

# FEDERATION SPELEOLOGIQUE EUROPEENNE



## ELECTRONIC GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

Video Conference:

Thursday 07<sup>th</sup> October 2021, 20:00 CET

Reported by Alena Gessert

The Electronic General Assembly Meeting (eGAM) was held on 07<sup>th</sup> October 2021 via Video conference at 20:00 CET due to the complicated COVID-19 pandemic situation.

Ged Campion (FSE President) chaired the eGAM.

### Participants present at the eGAM

Ged Campion (FSE President, UK), Alena Gessert (SK, FSE General Secretary, SK), Jörg Dreybrodt (FSE Vice-Secretary, DE), Ernest Geyer (FSE Vice-Treasurer, AT), Henk Goutier (FSE Treasurer), Elina Saarinen (FIN), Silvia Goutier (NL), Guido De Keyzer (BE), Antoniya Vlaykova (BG), Michael Laumanns (DE), Manuel Gonzáles Morales (ES), Bülent Genç (TR), Paul Cadas (GR), Margarita Kanellidou (GR), Gyula Hegedus (HU), Maks Merela (SI), Rus-Herdea Catalin (RO).

**Voting delegates (via online formular in Googles Forms):** Samvel Shahinyan (Armenia), Ernest Geyer (AT), Guido De Keyzer (BE), Antoniya Vlaykova (BG), Neven Šuica (HR), Elina Saarinen (FIN), Michel Isnard (FR), Lasha Asanidze (Georgia), Michael Laummans (DE), Gyula Hegedüs (HU), Conor Winchcombe (IR), Ferdinando Didonna (IT), Silvia Goutier (NL), Zuzanna Palińska (PL), Manuel Pinto Soares (PT), Rus-Herdea Catalin (RO), Maks Merela (SI), Alena Gessert (SK), Manuel González Morales (SP), Johannes Lundberg (Sweden), Phillip Häuselmann (CH), Gerard Campion (UK).

Countries that did not attend the eGAM and did not vote through the voting form: Denmark, Georgia, *Lithuania*, Luxembourg, Moldova, Norway, Serbia, Ukraine, *Turkey*

### 1. Opening of the eGAM:

The GAM commenced at 8PM (CET). In the name of the FSE Bureau the FSE President Ged Campion welcomed all participants and thanked for participating in this eGAM, which is required by the circumstances with COVID-19 pandemic. The agenda has been proposed by the Bureau and was distributed in time to member organizations. Ged briefly explained the operation and possibilities of the ZOOM platform. Henk Goutier presented online voting using Google forms and informed about publishing the results after the 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

### 2. Quorum – Presentation of voting delegates

The quorum is not necessary to achieve during the eGAM, as the voting will take place only after the eGAM. There it is necessary to achieve 15 voting countries (as we have 29 paying member countries in year 2021).

### 3.5. Approval of membership fees payments for 2020 and 2021

Henk Goutier presented the actual situation. There are two countries that didn't pay the membership fee – Lithuania (2020-2021) and Turkey (2021). All other countries have the right to vote.

### 4. Approval of the last 2020 General Assembly Meeting report

The last 2020 General Assembly Meeting report was briefly presented by Ged Campion.

#### **6. Report on the FSE Bureau October 2020 – August 2021**

Ged Campion briefly presented the report and complicated situation during the COVID-19 pandemic and working in non-predictable climate.

#### **7. Financial report 2020**

Henk Goutier presented current balance on FSE account (to the end of the 2020). There was spent only small amount from the budget because of COVID-19 pandemic. Michael Laumanns (DE) asked, if the situation on the Luxemburg bank taxes is the same (based on experience from his home bank). Henk replied that the Luxemburg banktaxes are limited to 2 euros per month and 0,40 euro for each outgoing payment within the European payment area. There is no further taxing on the total amount on the account.

#### **8. Report of the FSE Treasury Auditor 2020**

The auditor, Jean-Claude Thies (not present on the eGAM) sent a Financial Audit Confirmation Letter. He informed, that accounting records of the FSE have been audited, are true and accurate. He proposed to the GAM to vote in favour on it.

#### **9, 10. Annual report of the Protection Commission and its Workgroups 2020-21 and Report on FSE membership in the European Environmental Bureau**

ECPC chairman Jean-Claude Thies was not presented on the eGAM, but Ged Campion presented shortly reports of this very active commission. No other member of the ECPC commission was presented on the eGAM.

