

Meeting between UIS and FSUE Bureau **(including meeting with FEALC Bureau)**

in Sevilla – Triana - Spain
on the September 15th and 16th 2006

Written by Bernard Thomachot and Olivier Vidal

Participants :

For the UIS Bureau : Efraïn MERCADO, Carlos BENEDETTO, George VENI, José LABEGALINI

For the FSUE Bureau : Juan Carlos LOPEZ, Jean-Claude THIES, Ged CAMPION, Olivier VIDAL + Bernard THOMACHOT (webmaster)

For the FEALC Bureau : Efraïn MERCADO, Carlos BENEDETTO, José LABEGALINI

Point 1 :

What should be the relation between Regional bodies (FSUE, FEALC) and UIS ?

Efraïn MERCADO

- What is the UIS behavior that most bothers FSUE ?

José LABEGALINI

- The FSUE should write a request asking what it wants the UIS to do.
- The FSUE exists because of the UIS.

Juan Carlos LOPEZ

- Every regional body should be represented by 2 members in the UIS Bureau.
- FSUE should make a protest to UIS for not sending its President or General Secretary to this meeting.
- The amount of help FSUE gives to the UIS should be comparable to the amount of help the UIS gives to the FSUE
- The legitimacy of every association is a constant question (representation, location, actions, number of members).

Carlos BENEDETTO

- It is important that UIS respects all regional bodies.
- The FSUE should inform the UIS about the international events it organizes.

Jean-Claude THIES

- FSUE is not an internal UIS organization but a parallel organization.
- No need for a FSUE representative in the UIS Bureau.
- FSUE is like the federation of a new country ; It represents the cavers in the political environment called Europe.

George VENI

- Needs to know more about FSUE.
- Each organization has its own independent organization.
- The FSUE should try to present candidates to serve on the UIS Bureau.
- Part of the difficulty between the organizations is not knowing who is who and does what.
- FSUE should be affiliated with UIS, but under current UIS regulations, no regional organization (FSUE, FEALC, etc.) can be a UIS member. Only countries can be UIS members and vote for members on the UIS Bureau.
- UIS has written down in its statutes and regulations, but needs to distribute them so they are convenient for people who manage the UIS and regional bodies.
- UIS needs to be clear about what it can offer to cavers and national federations and regional bodies.

Olivier VIDAL

- FSUE will not take a part of UIS duty. Those two organizations are complementary.
- FSUE main topic is to strengthen links between European cavers.
- FSUE has to inform UIS of FSUE activities.
- FSUE is bothered when UIS tells FSUE what to do.
- FSUE and UIS is a bit like EU and UN.

Ged CAMPION

- I agree with Juan Carlos LOPEZ position.
- Subordination or not between FSUE and UIS is not the point.
- A caver needs FSUE to organize European congresses and needs UIS to organize worldwide congresses.

George VENI

- Does the European Congress belong to the UIS? The European Congress was started by the UIS because there was no European speleological organization. Now that there is such an organization, should the European Congress belong to FSUE? For example, the Latin American Congress does not belong to UIS but to FEALC. If FSUE can run the European congress well, then perhaps the European congress should belong to FSUE, not UIS.

Olivier VIDAL

- Olivier explains the history of European Conferences (Bulgaria 1980, Belgium 1992) organized by the UIS and Congresses (Portugal 1999, France 2008) organized by the FSUE.

George VENI

- Asks LABEGALINI to add a question in the UIS Powerpoint presentation : "What can the UIS do for you ?"
- Someday the UIS should give money to help some events, but this is a long term objective because UIS does not have enough money now.

Jean-Claude THIES

- The FSUE and the UIS should make concrete proposals about common activities and the way they want to coordinate their action.

Conclusion by FSUE president, Juan Carlos LOPEZ :

FSUE will send UIS a written proposal for common activities and a meeting between FSUE, FEALC and UIS Bureau. This meeting could be organized next year.

