

# FEDERATION SPELEOLOGIQUE EUROPEENNE

## European Cave Protection Commission



### INTERNAL REGULATIONS

Rev. 1.0 approved by elec. vote on 05-01-2010  
Rev. 2.0 1st modification by vote on 28-09-2019



From now on and whatever language is used, the European Cave Protection Commission will be abbreviated as **ECPC**.

The present ECPC internal regulations written in English are the only official references of the ECPC. Any new approved version replaces all previous versions.

The Rev.1.0 has been approved by the FSE General Assembly on the 5th of January 2010 by electronic vote.

The Rev. 2.0 has been approved by the FSE General Assembly on the 28th of September 2019 in Sofia (BG).

### SECTION 1: DEFINITION AND MEMBERS

§ 1. The ECPC is the Cave Protection Commission of the FSE, formed by the FSE General Assembly decision according to the Section 2, Art. 6 from the FSE Statutes. The ECPC can create speleological labels for speleological projects carried out by FSE member countries in its field of action. It has its own acronym and logo.

The ECPC includes one commission board (see Section 3 for definition) and, if installed, one or more working groups and/or action teams (see Section 4 for definitions)

§ 2. Speleologists from each member country of the FSE can be member of any ECPC working group and/or action team and/or the commission board. Speleologists from a European country not being member of the FSE can participate in any ECPC working group and/or action team, but can not held a position in the commission board.

§ 3. Every ECPC member must act according to the spirit, the ethics and the regulations of the FSE and the ECPC.

§ 4. The FSE bureau or the ECPC board can suspend, until the decision of the FSE General Assembly, any ECPC member found guilty of serious offence to the Statutes or the Internal Regulations of the FSE/ECPC or of speleological ethical rules.

### SECTION 2: OBJECTIVES

§ 5. The ECPC is formed as an instrument of the FSE. Its objectives are in line with the FSE aims (Section 2, Article 5, FSE Statutes).

The ECPC objectives are, as follows:

- (1). To concentrate collective activities, in order to place cave and karst protection to a priority level within the European concerns of preservation of natural and cultural heritage, i.e. bio- and geodiversity incl. the variety of habitats, species, geotopes, geosites.

(2). To combine the efforts of local speleological groups and national speleological organisations so as to develop and implement common European good practices of cave and karst protection.

(3). To encourage and support local and national activities in order to assist speleologists in their interaction with public authorities.

(4). To develop the collaboration with the European Union specialized structures and other international institutions and organizations in the field of cave and karst protection.

(5). To set up a political lobby for cave and karst protection in Europe and to influence regulation, guidelines, supporting documents and directives in this field.

(6). To generate knowledge about the scientific values of caves and karst, in order to identify and promote suitable and effective methods of their preservation.

### **SECTION 3: COMMISSION BOARD**

§ 6. The ECPC board consists of the President, one Commission Secretary, one Vice-secretary and members. The commission board may have Technical Advisers and may also include the head of any working group and/or action team.

§ 7. The President of the Commission is elected in accordance with the FSE Statutes (Section 5, Art. 19) by the FSE General Assembly upon the FSE Bureau proposal. The President has to report the ECPC activities to the FSE Bureau on a regular basis and annually to the General Assembly.

The president proposes an outlook to the General Assembly including ECPC strategy as well as an annual budget.

The FSE Bureau has to carry out the daily link with the ECPC, so that the work is performed within the FSE frame. The ECPC is autonomous to decide about the means and work methodologies applied as long as they are in accordance with the General Assembly line, the Bureau work and the FSE Ethics, Statutes and Internal Regulations

§ 8. The other members of the ECPC board are designated for four years on the same years as the election of the ECPC president. In case of a vacancy of any board position, this position is submitted to the vote of the other commission board members and then validated by the FSE Bureau.

The position is then filled only to the end of the normal term of four years. The members of the commission board need the approval of the FSE bureau.

§ 9. The ECPC President represents the ECPC in its relations with the FSE General Assembly, all national speleological organizations and the FSE bureau. The ECPC President can only represent the ECPC as FSE Cave Protection Commission in external relations with public authorities, governments, institutions, and other public or private organizations if the FSE President or Bureau delegates this possibility for specific meetings or events.

The ECPC President is responsible for the official public appearance of the commission, (i.e. webpage, print and electronic media) and regulates the workflow via all common ECPC communication channels.

§ 10. The Secretary of the Commission is supporting the commission board action in matters of public relations, organization of the group/actions/events, coordination of projects from different areas in order to gain a larger public and political interest all over Europe. He/She is the direct contact for the working group and action team head concerning official correspondence on behalf of the commission, reports of activities, etc. He/She reports to the President of the commission. The Vice-Secretary assists the Secretary in these tasks. They share the work according to a mutual agreement approved by the ECPC President.

§ 11. The heads of the working groups and action teams regularly report to the commission President, or additionally every time it is requested by the ECPC President. As members of the ECPC board they are strongly encouraged to support all aspects of the board's responsibilities.

§ 12. The Technical Advisers (in case there are any) are members of the commission board, working together with the heads of the working groups or action teams. They can not represent the ECPC or any working group / action team without having received the delegation for a specific meeting or event by the ECPC President.

#### **SECTION 4: WORKING GROUPS AND ACTION TEAMS**

§ 13. Working groups are installed for achieving long-term goals and working on permanent themes addressed by the ECPC. The activities of any working group are organized by a respective working group head, who acts as a direct contact between the commission board and the working group.

§ 14. Action teams have a short-term demand, targeting temporally relevant or emerging urgent topics. The activities of any action team are organized by a respective action team head, who acts as a direct contact between the commission board and the action team.

§ 15. Each working group and/or action team acts autonomously in the sense of this internal regulation.

§ 16. Reports about the state of affairs, in case they are requested are sent to the commission board.

#### **SECTION 5: MISCELLANEOUS**

§ 17. The ECPC has at its disposal a yearly budget approved by the FSE General Assembly.

In order to obtain this budget, the ECPC President will annually send a budget plan to the FSE Bureau at least two months before the General Assembly meeting.

§ 18. Members of the ECPC commission board do represent the FSE in all those organizations in which the FSE holds a member status and which are related to cave and karst protection and management.

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