

FEDERATION SPELEOLOGIQUE EUROPEENNE



FSE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING Saturday 2nd of November 2013 in Casola Valsenio, Italy

Reported by Olivier Vidal

Introduction

The FSE General Assembly meeting was held in Casola Valsenio, Italy, during the Speleological gathering “UNDERground @speleopolis Casola 2013” organised by the Casola team and the SSI. Juan Carlos Lopez, FSE president, and Ged Campion, vice-president, chaired the meeting.

The FSE Bureau members and the country delegates wish to thank the SSI and the Casola team to have received them during their 2013 event.

The meeting starts at 14h00.

Present participants of the GA meeting

(the countries that are represented by a delegate are named between parenthesis)

Bureau members : Juan Carlos Lopez (President, Spain), Ged Campion (Vice-President, Great Britain), Olivier Vidal (Secretary General, France), Henk Goutier (Treasurer, Netherlands), Ernest Geyer (Vice-treasurer, Austria).

Other voting delegates : Riccardo Dall’Aqua (Italy), Jean-Claude Thies (Luxembourg), Mladen Garasic (Croatia), Magdalena Stamenova (Albania), Rene Scherrer (Switzerland), Didier Cailhol (France), Sophia Nikolakaki-FHS & Christos Petreas-HSS (Greece), Bogdan Badescu & Marius Vlaicu (Romania), Silvia Goutier (Netherlands), Ana Skocajic (Serbia), Michael Laumanns (Germany), Lukas Vlcek (Slovakia)

Responsible of FSE Commissions & Workgroups : Christian Dodelin (Cave Rescue Commission president)

Observers : Arjan Van Waardenborg (Speleo Nederland), Baerbel Vogel (VdHK pres.), Marc Faverjon (FFS / SSI), Ivan Krpina (Croatian Spel. Fed.), Ian Ellis Chandler (UIS Arts&Letters Com. Pres.), Michel Isnard (FFS), Ali Yamac (OBRUK, Turkey).

Excused (proxy to) : Belgium (Treas.), Ireland (UK), Monaco (Secr.), Moldova (Secr.), Poland (NL), Portugal (IT), Ukraine (RO), Hungary (HR), Lithuania (AL).

Alexey Zhalov, FSE Vice-Secretary, apologized since he could not come to Casola.

Absent member countries with no proxy : Bulgaria, Norway, Finland, Slovenia, 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 according to FSE Statutes. The corresponding topics are developed in the report below.

2. Quorum - Presentation of voting delegates and observing countries

The FSE counts 25 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 13 voting delegates is reached with 21 countries present or represented (physical presence of 14 delegates + 7 proxies). Greece is not entitled to vote according to 2008 GAM decisions.

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

Welcome of new member countries

The FSE General Assembly is happy to warmly welcome the arrival of 2 new member countries, of which the applications have been approved by the Bureau this morning. :

Albania which membership is starting today.

Turkey which membership will start on the 1st of January 2014.

3. Approval of fee payments for 2013

4 countries have to be validated since their membership payment were received after the 31st of March 2013 : Bulgaria, Hungary, Slovenia and Albania.

Vote result :

Bulgaria, Hungary, Slovenia : 20 Yes (20 votes)

Albania : 19 Yes and 1 Abstention (20 votes)

The General Assembly gives its approval for these 4 countries.

Therefore, the FSE counts 29 full members, so the quorum of a minimum of 15 voting delegates is reached with 24 countries present or represented (physical presence of 15 delegates + 9 proxies).

4. Request on Statutes Art.12 about the presence in the Bureau of non-delegates

The French Federation of Speleology (FFS) presents to the General Assembly its proposal to remove in the Statutes Art.12 the sentence enabling non-delegates persons to be candidates to Bureau positions.

After the debate, the FFS delegate asks for a secret ballot.

The General Assembly decides to vote with a show of hands.

Vote result : 1 Yes, 18 No, 4 Abstentions.

