

FEDERATION SPELEOLOGIQUE EUROPEENNE



FSE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING
Saturday 26th of September 2009
in Churchill, Somerset, England, Great Britain

Reported by Olivier Vidal

Introduction

The FSE General Assembly meeting was held in Churchill, during the 2009 edition of the British Caving Convention "Hidden Earth", organised by the British Caving Association (BCA). Juan Carlos Lopez, FSE president, and Olivier Vidal, Secretary General, chaired the meeting.

The FSE Bureau members and the country delegates wish to thank the BCA and the Hidden Earth organisers, to have received them during Hidden Earth 2009.

The meeting starts at 14h00.

Present participants of the GA meeting

Voting countries delegates :

Bureau members : Juan Carlos Lopez (President, Spain), Ged Campion (Vice-President, Britain), Olivier Vidal (Secretary General, France), Manuel Freire (Treasurer, Portugal), Alexey Zhalov (Vice-Secretary, Bulgaria).

Other delegates : Jean-Claude Thies (Luxembourg), Thomas Gustafsson (Sweden), Jörg Dreybrodt (Germany), Tibor Dianovszki (Hungary), Viorel Lascu & Ioana Meleg (Romania), Michele Sivelli (Italy), Marcin Gala (Poland), Silvia Goutier (Netherlands), Urs Widmer (Switzerland), Katie Walsh (Ireland), Mladen Garasic (Croatia), Hans Øivind Aarstad (Norway) + 3 non-voting Greek delegates : Nikos Mitsakis & Angelo Kanarios (FHS) and Fanis Ellinas (HSS).

Secretary of FSE Commission : Ioana Meleg (ECPC, Romania)

Observers : Miguel Tomé Mejias (Interpreter)

Excused : Lithuania, Monaco, FYRO. Macedonia, Serbia and Belgium delegates.

1. Opening of the General Assembly Meeting

In the name of the Bureau, the FSE president, Juan Carlos Lopez, welcomes all participants for this GA meeting. The agenda of the meeting has been established by the Bureau and sent to the delegates. The corresponding topics are developed in the report below.

2. Quorum - Presentation of voting delegates and observing countries

The FSE counts 20 full members + 5 members to be confirmed at point 4 (Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Serbia + Danemark for a reduced fee). So the quorum of a minimum of 10 voting delegates is reached with 19 countries present or represented (physical presence of 16 delegates + 2 to be confirmed at point 4). Only Slovakia is not represented in spite of having paid their fee. Austria, though is not a member, made a contribution of 20 euros to the FSE as a donation for the year 2008-2009. Czech republic should decide during their 2012 GAM about their FSE membership. For the EU countries we are still waiting for the answer of Slovenia.

The GA accepts the points, included in the meeting Agenda, that have been added after the version sent by normal post mail 3 months before the GAM.

3. Welcome of new member countries

Since last year we have 4 new members : two as EU-member (Netherlands and Danemark) and 2 as new European non-EU members (Norway and Croatia).

The FSE warmly welcomes them among the big European speleological family.

4. Approval of reduced membership fees and late payements for 2008-2009

A request has been received from the Netherlands to pay 29 euros instead of 58 euros for the 2008-2009 period.

This request is adopted at unanimity (19 votes).

A request has been received from Danemark to pay 5 euros instead of 58 euros for the 2008-2009 period.

This request is adopted at unanimity minus 1 abstention.

3 member countries have paid their 2007-2008 fee after the limit date of the 30th of June 2008 and before the GAM : Ireland, Germany, Serbia.

The GA accepts at unanimity these 3 countries to be full voting members for the period 2008-2009 and for this GAM.

About Belgium that has not yet paid (but promised to pay in the coming days) the General assembly wants an application of the Statutes and Belgium can not vote for this GAM.

