

FEDERATION SPELEOLOGIQUE EUROPEENNE



FSE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING Saturday 29th of September 2012 in Muotathal, Switzerland

Reported by Olivier Vidal

Introduction

The FSE General Assembly meeting was held in Muotathal-Switzerland, during the 7th EuroSpeleo Forum held by the Swiss Speleological Society (SSS). 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 SSS to have received them during the 2012 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), Henk Goutier (Treasurer, elected during this GAM, Netherlands), Alexey Zhalov (Vice-Secretary, Bulgaria), Ernest Geyer (Vice-treasurer, elected during this GAM, Austria).

Other delegates : Marcel Meyssonier (Romania), Silvia Goutier (Netherlands), Christos Petreas & Liliana Krystallidou (Greece), Szabolcs Leel-Ossy (Hungary), Riccardo Dall'Aqua (Italy), Jean-Marc Mattlet (Belgium), Jean-Claude Thies (Luxembourg), Michael Laumanns (Germany), Lukas Vicek (Slovakia), Rene Scherrer (Switzerland), Mladen Garasic (Croatia)

Responsible of FSE Commissions & Workgroups : Ioana Meleg (ECPC president, Romania), Christian Dodelin (Cave Rescue commission president, elected during this GAM, France), Mihaela Micula (EuroSpeleo Magazine Chief Editor, Romania)

Observers : Andy Eavis (UIS president, UK), Antonio Gutierrez-Gamero (Spain), Mitja Maruzin & Mates Mihalovski & Joze Pozrl (Slovenia), Magdalena Stamenova (Bulgaria)

Excused (proxy to) : Lithuania (DE), Monaco (FR), Portugal (IT), Ukraine (BG), Ireland (UK), Norway (-), Finland (-), Sweden (-).

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 22 full members + 4 countries to be validated at point 4 since they were late for the payment of their membership fee. So the quorum of a minimum of 11 voting delegates is reached with 18 countries present or represented (physical presence of 14 delegates + 4 proxies). The following countries are not represented in spite of having paid their fee (Norway, Finland, Sweden, Poland). Greece will not be entitled to vote according to 2008 GAM decisions. 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 2 new member countries : Ukraine and Moldova (membership fee under payment).

4. Approval of fee payments for 2011

4 countries have to be validated since they were late for the payment of their membership fee (Belgium, Croatia, Ireland, Serbia). The approval is given for these 4 countries. Therefore, the FSE counts 26 full members, so the quorum of a minimum of 13 voting delegates is reached with 22 countries present or represented (physical presence of 17 delegates + 5 proxies).

5. Approval of last General Assembly Meeting report

Last GAM report of Budapest-Hungary is approved at unanimity minus 1 abstention (21 votes).

6. Situation of the FSE member countries

Olivier Vidal explains the situation of the 26 European countries members of the FSE ; 28 if we include Slovenia (who paid partially) and Moldova (who paid during this GAM) :

Code	Full Members :	Confirmed Delegate Presence at GAM 2012	Proxy from :
AT	AUSTRIA	Ernest Geyer	
BG	BULGARIA	Alexey Zhalov	UkR
CH	SWIZERLAND	René Scherrer	
DE	GERMANY	Michael Laumanns	LT
ES	SPAIN	Juan Carlos Lopez	
FI	FINLAND	Absent with no proxy	
FR	FRANCE	Olivier Vidal	MC
GB	GREAT BRITAIN	Ged Campion	IE
GR	GREECE	FHS : Stelliou Zacharias / Liliana Krystallidou - HSS : Christos Petreas	
HU	HUNGARY	Szabolcs Leél-Össy	
IT	ITALY	Riccardo Dall'Acqua / Michele Sivelli	PT
LU	LUXEMBOURG	Jean-Claude Thies	
LT	LITHUANIA	Proxy to DE	
MC	MONACO	Proxy to FR	
NL	NETHERLANDS	Silvia Goutier	
NO	NORWAY	Absent with no proxy	
PL	POLAND	Absent with no proxy	
PT	PORTUGAL	Proxy to IT	
RO	ROMANIA	Marcel Meyssonnier	
SE	SWEDEN	Absent with no proxy	
SK	SLOVAKIA	Lukas Vlcek	
UKR	UKRAINE (*)	Proxy to BG	

