

FEDERATION SPELEOLOGIQUE EUROPEENNE



FSE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING Saturday 8th of May 2010 in Budapest, Hungary

Reported by Olivier Vidal

Introduction

The FSE General Assembly meeting was held in Budapest, during the 5th EuroSpeleo Forum & 100th Anniversary of organised Speleology in Hungary held by the Hungarian Speleological Society (MKBT). 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 MKBT to have received them during the 2010 EuroSpeleo Forum.

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 : René Scherrer (Switzerland), Ivan Nastic (Serbia), Szabolcs Leel-Ossy (Hungary), Pedro Pinto (Portugal), Viorel Traian Lascu (Romania), Aidas Gudaitis & Gintautas Svedas (Lithuania), Mladen Garasic (Croatia), Jean-Claude Thies (Luxembourg) + 2 non voting Greek delegates : Stelios Zacharias (FHS) and Fanis Ellinas (HSS),

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

Observers : Vido Kregar & Ales Strazar (Slovenia), Sophia Nikolakaki (Greece), Dalibor Paar (Croatia), José Antonio Berrocal (Spain), Tiago Borralho (Portugal), Christian Dodelin (UIS, France).

Excused : Belgium, Italy and Monaco delegates with proxy (respectively to LU, BG, FR), and Ireland, Netherlands without proxy.

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 24 full members + 1 member that has not paid its fee for 2nd semester of 2009 (FYRO-Macedonia). So the quorum of a minimum of 12 voting delegates is reached with 16 countries present or represented (physical presence of 13 delegates + 3 proxies). The following countries are not represented in spite of having paid their fee (Ireland, Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Poland, Germany, Sweden, Slovakia). Austria, though is not a member, made a contribution of 20 euros to the FSE as a donation for the year 2010. 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 whom the president is present at this GAM as an observer.

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

No new members this year.

4. Approval of reduced membership fees and late payments for 2009

No approval is to be made. FYRO Macedonia has not paid yet their fee for 2nd semester of 2009 and are not present and neither represented at this GAM.

5. Approval of last General Assembly Meeting report

Last GAM report of Churchill-UK is approved at unanimity.

6. Situation of the FSE member countries

Manuel Freire explains the situation of the 25 European countries members of the FSE :

<u>Code</u>	<u>Full Members :</u>	<u>Confirmed Delegate Presence at GAM 2010</u>
BE	BELGIUM	Proxy to LU
BG	BULGARIA	Alexey Zhalov
CH	SWIZERLAND	René Scherrer
DE	GERMANY	None
DK	DENMARK	None
ES	SPAIN	Juan Carlos Lopez
FR	FRANCE	Olivier Vidal
GB	GREAT BRITAIN	Ged Campion
GR	GREECE	No vote (S. Zacharias / F. Ellinas)
HR	CROATIA	Mladen Garasic

HU	HUNGARY	Szabolcs Leél-Össy
IE	IRELAND	None
IT	ITALY	Proxy to BG
LU	LUXEMBOURG	Jean-Claude Thies
LT	LITHUANIA	Aidas Gudaitis
MC	MONACO	Proxy to FR
NL	THE NETHERLANDS	None
NO	NORWAY	?
PL	POLAND	?
PT	PORTUGAL	Manuel Freire
RO	ROMANIA	Viorel Lascu
RS	SERBIA	Ivan Nastic
SE	SWEDEN	Thomaz Gustafsson
SK	SLOVAKIA	Peter Magdolen

TBC : To be confirmed

<u>Code</u>	<u>Full Members :</u>	<u>No Delegate Presence at GAM 2009 and No Proxy</u>
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	<u>2009 2nd semester Full members under reserve of approval at the GAM. (payment not received at 31st of March) :</u>	<u>Confirmed Delegate Presence at GAM 2009</u>
MK	FYR. of MACEDONIA	?

