

# FEDERATION SPELEOLOGIQUE EUROPEENNE



## FSE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2011 in Marbella, Spain

Reported by Olivier Vidal

### Introduction

The FSE General Assembly meeting was held in Marbella-Spain, during the 6<sup>th</sup> EuroSpeleo Forum held by the Spanish Federation of Speleology (FEE). 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 FEE to have received them during the 2011 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 : Viorel Traian Lascu (Romania), Elina Saarinen (Finland), Silvia Goutier (Netherlands), Katerina Melamor & Sophia Nikolakaki & Spiros Merdenisianos (Greece), Csaba Egeri (Hungary), Riccardo Dall'Aqua (Italy),

Responsible of FSE Commission : Ioana Meleg (ECPC president, Romania)

Observers : Magdalena Stamenova (Bulgaria), Laurence Tanguille & José Prévôt (France), Henk Goutier (Netherlands)

Excused (proxy to) : Belgium (NL), Switzerland (-), Germany (IT), Croatia (PT), Ireland (GB), Luxembourg (ES), Lithuania (BG), Monaco (FR), Norway (-), Slovakia (-).

### 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 27 full members. So the quorum of a minimum of 14 voting delegates is reached with 18 countries present or represented (physical presence of 11 delegates + 7 proxies). The following countries are not represented in spite of having paid their fee (Austria, Switzerland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Slovakia, Slovenia, Serbia). Czech republic should decide during their November 2012 GAM about their FSE membership.

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**

The FSE General Assembly is happy to warmly welcome the arrival of 3 new member countries : Austria, Finland and Slovenia + the new Lithuanian organisation "LSA" that now represent Lithuania.

## **4. Approval of fee payments for 2011**

Approval is given for the 27 member countries.

## **5. Approval of last General Assembly Meeting report**

Last GAM report of Budapest-Hungary is approved at unanimity.

## **6. Situation of the FSE member countries**

Manuel Freire explains the situation of the 27 European countries members of the FSE (28 if we include FYRO-Macedonia) :

<b><u>Code</u></b>	<b><u>Full Members :</u></b>	<b><u>Confirmed Delegate Presence at GAM 2011</u></b>	<b><u>Proxy from :</u></b>
AT	AUSTRIA (*)	No answer	
BE	BELGIUM	Proxy to NL	
BG	BULGARIA	Alexey Zhalov	LT
CH	SWIZERLAND	No rep & no proxy	
DE	GERMANY	Proxy to IT	
DK	DENMARK	No answer	
ES	SPAIN	Juan Carlos Lopez	LU
FI	FINLAND (*)	Elina Saarinen	
FR	FRANCE	Olivier Vidal, Laurence Tanguille	MC
GB	GREAT BRITAIN	Ged Campion	IE
GR	GREECE	FHS : Katerina Malama & Sophia Nikolakaki – HSS : Spiros Merdeisianos	
HR	CROATIA	Proxy to PT	
HU	HUNGARY	Csaba Egri	

IE	IRELAND	Proxy to GB	
IT	ITALY	Riccardo Dall'Acqua	DE
LU	LUXEMBOURG	Proxy to ES	
LT	LITHUANIA	Proxy to BG	
MC	MONACO	Proxy to FR	
NL	NETHERLANDS	Silvia Goutier	BE
NO	NORWAY	No rep & no proxy	
PL	POLAND	Absent reps	
PT	PORTUGAL	Manuel Freire	HR
RO	ROMANIA	Viorel Lascu, Ioana Meleg	
SE	SWEDEN	No rep & no proxy?	
SK	SLOVAKIA	No rep & no proxy	
SL	SLOVENIA (*)	No answer	

TBC : To be confirmed

(\*) : New members in 2011

	<b><u>2011 Full members under reserve of approval at the GAM. (payment not received at 31<sup>st</sup> of March) :</u></b>	Confirmed Delegate Presence at GAM 2011
MK	FYR. of MACEDONIA (not paid yet at end of June)	No answer
RS	SERBIA (paid on 21 <sup>st</sup> of June)	No answer

