

**Minutes of the annual Congress of the  
IWWF Confederation E&A**  
held at the 'Klima Hotel', Milano, Italia  
on Saturday 25 January 2014  
commencing at 09.00 hrs

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

Alain Amade welcomes everyone and invites M. Dell'Olio, the President of the organising Italian Waterski and Wakeboard Federation, to take the stand. M. Dell'Olio welcomes everyone to the Congress and to Milan on behalf of the Italian Waterski and Wakeboard Federation. He is very pleased to see so many delegates as well as members of the technical committees and friends. He hopes we enjoyed the Milan city tour last night and explains that Milan will host the 2015 World Expo and the World Tournament Championships at the Idroscalo, one of the favourite sites for water competitions. He takes this opportunity to thank the Lombardy Region, the Province and the City of Milan for their support in the organization of past and future world championships as well as this congress. He also thanks the International Waterski and Wakeboard Federation for the strong cooperation during these years, and gives a special thanks to Alain Amade and Sid Adriaensen, for their assistance in the congress organization. He wishes us all a great Congress, and thanks everyone for their attention.

Alain Amade announces that the Sports Council' representative is sick and is not coming.

He goes on to say that last year, unfortunately we lost some people: John Wilson (GBR), an international homologator, who was very well known in every competition in the world; Hans Otte (GER), a honorary member who did a great job promoting Cable Wakeboard all over the world; Walter Crespi (ITA), an international racing judge & council member; "Banana" George Blair (USA), who was not from our Region, but who was very well known; Sarah Teelow, the reigning world Racing champion F2 ladies, who died in sad conditions; and finally Nikos Papadimitriou, who was not a member of our organisation, but whose wife Depy is very well known to us, died last week. Alain Amade asks the Congress to stand up for a minute's silence in memory of all those people.

Alain Amade then announces that this Congress hosts some special and famous guests: Kuno Ritschard, the IWWF President, and Gill Hill, the IWWF Secretary General; Uwe Goldstein, the Chairman of the IWWF Cableway Development Committee; Bill Yeargin (USA), the CEO of Correct Craft and Silvio Falcioni (ITA), the former President of the Italian Federation and ex Vice President IWWF, who will join us tonight at the gala dinner, and finally Andréa Landau, the IWWF secretary. There are also some new Federation representatives: John Prunty, President of the Irish Federation, Cagri Turkkorur, the Head of International Relations and the contact person for Waterski in the Turkish Underwater Sports Federation, and Jerome Bauser, President of RSA waterski and wakeboard federation. Alain Amade explains that the Turkish Underwater Sport Federation is a large and good family as well.

Alain Amade also welcomes the Honorary Members present: Andy Harris and Kuno Ritschard, Franz Kuhn and Aubrey Sheena, who are the three past presidents, representing more than 30 years of life of our Region. He thanks them for all their work.

Apologies were received from Louis Polome (RSA) who had very bad accident. He is replaced by Jerome Bauser, the new president of the RSA Waterski Federation. Hugo Engelen (BEL), Alain Nieles (BE), Paul Jensch (NED), Paul Goossens (BE) and Aleco Keusseoglou (MON) also presented apologies.

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

Sid Adriaensen reads out the countries represented at this Congress.

*List of Delegates : see E&A website under Congress 2014*

## **3. Appointment of Congress Chairperson**

Alain Amade says that the Admincom proposes Andy Harris.

*Accepted by acclamation.*

Andy Harris thanks for the confidence shown and welcomes everyone. He is pleased to see old friends, and says it's even nicer to see some new friends. He goes on to explain the Congress rules.

## **4. Appointment of Scrutineers**

Andy Harris announces that Admincom proposes to appoint the Honorary Members Aubrey Sheena (GBR) and Franz Kuhn (AUT) as scrutineers, to be helped by two persons from the Italian Federation.

*Accepted by acclamation.*

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

Andy Harris asks if there were any remarks. There are none and he declares the Congress properly convened.

## **6. Approval of Minutes of 2013 Annual Congress (Unteraegeri, Switzerland)**

*There are no remarks and the 2013 Congress Minutes are accepted unanimously.*

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

*None.*

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

### **8.1. The President**

Alain Amade has no remarks and there are no questions.

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

Sid Adriaensen explains that all documents regarding the Congress were put on the E&A website in time, and that at least three emails were sent out telling everyone concerned where to find the documents. So no more hard copies are printed out.

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

Rob Molenkamp welcomes any solutions for the problems in his division.

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

Marie-Anne Persoons has no remarks and there are no questions.

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

Philippe Turchet explains that the European Championships for Disabled will not be held in Spain, and asks if another federation would consider holding these championships in 2014, in combination with any Tournament edition.

*(Note : meanwhile the Italian Federation agreed to hold these Championships).*

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

Mike Waterman has no remarks and there are no questions.

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

Candido Moz jokingly excuses for his short haircut, which is the result of losing a bet to his son. He adds to his report that Tournament will use on-line skier registration from 2015 on for all skiers in the ranking list, this to avoid problems with name spelling or wrong birth dates that get skiers into wrong categories. Bob Corson will take care of this. The codes should ideally be the same as the ones the Federations use.

Last year, 80% of competitions held were not according to the rulebook. Candido Moz asks all Federation to tell their officials that it is not acceptable that competitions are not held according to the rules. The software (slalom end course check) provided by Donal Connolly (IRL) only requires a sensor on the boat and a small video capture card for the computer.