The Statutes change proposal is not approved by the General Assembly.

Therefore point 4b of the GAM Agenda about Elections for Bureau positions held by non-delegates is null and void.

5. Approval of last General Assembly Meeting report

Last 2012 GAM report of Muotathal-Switzerland is approved at unanimity minus 1 abstention (23 votes).

6. Situation of the FSE member countries

Henk Goutier and Ernest Geyer explain the situation of the 29 European countries members of the FSE :

Code	Full Members :	Confirmed Representative Presence at GAM 2013	Proxy from :
AT	AUSTRIA	Ernest Geyer	
BE	BELGIUM	Proxy to Treas.	To Treas.
CH	SWIZERLAND	René Scherrer	
DE	GERMANY	Michael Laumanns	
ES	SPAIN	Juan Carlos Lopez	
FR	FRANCE	Didier Cailhol	
GB	GREAT BRITAIN	Ged Campion	IE
GR	GREECE	FHS : Sophia Nikolakaki - HSS : Christos Petreas	
HR	CROATIA	Mladen Garasic	HU
IE	IRELAND	Proxy to GB	
IT	ITALY	Riccardo Dall'Acqua	PT
LU	LUXEMBOURG	Jean-Claude Thies	
LT	LITHUANIA	Proxy to AL	
MC	MONACO	Proxy to Secr	To Secr.
MD	MOLDOVA	Proxy to Secr	To Secr.
NL	NETHERLANDS	Silvia Goutier	PL
PL	POLAND	Proxy to NL	
PT	PORTUGAL	Proxy to IT	
RO	ROMANIA	Bogdan Badescu & Marius Vlaicu	UA
RS	SERBIA	Ana Skocajic	
SK	SLOVAKIA	Lukas Vlcek	
UA	UKRAINE	Proxy to RO	

22 countries - TBC : To be confirmed

	2013 members under reserve from the GAM	Delegate at GAM 2013	Proxy from :
AL	ALBANIA (paid on 2/11)	Magdalena Stamenova, Delegate appointed by Albania for the 2013 GAM with voting right	
HU	HUNGARY (paid on 24/10)	Proxy to Croatia (HR)	

Code	Full Members :	No Delegate Presence at GAM 2013 and No Proxy
FI	FINLAND	Absent with no Proxy
NO	NORWAY	Absent with no Proxy
SE	SWEDEN	Absent with no Proxy
BG	BULGARIA (paid on 17/4)	Absent with no Proxy

	2013 Members who paid after the GAM. :	Delegate at GAM 2013	Proxy from :
DK	DENMARK (paid early 2014 for 2011-2015)	Absent with no Proxy	
SL	SLOVENIA (paid after the GAM)	Absent with no Proxy	

Countries to start membership on 2014 :	Observations
TURKEY	Turkish membership to start on 01/01/2014

EU countries not yet Members :	Observations
CZECH REPUBLIC	A CSS vote about FSE membership was negative on Nov. 2012

EC countries not yet members :

ALBANIA, ANDORRA, ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN, BELARUS, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, FYR. of MACEDONIA, GEORGIA, ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN, MONTENEGRO, RUSSIA, SAN MARINO

7. Short report of the Bureau 2012-2013

FSE Report / Rapport Moral FSE September 2012 - October 2013

“ Major advancements (red by Jean-Claude Thies) :

This year has been full of events and of rocking moments. In spite of a context that may have appeared difficult the FSE has never been so active and productive all over Europe. Step by step, our working model based on collective work and sharing of experience from parts of Europe to all over the continent is more and more known and appreciated by the European cavers who know they can count on the FSE to develop their trans-European speleological projects in Europe and all over the world.

Due to some logistic problems, it was not possible to hold the General Assembly Meeting on last May as planned initially, but finally Casola is hosting us and we want to warmly thank the Italian Speleological Society and the Speleopolis 2013 organizers for that. The UIS 2013 congress has also been an important moment of the speleological life in Europe this summer, and we will be happy to submit the application of the FSE as the first candidate as UIS Associated Organization.