Everybody agrees on the following points :

- Strengthening the cooperation between the UIS and the FSUE
- Strengthening the exchange of information
- Participation as observers of FSUE representatives to UIS Bureau meetings and UIS representatives at FSUE Bureau meetings.

Point 2 :

Strengthening cooperation and the exchange of information

Juan Carlos LOPEZ

- We should share the activities calendars between UIS and FSUE.
- Put the FSUE as a regional body contact in the UIS website.

Jean-Claude THIES

- Since 1999 all FSUE reports were sent in hard copy to the UIS General Secretary.

Efraïn MERCADO

- All UIS Bureau meeting reports will be sent by email to the FSUE.

George VENI

- Maybe a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) or SOI (Statement of Interests) should be done between the UIS and the FSUE.

José LABEGALINI

- José informs that he's working on such issue and that a proposal will be presented to the FSUE, FEALC and BSU by the end of 2006.

Olivier VIDAL

- Olivier remarks that BSU countries are going to be part of the FSUE.

Efraïn MERCADO

- This agreement doesn't need to be approved by the General Assemblies of UIS and FSUE, because is part of an internal process for both organizations unless their respective Bureau decides the contrary.

Point 3 : Expeditions

Jean-Claude THIES

- Cavers don't need the UIS or the FSUE to make expeditions.

Efraïn MERCADO

- Foreigner cavers should inform the country UIS delegate and affected national federation when they intend to do an expedition in their country.

- The guidelines already exist, called COE (Code of Ethics). It is available in 6 languages.

- The FSUE should emphasize the use the COE.

Ged CAMPION

- The expeditions should not only ask authorization but also should share the results of the exploration works with the country's federation.

José LABEGALINI

- The next Internal Regulations that the UIS will adopt will include financial support to caving events.

Efraïn MERCADO

- Efraïn presents an example of misunderstanding about a UK group of caver's expedition in Mexico and its relation between Belize and Mexico.

Olivier VIDAL

- What will be the best way to emphasize the COE in Europe ?

- This issue will be discussed about during next FSUE General Assembly in 2007 in Sweden.

Point 4 : Organization of next International Congress

George VENI

- The FSUE can help as much as it can.

- There could be some workshops about the differences about Cave Rescue techniques between North America and Europe.

Olivier VIDAL

- These workshops could be advertised on the International Congress website.

- The website could be more colourful.

George VENI

- The website is also to communicate with scientists. So it's not so simple.

- It is important to finish with the "war" between scientists and cavers.

- Few cavers are managing caves, so the exchange with scientists is important.

Juan Carlos LOPEZ

- In order to improve the image if the UIS inside the cavers' community, it is important not to communicate only with scientists.

George VENI

- In the International congress there will also be animations and entertainments for everybody.

Olivier VIDAL

- It is proposed that the UIS could make its 2008 Bureau meeting during the next European Congress in Vercors, 2008.

Efraïn MERCADO

- Thanks for inviting us to next European Congress.

Jean-Claude THIES

- We are sad that UIS General Secretary, Fadi NADER, could not come because of the conflict in Lebanon.

Point 5 : Miscellaneous

Jean-Claude THIES

- The FSUE deals with the EU policy.

- There should be cooperation between FSUE and UIS about dealing with the UN (United Nations) policy for Cave Protection.

George VENI

- Dealing with UNESCO is very difficult.

Meeting between FEALC and FSUE

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Efraïn MERCADO

- FSUE and FEALC should start a relationship in order to provide the fundamentals of proper solutions to problems in case they could occur and to exchange ideas and technologies.

Carlos BENEDETTO

- Information has to be exchanged between FEALC and FSUE when European cavers come to a South American country.

Juan Carlos LOPEZ

- Establish an agreement between FSUE and FEALC to achieve several joint ventures (rescue, training,...).

Jean-Claude THIES

- Physical meeting around concrete manifestations are more useful than systematic and formal meetings.

Carlos BENEDETTO

- FSUE should be invited to the next FEALC congress in Puerto Rico on July-August 2007.
