There were less Titled Events, so also less medals to buy.

All of this resulted in a profit of 13.710 Euro.

The professional accountant says in his report that our bookkeeping was done correctly.
No questions.

8.2. Honorary Auditor's Report

Alain Amade sent in his report and had nothing to add.

8.3. Appointment of the Professional and the Honorary Auditor

Andy Harris asks Congress if everyone agrees that Sven Van De Velde continues as the Professional Accountant and Auditor. No objections.

He then asks if there are any volunteers for the position Honorary Auditor - there are none, and he asks Alain Amade is he prepared to continue. Alain Amade confirms.

Andy Harris comments that Dominique couldn't be here today, but that she has been working very hard remotely with Sven and Sid to prepare these presentations. He also asks for a round of applause for Sid for presenting it to us.

There are no questions or remarks.

9. Admission of new members and resignation of members

9.1. Motion to oust the Portuguese Federation as a Full member

Patrice Martin announces that finally there is a good outcome to that longstanding financial problem with Portugal; they did pay, by transfer, yesterday, so now all the accounts are in green and they can remain in our Confederation, and at the World level.

Sid Adriaensen is happy to announce that he received an email this morning from the Romanian federation, and they are now legally established and have sent us all the necessary documents to obtain the membership status. So we have a new full member.

10. Elections

10.1. The Procedure

Andy Harris explains that for the first time with these elections, council members will be elected for a 4 year term. He asks if everyone knows the procedure - there are no questions.

Sid Adriaensen reads out the list of countries that are represented at this Congress, and asks the scrutineers to hand out the appropriate number of voting slips per country, one council at a time.

Andy Harris asks to fold the slips in half and hold them up in the air when the voting is done. The votes are collected one council at a time by the scrutineers.

Christiana Mamali (GRE) wonders why Greece has no votes for the Disabled Council, since they organised the Disabled E&A Championships, and they had a skier competing. Dany De Bakker (DIS) confirms that Greece should have voting powers, and Sid confirms he has three votes for Greece on his list. The voting slips are handed to the representative of the Greek federation.

Michael Mos (POL) has the same question, but Dany De Bakker (DIS) explains that they have decided that the votes from Disabled Cable Wakeboard are going to Cable Wakeboard Council, and not to the Disabled Council anymore

Racing Council: Julius Leysen (BEL) is standing down, so he is not on the list anymore as a candidate and needs to be crossed out from the list. Since that still leaves 8 persons for 7 spots on the Racing Council, at least one more name should be crossed out.

Cable Wakeboard Council: Simone Sivieri (ESP) has resigned yesterday, he must be crossed out from the list.

10.2 Council Members

Andy Harris reads out the number of votes for each council member.

Barefoot Council

Out of 25 possible votes: HEMPELMANN Svenja (GER) 25 votes, NORBERG Peter (SWE) 22 votes, SARACCO Nicola (ITA) 25 votes, TELLIER Dylan (FRA) 25 votes, TURNER Paul (GBR) 25 votes and VRANCX Ludo (BEL) 25 votes. All are elected.

Cableski Council

Out of 27 possible votes: CAINE Nicky (GBR) 27 votes, DE LEIJER Joost (NED) 24 votes, KUNERT Elena (SVK) 25 votes, LANGROCK Ulf (GER), a new candidate, 27 votes; PERSOONS Marie-Anne (BEL) 27 votes; TAL Maoz (ISR) 27 votes and TALAMO Nigel (GBR) who was co-opted, 27 votes. All are elected.

Disabled Council

Out of 30 possible votes, AIREY Paul (GBR) gets 30 votes, BRENNHA Heidi (NOR), 30 votes; DE BAKKER Dany (BEL) 30 votes; FERRER Carmen (ESP) 30 votes; FOSSE Ivar (NOR) 30 votes, ROSSI Dario (ITA) 30 votes, TURCHET Philippe (FRA) 27 votes. All are elected.

Racing Council

Out of 15 possible votes, BIRD Steven (GBR), a new candidate, gets 9 votes; COX Steve (GBR), a new candidate, gets 15 votes; HEBENSTREIT Franz (AUT) gets 15 votes, KLARENBECK Thea (NED) 12 votes, HERNAEZ Richard (FRA) 15 votes, MANCHETT Robert (GBR), a new candidate, gets 3 votes; RYDL Chris (BEL), a new candidate, gets 15 votes; VAN DEN BOSSCHE Vera (BEL) 15 votes. Commiserations to Robert Manchett, who is not elected: Andy Harris encourages him to try again next time, since not everyone gets elected the first time. All the others are elected.