(red by Ernest Geyer)

As for the communication we finally managed to publish an updated website thanks to our partnership with the Wikicaves-Grottecenter team. And just now in October the FSE established its own Facebook page with all the latest European speleological news and events.

Today there are still 14 European countries to integrate inside the FSE among which the biggest is Russia, and we will kindly ask each of you to take care of the contacts with one or two new countries to be integrated, and we will make the balance of it next year at the 9th EuroSpeleo Forum in Romania. On this specific issue, the FSE Bureau is happy to inform you that we have received this week the official membership application from the Turkish and Albanian Federations that we have approved them this morning. About our international partnerships abroad, we are thinking about signing agreement with North American federations as we did with FEALC. We'll keep you informed about this asap.

About the EuroSpeleo Projects, they are the biggest strength of the FSE to help the European cavers in their projects. In order to value the FSE membership, the ESPs are now only reserved for FSE European member countries. We will see a full report prepared by Alexey Zhalov afterwards. In the near future, we will present you a new FSE action inside the ESP in order to help the clubs who have projects they want to open to the European cavers, but do not have contacts for the moment.

(red by Ged Campion)

On the side of Cave Protection, the ECPC is thinking about restructuring the commission members around projects rather than in work-teams. The EuroSpeleo Protection Label is more and more known, and it has been a success with 3 applications this year. The ECPC is preparing a huge work for the 3rd Symposium EuroSpeleo Protection next year in Baile-Herculane-Romania. On behalf of Ioana Meleg who was not able to join us today, Jean-Claude Thies will present you the complete report about ECPC activities afterwards

Upcoming Projects :

In 2014 we will consolidate all the FSE activities (ESP, ECPC, Cave Rescue Commission, ES-Magazine, Speleo-TV), and we'll see the possibility of creation of new actions in order to help European cavers who have no contact all over Europe, but who wish to open their speleological project to the other European countries.

After a year of consolidation from the treasury management point of view, thanks to the dedicated work of Henk and Ernest, we will take the time, with the new Bureau that will be elected here, to think on how we can enter in the financial subsidies system of the European Commission and of the Council of Europe.

Should you have any questions about the FSE activities this year, please let us know. We wish you a nice General Assembly meeting and a great 2013 Speleopolis Congress in Casola,

The FSE Bureau “

The General Report is approved at unanimity minus 1 abstention (23 votes).

8. Financial report 2012 & 1st semester 2013

The financial report of the FSE for 2012 and the 1st semester 2013 is presented by Henk Goutier & Ernest Geyer (see financial annex).

2012 financial report is approved at unanimity minus 1 abstention (23 votes).
2013 first semester report is presented as information only.

Jean-Claude Thies is nominated as FSE Financial Auditor by the General Assembly up to next FSE GAM at unanimity minus 1 abstention (23 votes).

9. Annual report of the FSE Protection Commission 2012- 2013

On behalf of Ioana Meleg, ECPC president, Jean-Claude Thies, ECPC Board member, presents the annual report of the Protection commission for 2012-2013. See report in annex.

The ECPC report is approved at unanimity minus 1 abstention (23 votes).

9b. Annual report of the FSE Cave Rescue Commission 2012- 2013

Christian Dodelin, president of the FSE Cave Rescue Commission, presents the annual report of the commission for 2012-2013. See report in annex.

The report of the FSE Cave Rescue Commission is approved at unanimity minus 1 abstention (23 votes).

10. Report about the EuroSpeleo Projects 2011-2012

Alexey Zhalov, FSE Vice-secretary, who has apologized for not being present in Casola has prepared the full report about the EuroSpeleo Projects 2012-2013 for the General Assembly. See in annex.

The report is approved at unanimity minus 1 abstention (23 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). After their negative answer of last year, our FSE rep, Viorel Lascu, has enquired how we could present our new application. In the absence of Viorel, Jean-Claude Thies presents the new proposal.

