

FEDERATION SPELEOLOGIQUE DE L'UNION EUROPEENNE



FSUE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING ORDINARY SESSION Tuesday 23rd and Thursday 25th of August 2005 In Kalamos, Greece

Reported by Olivier Vidal

The FSUE General Assembly meeting was held in Kalamos, 60km north of Athens, Greece, during the 14th International Congress of Speleology (UIS). Claude Mouret, outgoing president chaired the first part of the meeting, and Juan Carlos Lopez, new president chaired the second part of the meeting.

The FSUE Bureau members, the country delegates and observers wish to thank the UIS and its president, Jose Labegallini to have received them during the 14th UIS Congress, as well as the organizing committee.

The first part of the meeting (23rd of August) starts at 14:30.

1. Participants of the first part of the GA meeting

Voting country delegates :

Bureau members : Claude Mouret (Outgoing President, France), Juan Carlos Lopez (New President, Spain), Jean-Claude Thies (Treasurer, Luxembourg), Olivier Vidal (New Secretary General)

Other delegates : Eric Van den Broeck (Belgium), Andy Eavis (United Kingdom), Zoupis Konstantinos (Greece), Michele Sivelli (Italy), Herman de Swart (Netherlands), Pedro Marote (Portugal), Thomas Lycken & Christel Grehn (Sweden), Pavel Bosak (Czech Republic), Andrej Mihevic (Slovenia), Michael Laumanns (Germany), Antonio Guierrez-Gamero (Spain),

Apologies from : Christos Petreas (Outgoing Secretary, Greece), Marc Faverjon (France)

Observers : Annick Menier, Bruno Delprat, Christian Dodelin, Bernard Tourte, Marcel Meyssonier, Francis Guichard (France), Ramos Gomez, Mario Gisbert (Spain), Uros Aksamovic (Serbia), Denis Wellens, Bernard Urbain, André Slagmolen (Belgium), Manuel Freire, Nuno Redinha (Portugal), Lakoyos Karakostanoglou, Nikos Mitsakis, Yiannis Vavourakis (Greece)

2. President's opening speech and report

The FSUE president, Claude Mouret, welcomes all participants and he thanks the congress organizers for the nice welcome. He presents the importance of this General

Assembly for the development of the actions to be held by the European Federation. The corresponding topics are developed in the report below.

The quorum is reached with 7 voting delegates.

3. Approval of the 2003 General Assembly report in Ollioules

The statutes changed in 2003 and the General Assembly report of Ollioules is distributed to the delegates in French and English. The report of the 2003 General Assembly in Ollioules (France) is approved by 7 votes yes.

4. Votes of revised Statutes and Internal Regulations

The statutes and internal regulations that were revised on the last GA on 2003 are distributed to the delegates in French (official references) and English. They are approved by 7 votes yes.

5. Reports of activity

The president apologies because the exiting Secretary General is absent and did not send him his report of activity. He explains that he would have like to do more for the FSUE but his time and availability was limited.

6. Treasurer's report

FSUE Treasurer, Jean-Claude Thies, first presents the situation of the payments of annual fees by the member countries. Some countries still have to pay for a part of their fees regarding past years. A few countries have sent no recent news (Denmark, Finland) or have no caving structure. The situation with Portugal, which have 2 caving institutions, is not clear.

The balance of income and expenses is then presented, see attached table. There was no major expenses because of the lack of activities.

The subscriptions of national federations are reminded as they were approved on the last GA :

Federations with less than 100 members : 50 euros,

between 100 to 1000 members : 100 euros

and over 1000 members : 200 euros.

7. Welcome of the 10 new European countries

The president warmly welcomes the 10 new European countries entered in the European Union (EU) on 2004. It is reminded that according to FSUE statutes, the Federation or Institution of each country of the EU is a member of FSUE. During the first part of this GA, only Slovenia and Czech Republic are represented. Slovenia delegate explains that he will

speak to his Federation to explain them about FSUE functioning and will refer later to the Bureau. Czech delegate explains that he doesn't see the utility of FSUE and that his federation will not become a member of FSUE and will not pay the subscription to FSUE. Nevertheless he proposes to the GA to organise the next European Symposium on Explorations on april 2006. He asks to the FSUE to write a request to the Czech Federation for this matter.

The president warmly thanks these delegates for their presence and wishes that more delegates from other new entered countries will join the FSUE soon.

8. Creation of FSUE Commissions

The president wants to take advantages of this meeting to create FSUE Commissions, according to the revised statutes and internal regulations. He explains that he has received 2 proposals. One is to create a Medical Commission from Jean-Michel Ostermann (F) and another one from Damien Delanghe (F) to create a Commission for a "European Conservatory" to protect sensitive caves. Herman de Swart says that he doesn't see the utility of a Medical Commission. Claude Mouret explains that UIS has no Medical Commission and that that European caving doctors might want to gather and exchange about this matter. This subject about Technical Commissions will have to be followed by the Bureau who will inform regularly the delegates and national federations.