<u>EU countries not yet Members :</u>	<u>Observations</u>
AUSTRIA	Made a 20 euros donation in 2010
SLOVENIA	Jasmina Rijavec
CZECH REPUBLIC	A FSE presentation will be held there in 2011-2012

EU countries with no Speleological Organisation :

CYPRUS, ESTONIA , FINLAND , LATIVA ,MALTA

7. Short report of the Bureau 2008-2009

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

“Major advancements :

This year have seen the reinforcement of the EuroSpeleo Projects. It is the first year that we reach a number of 11 projects for the year 2009-2010, when usually we had 6 or 7 projects. And after BEAL ropes, we have a new official partner with Aventure Verticale since the month of March. We will have full report prepared by Alexey Zhalov afterwards.

The other major achievement have been the work carried out by the Protection Commission, with for example the European Cave Day, the EuroSpeleo Protection label, the Action Plan 2010-2013, and the creation of the Work group about White Nose Syndrom. Ioana Meleg will do a complete report about ECPC activities afterwards.

Another advancement are the links that the FSE is establishing with other European bodies. Viorel Lascu is in relations with the Council of Europe, and Baerbel Vogel is in contact with the European Environmental Bureau. We'll discuss during this GAM about the opportunities for the FSE to officialise these relations.

2010 Projects :

For this year we gave also the project to create a new opportunity for European Caving Clubs to get in contact with each other by the creation of the EuroSpeleo Twin Clubs. It will be a good opportunity for the thousands of European cavers to create new cooperation links with each other in a context that is different and complementary of a speleological congress.

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

We wish you a nice General Assembly meeting and SpeleoHungary100 Conference”

The General Report is approved at unanimity.

8. Financial report 2nd semester 2009

The financial report of the FSUE for the 2nd semester 2009 is presented by the Treasurer (see annex).

The financial report is approved at unanimity.

9. Information about ECPC Internal Regulations (IR)

Olivier Vidal remind the delegates that the ECPC IR have been approved by electronic vote and are applicable since the 5th of January 2010.

10. Annual report of the FSE Protection Commission 2009- 2010

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

Several ECPC projects are submitted to the GAM :

a) European Cave Protection Charta

The text of the charta is presented to the delegates :

« **“10 principles for cave and karst protection in Europe”** »

The subterranean realm is fragile, vulnerable, has a slow evolution ; hence any degradation, intervention or improper activities lead to irreversible effects. Protecting a cave means to know and to appreciate its values, and being responsible means to be aware that the cave is a natural and cultural chronicle that we must protect and preserve for future generations.

Respecting the cave environment means respecting life. A way to minimize the impact of caving could involve :

1. Appreciating the natural beauty and the archeological and paleontological values.
2. Not leaving anything behind, but impressions.
3. Using environmental friendly techniques for lighting.
4. Staying on established trails or pathways.
5. Caving together as a trained team with sufficient knowledge.
6. Not damaging the cave environment and minimizing the risk of cave accidents.
7. Working with gear that minimizes the effects on the subterranean environment.
8. Using pathways on durable surface, to minimize impacts, while we are in the cave exploring and surveying.
9. Leaving the minimum possible impact on the karst and other landforms that shelter the cave.
10. Becoming educators and promoters of cave and karst protection and conservation. »

The FSE Cave Protection Charta is approved at unanimity minus 1 abstention.

b) European Cave Day project

The project is presented and is approved at unanimity.

c) ECPC Annual report

The report is presented and is approved at unanimity.

d) ECPC Action Plan 2010-2013

The action plan is presented and approved at unanimity.

11. Report about the EuroSpeleo Projects 2009-2010

Alexey Zhalov, FSE Vice-secretary presents the report about the EuroSpeleo Projects 2009-2010 to the General Assembly. See in annex.

The report is approved at unanimity.

12. Creation of the EuroSpeleo Twin Clubs

Olivier Vidal presents this new FSE projects that aims to bring closer European caving clubs together, on the same model as the "Twin cities".

