



**European Cave Rescue Commission  
(ECRC)  
INTERNAL REGULATIONS  
(approved by the FSE General Assembly on 17 Sept. 2017)**

Whatever language is used, only the acronym ECRC will be employed.

The present ECRC Internal Regulations, written in English, are the only official references.

**SECTION 1: DEFINITION, STRUCTURE AND MEMBERS OF ECRC**

§ 1 ECRC is the European Cave Rescue Commission of FSE, formed by FSE General Assembly (GAM) decision according to Section 2 Art. 6 of the FSE Statute. ECRC has its own acronym and logo. ECRC consists of the Board and Workgroups on specific topics. The Board composition is dealt with in Section 3 below, the Workgroups in Section 4.

§ 2 Speleologists with recognized competence in cave rescue from each member country of the FSE can be members of the ECRC, its Board and Workgroups. In addition, speleologists from European countries being non-members of the FSE can be members of an ECRC Workgroup, but can not hold a position in the commission's Board.

§ 3 Every ECRC member must act according to the spirit, the ethics and the regulations of the FSE and the ECRC.

§ 4 The FSE Bureau or the ECRC Board can suspend, until the decision of the next FSE GAM, any member found guilty of serious offence of the Statutes or the Internal Regulations of FSE/ECRC or of the speleological ethical rules of FSE.

§ 5 ECRC has at its disposal a budget approved by the FSE GAM. In order to obtain this budget, the ECRC President will send annually a budget proposal to the FSE Bureau together with his/her annual program of action. This has to be submitted to the FSE Bureau at least 2 months before the GAM.

**SECTION 2: ECRC'S AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

§ 6 ECRC is formed as an instrument of the FSE and its objectives are in accordance with the FSE aims (Section 2, Article 5, FSE Statutes). The ECRC objectives are:

- (1) To develop, collect and disseminate knowledge about cave rescue on a European level.
- (2) To streamline collective activities, in order to put cave rescue to a priority level within the European concerns of civil protection and to assist the European speleologists in their interaction with public authorities.
- (3) To combine the efforts of local speleological groups and national speleological associations so as to support common European praxis of cave rescue.
- (4) To support collaboration with the European Union specialized structures and other international institutions and organizations, in the field of cave rescue.
- (5) To act as a political lobby for cave rescue in Europe and to propose new laws and directives in this field.

**SECTION 3: ECRC'S PRESIDENT, BOARD AND ECRC MEMBERS**

§ 7 The President of ECRC is elected according to the FSE Statutes (Section 5, Art. 19) by the FSE GAM, upon an FSE Bureau proposal, for a period of 4 years. The President has to report on the ECRC

activities to the FSE Bureau when requested and to the GAM every year. In the GAM report the ECRC proposes a program of action for the coming year that has to be validated by the GAM. The FSE Bureau shall care to embed ECRC's work smoothly in the FSE policy frame. ECRC is autonomous to decide about the used means and work methodologies as long as they are in accordance with FSE GAM decisions, the Bureau directives and the FSE Ethics, Statutes and Internal Regulations. The ECRC President is responsible for the proper use of the ECRC budget. The ECRC President is responsible for the ECRC Internet pages and regulates the good function of the communication via the ECRC mailing list. He/She can delegate functions in ECRC to other members of the ECRC Board.

§ 8 The ECRC President represents the ECRC in all internal relations with the GAM, all national speleological organizations being members of ECRC and the ECRC and the FSE Bureau. In all external relations with public authorities, governments, institutions, and other public or private organizations, whether cave-related or not, he/she can only represent the ECRC as FSE European Cave Rescue Commission if the FSE President or Bureau delegates him/her authority for specific meetings or events.

§ 9 The ECRC Board consists of the President and 4 persons with recognized qualification in cave rescue from FSE member countries plus the Heads of Workgroups. The ECRC Board is entitled to create or discontinue ECRC Workgroups for specific cave rescue topics. The ECRC Board manages the internal business of the ECRC. Members of the ECRC Board and the ECRC President are designated for 4 years starting with the same year as the election of the ECRC President.

§ 10 Cavers from FSE countries with recognized qualifications in cave rescue can be members of the ECRC. It would be preferable that members of the ECRC have a role in their national cave rescue organisation. These members elect 4 members of the ECRC Board out of their middle. The ECRC President, through the FSE Bureau, will make a call-up to all FSE member countries to submit one member each for the ECRC. The term of ECRC members is indefinite. Member countries can replace their ECRC member by notification to the ECRC President.

§ 11 Decisions of the ECRC and the ECRC Board are made by simple majority. In case of equal votes the voice of the ECRC President preponderates.

#### **SECTION 4: WORKGROUPS OF THE ECRC**

§ 12 Heads of the Workgroups, which are confirmed by the ECRC Board, report twice a year to the ECRC President, or every time it is requested by the ECRC President. Heads of the Workgroups are members of the ECRC Board. As such they share all Board responsibilities. The ECRC Internal Regulations apply mutatis mutandis to ECRC Workgroups without the possibility to create further sub-workgroups.

§ 13 ECRC Workgroups are founded by decision of the ECRC Board. They can comprise as many members as deemed necessary, which are confirmed by the ECRC Board. The FSE Bureau will be informed by the ECRC President about the formation of an ECRC Workgroup.

§ 14 Each Workgroup prepares its own agenda and decides how to organise its work. In general each work team is allowed to work autonomously in accordance with the ECRC program of action.

§ 15 Reports about the state of affairs in case of need are sent by the head of a Workgroup to the ECRC President.

#### **SECTION 5: MODIFICATION OF THE ECRC INTERNAL REGULATIONS**

§16 Modifications of these Internal Regulations can be decided and immediately applied by the ECRC. The modifications only enter formally into force by a decision of the FSE GAM with a majority vote of the electors who are present or represented.