22 countries - (*) : New members in 2012 - TBC : To be confirmed

	2012 Full members under reserve of approval at the GAM. (payment not received at 31st of March) :	Confirmed Delegate Presence at GAM 2012	Proxy from :
BE	BELGIUM (paid on 14 th of September)	Jean-Marc Mattlet	
HR	CROATIA (paid on 27 th of June & 19 th Sept)	Mladen Garasic	
IE	IRELAND (paid on 12 th Sept)	Proxy to GB	
RS	SERBIA (paid 58 on 26/6 + will pay in CH)	Dusica Trnavac	

	2012 Full members under reserve of payment & approval at the GAM. :	Confirmed Delegate Presence at GAM 2012	Proxy from :
SL	SLOVENIA (paid 96 on 1 st Feb – miss 64€)	Fee paid partially	
DK	DENMARK (not paid yet)	Fee not paid yet	
MK	FYR. of MACEDONIA (not paid yet)	Fee not paid yet	
MD	MOLDOVA (not paid yet) (*)	Fee not paid yet	

Code	Full Members :	No Delegate Presence at GAM 2012 and No Proxy
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EU countries not yet Members :	Observations
CZECH REPUBLIC	A vote about FSE membership will be done on November 2012

EU countries with no Speleological Organisation :

CYPRUS, ESTONIA, LATVIA, MALTA

7. Short report of the Bureau 2011-2012

**FSE Report / Rapport Moral FSE
September 2011 - September 2012**

“Major advancements (red by JCL) :

With 2 new member countries (Ukraine and Moldova) and 30 members if we include FYRO-Macedonia and Denmark, 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 hopefully the UIS will present such a project at next International congress in 2013 in Czeck Republic. At European level, the FSE keeps on developping 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 have signed an agreement of cooperation protocol last year.

This year have seen a new reinforcement of the EuroSpeleo Projects. It is the first year that we have reached a number of 16 requests for the year 2012, when usually we had 6 or 7 projects up to 2008. We have reinforced to partnership links with our 3 official prtners (BEAL ropes, Aventure Verticale, Scurion) by sending them regularly photos from the ESP projects they can use for their catalogues or so. The change of ESP material grants evolution made last year has enable to support more projects in a more adapted way. We will have full report prepared by Alexey Zhalov afterwards.

On the side of Cave Protection, the ECPC has made a huge work to prepare the 2nd Symposium EuroSpeleo Protection here in Muotathal. An official FSE letter has been sent to 3 DG of the European Commission to alert them on the risks of Shale Gas extraction. And another letter has been sent in the frame of the protection of the Cave Devetashkata in Bulgaria. The commission has also renewed and updated its website. Ioana Meleg will present you in her complete report about ECPC activities afterwards.

The other major achievment have been the work carried out by the 2 new FSE workgroups, EuroSpeleo Magazine and Speleo-TV. The magazine team counts about 15 members and is coordinated by Mihaela Micula. The first online issue is being broadcasted this weekend, and all European clubs will receive it within few days. Speleo-TV site has been finished by its counting about 8 persons and coordinated by Elna Saarinen. The invitation to send videos will be sent shortly to all European clubs, and the launching to watch it will be sent within few weeks or months to all European cavers. Congratulations to both of these teams for all the skype meetings they have done and for the quality goals they have achieved.

Upcoming Projects (red by GC) :

In 2013 we will consolidate all the FSE activities (ESP, ECPC, ES-Magazine, Speleo-TV), and we'll see the possibility of creation of new teams on different topics (Cave rescue, Bibliotheca, Women & Speleology, etc).

It will also be a year of consolidation from the treasury management point of view after a year 2012 that caused us many problems at this level.

Should you have any questions about the FSE activities this year, please let us know.
We wish you a nice General Assembly meeting and 7th EuroSpeleo Forum in Muotathal,

The FSE Bureau “

The General Report is approved at unanimity (21 votes).

