



FSCE – General Assembly Meeting 2001 Corchia (I) 03/11/2001 09:50 am

Present:

Andy Eavis, GB
Nick Williams, GB
Sergio Garcia-Dills De La Vega, E
Ernest Geyer, A
Robert Seebacher, A
Paolo Forti, I
Claude Mouret, F
Marc Faverjon, F
Jean-Claude Thies, L

Excused countries: NL,GR

The president introduces all present delegates.

After our little incident on the motorway, luckily without any casualties we arrived well at the congress. He thanks the Italian federation and the organisers of this marvelous congress with good food and headache. Following the distribution of the agenda, some notifications had been addressed to the president.

Appologies received from:

George Theodorou, GR; appologies for not being able to attend the meeting as his mother is severely ill.
Oliver Vidal, F; currently on a human aid mission in Burma.
Jean-Paul Van der Pas, NL;
Juan Carlos Lopez, E; a substitute FEE member is present.
Gunter Stummer, A; 2 substitute VÖH members are present.

1. Acceptance of minutes of the last FSCE AGM 1999 in Lisbon, P:

Andy Eavis goes through the minutes (english version done by Jean-Claude Thies) and refers to the main points. Election, projects, matters arising,....

The report is accepted by the Assembly.

2 President's report: by Andy Eavis

Please find the president's own words here:

PRESIDENT'S REPORT OF SFEC
NOVEMBER 2001

During the last few years the European Federation has progressed gently. There has been an annual Bureau Meeting which has generally been attended by three or more of the Bureau Members. There was a European Meeting in Portugal and a 3rd expedition Meeting.

Discussions as to the viability of the European Federation continue. As do discussions on whether non EU countries should be included and whether there should be more money available from Brussels and if the organisation do more work.

As the retiring President, I would like to see a yearly expedition meeting, regular European Congress which is out of phase with the International Congress. In addition I would like to see any opportunity for finance from Brussels capitalised on, particularly as opportunity for money for meetings scientific or sporting involving a number of European countries.

The success or otherwise of the European Federation depends on the individuals and country delegates, both at Bureau and General Assembly levels. If individuals have a particular desire and expertise they should be encouraged to use it for benefit of European cavers. There are many examples of this. Lists of caving information, lists of caves, caving insurance are all possibilities as are other things.

ANDY EAVIS

31 October 2001

3. Vice-President's report: by Sergio Garcia-Dills De La Vega, E

As Juan Carlos Lopez isn't present, Sergio reads the vice-president's report.

He reports of the latest Bureau Meeting in January 2001 held in Madrid.

A previous release of the new Eurospeleo number 1 is out on display for any comments.

Some minor changes in the event's table and writing corrections are made.

In principal the edition is satisfying everybody and the Spanish Federation gains all respect for the work.

The distribution should be done as soon as possible mainly before the end of the year.

Sergio also reports on the current work for the 4th European expedition Meeting to be held in Cantabria (Picos de Europa) Some discussions go on concerning the actual date to avoid any clash in the caving events schedule. Finally the date of 4-6 May 2002 as originally set was retained.

4. Secretary's report :

by Olivier Vidal, F

As Olivier isn't present in this AGM, he has send in a moral report.
Please read his words in French and an English translation made by Jean-Claude Thies.

Compte-rendu 2001 du délégué FSCE de la FFS

Après un départ très confiant en fin 99, le début d'année 2000 a connue une dynamique sur la même lancée. C'est à dire le lancement de plusieurs manifestations spéléologiques de dimension européenne, et beaucoup de retours positifs suite à la création du numéro Zéro de "EuroSpeleo" bilingue français/anglais vis à vis des projets de coopération concernant les cadastres spéléo et les secours.

Il est vrai que fin 99 j'étais très optimiste quand au fait que le milieu spéléo européen soit prêt à accueillir une fédération (ou confédération) forte et efficace au niveau européen. Bien sûr la base des spéléos européens qui sont le ciment de la spéléo européenne ne ressent pas encore l'utilité d'une telle structure (car pas de compétition sportive européenne, etc), mais le problème vient du manque de motivation des responsables des fédérations nationales en Europe qui eux aussi ont du mal à voir l'utilité, mais surtout à donner de l'énergie et du temps à une telle structure.

Donc en fait mon départ en humanitaire en Afghanistan en mai 2000 a mis un frein en quelque sorte à l'élan que j'avais essayé de donner, par manque de motivation globale et de personnes prêtes à donner du temps comme on en donne à sa fédération nationale.

Je ne veux pas être pessimiste car il est probable que dans les mois et les années à venir de tels élans reviendront et peut-être que cette fois ce sera le bon, avec le sentiment européen grandissant. Mais il faut avoir conscience que ça ne se fera pas tout seul et que bien sûr les fédérations nationales ont un rôle actif à y jouer. Pour cela il faut des responsables fédéraux qui soient motivés, parlent plusieurs langues et aient une force de persuasion importante. Ce qui est sûre c'est que la fédération européenne sera un jour indispensable et active, le tout est de savoir quand.