The Tournament seminar is planned in Kiev. Candido Moz asks Marya Bulgakova (BLR) to comment on the rumours about the situation there. She explains that the news is exaggerated by the media. They want sensational shots, and she says not to worry. The protests are in the centre of Kiev, on the main streets, and you can see them if you want to, but you don't have to.

Candido Moz says Tournament is still looking for a place to hold the 2015 seminar and asks to contact Hannu Rintanen or the newly elected person in charge of this.

He goes on to say that it is a big problem for the organisers that there are more entries on the intention to enter form than people that actually show up. Sometimes 200 are entered and only 100 appear, creating problems and costs regarding catering, safety, reservation of the site etc. He requests to please respect the intention to enter and to not let it vary too much with the real number of skiers.

Alain Amade confirms this is a huge financial problem for the organiser, and asks to make sure the people entered are actually going, as this is best for the organisers to plan the competition, and it is also good for the Federation because depending on the real entries the competition could have one day less and therefore less expenses.

Candido Moz announces that there was another thing that he did not put in his report because he wanted to say it in person, because it concerns a good friend. He calls Gill Hill to the stand.

Gill Hill thanks everyone, saying it has been an honour to be part of the TC for many years, and there has also been a lot fun. She wishes the new Council good luck.

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

Florian Butty has no remarks and there are no questions.

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

Varna Laco comments that her report is not accessible on the website.

## **9. Financial Report**

### **9.1. Presentation of Accounts up to 30.11.2013**

Dominique Lakens Douwes says the E&A bookkeeper, Sven van de Velde, did a good job preparing the accounts. There is less loss in 2013, and some money is still expected from the ARISF fund, so possibly there will be no loss at all. As is the case every year, there still are a lot of debtors because lots of invoices are sent out in November, and many of them have been paid meanwhile.

The costs for Admincom are a lot higher than budgeted. It seems "Admincom" is a misleading name, as there are other general costs that are also booked under it. There was a higher cost for meeting rooms, the 2013 Congress itself was also more expensive, etc.

Des Burke-Kennedy (IRL): in the Tournament Council report there was mentioned that the Tournament Council has right to a software, where is this in the accounts?

Dominique Lakens Douwes: this software was not paid for yet, so it does not appear in the accounts.

Alain Amade comments that it's bad publicity to have a "0 €" budget for Environment. We do spend 3.000 € every year on environment, with our contribution to this end to IWWF. So we propose to change the wording in the budget to make this clear.

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

Andy Harris thanks Dominique Lakens Douwes and her team for taking care of the money. He announces that there was no report from the Honorary Auditor. Alan Goggin (GBR) was meant to make it, but he had problems getting the info due to internet problems. Andy Harris explains that the Honorary Auditor is someone we appoint from within our group, to take a step back, and take a view of our situation.

### **9.3 Appointment of Honorary Auditor**

The Admincom proposal is to ask one of our Honorary Members, Franz Kuhn. Franz Kuhn accepts if Aubrey Sheena will assist him.

*The accounts of December 2012 up to November 2013 are adopted unanimously by show of cards.*

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

Alain Amade announces that there are no new members and no resignations.

## **11. Elections**

### **11.1. Council members**

Andy Harris explains that every even year is an election year and that all council members are elected for a 2 year period.

Sid Adriaensen explains the voting procedure: voting slips will be distributed to the Federations who have the right of vote for a certain discipline. One may strike the name of a candidate one does not wish to support. The candidates need at least 50% of the votes to get elected.

Andy Harris thanks the members of the councils that are stepping down for all the work they did :

Barefoot: Christian Antos (AUT), Cableski: Jurgen Pitz (GER), Racing: Josep ESCODA (ESP), Tournament: Gillian Hill (GBR), Wakeboard Boat: Remi Breivnik (NOR) and Claes Scheffer (SWE), Cable Wakeboard: Natasha Kiel (DEN) and Nenad Tanaskovic (SER).

*(applause).*

### **Barefoot**

Christian Antos (AUT) has withdrawn his candidature, so he is not eligible for election. Meanwhile we have received the support of the federation for Evert Aartsen (FIN) and Svenja Hempelmann (GER), so now all candidates have the support of their federation. The first voting round is annulled because it was not performed correctly, and a second round is performed.

Out of total of 31 votes, there are 31 votes for Aartsen Evert (FIN), 30 for Harris Andy (GBR), 31 for Hempelmann Svenja (GER), 28 for Molenkamp Rob (NED), 31 for Saracco Nicola (ITA) and 31 for Turner Paul (GBR) - all are elected.

### **Cableski**

All candidates are elected with the maximum of 33 votes out of 33.

Caine Nicky (GBR), De Leyer Joost (NED), Graw Martin (GER) (new candidate), Kunert Elena (SVK), Mos Michal (POL), Persoons Marie-Anne (BEL) and Tal Maoz (ISR).

### **Disabled**

With of a maximum of 28 votes, there are 27 votes for Airey Paul (GBR), 27 for De Bakker Dany (BEL), 24 for Ferrer Carmen (ESP), 27 for Fosse Ivar (NOR), 27 for Goossens Paul (BEL), 27 for Rossi Dario (ITA) and 27 for Turchet Philippe (FRA).