<b><u>Code</u></b>	<b><u>Full Members :</u></b>	<b><u>No Delegate Presence at GAM 2011 and No Proxy</u></b>
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<b><u>EU countries not yet Members :</u></b>	Observations
CZECH REPUBLIC	An FSE presentation will be held there in 2012

### **EU countries with no Speleological Organisation :**

CYPRUS, ESTONIA, LATIVA, MALTA

## **7. Short report of the Bureau 2010-2011**

### **FSE Report / Rapport Moral FSE May 2010 - September 2011**

#### **Major advancements (red by JCL) :**

With 3 new member countries and 28 members if we include FYRO-Macedonia, the FSE has never been so dynamic all over Europe. We have twice the number of members of 2005 when there was 14 EU member countries. This evolution coincides with the reinforcement of continental speleological structures in Latin America and Asia, on the UIS regional bodies pattern. May be is it time today for the UIS regional bodies to have a real representativity at international level, and the FSE could present such a project at next International congress in 2013. At European level, the FSE keeps on developing its exchanges with FEALC and Africa-Middle-East countries through the ESP projects. And of course also with the Balkan Speleological Union, with whom we'll present you a proposal of cooperation protocol during this GAM.

This year have seen a new reinforcement of the EuroSpeleo Projects. It is the first year that we have reached a number of 14 requests for the year 2011, when usually we had 6 or 7 projects up to 2008. And after BEAL ropes and Aventure Verticale, we have a third new official partner with the Swiss

lamp manufacturer, Scurion, since the month of September 2010. The Bureau has made evolved the ESP grant attribution rules in order to share out the FSE financial and material resources in a more adapted way to the projects of different sizes. This has enable to open the ESP grants to projects gathering 4 countries only. The projects with FEALC and Africa-Middle-East countries remain with 3 countries. 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 :

- 1- the European Charta that have been broadcasted on June 2010 to all European cavers,
- 2- the White Nose Syndrome factsheet that been broadcasted in September 2010,
- 3- the 2011 EuroSpeleo Protection label that have receive applications from 2 different European countries,
- 4- the building of the Action Plan 2010-2013,

and many more projects that Ioana Meleg will present you in her complete report about ECPC activities afterwards.

The modernization of FSE procedures with the real test of electronic vote in December 2010 has shown its capacity to take important or urgent decisions by the General Assembly in between each of its meeting. In order to cope with physical Quorum problems, it will be proposed next year in Switzerland to make evolve the definition of the FSE GAM quorum.

#### **Upcoming Projects (red by GC ?) :**

For this year there are 2 new projects that will be proposed to the GAM.

The first is the creation of a European FSE workgroup on Shale Gas. As you now several European countries are facing risks of caves and karsts destruction due to the development of Shale Gas research and extraction in different karstic areas of Europe. This FSE workgroup would enable European cavers to exchange their experience in this field and to prepare an open letter to the EU Commission that would be also a European petition. The FSE Bureau wants to warmly thank here Ioana Meleg who has accepted to coordinate this workgroup, and for all the great job done among the Cave Protection Commission.

The second project is the creation of an FSE European and international Web-TV called "Speleo-TV". The objectives are to enable the free broadcasting of speleological films, videos and slideshows to all European cavers, and to promote the exchange of experience in this field between the European countries. In a second phase some EuroSpeleo Image'In film festivals could in the future use this tool for their preparation and after-festival periods. In this frame a workgroup would be created in order to develop this project, most probably on a YouTube interface. The project will be submitted to you during this meeting.

Finally we want to inform you here that the FSE Bureau has contacts with the UIS Cave Rescue Commission in order to see the possibility of the creation of a European FSE Cave Rescue Commission. For the moment we have the same views on the topic as the UIS Commission, but some European countries where cave rescue is made outside of the speleological organizations are still to be convinced. As soon as we have more news we'll of course let you informed of this topic.