Thus the FSE comprises a total of 25 full member countries. 17 are present, 4 are represented :

- Lithuania gave a proxy to Luxembourg
- Monaco gave a proxy to France
- FYRO. Macedonia gave a proxy to Bulgaria
- Serbia gave a proxy to Swizerland

2 are absent (Slovakia and Danemark) and 2 can not vote (Greece and Belgium), so we have 21 voters (20 up to point 6).

5. Approval of last General Assembly Meeting report

Last GAM report of Lans en Vercors is approved at unanimity minus 1 abstention.

6. Vote of GA on Croatia Representation

Two applications from two different Croatian organisations have been received early June. One from the HSS (Croatian Speleological Federation) and one from the KSHPS (Speleological Committee of the Croatian Mountaineering Association). According to the art. 2 of the FSE Internal Regulations the GA will vote to choose one of them or none as member country representative. An electronic written debate has been organised during the month of September between the FSE delegates. The vote is organised during the GAM.

Here are the results of the vote :

HSS : 12 voices

None : 5 voices

Abstentions : 2

Blank : 1

KSHPS : no voices

The HSS application is accepted by the FSE General Assembly to represent Croatia inside the FSE. It is reminded that the national speleological organisations have to represent all the cavers of their country including the ones who are not member of their organisation.

7. Situation of the FSE member countries

Manuel Freire explains the situation of the 27 EU countries + the new European non-EU countries members of the FSE :

| <u>Code</u> | <u>Full Members :</u> | <u>Confirmed Delegate Presence at GAM 2009</u> |
|--------------------|--|---|
| BG | BULGARIA | Alexey Zhalov |
| CH | SWIZERLAND | Urs Widmer |
| DE | GERMANY (Payment received on 14 th of July) | Jorg Dreybrodt |
| DK(*) | DENMARK(**) | Torben Redder (+) |
| ES | SPAIN | Juan Carlos Lopez |
| FR | FRANCE | Olivier Vidal |
| GB | GREAT BRITAIN | Ged Champion |
| GR | GREECE | Vote tbc (N. Mitsakis / F. Ellinas+) |
| HR(*) | CROATIA | Mladen Garasic |
| HU | HUNGARY | Tibor Dianovsky |
| IE | IRELAND (Payment received on 16 th of July) | Katie Walsh |
| IT | ITALY | Michele Sivelli |
| LU | LUXEMBOURG | Jean-Claude Thies |
| LT | LITHUANIA | Proxy to LU (JC. Thies) |
| MC | MONACO | Proxy to FR (O. Vidal) |

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|-------|--|-------------------------|
| MK | FYR. of MACEDONIA | Proxy to BG (A. Zhalov) |
| NL(*) | THE NETHERLANDS (**) | Silvia Goutier |
| NO(*) | NORWAY | Hans Øivind Aarstad (+) |
| PL | POLAND | Marcin Gala |
| PT | PORTUGAL | Manuel Freire |
| RO | ROMANIA | Viorel Lascu |
| RS | SERBIA (Payment received mid-July by cash) | Proxy to CH (U. Widmer) |
| SE | SWEDEN | Thomaz Gustafsson |

(*) 4 new full member countries since 2008 GAM

(16 present+1 voice+3 proxies)

(**) reduced fee request to be submitted at GAM

TBC : To be confirmed

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|---|
| <u>Code</u> | <u>Full Members :</u> | <u>No Delegate Presence at GAM 2009 and No Proxy</u> |
| SK | SLOVAKIA | Full member but no representation |

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|----|---|---|
| | <u>2008-2009 Full members under reserve of approval at the GAM. (payment received after 30th of June) :</u> | <u>Confirmed Delegate Presence at GAM 2009</u> |
| BE | BELGIUM (Payment not received before the GAM) | No delegate present |

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|--|---|
| <u>EU countries not yet Members :</u> | Observations |
| AUSTRIA | Made a 20 euros donation in 2008-2009 |
| SLOVENIA | Jasmina Rijavec |
| CZECH REPUBLIC | A FSE presentation will be held there in 2011 |

EU countries with no Speleological Organisation :

CYPRUS, ESTONIA, FINLAND, LATIVA, MALTA.