### **Racing**

All candidates are elected with the maximum of 20 votes out of 20.

Garcia Jonas (ESP) (new candidate), Hebenstreit Franz (AUT), Klarenbeek Thea (NED), Leysen Jules (BEL), Hernaez Richard (FRA), Van Den Bossche Vera (BEL) and Waterman Mike (GBR).

### **Tournament**

At least one person had to be struck out, because there were eight persons for seven positions. Out of a possible 67 votes, 2 were void, so the maximum number of votes is 65.

There are 62 votes for Alexopoulos Dimos (GRE), 46 for Lilleberg Stian (NOR), 65 for Moz Candido (ITA), 61 for Potes Inessa (BLR) (who was co-opted in 2013), 59 for Raymond Marc (FRA), 64 for Rintanen Hannu (FIN), 64 for Talamo Nigel (GBR) (a new candidate), who are all elected.

Finally, Connolly Donal (IRL), a new candidate, is not elected with 26 votes.

### **Wakeboard Boat**

Out of 44 possible votes, there are 41 for Bulgakova Maryia (UKR), 42 for Butty Florian (SUI), 44 for Eca Nuno (POR), 41 for Hart Colin (GBR) and 39 for Valerio Simona (ITA). All are elected.

### **Wakeboard Cable**

Out of 48 possible votes, there are 48 for Armborst Aaron (GER), 44 for Gerkau Lucien (GER), 48 for Koester Alex (GBR), 48 for Laco Varna (CRO), 48 for Marmonier Carole (FRA), 48 for Malu Sergio (ITA) (a new candidate) and 48 for Sivieri Simone (ESP) (a new candidate). All are elected.

Andy Harris presents his commiserations to those that were not elected, and encourages them to please try again. Also, many councils do not have not their full complement, so they need more candidates. He thanks all for their continued help and looks forward to another two years of hard work, and reminds all councils to think about succession planning.

Alain Amade congratulates all new members and reminds us these people work hard to make our sport better. It's a big task for all seven members, so a very good atmosphere is important, as we are all volunteers. He looks forward to joining all the future meetings.

Sid Adriaensen asks the councils to let him know after lunch break who will be assigned to the different posts and what the council meeting and competition dates are.

## 12. Other reports

### 12.1. The Development Commission

Jean-Michel Cau explains that the Development Committee provides all necessary information on the IWWF and E&A website. There everyone can learn who they are, what they do, what they provide. They are waiting for a conformation for their 2014 seminar, which will normally be held in the north of Italy mid-May.

*No questions.*

### 12.2. Other presentations

#### Multisport Games

Alain Amade explains that waterski is getting more and more involved in the Multisport Games, both on World and E&A level. The Mediterranean Games were held in Mersin last year. Alain thanks the Turkish Federation for their help, as the organising committee did a tremendous work. They made a anti-backwash system in the port and they constructed a wonderful jury tower, with many rooms for jury and VIPs, and with air conditioning: it was very professionally done. He also thanks Jean-Michel Cau for being the technical advisor for IWWF. This was the first time any waterski competition was held in Mersin, so Jean-Michel had to start from zero, and he did so excellently. Alain also thanks the technical crew that spent hours in the water, putting everything into place. It was a shame not to have all the disciplines at these games, as a minimum of 8 countries in required for a discipline to be added. This posed no problem for tournament slalom, but it did for tricks and wakeboard boat. Some countries worked hard to have enough candidates, but the final selection is made by each NOC, and they did not select all those candidates, even if a Federation offered to pay for the travel expenses etc. Alain talked a lot with M. Amar ADDADI, president of the Mediterranean Games organisation.

A new problem poses itself: the Mediterranean Games organisation also wants to organise Mediterranean Beach Games, and they will be held for the first time in 2015 in Pescara, Italy. Waterski and Wakeboard will take part. But we do not know if riders will be sent there by their NOC. With so many games going on, the NOC cannot send someone to every game, and they will send only those who are likely to win, which is against the spirit of the game. The situation will become more complicated with the world beach games which also could be in 2015. Already many towns are ready to organise this event !

The European Games 2015 will be in Baku, Azerbedjan. We have made an application to be in it, but they want to start with 20 sports only. No additions will be possible, so we are not in it. But in the future these new Games will mean more expenses still for the Federations and the competitors.

Colin Hart (GBR) thinks communication is a key element in sports. There were not enough riders to attend for Wakeboard at the Mediterranean Games, and this is the first explanation we had about the reason for this ! He thinks we need to be told earlier on, so we can get people to attend, even on their own funding. Alain Amade replies that he contacted the federations about this, and they said they proposed more riders to their NOC, but then the NOC only sent two. So the lesson to be learned is that we must show the NOC that we exist, and if possible, we should get on the board of the NOC. Moaz Tal (ISR) and Patrice Martin (FRA) are on the board of their country's NOC, and that is very important. We are a top non-Olympic sport, each country must work hard to be in contact with and/or be a part of their NOC.

Varna Laco (CRO) comments that in this particular case, Croatia, which is only a small Federation, did all it could. She thinks it's the same problem with all multisports games.