Waterski Council

Out of 53 possible votes, ALEXOPOULOS Dimos (GRE) gets 45 votes, BERASZOUSKAYA Aliaksandra (BLR), a new candidate, gets 47 votes, BOTAS Ricardo (ESP) 50 votes, FROULUND Morten (DEN), who was co-oped, 51 votes, GAVIN Kelly (GBR), a new candidate, 53 votes, LILLEBERG Stian (NOR) 46 votes, MOZ Candido (ITA) 53 votes, RINTANEN Hannu (FIN) 53 votes, SCHERER Amanda (GER), a new candidate, 52 votes. All are elected.

Wakeboard Boat Council

Out of 34 possible votes, BULGAKOVA Maryia (UKR) gets 32 votes, DURANTI Stefano (ITA) 34 votes, ECA Nuno (POR) 34 votes, FILIPPOV Alexey (RUS), a new candidate, 28 votes; HART Colin (GBR) 31 votes, JOHNSTON Linda (IRL) 34 votes, SUBJOBERT Nicolas (FRA), 34 votes. All are elected.

Wakeboard Cable Council

Out of 47 possible votes, GERKAU Lucien (GER) 44 votes, HUIZINGA Sebastiaan (NED) 44 votes, KNECHTOVA Mia (CZE), 41 votes, LACO Varna (CRO) 41 votes, LOJEK Marek (POL) 42 votes, MARMONIER Carole (FRA) 42 votes, NIGHTINGALE Suzi (GBR) 44 votes, ORLANDO Manuel (ITA) 43 votes. All are re-elected.

Andy Harris asks if there were any problems with the voting, or if there are any questions – there are none. He thanks everyone and congratulates all council members once more.

The councils are requested to fill out a form with the positions in their councils and to return this to Sid after lunch.

Sid Adriaensen reads out the recipients of the plaques to the Organisers of the 2020-2021 European Titled Events and Patrice Martin hands them to the representatives.

Spain, for the Waterski Youth Championships in Sesena;

Italy, for the Waterski 35+ Championships in Ravenna;

Greece, for the Waterski Open & Disabled Championships in Agrinio;

Germany, one for the Cableski Age Categories and one for Cable Wakeboard Open.

Sid announces that for the 2022 Championships such plaques will be handed out by the Councils, and gives them to the Councils present at the Congress.

11. Other reports & presentations

11.1. Report from the IWWF

A presentation for the 75th anniversary of IWWF is shown.

Andy Harris is delighted that the IWWF President, José Antonio Perez Priego, can be with us today in this 75th year of IWWF, and asks him to address the Congress.

José Antonio thanks for having him here at the Congress. Since the last Congress we were together, in Greece two years ago, the pandemic stopped most of our activities. IWWF took this time at the EB and at the Bureau level to get working on a lot of different useful initiatives. They had a lot more meetings than usual because they used video. This has created a lot of communication amongst the different disciplines and José Antonio feels they have made a lot of progress.

Last year was the first time they were able to directly organise the Open World Championships, in Florida, which were a success. It proved that the new way of doing things is possible and successful, and they want to keep building on this model for the other Titled Events in the different disciplines. It's a big endeavour and they are very short on hands, and José thanks volunteers such as Christiana Mamali, Nicky Caine and Gill Hill, who helped organise the Congress. He thanks everyone for their support and electing him for a second term.

They are still looking for a host for the 2022 World Cableski Championships, perhaps in the USA; for the 2023 World Championships Wakeboard Boat and Waterski; the U21 World Championships; the World Racing Championships and the 2024 World Wakeboard Cable Championships.

A French organisation, called Everything Sports, does sports like BMX biking and skateboarding. They hold their premier event in Montpellier, France, every year in July, and they have Cable Wakeboarding there. Two years ago IWWF signed an agreement with them to cooperate, so they will be the sanctioning body for that event. The Cable Wakeboard Council has developed rules for two pylon cables now, and they will be the officials appointed there this year in July, if they can get the required sponsorship. There will be another two pylon cable event in Denmark at the end of this summer.

This year there are multi sports games, such as the World Games in July; the PanAmerican Championships will be held in 2023, and they will make sure that they will also keep being a part of the Mediterranean Games and the Beach Games.