The FSE should change its Statutes and add in its goals the following activities :
“Culture and intercultural exchanges” + “Activities for the Youth”.

The Bureau informs the GAM that it will prepare a proposal in this direction, and will submit it to the General Assembly through a future vote (eventually as electronic vote).

12. Report from Speleo-TV workgroup

In the absence of Elina Saarinen, coordinator of the Speleo-TV workgroup, Olivier Vidal presents the advancements of the workgroup (more than a hundred videos yet on our platform) and informs the delegates that the launching of Speleo-TV should happen in the coming months.

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

Jean-Claude Thies informs the delegates that finally no change was made to the name of the EEB. And that they will probably open the structure to the CoE countries.

14. Caving insurance with Axa

No advancement has been made on this issue since last GAM.
Henk Goutier will keep on as focus contact for this topic.

14b. Opening to new European member countries from the CoE

The Bureau proposes to the General Assembly to contact the 15 countries from the Council of Europe (CoE) who are not yet FSE members, in order to propose them the FSE membership.

The GAM agrees and each country will be contacted by a different delegate or Bureau member :

ANDORRA : Olivier Vidal
ARMENIA : Michael Laumanns
AZERBAIJAN : Ernest Geyer
BELARUS : Ernest Geyer (later taken over by Silvia Goutier)
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA : Ana Skocajic
CYPRUS : Sophia Nikolakaki
ESTONIA : Jean-Claude Thies
GEORGIA : Magdalena Stamenova
ICELAND : Michael Laumanns
LATVIA : Jean-Claude Thies
LIECHTENSTEIN : René Scherrer
MALTA : Ged Campion
MONTENEGRO : Ana Skocajic
RUSSIA : Christos Petreas
SAN MARINO : Riccardo Dall'Aqua

The named persons should send to the Bureau the advancements of their contacts, that will be synthetized for next GAM in Romania.

15. Report from EuroSpeleo Magazine FSE workgroup

In the absence of Mihaela Micula, EuroSpeleo Magazine Editor-in-Chief, Olivier Vidal explains the advancements of this FSE workgroup and informs that the 2nd issue should be ready for the 1st semester 2014.

15b. FSE representation towards European institutions

Henk Goutier and Ged Campion explain the financial reasons why the FSE should increase its lobbying towards the European Institutions.

The Bureau explains that we could send a Call for Bid to lobbying companies who could help us, for a commission on the grant amounts received.

Christos Petreas, Ian Chandler and Jean-Claude Thies propose their help as volunteers.

16. International Caving Expedition database (ICE-db)

Olivier Vidal presents the advancement of the project as information only. Since the past year, the FSE Bureau has found a project-leader for this project, who is the Association Wikicaves, creator of the GrottoCenter website. An agreement has been signed this year between the FSE and Wikicaves. It had been sent to the FSE delegates.

Wikicaves association also helps the FSE for the update of our website.

17. Point on reimbursements rules (Internal Regulations)

Henk Goutier and Ernest Geyer present to the delegates the Bureau proposal. The Bureau proposes to the GAM to add the following sentence at the end of the article 6 in the FSE Internal Regulations :

“In case over payment has been sent to the FSE, the exceeding amount will be deducted from the following year membership fee.”

After a short debate the General Assembly approves the proposal at unanimity minus 1 abstention (23 votes).

17b. UIS Code of Ethics changes & UIS Associated Organisation statute application

Henk Goutier presents these 2 points relative to the UIS.

UIS Code of Ethics changes

During last UIS Congress on July 2013, some changes have been brought to the UIS Code of Ethics that had been approved by the FSE General Assembly.

After study by the FSE delegates (the text had been sent to the delegates few week before the GAM), the General Assembly decides to approve the new version of the UIS Code of Ethics at unanimity minus 1 abstention (23 votes).

UIS Associated Organisation statute application

In the same International Congress on July 2013, the UIS decided to create the new statute of “UIS Associated Organisation”, intended, among others, to the Regional (continental) Speleological Bodies as the FSE, the FEALC, etc.