8. Financial report 2011 & 1st semester 2012

The financial report of the FSE for 2011 and the 1st semester 2012 is presented by Henk Goutier & Ernest Geyer (see annex). In the absence of FSE Treasurer, the General Assembly warmly thank both of them for their voluntary work.

Both financial reports are approved at unanimity (20 votes).

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

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

The ECPC report is approved at unanimity (20 votes).

10. Report about the EuroSpeleo Projects 2011-2012

Alexey Zhalov, FSE Vice-secretary, presents the report about the EuroSpeleo Projects 2011-2012 to the General Assembly. See in annex.

The report is approved at unanimity (20 votes).

11. Participatory status within the Council of Europe

The CoE Participatory Status would enable the FSE to request financial support for some trans-European actions (Culture, Intercultural Exchange, Youth, etc). The General Assembly acknowledge the negative answer from the CoE and ask Viorel Lascu to enquire how a new application could be presented.

12. Report from Speleo-TV workgroup

Elina Saarinen, coordinator of Speleo-TV workroup has apologized for not being able to be present at the GAM, and she has transmitted the following information for the FSE delegates :

- The Speleo-TV website has been launched few weeks before the GAM
- It is for the moment open to all the cavers who wants to propose their speleological videos to be included on the Web-TV
- The official launching will be made tonight during the EuroSpeleo Forum public activities

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

The FSE application resented a second time by Jean-Claude Thies has finally been accepted. It is proposed that the FSE will be member of the following EEB workgroups : Biodiversity, Soil & Water.

This proposal is approved at unanimity (20 votes).

13b. Creation of the Cave Rescue Commission

After many years of discussions about this point, the FSE Bureau proposes to the General Assembly to create a Cave Rescue Commission inside the FSE. This commission will have to work with the UIS Cave Rescue Commission as well as with the Cave Rescue Commission of every FSE member countries, and with the European institutions in charge of these issues.

A debate is open, and it is informed that a parallel European structure named ECRA and composed mainly by professional mountaineering rescuers (non-cavers), is being created in Croatia this year (autumn 2012).

The proposal of creation of an FSE Cave Rescue Commission is adopted by 19 yes and 1 abstention (Ad-referendum vote from Germany on 04/10/2012) (20 votes).

14. Caving insurance with Axa

Following the debates on this topic on the previous GAM 2011, and on the proposal of the FFS about Axa, it is decided that Henk Goutier from the Netherlands will follow this topic. In October 2011 after consulting the member countries, 6 countries indicated that they would be interested in the FFS/AXA proposal. The FFS was asked to ask AXA if they could provide the insurance policy in English or other languages on which the 6 countries could decide to have negotiations started with AXA. Up to now there has been no reaction on this request.

This proposal is approved at unanimity.

14b. Report from the EuroSpeleo Magazine FSE workgroup

Mihaela Micula, chief editor of the magazine presents her report. After 10 months of intense work, the workgroup, composed of about 15 members from 7 European countries, has presented at the beginning of the month, the first issue of this FSE electronic magazine. It comprises 94 pages and is fully multilingual (English/French + other languages depending on the articles).

This report was not subject to a vote.

15. International Caving Expedition database (ICE-db) project

Olivier Vidal presents the advancement of the project as information only. After the departure of Manuel Freire, this FSE project led in cooperation with the UIS, is without project manager. After a first meeting in Negrar-Italy on 2011 when the basis principles have been set up, it will be necessary in the coming years to see concretely how the participating countries want to implement this project.

This information point was not subject to a vote.

16. Information about the Shale Gas workgroup

On last February 2012 an official FSE letter was sent to the European Commission to alert them on the risks of such exploitation. An official answer dated of the 30th of March 2012 was received informing that this issue is the responsibility of each European state, not a European issue.

17. Broadcasting of FSE members canyoning information

A question has arisen following the request of some member countries to share information about canyoning activities to the other FSE member countries, even if canyoning is not included in the FSE Statutes. After a short debate it is proposed that the information will be allowed to be transmitted on the delegates mailing-list but not on the FSE European network (2000 caving clubs). Each national organisation will choose if it broadcast the information to its clubs or not.