IWWF is basically leaving its efforts to enter in the 2024 Olympics. Patrice and José were very encouraged by the response to their presentation, but a couple of weeks later the committee decided to go with breakdancing. So José feels it is unrealistic to spend time and money on that. They will give it another shot with a proposal for a two cable format for Cable Wakeboarding only at the Youth Olympic Games, which will be held in Senegal in 2026. But these Games have been postponed several times; the Senegalese OC has no budget, no organising committee, so Jose doesn't know if it will go ahead. Rowing, for example, doesn't even have a proper site. The IOC is interested in holding the first Olympic Games in Africa, that is more important to them than the actual country, so José thinks they will do it.

As you could see in the video, IWWF launched its 75th anniversary logo in July last year. EC is welcome to use it for its competitions until the last day of July 2022. The logos are available on the website.

Paul Airey (DIS): the Disabled Worlds will also be held in 2023 in the USA? José confirms this.

Gavin Kelly (WS) asks how the financials worked out for the new model for the Open Championships. José replies it met their expectations. The total cost for organising the Open Worlds is roughly 300.000 \$. The sanction fee is 1/3 of that, and the rest is the cost of the hotels, transport, food etc. They got a 120.000 \$ financing from the city of

Orlando, which about covered the sanction fee, and they were able to raise the rest through the entry fees and sponsorships.

The new licence fee that there is now for Barefoot and Waterski raised about 50.000 \$. This year there will be Cable Wakeboard also, and they will be rolling it out to all the disciplines. This basically finances the Congress.

In the end, they had a surplus of about 80.000 \$, which is 30.000 \$ short of the standard. In a normal year, they would have made 120.000 \$, and the organiser would have to pay the rest of the expenses.

They are going forward with this model to make the Waterski Open Worlds more affordable for the Federations, because it takes out the cost for the Congress and the hotel costs for the EB. José thinks this is fair, since the Congress is held for all the countries concerned, so its cost should not be just for the organiser.

Maoz Tal (ISR) asks about the progress made regarding getting Cableski and Cable Wakeboarding into the 2025 World Games. José replies those will be held in China, in the city of Chengdu, which has a two pylon cable system at the moment, but he has it on good authority that they consider investing in a full size cable. At the first Beach Games, they had a long talk with the president of the World Games, Mr José Perurena López, asking him to include Cableski and Cable Wakeboard in the World Games and to have a quota of 40 more athletes. They need to follow up on this, because the pandemic upset everything. If the cable is there, they will be able to hold a tournament because the World Games are open to giving them more quota.

There are no further questions.

11.2 Report from the African Confederation

Louis Polome announces that there is a new executive committee for the African Confederation. Martin Schmidt (NAM) is the President and Howard Ramsden (RSA) is Secretary General. They produced a short report and asked Louis to say a few words. One is that the African Confederation is still extremely honoured to work very closely with the European Confederation. We have established a very nice working relationship, especially when it comes to officials and competitions. They definitely want to keep that in place, it works well and they are very proud about that. The second thing is obviously, like with all the rest of the world, that we are coming out of the pandemic. In Southern Africa the number of competitions is picking up. Louis is glad to see some bright future there, especially at the base level, at non-homologated competitions. Also, the northern part of Africa is starting to raise the flag for the African continent. There are two or three very good skiers from Morocco; Egypt has had an extremely successful national Wakeboard Championship and they are planning to send people to the World Championships. So there is a bit of life and Louis is quite optimistic that they will keep moving the sport forward.

He thanks once more for the invitation and for allowing him to say a few words.

Andy Harris asks to give Louis a round of applause because he is the new IWWF Secretary General. Louis comments that this is a big honour, and that he has very big shoes to fill, namely Gill's ! She is always standing by for a phone call or a Zoom and she is being extremely helpful for making the transition. He is looking forward to the job, but it's a very steep learning curve for him, as he mainly comes from a Tournament (Waterski) background and now needs to start making personal contact with all the other disciplines. He will have another year of work with his company, but next year he will retire and have more time to travel and meet everybody.

There are no questions.

12. Nominations by the Divisional Councils (see www.iwwf-europe.eu Congress 2022)

Sid Adriaensen reads out the lists given to him by the Councils.