Should you have any questions about the FSE activities this year, please let us know.  
We wish you a nice General Assembly meeting and 6<sup>th</sup> EuroSpeleo Forum in Marbella,  
The FSE Bureau

The General Report is approved at unanimity.

#### **8. Financial report 2010 & 1<sup>st</sup> semester 2011**

The financial report of the FSE for 2010 and the 1<sup>st</sup> semester 2011 is presented by the Treasurer (see annex).

The 2010 financial report is approved at unanimity.

For information, here are the data for 2011 1<sup>st</sup> semester :

- Present amount on bank account : 30.652 €
- Income = 2011 expected fees : 4940 €
- Presently received fees : 4878 €

## **9. Annual report of the FSE Protection Commission 2010- 2011**

Ioana Meleg, ECPC president presents the annual report of the Protection commission for its third year of existence. See report in annex.

The ECPC report is approved at unanimity.

## **10. Report about the WNS workgroup**

A technical data sheet has been broadcasted to all European clubs on the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of 2010. Since then the workgroup is just keeping gathering information on the subject under the supervision of the ECPC.

## **11. Report about the EuroSpeleo Projects 2010-2011**

Alexey Zhalov, FSE Vice-secretary presents the report about the EuroSpeleo Projects 2010-2011 to the General Assembly. See in annex.

A correction is done on the ESP 2011-08.

The report is approved at unanimity.

## **12. Report from FSE Women & Speleology Commission**

A long debate is held on that subject.

The experience of Speleo-Feminine 2010 in Ardeche-France is discussed.

The GA decides to make a vote on the following :

The FSE creates a European workgroup “Women & Speleology” with the objective of “Promoting speleology toward European women” with the following principles :

- The workgroup team and activities are open to both women and men.
- No positive discrimination principle will be used.

The proposal is approved with 13 for and 4 abstentions (no voices against).

A message will be sent in the coming months to all European clubs in order to create this new workgroup. 3 countries say that they will care themselves of the broadcasting of the message on this issue inside their country (FR, GB, IE).

### **13. Participatory status within the Council of Europe**

Viorel Lascu informs the GA that FSE application has been rejected by the CoE. The GA gives mandate to VL to see with the CoE what needs to be done to have our application accepted.

This proposal is approved at unanimity.

### **14. Membership of the FSE in the European Environmental Bureau (EEB)**

FSE application has been rejected. Jean-Claude Thies will send again a new application to be submitted to EEB GA on October 2011.

This proposal is approved at unanimity.

### **15. Creation of Speleo-TV workgroup**

Olivier Vidal presents the Speleo-TV project, a new FSE web-TV about speleology. An FSE workgroup will be create to run this project. Elina Saarinen (SI) and Spiros Merdenisianos (GR) want to take art to this project.

This proposal is approved at unanimity.

OV explains that the Bureau is looking for solutions in order to keep on publishing FSE news in an online publication or magazine, after the experiences of EuroSpeleo newsletter in 1999-2001 and of FSE'mail on 2005-2009.

### **16. International Caving Expeditions database (ICE db)**

Manuel Freire and Olivier Vidal present this project carried out by the FSE in partnership with UIS. An FSE workgroup with European and non-European countries will be created in order to find persons to help in managing the project. The FSE GA considers that since no FSE-UIS agreement has been signed as it was planned since 2009, there is no more need of such an agreement.

This proposal is approved at unanimity.

A meeting will be held at the Italian congress in Negrar (VR) on the Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> of October 2011 at 2pm.

### **17. Creation of FSE Shale Gas workgroup**

Ioana Meleg and Olivier Vidal present this project that aims at writing an official FSE letter to the European Commission about the risks of Shale Gas exploration.

An FSE workgroup supervised by Ioana Meleg will be created.

This proposal is approved at unanimity.