#### **11. Report of the European Cave Rescue Committee (ECRC)**

ECRC chairwoman Antoniya Vlaykova presented report of the commission and stated, that the next ECRA meeting will be organized in November 2021 in Spain. Here will be discussed a very important topic – cave rescue insurance, that is very unclear and the situation is diverse in european countries. Antoniya presented Aggtelek Agreement signed in Hungary in 2007 and informed also about the very complicated cave rescue in Veryovkina cave.

Manuel Gonzales Morales (ES) pointed out that the ECRA meeting in Spain is organized by a private organization and the national speleological federation does not participate in its organization. Antoniya invited Spanish colleagues to this meeting, they will discuss this issue after the eGAM.

#### **12. Report about the EuroSpeleo Projects (ESPs) 2021**

FSE Vice Secretary Jörg Dreybrodt briefly summarized the situation and ESP rules. Many projects, as expected, are delayed because of restrictions (f.e. Ultima Patagonia, Biodiversity in Rwanda). Local and congress projects will take place as planned (Berger, Speleomedit, Balkan Cavers Camp).

Jörg encouraged other existing activities to become a ESP. He will also emphasize to organizers of ESPs to send their videos to SpeleoTV.

#### **13. Report of the Speleo-TV FSE Workgroup**

The Workgroup chair, Elina Saarinen presented main point of the report. The group was full of life as the new volunteer, Ferdinando Didonna (IT), was helping with collecting of videos. Elina pointed out that no video from ESP was delivered to SpeleoTV in 2020 and the domain was changed to the secure one.

#### **14. Report from the Contact Group on Show Caves**

Ernest Geyer shortly presented activities, that were very limited due to the pandemic, but there is planned meeting during the ICS in France.

#### **15. Information on the International Caving Expedition database and the cooperation with Wikicaves Organisation**

Wikicaves is working and enlarging on the database and have it actual up to date. They continue to help updating the website, communicating with the website provider, updating our mailing list, translating English text in French language etc. The cooperation is stable and very well prospering.

#### **16. Report on the partnership with the UIS**

Ged Campion reported on planning on the ICS and other activities connected to IYCK 2021. Ged Campion contributed to the IYCK video in the beginning of the 2021. Alena Gessert organized an international webinar where Ged presented the topic – Lost river of Ingleborough. On 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021 was virtually organized opening ceremony of IYCK, in person attended ECPC president Jean Claude Thies. In the last time we have a lot of correspondence with UIS on the conservation issues (the last one from Philippines)

#### **17. Organization of EuroSpeleo Forums 2022, 2023 and 2024**

The next GAM will be organized on ICS in France 2022. The next Eurospeleo Forum 2022 will be hold in Spain – Burgos, but there will be no GAM, meeting and FSE stand there. The ESF 2023 in Sicily should be confirmed. The venue place for 2024 is still unknown. Manuel Gonzales Morales (ES) shortly presented actual situation on the organization of ESF in Burgos and discussion on dates. As this ESF will be only one month later as ICS in France, they are trying to find some consensus on possible new date.

Michael Laumanns (DE) was asking, why there will be no Bureau meeting during the ESF in Burgos and FSE Stand. Ged Campion answered that the Bureau members are limited in their spare time and have to make personal choices.

#### **18. Provisional Budget 2021 and 2022 and Annual Fees 2022 and 2023**

The originally proposed budget for 2021 was amended in view of the situation around COVID-19 pandemic. We have no sells these years, ESPs spent less budget, no ESF etc. In 2022 is proposed higher budget in hope, that the situation on COVID-19 pandemic will be better.

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

Candidates for position of President, Secretary and Vice-Treasurer were introduced by Ged Campion. For the position of President – Ged Campion, Secretary – Alena Gessert, Vice-Treasurer – Ernest Geyer. There was no additional application.

#### **20. Miscellaneous**

Michael Laumanns informed about the next Eurospeleo Newsletter is being prepared.

Henk Goutier asked Bülent Genç (TR) about the payment for Turkey.

Ged Campion mentioned that the Bureau is working on changes in internal regulations and the Bureau would like to extend in the future.

**The GAM closed at 9:21 PM (CET)**

## **Questions and answers from the eGAM and the voting forms**

### **Financial report 2020**

Q: Belgium, Guido De Keyzer

Financial report: There is quite a lot of money in FSE's account. We should think about how we spend some of the money usefully. Supporting example of youth cavers in the various federations.

A. The number of projects is increasing again. Besides this the FSE Bureau will establish 5 grants as Scholarships for a total amount of 2500 euros and will hold an art contest with prize money. This will diminish the total amount of money we have on the FSE bankaccount.