Andy Harris congratulates the new presidents, the new members of the Councils and of the Admincom. He announces that there will be a short Admincom meeting after this Congress, and invites all members of the Admincom to join them.

13. List of meetings (see www.iwwf-europe.eu under Congress 2022)

Sid Adriaensen reads out the list of meetings.

There are no questions.

14. List of Obligations (as circulated - see www.iwwf-europe.eu under Congress 2022)

Sid Adriaensen comments that there are no big changes. One paragraph about safety and rescue was added, saying *“The Organiser is responsible for the athletes and public safety on the official competition site. In accordance with the specific sport’s rules and the local authorities and laws, a special safety and rescue staff during all the Event official program (training and competition) may be required.”*

The entry fees for the E&A Titled Events were reviewed. They are still called E&A, because when we organise the European Championships, they are also the African Championships.

There was no raise for Barefoot; for Cableski, a small raise of 10 euro; Waterski (Tournament) raised also, Disabled follows Waterski Under-21, etc.

Cable Wakeboard are asking 20 euro more to cover for the IWWF License. They made a special arrangement with Peter Frei, the IWWF Treasurer, that they would contribute to the IWWF through adding 20 euro to their entry fee for both World and Confederation Titled Events. That is the only way they could raise this money like the other disciplines do, since the others go through a license, and they have EMS (except for Racing). Cable Wakeboard will go through EMS only in 2023; then they won’t need those 20 euro anymore. So this 20 euro only applies for 2022.

Candido Moz (WS) comments that the entry procedure to the Titled Events will be completely different. It will be in the LAO and the Bye-Laws as soon as they finalise all the procedures with Peter Frei (EMS). He realises it will be a lot of trouble in the first year, but we need to do our best to learn to work with EMS.

There are no further questions.

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

Sid Adriaensen confirms there were none.

16. Calendar of Titled Events (see EMS)

Andy Harris specifies that the official calendar is on EMS.

Patrice Martin checks the dates on the provisional calendar with the Councils and asks if there are any remarks.

Marie-Anne Persoons (Cableski) comments that both the Netherlands and Poland have made a bid for the 2022 Age Categories and that this will be discussed at their Council meeting tomorrow.

Patrice Martin explains Admincom feels that the bid from Belgium, Beringen, for Racing was not acceptable in this form, and Admincom will go back to the Council about this. Chris Rydl (RAC) explains that there are now restrictions for racing on the canals, it can only be done in the weekend. And you cannot do two races in one month on the canal, so they will have to find a second venue.

Candido Moz (Waterski) says that they found out yesterday that the LAO for the E&A Open Championships in Ukraine is not signed yet. He will contact the Federation's president about this, and also about the concern that some federations have with the current situation in Ukraine. He could propose to hold the Championships in two years' time. So they are looking for a plan B !

José Antonio (IWWF) comments that the FISU Championships have not been held since 2016 for lack of a host. Working with FISU is hard, because the host country has to go to the universities' sports organisation in their country, which then contacts FISU. So we are in fact spectators, we provide the technical aspects but very little else. Also, Belarus is not in the best situation right now; so there has been concern. José has been talking to the organisers, the Belarussian Federation, and they are not confident at the moment that they will be able to go ahead with the Championships. So we are looking for a plan B, and speaking with other Federations, both in the PanAmerican Region: Columbia and Mexico. If this goes through, we would move the championships to November. Meanwhile IWWF has lent Belarus the money to pay the sanction fee. The next FISU Championships are planned for 2024 in Ukraine, so it's complicated. They will ask FISU not to cancel the Championships in Belarus, but to postpone them to four years from now.

Maria Bulgakova (UKR) says she is also the technical chairman for Wakeboard in FISU since last year, and they are going to have a meeting on the 11th with the organisers from Belarus. She has just been talking to the president of the Belarus' Waterski Federation, and he actually said that they want to host it, they don't want to postpone, but if they have to, they will definitely step down. José Antonio asks Maria to coordinate with Phil Chase about the two other possible venues, so that this can be discussed at the meeting on Friday.

Nuno Eca (Wakeboard Boat) comments that the Wakeboard Boat World Championships were supposed to happen in 2021, in Italy, but had to be postponed due to Covid, so they will be held in 2022. They are still looking for an organiser for the 2023 World Championships.

Patrice adds that Cableski is also looking for an organiser for their 2022 World Championships.

17. Future EC Congresses

Andy Harris announces that two Congress venues are listed on the Calendar.