8. Short report of the Bureau 2007-2008

The general report of the FSE for 2008-2009 is read by the FSE president. Here it is^o:

Major advancements :

This year has seen the consolidation of the European integration of the FSE with 4 new member countries, 2 EU member states and 2 other European countries. This makes 8 new members since the opening of the FSE to all European countries in 2007. It now counts 25 member countries, including 6 non-EU member states. On the 12 Central European countries that have entered the EU since 2004, only 2 have not joined yet the FSE.

The other major achievement was the campaign that the ECPC has carried out with the Euro-deputies of the EU parliament. In spite that the Written Declaration on Cave Protection was not adopted, this has been a fantastic opportunity of sensitization about Speleology and Cave Protection for politicians all over Europe. This shows that with some more time we would be able to succeed next time. For this achievement, we would like to congratulate warmly Christiane Grebe and all the ECPC team.

Internal and Public representation :

To give you a short summary of all the meetings that the members of the FSE Bureau have made, here are the main meetings we have done, together or separately :

1/ 1 Bureau meetings : Sardinia on May 2009.

2/ 1 FSE-UIS Meeting : Texas on July 2009.

EuroSpeleo Projects :

The EuroSpeleo Projects funding works very well. We will have full report prepared by Alexey Zhalov afterwards.

European License :

About the European license, the Bureau is working on a new project with some partners. We'll be able to present you this project at the end of the year.

Should you have any questions about the FSE activities this year, please let us know.

The General Report is approved at unanimity minus 2 abstentions.

9. Financial report 2008-2009

The financial report of the FSUE for 2008-2009 is distributed to the delegates and presented as a slideshow by the Treasurer (see annex).

The financial report is approved at unanimity minus 1 abstention.

10. Annual report of the FSE Protection Commission 2008- 2009

Ioana Meleg, in charge of the ECPC secretary presents the annual report of the Protection commission for its first year of existence. See report in annex.

Ioana presents the European Cave Day project that aims to clean caves. The date in every European country could be every year between mid-September to mid-October.

The report is accepted at unanimity minus 2 abstentions by the GAM.

At that moment Sweden delegate leaves the meeting and the delegate from Denmark enters.

11. Report about the EuroSpeleo Projects 2008-2009

Alexey Zhalov, FSE Vice-secretary presents the report about the EuroSpeleo Projects 2008-2009 to the General Assembly. See in annex.

12. Cooperation with Africa and Middle East (AME)

Mickael Laumans, German expert of the AME countries, and Olivier Vidal, present us a proposal that aims at opening the EuroSpeleo Project funding to AME countries.

The condition is that the project should include only FSE members and AME countries (5 countries minimum). The request is made by an FSE member.

This proposal is approved at unanimity minus 1 abstention.

13. International Caving Expeditions database (ICE db)

Manuel Freire presents this common FSE-UIS project that has been validated by both of the FSE and UIS bureaux during last International Congress last July in Texas. Manuel has been appointed as project leader for by both bureaux. An agreement between UIS and FSE should be prepared and signed soon. See ICE db presentation text in annex.

14. Internal Regulations (IR) of the Protection Commission (ECPC)

Ioana Meleg present the proposal of ECPC IR prepared by the commission board. Some delegates give some remarks about the representation role of the ECPC president and some other details. It is decided that these remarks will be included in a further version and submitted to the GA either by email or during next GAM.

15. Bureau positions : opening to non-delegates persons

Olivier Vidal presents the proposal of change of the statutes art. 12. It is requested to add that the persons should be member of their national speleological organisation (the one who represents the country inside the FSE), and that there should not be more than 1 person of the same country in the Bureau. The changes will be made and submitted to the GA by email or during next GAM.