Dimos Alexopoulos (GRE) explains that in Mersin, in 2013, a number of countries entered many more skiers and riders for wakeboard and tricks than the requirement, and that many Federations proposed to pay themselves, so it was not a money issue, but a pure decision of the NOC's. All Federations found their best riders and skiers. He himself was a chief judge, and he thanks the Turkish Federation in the name of all officials for an excellent organisation. He explains that after the resignation of Silvio Falcioni, the Mediterranean Confederation elected a new board, and Dimos Alexopoulos (GRE) became the new President, Jean-Michel Cau (FRA) is the Secretary General and Lakis Anastasiou (CYP) is the Treasurer.

He announces that the 2017 Mediterranean Games will be held in Tarragona (Spain). Jean-Michel Cau will be the technical advisor. Tomorrow at 8 o'clock the annual assembly of the Mediterranean Waterski and Wakeboard Confederation will be held.

Ageliki Andriopoulou (GRE) comments that as a skier, she would have gone there, if her Federation had asked, and she would have entered as a wakeboarder if necessary.

Alain Amade thinks that it's a wonderful experience to be part of the sport's village with the other top athletes at such events.

### **New Media**

Des Burke-Kennedy (IRL), the IWWF Media Officer, says we should get serious about involving everyone when major events are coming up, to get the focus and attention we deserve. This is a changing world, and you have to be on top of things with the social media. Almost everyone on the planet has a mobile phone, and 2 billion have an internet connection. A recent survey revealed that there are 63 million active participants in our sport! Yet right now, at our major events, the public consists of the parents and a few friends etc, we cannot continue like that.

When we made a presentation to the IOC together with Kuno Ritschard, we needed to show our number of "followers" etc. to the IOC. And when talking to sponsors, these numbers also count. For every 1000 likes for example, sponsor rates go up. Unfortunately, our skiers/riders are down the pecking order and Federations are not tapping into these possibilities. Someone has to think of it, not just do the technical aspect perfectly.

Most federations have a website now, make sure yours is also listed on the IWWF website! Only 15% of Federations have a Facebook page and Twitter is even less. But these days you have to join YouTube and Facebook, it's not just for youngsters, now people aged 45-55 are also getting on it. And he read an excellent book about social media for 65+.

How to tell people where you are on the internet? The Webcast needs to be promoted for event promotion to get more spectators.

Facebook: 50% of users log on every day! And 75% of them live *outside* of the USA. Twitter: since Obama became president thanks to Twitter, it has boomed. Some of the skiers and riders have tuned into this and are getting followers. Instagram is ideal for our sport, with dramatic photographs, creating a global interest.

These accounts are free, take time to do it. YouTube has video clips about any imaginable subjects. Put a video there of something you are proud of.

All these possibilities are being used for our World Cup events and there were World Cup stops with 200.000 spectators, usually its 20.000 to 30.000.

Andy Harris thanks Des Burke-Kennedy for this great presentation.

Lakis Anastasiou (CYP) thinks it would be useful to have a webpage with general information and clips etc. Des Burke-Kennedy replies that there is a YouTube account, he'll minute this and distribute it to everyone.

Dimos Alexopoulos (GRE) is amazed by these new numbers, but he fears we do not react. He thinks this presentation may not be enough to make the Federations act and asks Des to find more ways to push the Federations, perhaps with more e-mails to remind them. Des Burke-Kennedy replies that this not up to him, it's up to you *yourself*,

and gives the example of Clementine Lucine (FRA), who upon his suggestion started using social media to promote herself, with good results.

### **13. Nominations by the Divisional Councils**

Sid Adriaensen reads out the list of Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers, Admincom members and the three World Council delegates plus one substitute for each division (*see E&A website under Congress 2014*).

Andy Harris asks for a round of applause for Philippe Turchet, who has been replaced by Paul Airey as President of the Disabled Council, and thanks him for all the work he has done all these years.

### **14. List of meetings**

Sid Adriaensen reads out the list of meetings planned by the divisions (*see Calendar*).

### **15. Statutes changes – as circulated**

Sid Adriaensen explains the proposed changes to the Statutes were published on the website. There are now five continental Confederations, meaning a small change to our Statutes. We consist of full members, of associate Federations who have paid their subscription fee but have not yet been proposed to Congress, and of non-paying Federations that are recognised. With these new continental Confederations there will be new groups.

*“E&A can recognize groupings of Federations that exist for specific reasons. Such a grouping may consist of full members, associate members and/or even non-affiliated federations. Such entity can have its own statutes and modus operandi.”* This means for example the Mediterranean Confederation, with Lebanon in it, which is not a member of E&A.

Another new paragraph will be added: *“E&A can also recognize sub-confederations. Such a sub-confederation consists of full members and associate members of E&A. Their role, duties and rights will be outlined in the Bye-Laws.”* This way we can recognize a European and an African Confederation.

Mikhail Borovoy (BLR) wonders why we should continue with E&A and have two Confederations? Sid Adriaensen replies that in Africa only the South African Federation remains active. Namibia meanwhile lost their only lake; Sudan is a new, still inactive Federation; and Egypt was active, but since the revolution it is hard to contact them. So we intend to continue as before, but on paper there will be an African and an European Confederation, to send delegates from to any outside organisation.

Sid explains the IWWF diagram (*see E&A website under Congress 2014*). A novelty is that all five Confederations will have to be represented by a Vice President and two representatives in the IWWF Executive Board.