18.1. February 04th 2023

Patrice Martin explains that there was a candidacy from Turkey, for Istanbul. But they now have a new president and a new administration, and they couldn't come up with a presentation for the Congress in 2023. The Netherlands have made a bid for 2025, but they would be willing to receive the Congress in 2023 if there would no other bids. Patrice invites any Federation that would be interested to contact him.

Nuno Eca (POR) has been in contact with the president of his Federation concerning the problems with some payments. He will propose to him to host the 2023 Congress.

18.2. February 3rd 2024, Paris, France

Patrice Martin says 2024 is a big year in France and it would be a good idea to get all our Federations in France just before the Olympics, and show that there is a lot of activity in our sport, even though the idea for the sport is to grow from inside and not to push to get into the Olympics.

18.3. February 1th 2025, the Netherlands

An intention to bid was received from the Dutch Federation.

There are no other bids at the moment.

18. The EC budget 2022 (01/12/2021 – 30/11/2022)

Sid Adriaensen comments that the income from the Subscription fees two years ago was 71.000 Euro, and the next year we budgeted for 71.000 Euro, and we got exactly that, which is marvellous. It might be a bit more this year because Romania announced today that they will join as a full member.

The IWWF Subscription income was 32.000 Euro, it stays the same.

Due to Covid, there was of course less activity for the Councils last year, so they had less income and there was also the exceptional 25/75 split with the organisers that was mentioned before. For this year's budget, we went back to what we expect the Councils to make in a normal year with the 50/50 split of the entry fees.

There is nothing in the budget for Disabled, because their fees go into the Waterski budget, since their competitions are held together.

The Wakeboard Boat Council has a sponsorship for this year of about 15.000 Euro.

Expenditures: Administration remains about the same, we budgeted a bit higher to compensate inflation. Insurance is an importance one: we used to have one insurance for the personal accidents for officials and officers, but now we also have a public liability insurance which costs 12.140 Euro per year.

For IWWF, we have 32.000 Euro coming in and going out.

Internal costs, Meeting Allowances: we had only one physical meeting last year, which was the November meeting in Paris. This year we have the Congress again, and the spring and the November meetings. So we go back to the usual 40.000 Euro in the budget.

Admincom and general expenses should be split up. The Admincom cost will be about 10.000 Euro, the other 10.000 Euro will be for legal expenditures. With the new articles of association, we have to work with the notary, and we also had to take some advice from a lawyer.

The councils never spend everything, they have accrued income from over the last years.

Medals will be needed again for all the Titled Events, especially Racing has a lot of medals.

The result of the budget is no profit and no loss; this is artificial of course, but that is how we always do it.

There are no questions or remarks.

Appeals Committee

Patrice Martin explains the Appeals Committee consists of 5 people to take a decision if needed. In the last 25 years, we had one case, so it's not a lot of work. What we would like to have, is a pool of 10 to 15 members from different Federations, from which to choose for this Appeals Committee, so that we can choose members for each case. For the last case we had, we had to look for the members, because it had been the same people for the last 15 years, and some were not even a member of their Federation anymore ! We asked the Federations to propose members for this committee, but we received no replies. So Patrice

once more addresses the Federations here present to propose candidates who are interested in legal matters and who know how the Federation works and about officials.

Dimos Alexopoulos (GRE) asks if Patrice needs people to join the Appeals Committee, or if he needs people to prepare the rules that will apply? Patrice replies that Admincom is still discussing these rules, and he hopes to have a new set of rules for the Appeals Committee by the Admincom meeting in June. He explains that there is a different view, for example, of what an Appeals Committee should do, in the Northern countries or the Southern countries, because the legal context is not the same. So we need to be sure about what we are going to do as a European Confederation and a Dutch company.

19. Distribution of Certificates and Awards

19.1. By the divisional councils

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

Ludo Vrancx (Barefoot) announces that the Barefoot athletes of the year 2021 are Jacky Kirsch (GER) and Kenneth Eissler (GER).

Marie-Anne Persoons (Cableski) announces that the Female Cableski athlete of the year 2021 is Alena Parkhomenka (BLR), a young Waterski and Cable skier. The Male athlete of the year is Ilya Labcovich (BLR). There is also a World and EC Women Tricks record for Hanna Straltsova (BLR); 6080 points that may not sound much, but it's only one pass, so it's pretty good. There is a World and EC Woman Jump record of 51.6 meters for Iryna Tourets (BLR) and a World and EC record for Alexander Vasco (SVK) in Men Jump of 70.3 meters from a 1.65 meter ramp instead of from a 1.80 meter ramp.