16. Passage of the General Assembly meetings to an annual rythm

The bureau presents this proposal of modification of the Statutes Art. 20.

This proposal is approved at unanimity minus 1 against and 1 abstention.

17. Electronic vote procedure (EVP)

The bureau presents this proposal of modification of the Statutes Art. 21.

The General Assembly makes 2 remarks :

- the electronic vote procedure should not be used for person's elections.
- The electronic vote quorum is 50% of the General Assembly members with and expressed voice.

This proposal including these remarks is approved at unanimity.

18. Possibility of tranfer of the FSE headquarters (HQ)

Juan Carlos Lopez explains that there exists a possibility to get an annual subsidy of 12k.- EUR from the Spanish government if the FSE HQ are transferred to Madrid.

Since this possibility is not yet confirmed, especially because of the economic crisis context, it is decided to treat this point during a next GAM when official confirmations will be given.

19. Change of accounting year and limit date for payments

Manuel Freire presents this proposal . It means working on an accounting year from January to December instead of July to June.

In that case the payments should be done every year before the 31st of March (cf. Internal Regulations Art. 6).

This proposal including these remarks is approved at unanimity (18 voices).

20. Organisation of EuroSpeleo Forum 2010, 2011 &2012

A call will be sent to the national organisations for the organisation of the EuroSpeleo Forums of the 3 coming years.

21. Creation of a working group about open air competition

Juan Carlos Lopez presents this project. It is decided that a working group with the interested countries will work on common rules. It is reminded by the GAM that the FSE is against underground competition.

22. Annual fees 2010 & 2011 and provisional budget for end of 2009 and 2010

Manuel Freire presents the bureau proposal for the Annual fees starting on 1st of January (in parenthesis is the increase for 2011) :

- Caver fee : 2 E per caver (for organisation under 15 cavers)
- From 1 to 29 cavers : 29 E (+1 E)
- From 30 to 99 cavers : 58 E (+2 E)
- From 100 to 299 cavers : 90 E (+5 E)
- From 300 to 999 cavers : 140 E (+10 E)
- From 1000 to 2999 cavers : 240 E (+20 E)
- Over 3000 cavers : 400 E (+50 E)

And the art.8 of the Internal Regulation is cancelled.

This proposal is approved at unanimity (18 voices).

Then, the budget plan for the 2nd semester of 2009 and the year 2010 is presented :

Budget Plan 2008 - 2009 pending

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|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Stamps, Office, Copies | 300 |
| Internet | 100 |
| EuroSpeleo Projects | 5000 |
| EuroSpeleo Forum 2010 | 500 |
| Meetings | 500 |
| ECPC | 500 |
| Protection Label | 600 |
| Total | <u>7500 euros</u> |

This proposal is approved at unanimity (18 voices).

23. Election of Bureau members President & Secretary

The positions of President and Secretary have to be renewed after 4 years of mandates.

According to the article 11 of the Internal Regulations, these 2 positions go up to 2013. For information, the positions of Vice-president, Treasurer and Vice-secretary will be renewed in 2011.

The Bureau has received the candidature of :

- Juan Carlos Lopez from Spain, outgoing president, for the position of President.
- Olivier Vidal from France, outgoing secretary, for the position of Secretary.

No other applications are received by the Vice-president who is supervising the election.

Here is the result of the elections :

President position :

- Juan Carlos Lopez : unanimity (18 voices)

Secretary position :

- Olivier Vidal : unanimity (18 voices)

Both candidates are elected and the GA congratulates them for their election. The elected candidates thank the General Assembly for their confidence.

The new Bureau is comprised of :

- President : Juan Carlos Lopes (up to 2013)
- Vice-President : Ged Campion (up to 2011)
- General Secretary : Olivier Vidal (up to 2013)
- Treasurer : Manuel Freire (up to 2011)
- Vice-Secretary : Alexey Zhalov (up to 2011)

Since there is no Miscellaneous points, the meeting is closed at 18.00