Alain Amade comments that, at the last World Congress in Chile, the change of Statutes on World level was not discussed enough on European level. We had no say in the matter, it is done, and now we have to organise ourselves in these five Confederations. RSA was very worried about this situation and we agreed to continue to support RSA, and keep it in our group, so that we keep going to each other's competitions. But at World level, while Kuno Ritschard would like to have less members to make decision making easier, this was not accepted at the World Congress. There are now 27 members in the EB ! In the new situation, the European VP will represent over 30 countries, while the African VP will represent 1 country.... This has to be re-discussed at ground level.



## 16. Bye-Law Changes - as circulated

Sid Adriaensen explains that the proposed changes are necessary to accommodate the new Confederative system. Another amendment will mean that when competitions are organised in one country by any other country, for instance Switzerland organises a competition in France, the host country has to approve it. Although this is obvious, it was not yet mentioned in the Bye-Laws.

Finally, we discovered that in our Bye-Laws it says : *“The fee for a normal homologation is 100 Euro and for a rankings list or record capability homologation 200 Euro. The fee for a national waterski race is 50 Euro and for an international waterski race 100 Euro.”*

Meanwhile, these numbers have changed. To make these laws more flexible, we don't want to mention the numbers anymore. Any changes to these amounts will still have to be voted upon by Congress, of course.

*The changes are unanimously accepted.*

Andy Harris thanks Sid for all his good work.

## 17. European confederation (EC) and African confederation (AC)

### 17.1. Nomination of the EC and AC Board of Directors

Sid Adriaensen asks who is going to represent us on World level. The councils chose their representatives to this end, but for the IWWF bureau, we need a VP for Europe, and one for Africa. But for Africa, only the African Confederation gets to vote. They propose Louis Polome. For the European VP, the European Federations can vote. Only one person reacted to an e-mail request and is proposed by the Admincom: Peter Frei (SUI).

*Accepted by acclamation.*

### 17.2. Nomination of the EC and AC representatives to the IWWF

Sid Adriaensen: in our present Statutes, it says that E&A should be represented on the IWWF Executive Board by the President and the Secretary General, meaning Alain Amade and myself. Alain and Sid will represent the European Confederation.

*Accepted by acclamation.*

Jerome Bauser (RSA) and Martin Schmidt (NAM) will represent the African Confederation.

*Accepted by acclamation.*

## 18. List of Obligations - as circulated

Sid Adriaensen explains that the proposed changes were put on the website and e-mails were sent out in time to notify everyone about this.

The Admincom proposes the following addition to the List of Obligations: *“The Councils who wish to contribute to the travel costs of the officials are allowed to ask for a 20 Euro contribution from each skier or rider in this respect.”*

This way the Admincom proposes to find money for officials' travel expenses, since we cannot expect them to pay too much. Not all councils are in favour of adding 20 €. The council gets the money and decides how to divide it, the rest goes to the budget of the council, e.g. to pay for expenses for going to World events. So the wording will be that every council is allowed a raise of 20 € to this end.

Alain Amade: we want to have a higher category of E&A judge, but many cannot afford the travel expenses, so we now need to choose people with lower qualifications who *can* afford them. One possibility is that the organiser contributes to the travel expenses of the officials. But this might mean the organiser might decide against someone who has higher travel

expenses. The idea of this new proposal is that all participants contribute to the travel expenses in solidarity. So when new, young people become officials, and don't have the money to fund these travel expenses, they can be kept in the sport, which results in a good image for our sport.

Lucien Gerkau from Wakeboard Cable asks why it was decided that the riders have to pay this money, and not the organiser? Alain Amade repeats that this would prevent organisers from choosing people that can travel cheaper, rather than choosing the best officials for the job. Organisers don't make a lot of money anymore, so they are happy when they at least do not lose any money. Lucien Gerkau: but then the councils might make the decisions on the same basis.

Gill Hill replies that Tournament has the opposite view point. The TC appoints the officials so the organiser doesn't just take everyone that lives near. So we need to find a way to collect the money for decent travel grant ourselves.

Lucien Gerkau thinks the organiser should pay, but not choose, of course. He fears councils with smaller amounts of riders/skiers might not get the money together.

Andy Harris adds that the Admincom lets every council choose whether or not they will adopt this system. He asks not to forget that people take off time of their paying job to be at our events.

Alessandro Vanoi (ITA) says that in all other sports, the organiser pays for travel and lodging. He realises this is difficult in this time, and he does not think it is good idea to ask riders or Federations to pay these expenses. He thinks the fee for the federations has to be raised to this end.

Varna Laco (CRO) fully supports this proposal. She thinks that when countries send people to competitions, it's fairer to let pay per competitor, as not all Federations are as generous as the Italian one. Alain thinks asking 20 € per skier is not too much, even when a Federation sends 20 skiers. One official would cost more. Also it's easier to get money for this from national organisations.

Marie-Anne Persoons (BEL): Any country will know how many people they are sending, so they will know how much the increase will be. But an organiser will not know beforehand from which country the officials will come, and a raise of 2.000 or 3.000 euro is possible, and then their budget might not stretch that far. Raising the subscription fee would be impossible for Belgium, right now it's already very difficult for us to pay the subscription fee, because our country does not support us.

Dimos Alexopoulos wonders if we want happy skiers or happy organisers? The officials will not go when they don't have the money, so it's about the skiers and the organisers. We want the best possible officials in the major events, and they don't always live in the centre of Europe. He thinks we must help the organiser in this matter.