Dany Debakker (Waterskiing for the Disabled) announces that the Disabled athletes of the year 2021 are Delphine Le Sausse (FRA) and Christophe Fasel (SUI), who is here in the room today. Furthermore, Delphine Le Sausse (FRA) broke the Tricks record twice this year, and also set a World record. Christophe Fasel (SUI) broke the Region Europe Trick record twice in his category. Finally, Duncan White (GBR) also set a new Region Europe Tricks Record in his category.

Winners of the Eurotour 2021 are Delphine Le Sausse (FRA) for slalom, Christophe Fasel (SUI) for Tricks and Claire Ellis (GBR) for Jump and Overall.

Richard Hernaez (Racing) says there are no certificates for his discipline for 2021.

Candido Moz (Waterski) says his discipline has had the luck to have been able to run all events last year. Giannina Bonneman (GER) set a Region Europe Women Tricks record of 10180 points. Manon Costard (FRA) set a Women Region Europe slalom record. Candido feels the following athlete needs a special mention. He is one of those skiers that every country wants to have for how he is and for his abilities. He broke the overall record twice last year, and, after Patrice Martin, was the first male able to set the record at the World Championships, which was more than 20 years ago. It is Joel Poland (GBR). The female athlete of the year 2021 for Waterski is Giannina Bonneman (GER).

Nuno Eca (Wakeboard Boat) says there are no certificates for his discipline for 2021, since they had no European Championships.

The Cable Wakeboard athletes of the year 2021 are Telma Cester (ESP) and Max Milde (GER). Since no-one from the council is present, the certificates are not handed out at this point.

19.2. Announcement of the Athlete of the year awards

Patrice Martin explains that it was a difficult duty to choose the athlete of the year. He announces that the Female Athlete of the Year 2021 award goes to Giannina Bonneman (GER). And it will probably be no surprise that the Male Athlete of the Year 2021 award goes to Joel Poland (GBR).

19.3. Honorary members

Patrice Martin says that the Admincom would like to present Honorary Membership within the EC Confederation to two persons who worked hard in their council and/or with the Admincom and the Bureau. He would like to call on Alain Amade to say a word about them.

Alain Amade announces that the first proposal from Admincom is for **Mike Waterman**. He guesses that everyone knows him !

Mike Waterman first made his appearance in the European Confederation back in 1999 when he was elected to sit as a member of the European Racing Council

He was elected as Chair of the European Racing Council at the Congress held in Qatar in January 2006. A position he has held ever since, until his retirement during 2021.

So, a total of 22 years on the Europe Racing Council, 16 years of which as Chair of the Council. This says a huge amount about his love for the sport of waterskiing and especially the Racing division.

His European position took him to the World Racing Council where again he was an industrious member. Equally he was a member of the Europe Admincom – which he says gave him a real education into the grand workings of the IWWF as a whole.

Mike is a highly competent worker and I dread to think of the hours he has spent thinking about ski racing, and preparing the numerous documents, rule books, not to mention insurance issues about which ski racing has much to consider. His previous life as an insurance broker was a very necessary skill.

In fact, his time goes back much further if one considers his history in British Waterski Racing - and he was a member of the Racing Committee for 30 years. He was a very good racing commentator too.

Unfortunately, the last few years have brought a number of health issues to the fore, and he now finds travel almost impossible, which is the reason for his retirement from the European scene.

I know you will all join me in wishing him a happy retirement and much better health.

Alain Amade asks everyone to stand up and give Mike a round of applause.

Everyone knows the second person as well: it is **Depy Papadimitrou**.

Depy, or by her full name, Despina was first elected to the EAME Admincom in 1994 at the Venice Congress and quickly settled into her role as an elected Admincom member.

This is a lady with connections and with Athens due to host the Summer Olympics in 2004, it was found that there was a chance for the organisers to select one sport of their choice to be included. During the years leading up to 2004, Depy was tireless in her efforts to ensure that waterskiing would be this sport. Hopes were very high, but as we all know, this proved to be an impossible chance, and right at the last moment our hopes were dashed.