This proposal is approved at unanimity (20 votes).

17b. Statutes change : Creation of the Bureau position of Vice-Treasurer

The Bureau proposes to the General Assembly to modify the articles 11 and 18b of the FSE Statutes to create this position.

Quorum : 13

Votes : 20

Majority of 2/3 : 14 (13,33)

Yes : 20

No : 0

Abstention : 0

This proposal is approved at unanimity.

17c. Statutes change : Clarification of Quorum definition

In order to clarify the article 23 of the Statutes on the definition of the General Assembly Quorum, it is proposed to add the following mention "including proxies", since the proxies have always been counted in the FSE quorums.

Quorum : 13
Votes : 19
Majority of 2/3 : 13 (12,66)
Yes : 19
No : 0
Abstention : 0

This proposal is approved at unanimity.

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

The Vth European Speleological Congress will be organised by the BCA in England on August 2016. And the next EuroSpeleo Forums of 2013 and 2014 will be respectively in Millau-France on May 2013 and in Baile Herculane-Romania on August 2014. Olivier Vidal explains that a call will be sent to the national organisations for the organisation of the EuroSpeleo Forums of 2015 and 2017.

19. Election of Treasurer, Vice-treasurer and Accounts Auditor

We have 3 applications, one for each position :

Treasurer : Henk Goutier (NL), elected at unanimity (19 votes)
Vice-Treasurer : Ernest Geyer (AT), elected at unanimity (19 votes)
Accounts Auditor (up to 2013) : Jean-Claude Thies (LU), elected at unanimity (19 votes)

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 : Henk Goutier (up to 2015)
Vice-Treasurer : Ernest Geyer (up to 2013)

And as an information :

Commissions Presidents :
ECPC : Ioana Meleg (up to 2014)
Cave Rescue : Christian Dodelin (up to 2016)

Workgroups coordinators (nominated by the Bureau) :
EuroSpeleo Magazine : Mihaela Micula (up to 1/2016)
Speleo-TV : Elina Saarinen (up to 1/2016)

20. Annual fees 2014 and provisional budget for 2012 and 2013

Henk Goutier presents the bureau proposal for the Annual fees starting on 1st of January 2014 (in parenthesis is the increase compared to 2013) :

- Caver fee : 2 E per caver (for organisation under 15 cavers)
- From 15 to 29 cavers : 32 E (+1 E)
- From 30 to 99 cavers : 64 E (+2 E)
- From 100 to 299 cavers : 105 E (+5 E)
- From 300 to 999 cavers : 170 E (+10 E)
- From 1000 to 1499 cavers : 220 E (+15 E)
- From 1500 to 2999 cavers : 300 E (+20 E)
- Over 3000 cavers : 600 E (+50 E)

This proposal is approved at unanimity (19 votes).

In the budget 2012 it is proposed to increase the ESP line from 4500 to 5000 euros. This proposal is approved at unanimity (19 votes).

Here is the Budget proposed for 2013 :

Budget Plan 2013

Office	200
Internet	100
Speleo-TV	300
EuroSpeleo Projects	5000
EuroSpeleo Forum 2013	500
Meetings	500
ECPC	300
Protection Label	500
EEB membership	250
Cave Rescue Commission	200
Total	<u>7850 euros</u>

A vote is organised to decide if the meeting line will be at 300 or 500€ :

For 500€ : 9 votes (validated choice)

For 300€ : 6 votes

Abstentions : 4

This Budget proposal 2013 is approved at unanimity minus 2 abstentions (19 votes).

21. Miscellaneous

It is requested to correct the English translation of the FSE in the article 1 of the Statutes to "European Speleological Federation". This correction will be made as soon as possible.

A call will be sent on the FSE network to find volunteer webmasters to finalize to the new FSE website.

The General Assembly of the FSE pays homage to Urs Widmer for all the great job he has done during his speleological career for European and International Speleology and for the European cavers.

The meeting is closed at 18.30