Patrice Martin (FRA) supports the proposal. He wonders who the organiser is, because he thinks E&A is the real organiser. So when a local club organises an event, E&A should be in charge of paying the officials. It is in the LOA that the local organiser has to pay for this, but then we'll end up with e.g. too few officials.

Aubrey Sheena (GBR) asks if this raise could be paid at the time of the Intention to Enter, helping to make sure people show up. Gill Hill: actually the intention to enter form, or the lack of it, is an issue. We have looked at this idea already, and we believe it cannot work, it would be too much to handle for Federations. It should be payable at the same time as the entry fees, meaning on arrival at site. We also considered a deposit, but some Federations do not pay the entry fees.

Andy Harris confirms that the proposal is exactly that: to be paid with the entry fee. He re-reads the proposal and a vote is taken.

*With two votes against (ITA and MON) and one abstention (POL), the motion is carried by majority.*

## **19. Report from the IWWF**

### **19.1. The President**

Kuno Ritschard explains that the Minutes and reports of the World Congress 2013 in Chile have been sent out.

So far there is no bid for the 2014 World University Championships. Kuno Ritschard thinks it is important, yet also complicated, to keep working on this. The bids have to come through the university federations, so please contact them to discuss this.

The 2015 World Championships are part of the World Expo in Milan.

As far as Olympic matters are concerned, the new president, Thomas Bach, announced a lot of new ideas and changes to be discussed, including the program for the Olympic Games. No decisions were yet made for 2020-2024, you will be informed about any news. 2020 could mean a lot of promotion for our sport. All NOC should know about this possibility, contact them. If you have no Cableway yet, speak to Uwe Goldstein about it, it's cheaper than a boat.

An important decision was that from 2016 on, IWWF will hire a paid professional, working fulltime, to do what Kuno Ritschard is now doing free of charge. If you have candidates for this job, please come back to him. We also need a candidate for the future IWWF president, as in two year's time he will step back. Kuno would like to include this candidate in future meetings where important decisions will be made before then.

He thanks Alain Amade for inviting him to this Congress.

*No questions.*

### **19.2. The Vice-President from the EC and the AC**

Alain Amade says that Gill Hill and Kuno Ritschard are doing a great job together in IWWF, working hard, and that Gill Hill has spent a lot of time on the doping issue.

The actual Vice President from the EC was Silvio Falcioni, who resigned after our 2013 Congress, so we could not nominate anyone. The Admincom proposed that Alain Amade would be the interim VP, and a new one has to be elected today. Alain thanks Silvio Falcioni for all his work. Alain Amade and Paul Fong are candidates for the IWWF presidency.

Kuno Ritschard wants more professionals in the IWWF organisation, but wonders how to find the money, because it is very expensive. A lot of work to do !

*No questions.*

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

### **20.1. Monaco – Explanation regarding the Mastercraft Pro-Am competition that the FMSN wants to organize in Roquebrune-sur-Argens.**

*Withdrawn upon a request from the President of the Monegasque federation..*

## **21. Meetings list**

See item 14.

## **22. Calendar of Titled Events**

Nuno Almeida (POR) comments on the November meetings that are to be held in Lisbon that they found good hotels with good prices, and also the weather should be good. There might a package price for the rooms, meals and conference rooms. In that case the meeting allowance will be raised to compensate.

Andy Harris invites all federations to come forward if they are interested in organising any competitions.

Several presentations are made for future events.

2014 E&A +35 Championships, Greece: Dimos Alexopoulos.

2014 World Junior Waterski Championships, Ukraine : Mariya Bulgakova.

2015 World U21, Spain : Carmen Ferrer-Bosch. Date to be decided upon.

2015 E&A Wakeboard Championships, Netherlands: Joost de Leijer. He thanks France for stepping back so no vote has to be made anymore.

2015 World Waterski Championships Italy. M. Dell'Olio, suggests that they can render the Italian Championships 'open', if we want to visit the site in 2014 or 2015.

Marie-Anne Persoons asks for the dates of the 2015 Championships. M. Dell Olio replies 7-13 Sept 2015. Marie-Anne Persoons says the date for the 2015 Cableski Championships were fixed six months ago, without being aware of this date, and asks if there is any chance of changing this date for one week? M. Dell Olio regrets that there is no room for change as this date has been discussed with the IWWF and is part of the 2015 World Expo in Milan.

### **23. Budget 2014 (01/12/2013 – 30/11/2014)**

Dominique Lakens Douwes confirms that the budget for 2014 was handed out to everyone. There are notes attached to explain what might be unusual or unclear. The budget for the IWWF subscription fee is higher because the fee itself will go up. There has been made a split up in the contribution for the environment contribution to make it more clear.

The meeting allowances go up a little to the maximum of 250 €. The Development Committee will get the same basic budget of 3.000 € as the other councils and there will be a separate budget of 3.000 € for other development related issues.

Marie-Anne Persoons asks if we are going to approve the budget before we talk about the subscription fees. Dominique Lakens Douwes replies that the budget will remain the same, no matter what the outcome will be regarding the changes to the subscription fee system.