Depy was appointed Vice President of the European Confederation in 1996 a position which she held until 2016 when she took over as President following my resignation. During her time as President Depy could be relied upon to resolve any difficult issues that arose, her tact and diplomacy were second to none, and we had a steady hand at the helm.

Her Presidency continued through to January 2020 when Patrice Martin was elected European President. And Depy was there to help and advise Patrice in his new role.

Depy is the most generous woman, and with her husband Nico at her side, had hosted the Admincom spring meetings every other year at their home on the lovely island of Schinoussa in Greece. These were fabulous times when the Admincom members could meet for a little holiday alongside their working meetings. All of those lucky enough to go there will never forget the good times that were had. Sadly, Nico passed away in 2015 and those who got to know him still miss his company.

For her years of work for Europe and the IWWF we are delighted to make Depy Papadimitriou an Honorary Member of the European Confederation.

Alain Amade asks everyone to stand up once more and give Depy a round of applause.

Patrice Martin thanks Alain for those nice words about our friends who helped us for a very, very long time. We know they will still be around to give us good ideas if we need anything.

20. A.O.B.

Andy Harris says no notifications were received, and asks if there is any other business.

Michael Rauchenwald (AUT) mentions that there was a email a few days ago for creating a committee for Wakesurfing, is there any news about that ? Maria Bulgakova (UKR), the Chairperson of the Wakesurfing Committee, says that this figures under Agenda number 24.3, "composition of other committees". But she can announce already that they are still looking for one more candidate, so they would be happy to have a candidate from Austria. Their first goal will be to run the Cup in the next two to three years, but they have a lot more work than that.

21. Statutes changes (as circulated - see www.iwwf-europe.eu under Congress 2022)

Sid Adriaensen explains that we have been a company, registered in the Netherlands, for many years now. But last year there were some changes to the Dutch law, and we had to change our Statutes to remain compliant. We asked a notary in Amsterdam to take care of that. She did help us with that, and the outcome is that nothing really did change. There will be no change in the way we will function, there will just be some changes in names.

The new Statutes will now be called "Articles of Association" instead of "Statutes".

The Bureau will now be called "the Board", and its three members will be the directors of the company. Before, all Admincom members were directors and that made things complicated sometimes, like for opening a bank account, when all signatures would be needed. All former directors will have to sign an official resignation from the Board, and this has to be noted in the Congress Minutes. This is merely a logistic matter, it doesn't change the way we operate.

The elected Admincom members will now be called "the Supervisory Board". The Board works under supervision of the Supervisory Board. The Board and Supervisory Board together are called the DirCom, the Direction Committee.

The Admincom will be composed of the Board, the Supervisory Board and the representatives to the Admincom, so this remains the same persons.

We think the Appeals Committee will consist of one Admincom member and four other persons from a pool of volunteers that was mentioned before. The Admincom member would be Stefano Duranti, who is a lawyer himself, and he will make sure everything is according to the correct procedures. The Wakesurfing Committee will consists of a Chairperson, which is Maria Bulgakova (UKR), and four members that will have to be appointed in consultation with her.

So really nothing changes, but it was a very long work to change into the Articles of Association with the notary.

Sid did send these Articles of Association to all Federations, Council members and Honorary Members asking for any comments or remarks to be sent in before the 18th of January, to give him the opportunity to present them to the notary if needed. There were no remarks, so Sid presumes that everything was ok. Congress has to vote on these Articles of Association. The original text is in Dutch, since we have to deposit it in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. The English translation has been made by the notary to make sure there are no discrepancies. The vote should be by a 2/3 majority.

Andy Harris asks for a raise of hands.

No-one opposes these changes, and they are approved unanimously by Congress.

This means that both the Dutch and the English version of the new Articles of Association have been approved by Congress.

Our old Statutes mentioned : *and come into effect immediately after the Congress.*

However under Dutch law they can only come into effect once the notary has registered the new Articles at the “Kamer van Koophandel” (Commercial Register) and this has been confirmed to the member Federations.

We expect that this will be done within a couple of weeks.

22. Bye-Law changes (as circulated - see www.iwwf-europe.eu under Congress 2022)

Sid Adriaensen explains that the only change was that everything that has to do with the law, was put under the Articles of Association, and everything that has to do with the sport, was put into the Bye-Laws. The Bye-Laws were also published on the Congress website so that everyone could have a look at them.