This proposal is approved at unanimity minus 3 abstentions.

13. Creation of an FSE Women & Speleology Commission

Since the presentation is not ready yet, the concept paper will be sent by Aitana Tamayo to the FSE delegates and an electronic vote will be made.

14. Participatory status within the Council of Europe

Viorel Lascu present this project. Jean-Claude Thies is proposed to represent the FSE in the CoE.

This proposal is approved at unanimity.

15. Bureau positions : opening to non-delegates persons

Olivier Vidal presents the proposal of change of the Statutes art. 12. As explained during last GAM, it is proposed 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.

This proposal is approved at unanimity.

16. Membership of the FSE in the European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

Ioana Meleg presents this project.
The ECPC will be in charge of it.

This proposal is approved at unanimity.

17. Report of the workgroup on Open-air competitions European rules

Juan Carlos Lopes and José Antonio Berrocal present this point. Since the document is not ready, a proposal will be sent to the delegates for October 2010.

18. International Caving Expeditions database (ICE db)

Manuel Freire present this project. Christian Dodelin and Manuel will present to the delegates a proposal of text for the agreement between the UIS and the FSE for this project.

18b. Applicability of UIS code of Ethics within Europe

Stellios Zacharias from Greece presents a proposal of an "FSE simple administration procedure" in this frame :

"The expedition leader or the origin National Speleological Organisation (NSO) should send at least 1 month before the expedition starts an email to the Destination NSO in English/French or national destination language. After the expedition, a copy of the report should be sent asap to the Destination NSO."

This proposal is approved at unanimity minus 3 abstentions.

19. Report of the WNS workgroup & approval of the proposals

Ioana Meleg who is coordinating the White Nose Syndrom (WNS) FSE workgroup presents the work done to the delegate. Then she presents the project of fact sheet to be broadcasted to all European caving clubs.

This proposal is approved at unanimity.

20. Organisation of EuroSpeleo Forum 2011, 2012, 2013 & 2016 European Congress

Olivier Vidal explains that a call has been sent to the national organisations for the organisation of the EuroSpeleo Forums of the 3 coming years. The call for the 2016 European Congress should be sent between 2011 and 2013.

21. Annual fees 2011 & 2012 and provisional budget for end of 2009 and 2010

Manuel Freire presents the bureau proposal for the Annual fees starting on 1st of January 2011 (in parenthesis is the increase for 2012) :

- Caver fee : 2 E per caver (for organisation under 15 cavers)
- From 1 to 29 cavers : 30 E (+1 E)
- From 30 to 99 cavers : 60 E (+2 E)
- From 100 to 299 cavers : 95 E (+5 E)
- From 300 to 999 cavers : 150 E (+10 E)
- From 1000 to 2999 cavers : 260 E (+20 E)
- Over 3000 cavers : 450 E (+50 E)

This proposal is approved at unanimity

Then he presents the realised budget of 2nd semester 2009 (see annex).

This 2009 financial report is approved at unanimity.

Then, the budget plan for the year 2011 is presented :

Budget Plan 2011

Office	200
Internet	100
EuroSpeleo Projects	4000
EuroSpeleo Forum 2011	500
Meetings	400
ECPC	500
Protection Label	500
EEB membership	218
Total	<u>6418 euros</u>

The FSE membership fees representing 4470 euros.

This proposal is approved at unanimity minus 1 abstention.

22. Election of ECPC President

The position of ECPC President has to be renewed following the resignation of Christiane Grebe end of 2009.

The Bureau has received the candidature of :

- Ioana Meleg, outgoing ECPC secretary

Here is the result of the election :

ECPC President position :

- Ioana Meleg : unanimity (mandate up to 2014)

23. Miscellaneous

Olivier Vidal ask to everyone to stand for the 20th Anniversary of the FSE that was created in 1990 during its Constitutional GAM in Udine-Italy. A big applause from every delegate is given for the great work done since then.

The meeting is closed at 18.30