Börje Broström (SWE) says that if he looks at the budget, we basically transfer money from the skiers to the Federations to E&A, and there is zero sponsor money ! He wonders if this big organisation cannot get any sponsor money ? Dominique Lakens Douwes agrees that it would be good to have more sponsor money. But the councils can raise this easier than the Admincom, so we do not always know where any sponsor money will come from. Andy Harris says sponsorship income is a big issue and that the opportunities, as Des Burke-Kennedy pointed out, are different nowadays but they are still there. But what is more important now, is that sponsors needs something tangible to show to their shareholders So we need to raise our profile to attract their attention. E.g. Red Bull contacted us, but we didn't have anything to present to them: we need hits on websites.

Dimos Alexopoulos asks if the promotion budget is for this purpose. Dominique Lakens Douwes replies it is for ties etc. Dimos Alexopoulos suggests we create a promotion team, because he thinks we will go nowhere if we have nothing to "sell". Alain Amade agrees, but thinks it's complicated to do. The Admincom is just an administrative thing. A Federation has better things to sell: they have their own clubs etc., it's easier for them to find a sponsor. It might be better at World level, with the boat companies etc. It has to be done very professionally. When you ask a marketing company to make a survey, this will cost 20.000 €, and the result is: you are too small; you have no public image etc. So far the only sponsor money comes from friends of friends, but that's a one-shot only.

Des Burke-Kennedy explains that promotion should be done "wrapped around" events, and focusing on an event. With photos the action of previous events can be shown. One needs to focus one's efforts 18 to 12 months beforehand to create value for an event.

Des Burke-Kennedy asks if the end-course software is in the budget of 2014, since the report says it has been purchased. Dominique Lakens Douwes: we understood we would not be invoiced for that. Candido Moz explains that Donal Connolly (IRL) is not charging us for last year, because not many federations were using his program. He will start charging it from 2014. Andy Harris: so it will have to go into our budget. Candido Moz: the Tournament Council will pay half, and the Admincom the other half. Gill Hill adds that it's a special project, and the Tournament Council will pay the money back over five years. Andy Harris: then this an asset purchase, from the reserve fund, so it does not go into the budget. Admincom has made this decision, and it was put in the Minutes.

*Budget accepted unanimously by show of cards.*

### **Change of Subscription Fee system**

Sid Adriaensen explains that the Admincom investigated how to make smaller or newer Federations pay less, and the bigger Federations pay more. So far a Federation could have up to three votes now for any division. The new system, that has to be approved, is to have an extra vote of 300 €. The new criterium for this extra vote is having a medal in a titled event in the highest category, the "open". Some federations will benefit from this new system, others will have to pay a little more : moneywise it will not make a difference to E&A.

Inessa Potes (BLR) explains that they were very pleased last year about the proposal, but now they are against. With 100 members and 2 clubs, Belarus is already at the highest subscription fee, but this year they did not get the Ministry's subvention. They were investigated because of this high fee. They took the money for it from the prize money from the medallists, so actually their medallists pay for the subscription fee ! And they are not an Olympic sport and everyone knows it. Their only argument was that they have strong athletes. But if the government will not agree to pay for our medals, this is helping a small federation like theirs. They need funds to help young athletes, and we now have to ask the parents to pay for the medals.

Bruno Fekete (SRB) agrees completely and thinks the new system is not good for small federations. He does not even understand how they have three IWWF votes. He thinks the 4-year based system is not good for small federations. He suggests to make it 2-year based. Considering all the income from entry fees for all competitions every year, he proposes a change.

John Prunty (IRL) thinks there is not much added with this change of the system. He agrees with Serbia that the proposal it is not a good idea.

Alain Amade stresses that it's just a proposal, and that Admincom is looking for a system to have the Federations pay more equally. For the Olympic Federations, a lot of money comes from the IOC, so it's easier for them to ask less money from the federations.. Belarus was very lucky before, everything was paid by their Ministry of Sport: in other federations, the parents already pay. Up until last year, Belarus got more money than any other country in Europe from their government, and now they are in the same position as any other Federation.

Sid Adriaensen suggests that Bruno Fekete puts his ideas down on paper to be considered by Admincom.

*Voted upon by show of cards : 42 votes in favour, 23 abstentions, 33 against.*

The bureau decides to take this under advisement and to discuss it again in the Admincom. So for now things will stay as they are.

Varna Laco (CRO) would be happier to accept the change now.

Alain Amade: with less than 50% of the votes, this still needs more discussion. Any suggestions are welcome, but we need about the same income for the budget, this cannot be less. The administration is less every year, but the other costs are significant.

Bruno Fekete: the small federations are not against the proposal, it is not good enough, but it is better than the old system.

Andy Harris thinks 23 abstentions is a lot. It means not yes and not no. Less abstentions would be more acceptable.

Alain Amade thinks there were also abstentions because people here cannot always make such a decision for their Federation. He would like to have changes for next year and asks to send any ideas to Sid Adriaensen. He would not suggest altering the 50/50 entry fee split between E&A and organisers.

The Italian Federation explains that they voted abstention in respect for small countries after Bruno Fekete's talk.

### **23.1 Website investment - event management system**

Peter Frei shows his presentation (*see E&A website under Congress 2014*). He understands this will once more represent a cost, but also a benefit. He also thanks everyone for supporting him as Vice President.

He goes on to explain the Event Management System. Events = competitions. There was a discussion about the fact that we should be more professional regarding our ranking lists. How can we control if participants are licensed by their Federations? What liability, insurance will there be in case of the accident? And we have French skiers with an US license, for example.