Since, according to the FSE Statutes article 4,
“The F.S.E. is patronised by the International Union of Speleology. (U.I.S.)”,
the General Assembly decides at unanimity minus 1 abstention (23 votes) to send the FSE application to the UIS to request this “Associated Organisation Statute”.
Henk Goutier is in charge of this topic.

18. Organisation of EuroSpeleo Forum 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 Forum of 2014 and 2015 will be held respectively in Baile Herculane-Romania on 22-24 August 2014 and in Italy on May-June 2015. Olivier Vidal explains that a call will be sent to the national organisations for the organisation of the EuroSpeleo Forums of 2017 and 2018.

19. Annual fees 2015 and provisional budget for 2013 and 2014

Henk Goutier and Ernest Geyer present the Bureau proposal for the Annual fees starting on 1st of January 2015 (in parenthesis is the increase compared to 2014) :

- Caver fee : 2 E per caver (for organisation under 15 cavers)
- From 15 to 29 cavers : 34 E (+1 E)
- From 30 to 99 cavers : 68 E (+2 E)
- From 100 to 299 cavers : 115 E (+5 E)
- From 300 to 999 cavers : 190 E (+10 E)
- From 1000 to 1499 cavers : 250 E (+15 E)
- From 1500 to 2999 cavers : 340 E (+20 E)
- Over 3000 cavers : 650 E (+50 E)

This proposal is approved with 20 Yes, 1 No and 1 Abstention.

In the provisional budget 2013, it is proposed :

- to cancel the EuroSpeleo Forum 2013 grant of 500€ due to a positive balance
- to increase the Bureau transportation line from 1200 to 1400€

This proposal is approved at unanimity minus 1 abstention (22 votes).

Here is the Budget proposed for 2014 :

Budget Plan 2014

Office	200
Internet	100
Speleo-TV	120
EuroSpeleo Projects	5000
EuroSpeleo Forum 2014	500
Meetings	500
ECPC	300
Protection Label	500
EEB membership	250
Cave Rescue Commission	200
EuroSpeleo Magazine	200
Transportation Bureau	1200
WikiCaves	115
Total	<u>9185 euros</u>

This Budget proposal 2014 is approved at unanimity minus 1 abstention (22 votes).

All the details are included in the financial annex.

20. Miscellaneous

Some UIS delegates regret that the FSE didn't have a stand during the UIS Congress 2014.

Ged Campion and Olivier Vidal warmly thank Juan Carlos Lopez who is ending his president mandate on behalf of all the present delegates.

21. Election of President, Secretary, Vice-treasurer and Vice-President

President election

2 applications have been received from Alexey Zhalov (Bulgaria) and Ged Campion (UK delegate). Alexey Zhalov application is recommended by the present delegates from 8 countries.

Vote result :

Ged Campion : 13 voices, elected

Alexey Zhalov : 6 voices

Abstentions : 2

Total : 21 voices

Secretary General election

One application has been received from Olivier Vidal (France). His application is recommended by the delegates from 16 countries during the April electronic consultation.

Vote result :

21 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention (22 votes)

Vice-Treasurer election

One application has been received from Ernest Geyer (Austria). His application is recommended by the present delegates from 11 countries.

Vote result :

21 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention (22 votes)

Vice-President election (since Ged Campion became President)

One application has been received from Michael Laumanns, German delegate.

Vote result :

20 Yes, 0 No, 2 Abstentions (22 votes)

Here is the new composition of FSE Bureau :

President : Ged Campion (up to 2017)
Vice-President : Michael Laumanns (up to 2015)
Secretary General : Olivier Vidal (up to 2017)
Vice-Secretary : Alexey Zhalov (up to 2015)
Treasurer : Henk Goutier (up to 2015)
Vice-Treasurer : Ernest Geyer (up to 2017)

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)

The meeting is closed at 17.30