## **18. Organisation of EuroSpeleo Forum 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 & 2016 European Congress**

Olivier Vidal explains that a call will be sent to the national organisations for the organisation of the EuroSpeleo Forums of 2014, 2015 and the European congress of 2016.

2012 ESF "Speleodiversity" will be in Muotathal-Switzerland end of September 2012.  
2013 ESF will be in Millau-France on mid-May 2013 during the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the FFS.

## **19. Annual fees 2012 & 2013 and provisional budget for 2011 and 2012**

Manuel Freire presents the bureau proposal for the Annual fees starting on 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2012 (in parenthesis is the increase for 2013) with the introduction of a new range from 1000 to 1499 cavers :

- Caver fee : 2 E per caver (for organisation under 15 cavers)
- From 1 to 29 cavers : 31 E (+1 E)
- From 30 to 99 cavers : 62 E (+2 E)
- From 100 to 299 cavers : 100 E (+5 E)
- From 300 to 999 cavers : 160 E (+10 E)
- From 1000 to 1499 cavers : 205 E (+15 E)
- From 1500 to 2999 cavers : 280 E (+20 E)
- Over 3000 cavers : 500 E (+50 E)

Vote about new range from 1000 to 1499 cavers : adopted by 16 For, 1 Abstention (no against).

Vote about 2013 fees : adopted by 15 For, 1 Against, 1 Abstention.

In the budget 2011 it is proposed to increase the ESP line from 4000 to 4500 euros.  
This proposal is approved at unanimity

Here is the Budget proposed for 2012 :

### **Budget Plan 2012**

Office	200
Internet	100
Speleo-TV	300
EuroSpeleo Projects	4500
EuroSpeleo Forum 2012	500
Meetings	500
ECPC	500
Protection Label	500
EEB membership	250
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>7350 euros</u></b>

This proposal is approved at unanimity.

## **20. Information about European directives on “Occupational Safety and Health”**

Henk Goutier states that in the Netherlands the European directives on Occupational Safety and Health (EU regulations) are applied to all caving clubs. This means that these rules have to be implemented by each club in their training program and club equipment has to be checked in a proper way. Trainers are regarded to be employees according to these directives and therefore the employer (the club or the federation) has to implement these rules so that trainers can “work” safely. If a club has not implemented these directives the trainers and club committees can be held personally responsible by law. Trainers and clubs have to be insured to cover these risks.

Henk asks information on how other EU countries have dealt with these directives and how rules are implemented in training programs and checking club equipment.

The General Assembly agrees that if any information is available, the FSE member countries will send this to the delegate of the Netherlands Silvia Goutier.

### **20b Information about Caving Insurance**

In order to answer partially to the previous point, Laurence Tanguille, FFS President proposes the other countries that would not have a proper caving insurance to share the French insurance contract with them. An email will be sent to all member countries to see what countries are interested.

The FFS will contact AXA to discuss what arrangements can be made. FFS will then give feedback to the countries interested.

This proposal is approved at unanimity minus 2 abstentions (17 voters).

## **21. Election of Vice-President, Treasurer and Vice-Secretary**

We have 3 applications, one for each position :

Vice-President : Ged Campion, elected at unanimity

Treasurer : Manuel Freire, elected at unanimity

Vice-Secretary : Alexey Zhalov, elected at unanimity minus one abstention

Here is the new composition of FSE Bureau :

President : Juan Carlos Lopez (up to 2013)

Vice-President : Ged Campion (up to 2015)

Secretary General : Olivier Vidal (up to 2013)

Vice-Secretary : Alexey Zhalov (up to 2015)

Treasurer : Manuel Freire (up to 2015)



## **22. Establishing of partnership between FSE and Balkan Speleological Union (BSU)**

The partnership text is presented to the General Assembly that approves it at unanimity.

The agreement is signed by both FSE and BSU presidents, respectively Juan Carlos Lopez and Viorel Lascu.

## **23. Miscellaneous**

No miscellaneous points.

The meeting is closed at 18.30

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