The Admincom considered three offers, and then judged Emmanuel Lion's offer to be the most interesting.

In the future, when the system has been up and running, we would ask for a small amount per rider/skier for the licence, in this way we could easily fund the yearly cost. If Congress gives permission to Admincom, they will decide in May upon this matter.

Alain Amade explains that skiers and riders often use mobile phones etc. and we would like to have more interactive website. If nothing happens on a website, you only go there when you really need to. If you need to go to a site regularly to register etc. that is better. We want to show the riders/skiers what we can do and not charge for this in the beginning. In the beginning, we had four candidates to develop the system. We chose two to make a proposal, and then we decided on Emmanuel Lion, because it was a smaller cost, and he is someone who already understands how we work. We need the Congress' approval for this investment.

Dimos Alexopoulos says that today we have different webpages for the councils. A part of Emmanuel's system is already in place. Personally, for Greece, he opposes the idea of having the skiers to pay. He considers the results pages the biggest selling place, since everyone visits them, and he thinks we can find 7.000 € a year ourselves. He suggests creating one single website to unify all the existing websites.

Peter Frei: this is not replacing the councils' websites. It is a new system, interfacing with the scoring systems on other websites, but it will not replace the other websites. Standardising those websites is a second priority. It will be a job to get everybody accustomed to this new system.

Alain Amade says that we need a professional to do this. We may criticize the IWWF website, but it works. Designing a website is expensive. We need live streaming. Do we need this to have a better exposure? The Cablewake website is very costly, for example. On a World level, we need to think about a real international website.

Dimos Alexopoulos knows it is not easy but he thinks we can do a unification ourselves in our region. The part of Emmanuel Lion is expensive but well done and necessary. He thinks we also need a team to design this new website, and that we need to prepare the Councils for the idea of having a unified website, rather than their own sites they worked on.

Peter Frei: there are even free tools for a web site design, that is not the problem. But all information would have to be moved from the old site to the new, a lot of work for the councils. So this is a second priority.

Guenter Kuhnt (GER) doesn't see the benefit for them. Some federations have developed their own website at great expense. Can you also manage our national skiers and licenses? Peter Frei: we could open it up for this of course.

Colin Hart: where is the money coming from? Andy Harris: there are reserves for investing in the sports, build up through the prudence and good management in the years past. Des Burke-Kennedy: can you tell us what the present balance of reserves is, to put people's minds at rest? Andy Harris: about 300.000 Euros.

Des Burke-Kennedy: what about the non-completion risk ?

Peter Frei: the details of the contract will need to be finalised in May.

Alain Amade: Germany is one of the few countries who have this system. It is important to have skiers that are licensed and a member of the Federation.

Guenter Kuhnt (GER): what will be the cost for every Federation?

Peter Frei: E&E will invest this up front, no invoices will be sent to the Federations.

Alain Amade: the 7.000 € per year actually will be less, because Emmanuel Lion will then no longer charge the scoring program.

*The authorisation for the Admincom to decide upon the issue in May is voted upon and is accepted with one vote against and three abstentions.*

## **24. Distribution of Certificates & Awards**

### **24.1. By the divisional councils**

These will be presented by the Council Presidents at the gala dinner.

### **24.2. Announcement of the Athlete of the Year awards**

Alain Amade explains that every council nominates its own candidates and the Admincom then votes upon this. For 2013, the Female Athlete of the Year is Julia Rick (GER) from Cable Wakeboard. So you see it's not always Tournament ! The male athlete of the year is Alexei Zharnasek (BLR) from Tournament.

### **24.3. Honorary members**

Marie-Anne Persoons asks Juergen Pitz to come to the stand. Alain Amade presents him with the Honorary Member award and Juergen Pitz thanks everyone, he will miss us and will continue to drop in.

Aubrey Sheena then announces things never go according to plan. He jokes that he wished Candido Moz to the North Pole this morning, for stealing a part of his speech (see *E&A website under Congress 2014*). He thanks Gill for her friendship and all the work she has done.

Alain Amade presents her the Honorary Membership.

Gill Hill jokingly reminds Aubrey Sheena he nearly fired her all that time ago! She also remembers that in Stockholm there were more people in her small room than there were in the Congress, a memory to cherish!

## **25. Future Congresses**

### **25.1. January 31st 2015 France, Toulouse**

A short presentation is given by Patrice Martin, President of the French Waterski and Wakeboard Federation. The hotel will be the Mercury hotel in the centre, and they will try to have a visit to the Airbus construction plant. Hotel rooms will be at 120 € for a single and 140 € for a double room.

### **25.2. January 30th 2016 (no bids at the Congress)**

### **25.3. January 28th 2017 (no bids at the Congress)**

## **26. A.O.B.**

*None.*

## **27. Closing of the Congress**

Alain Amade thanks the Italian Federation for organising the Congress, and the chairman of the Congress Andy Harris, and Brit Horemans for taking the minutes. He wishes everyone a safe trip back home and hopes to welcome everyone next year in his home town, Toulouse.

### **List of attachments - (see E&A website under Congress 2014)**

*List of Delegates*

*Composition of the Councils and Commissions after the elections*

*IWWF diagram*

*Presentation by Peter Frei of the Event Management System website*

*Speech by Aubrey Sheena for Gill Hill*

*Speech by Marie-Anne Persoons for Juergen Pitz*