9. Candidates countries to organise the 7th European Caving Expeditions Symposium

Next European Caving Expeditions Symposium (ECES) should be held on 2006. For reminding last ECES were held : on 1994 in Casola, Italy, on 1996 in Mejanne-le-Clap, France, on 1998 in Castleton-Derbyshire, England, on 2000 in Profondeville, Belgium, on 2002 in Santander, Spain, and on 2004 in Alviela, Portugal.

It is wondered if it is necessary to organize a ECES every second year since the number of participants follows a tendency to decrease. May be it could alternate with a European Symposium on other topics.

The Czech delegate made a proposal for April 2006 during their national congress, but their federation is not sure to become a full member of FSUE and they ask for a request from FSUE to do so. It is reminded that this is responsibility of the candidates for ECES to send their written proposal to FSUE.

It is to be noted that Spain proposes to organize on September 2006 the "World Games 2006" in Sevilla.

Between the 2 parts of the GA, the new bureau decide to send a call for candidature for next ECES that could be held in 2007 or 2008, since the period of 2 years appears to be quite short.

10. Bureau positions to be renewed

The positions of President and Secretary General have to be renewed. There are 3 candidates who present their application, all present themselves except for Christos Petreas who is apologised.

The votes have given the following results (7 delegates voting) :

- President : Juan Carlos Lopes, ex-Vice-President is elected by 7 votes yes;
- Secretary General : Olivier Vidal, 7 votes yes, elected, Christos Petreas, outgoing Secretary General : no vote yes.

The new Bureau is comprised of :

President : Juan Carlos Lopes (up to 2009)

Vice-President : Vacant position to be elected during the second part of the GA

Secretary : Olivier Vidal (up to 2009)

Treasurer : Jean-Claude Thies (up to 2007)

11. Transmission of FSUE to the newly elected president and presentation of orientations by the new president

Claude Mouret, outgoing president, congratulates the new president, Juan Carlod Lopez for his election. The new president thanks the GA and presents his orientations for his mandate :

- Promoting relations between FSUE and EU
- Increasing FSUE budget with EU subsidies
- Developing relationships between national federations of FSUE
- Improving FSUE Web Site
- Editing EuroSpeleo newsletter
- Developing relations between delegates
- Studying viability of a European license with insurance
- Publishing a yearly calendar of activities

Then the new president warmly thanks the outgoing president for his work and wishes him success for his activities in UIS and in his professional life.

Then the new president explains that since the room is not available anymore, the first part of the GA will end now (at 16.30) and will be continued 2 days later at 12.40pm. The period will give time to the new bureau to prepare the agenda of the second part of the meeting.

The second part of the meeting (25th of August) starts at 12.40.

12. Participants of the second part of the GA meeting

Bureau members : Claude Mouret (Outgoing President, France), Juan Carlos Lopez (New President, Spain), Jean-Claude Thies (Treasurer, Luxembourg), Olivier Vidal (New Secretary General, France), Ged Campion (New-Vice-President, United Kingdom)

Other delegates : Eric Van den Broeck (Belgium), Andy Eavis (United Kingdom), Kostas Adamopoulos (Greece), Herman de Swart (Netherlands), Pedro Marote & Manuel Freire (Portugal), Thomas Lycken & Christel Grehn (Sweden), Pavel Bella (Slovakia), Gyula Hegedus, Szabolcs Leel-Ossy & Katalin Bolner Takacs (Hungary), Michael Laumanns (Germany)

Apologies from : Christos Petreas (Outgoing Secretary, Greece), Marc Faverjon (France)

Observers : Guido de Keyzer (Belgium), Nuno Redinha (Portugal), Bernard Tourte & Annick Menier (France), Mario Gisbert, Sergio GarciaDils de la Vega (Spain), Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns (Belgium),

13. President's opening speech and report

The FSUE secretary general, Olivier Vidal, in the name of the Bureau welcomes all participants for this second part of the GA meeting. Since the first part of the meeting a new agenda has been established by the Bureau. The corresponding topics are developed in the report below.

The quorum is reached with 9 voting delegates.

14. Situation of Portugal delegates

The Bureau explains that a letter has been received in the morning from the FPE - Portugal. The content of this letter is read to the GA :

Kalamos, 25th of August 2005,
Dear FSUE Bureau Members,
The SPE is the delegate of the Portugal in the FSUE,
The FPE is a federal institution that represents 25 Portuguese speleological groups,
At this time, there is no Portuguese vice-delegate for the FSUE,

As the FPE feels that the Portuguese delegate does not represent the federated Portuguese speleological community, FPE requests FSUE the Portuguese vice-delegation.

Sincerely,
The FPE President
Manuel Freire

A debate is held including the Portugal delegate, Pedro Marote, the FPE president, Manuel Freire and some members of the GA. At the end of the debate, the GA agrees on the following :

- in the absence of the vice-delegate, the FPE representative is allowed to have the vice-delegation for this meeting, so he can apply to the Vice-President position if he wishes to,
- the SPE and FPE will need to discuss together to find a suitable solution for both parties, and should inform the FSUE Bureau of their decision before 31st of December 2005.