Bon Courage et Amitiés Spéléo,

Olivier Vidal

Moral report 2001, the FFS delegate- FSCE secretary

After a confident start in late 1999, the beginning of 2000 has shown a continuous dynamic. Which means, the start of numerous speleological happenings of European dimension, and lots of positive returns followed by the edition of number zero of "EuroSpeleo", bilingual French/English, concerning projects on cave-register and cave rescue.

It is correct that in late 1999 I was very optimistic on the fact that the European Caving society would be ready for a federation (or confederation) strong and efficient enough on European level. It is obvious that the base of the European cavers, who are the pillar of European Caving are not yet ready for such a structure (i.e. no European caving competition etc.), but this problem is the result of motivation by the National Federations in Europe, which themselves have difficulties in accepting the utility, and even more, giving support and time for such a structure.

It is a fact that my departure for humanitarian aid in Afghanistan in May 2000 has stopped somehow my enthusiasm which I tried to give, this by means of loss of global motivation and missing persons to help out in the same manner as one gives time to the National Federation.

I don't want to be pessimistic because it's probable that in the months and years to come similar motivations will come back, with an enlarged European feeling. But we must be confident that this will not happen by itself and that the National Federations have to play an active role. To achieve this there must be motivated responsables in the federations who speak multiple languages and have a strong force of persuasion. One thing is for sure: One day The European Federation will be indispensable and active, it simply is a matter of time.

Good luck and my speleological regards.

Olivier Vidal
(English translation by Jean-Claude Thies)

5. Treasurer's report:

by Jean-Claude Thies, L

The treasurer comments his paperwork, in which mainly subscriptions are listed on the income side and mainly stamps on the outgoing side. Apart from this the internet provider in GB had been paid too. there are still some payments to be done and a lot of subscriptions have still not been paid. A complete financial report with details can be seen in appendix 1 and 2 of this report..

6. Past Meetings and Future Meetings:

The next European meeting to be held is the 5th European Caving Expedition Symposium, which is hosted in the north of Spain. The dates are 4-6 May 2002. The man in charge of the meeting is Juan Coilina Bruzual, president of the Canatabrian Federation. (www.espeleocantabria.com). It is decided that the FSCE will grant a total of 1000 EUR for this congress. 500 EUR for publicity right now and 500 EUR for the publication of the congress acts. The treasurer will contact the FEE and the organisers to arrange the transfer.

The next French National Congress in 2003 that will take place in Valence, Drôme (near Lyon) could have a European touch. For this it needs to be formally approved by the FFS Bureau. The British Caving Association is probably keen on co-organising the French Congress, in order to get some funds from the EU in Brussels.

7. Potential Projects, current state:

Marc Faverjon, F has an idea of publishing a booklet on European Karst. This could be a collection of different works already done by some countries. MF will prepare and develop an idea on this. He tries also to collect available documents.

8. Contact with the EU, negotiations:

Paolo Forti has an address in Brussels which might help us to get some funds for projects.

9. Enlargement of the Federation including non-EU states:

This topic isn't discussed at this meeting, first not all delegates are present, and secondly we haven't invited any of the potential countries to our meeting. This must be done at a later date.

10. Election of new President and Secretary:

After long years of his involvement in the FSCE, Andy Eavis, GB is finishing his post as president of the FSCE. He also hands over the task as delegate to Nick Williams, GB.

Also resigning from his post as secretary is Olivier Vidal, F.

Potential candidates:	as President	as Secretary
	Claude Mouret, F	none

(the French delegate has been exchanged by the FFS during the GAM, this to allow Claude Mouret to candidate as president)

As nobody else wanted to candidate,

Claude Mouret has been unanimously elected as the new FSCE president.

Claude wants to reattack the EU to bring projects upfront and get funds, and he hopes to work in a perfect climate together with all bureau members and delegates.

There was no potential candidate present for the post of secretary of the FSCE. It is agreed that we will contact all delegates with the hope to find an interim secretary until the next GAM in 2003.

11. Any other business:

11a. Website: <http://www.fsce.org>:

Nick Williams, our webmaster will do some updates in the future. Jean-Claude Thies is currently formatting all past reports to make them accessible on the website.

11b. Eurospeleo Nr. 1:

The Spanish Federation has prepared a specimen. The work is of a good quality although some minor corrections have to be done. The final product will be ready and distributed around Christmas this year.

11c. Fixed FSCE Address:

As on the EU-website there is no official address for the FSCE, Jean-Claude Thies asks about a possibility to implement a permanent address for the FSCE. It is generally agreed that he should make some enquiries about the possibility of such an address in Luxembourg.

11d. A second delegate for each country:

The idea of a second delegate for each country has been put on the table for discussion. Generally everybody agreed that this would make life easier and the probability that all countries could be present in a meeting is much bigger. It is agreed too that all countries still have only 1 (one) vote. A post in the bureau may not be passed over to the second delegate, as this post is related to the person.

All countries must be informed that the national federations should nominate a substitute delegate before the next GAM in 2003.

In that GAM, the FSCE statutes need to be changed on this behalf.(Section. 3, Article. 8)

11e. Next Bureau meeting:

During the EU-Expedition Symposium in Spain 4-6/05/2002

Claude Mouret thanks all delegates for having been present and for their work. He also thanks the outgoing president and secretary. Finally he hopes that the aim of the FSCE will keep on for the next season.

report done by Jean-Claude Thies, L