However, the chapters 5, 6 and 7, Discipline, Appeal and Arbitration are still under revision and those articles are very controversial. The Admincom has to work that out in June.

Gill Hill (GBR) wants to know that if we do not vote on chapters 5, 6 and 7, does this mean we will have none of those things concerned? Or do we stick with the old version for the moment?

Patrice Martin confirms that we will stick with the old version of these chapters for the moment, until we find an agreement for the wording of those articles. Sid adds that any change to the Bye-Laws comes into effect once the Admincom has sent it to all Federations, so it doesn't need the approval of the Congress. But at the next Congress, we have to have them ratified in order that we didn't do stupid things.

Dimos Alexopoulos (GRE) comments that so if something happens during the next 12 months - which he doesn't hope - the issue will be dealt with according to the existing articles 5, 6 and 7? Patrice repeats that whenever Admincom will send out a new rule, it will be under the new rule. There is no approval from Congress needed at that point. It needs to be ratified by the next Congress. It has always been done that way.

No-one opposes the Bye-Laws as they are, and they are approved by Congress.

23. New composition when the new Articles of Association will apply

Sid Adriaensen comments that after Depy resigned, Admincom choose to co-opt Ivar Fosse (NOR), with approval of his national Federation. (*accepted by acclamation*)

23.1. Composition of the Board

The new Board will now consist of the President, the Secretary-General and the Treasurer.

They remain all three in function, being ...

the President = Patrice Martin

the Secretary-General = Sid Adriaensen

the Treasurer = Dominique Lakens Douwes

All other present Board member resign :

the formerly elected Admincom members :

= Andy Harris

= Morten Froulund

= Stefano Duranti

= Ivar Fosse (**)

** : Depy Papadimitriou had already resigned and was replaced by Ivar Fosse, who was duly co-opted by the Admincom with the approval of his national Federation (NOR). The Congress did already ratify this co-optation.

The former Council representatives to the Admincom resign also from the Board

= Ludo Vrancx for the Barefoot Council

= Marie-Anne Persoons for the Cableski Council

= Dany De Bakker for the Disabled Council

= Michael Waterman for the Racing Council

= Candido Moz for the Waterski Council

= Nuno d'Eca for the Wakeboard Boat Council

= Varna Laco for the Wakeboard Cable Council

The resignation of present Board members will be handled by the notary.

23.2. The Supervisory Board

The formerly elected Admincom members now become the Supervisory Board.

= Andy Harris

= Morten Froulund

= Stefano Duranti

= Ivar Fosse

The new composition of the Board and of the Supervisory Board becomes effective as per the execution of the deed Amendment of the Articles of Association.

24. New composition with immediate effect

24.1. Composition of the Admincom

No changes to the former situation.

The Admincom is composed of the Board + the Supervisory Board + the Council representatives.

The Board :

= Patrice Martin

= Sid Adriaensen

= Dominique Lakens Douwes

The Supervisory Board :

= Andy Harris

= Morten Froulund

= Stefano Duranti

= Ivar Fosse

The new Council representatives as nominated today :
= Ludo Vrancx for the Barefoot Council
= Marie-Anne Persoons for the Cableski Council
= Dany De Bakker for the Disabled Council
= Richard Hernaez for the Racing Council
= Gavin Kelly for the Waterski Council
= Nuno d'Eca for the Wakeboard Boat Council
= Varna Laco for the Wakeboard Cable Council

24.2. Composition of the Financial Committee

The Financial Committee is composed of the professional and the honorary auditor.
= Sven Van De Velde, our professional accountant
= Alain Amade, the honorary auditor

24.3. Composition of other Committees

The Medical Commission is Dr Lorenzo Benassa.

The Appeals Committee consists of one Admincom member plus four persons from a pool of volunteers, selected by the Board depending on the case ad hoc.

The Admincom member is Stefano Duranti.

The Wakesurfing Committee consists of a chairperson plus four members.

The chairperson is Maria Bulgakova.

The four members will get appointed by the Board in consultation with the chairperson.

25. Closing of the Congress

Patrice Martin thanks everyone for the hard work they have been doing all day and jokingly excuses for his "very bad" English and that he will look for a Chairperson from Lichtenstein next time!

He thanks Andy and Sid for helping to run the Congress and hopes to see us again on the lakes or the cables, and for sure at the 2023 Congress.

Sidney Adriaensen
Secretary-General

Patrice Martin
President