The Portugal delegate, Pedro Marote, wants to add something, and since the time is short, the Bureau asks him to do it on paper. Here are his words :

FSUE – Portugal Proposals, Kalamos, 25th of August 2005,
Development of the FSUE website in order to improve the communication among the FSUE members, and also take the advantage of all the new improvements made each day in the communication area.

Definition of standards for caving safety (exploration) and for cave environment protection (for cavers and also for authorities).

Establishing of an European code of foreign and overseas expeditions.

Pedro Marote

Portugal delegate

15. Election of Vice-President position up to 2007

Three acceptable candidatures are received by the GA. A 1st round is held, here are the results,

Gerard Campion (United Kingdom) – 4 votes – selected for 2nd round

Gyula Hegedus (Hungary) – 4 votes – selected for 2nd round

Manuel Freire (Portugal) – 1 vote

Because none reached the simple majority (5 votes on 9), a 2nd round is held. Here are the results :

Gerard Campion (United Kingdom) – 5 votes - elected

Gyula Hegedus (Hungary) – 4 votes

The new Bureau is comprised of :

President : Juan Carlos Lopez (up to 2009)

Vice-President : Gerard Campion (up to 2007)

Secretary : Olivier Vidal (up to 2009)

Treasurer : Jean-Claude Thies (up to 2007)

16. Official Letter to the 10 new countries entering the EU

It is informed by the Bureau that a letter will be sent by FSUE President to the new countries entering the EU. This letter concerns : Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Czech

Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia. As a matter of fact no federations, neither clubs are known in the following countries : Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia and Malta.

17. Round Table for Orientations

BE

Role of differences between UIS and FSUE, promoting caving, organization of the cavers, projects from associations and clubs, financing by nations is input but we need also output, we need other inputs in finances, not a good option only to increase the fees, this is only shifting money around, delegate closest to Brussels should open the door to EU commission, all countries should be member as that way we are more effective, not enough information

DE

Project matter did not work at all since the begin so leave it away, give more information, lobbying the federation, make the federation visible

PT

Improvement of the website for a better communication and it should be a mirror of European caving through new medias, improving the standardization and protection and rescue and ethics and expeditions

GR

Congratulations to the bureau, give more information networking, more contacts between delegates

GB

European Meetings are important, improve access to them

HU

New members are not very well informed, it is important to meet the European cavers

JU

Focus on small projects only, help each other in difficult tasks as i.e European Insurance

ES

Difficult to coordinate projects from different European countries, agrees with the idea of European meetings, made a proposal to organize meeting in 2006 covered by FSUE, more contacts

FR

Questionnaire, concrete actions, camps, thematic meetings, expeditions, support the Europrojects from European Clubs, rely on financial support, exchange information through website

18. EuroSpeleo Projects Funding

The Bureau informs that a special funds will be created, called "EuroSpeleo Projects". It will be informed as soon as it is ready. The EuroSpeleo Projects will enable to promote the

organization of activities and projects including cavers from different European countries (5 countries minimum).

19. Creation of Technical Commissions

The GA decides to create 7 technical commissions :

- Caves Protection
- Medical
- European conservatory
- European Publications
- European Law
- Techniques & Trainings
- Expeditions

A call will be sent, so that interested cavers will be able to join the technical commissions. It would be also possible to create “European Technical Days” when all Commissions join to work on some days, in order to make progress their works.

20. Treasury decisions and Budget 2006

The Treasurer, Jean-Claude Thies, presents the subscription rates in euros for the following years :

Federation	For memory 2004-2005	Fees for 2005-2006	Fees for 2006-2007
Under 100 cavers	50	52	54
100-1000 cavers	100	110	120
Over 1000	200	250	300

Annual Budget proposals for 2005-2006

Budget Lines	Amount in Euros
European Congress in Portugal (Expeditions)	250
World Games in Spain	500
Stamps	200
Photocopies	50
Headed Paper & envelopes	250
EuroSpeleo newsletter edition	500
EuroSpeleo Projects	1500
TOTAL in Euros	3000

The treasury proposals are adopted at unanimity.

21. GA 2007 proposals

No candidates are ready to send their candidature for the organization of the GA 2007. It is decided that a Call for the organization of a yearly "EuroSpeleo Forum". The ESF 2007 could held the GA 2007.

It is also requested to print 250 stickers for this meeting.

22. Final words of the President

"Dear friends,

First of all, I would like to apologize for my poor English! I promise that this year I will study hard to improve my English. Anyway, I think that in the XXIth Century the language should not be a problem.

I would like to follow the working spirit initiated by Andy Eavis, efficiently followed by Claude Mouret.

I would like that in the next four years, the working inside the FSUE Bureau will be more dynamic and efficient. So, with this working spirit, I am going to propose the following lines of actuation for 2005-2009 period:

1. Promoting the relation between FSUE and the EU.
2. Increasing the budget of FSUE obtaining official incomes from EU.
3. Improving the relations among the members of the FSUE.
4. Improving the Web site of the FSUE.
5. Editing new numbers of EuroSpeleo journal.
6. Improving the relationship among the national delegates of the FSUE.
7. Studying the viability of a European Speleological Licence with insurance.
8. Redacting and publishing a yearly calendar of activities."

The meeting ends at 14.00
