

FÉDÉRATION SPÉLÉOLOGIQUE DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ EUROPÉENNE



NOTE

As the original report files are no longer available, and to fill the gap in the reportlist, the FSUE AGM 2003 in Ollioules, (F) has decided to retro-write these missing reports. Jean-Claude Thies was selected to be in charge of this project. The current report has been edited from personal notes and it may well be possible that the report isn't complete or that I noted down a different text than originally spoken.

General Assembly 16 AUG 1997 **14:30 La Chaux-de-Fonds, CH**

Present: FSCE Bureau members:

Andy Eavis, GB (A.E.)
Roger Boislaigue, F (R.B.)
George Theodorou, GR (G.T.)
Jean-Claude Thies, L (J.C.T.)

Delegates:

Bernard Krauthausen, D (B.K.)
Orlando Cordeiro, P (O.C.)
Jean-Marc Mattlet, B (J.M.M.)
Declan Harrison, IRL (D.H.)
Leif Sigvardson, S (L.S.)

Guests:

Nick Williams, GB (N.W.)
Joua Paulo Rocha Martins, P (J.P.R.M.)
Claude Mouret, F (C.M.)

And many more

1) Welcome

The president welcomes all present delegates and guests.

He explains that Italy who stood back from the FSCE some years ago is keen on jumping back onto board, but first their National Assembly has to take a decision.

2) Minutes of the last General Assembly

Last AGM has taken place in Enniskillen, N-IRL in 1995. There are no objections from any delegates regarding the report from Jean-Claude Thies. It is fully accepted.

3) Matters arising from the minutes

no matters

4) President's Report

Andy Eavis recalls all past meetings. There have been 6 bureau meetings between last and present AGM. The reports of these meetings are all published in French or English.

A major part of the meetings regarded the European Insurance which should be implemented as soon as possible and be available for all member countries.

5) Vice-President's Report

Roger Boislaigue reports that he hasn't been involved very much in FSCE work apart the bureau meetings, i.e. Paris. He supposes to contact Brussels to change the FSCE into a more powerful organisation and to get more EU funds.

6) Secretary's Report

George Theodorou is greeting all present cavers and explains that the FSCE would be a great success for continuation but we have to try to be more efficient and try to raise more funds. He spoke about cave rescue and insurance.

Finally he reported on the fiasco about his recent questionnaire. There has been one answer only! Even the bureau members haven't replied to it. After numerous demands until today there are still more than half of the countries missing.

If the bureau is unable to reach the set goal, we have to resign, we need people who help, so his words.

7) Treasurer's Report

Jean-Claude Thies distributes copies of his report, giving details of the Treasury Balance 1995-1997. To be noted first there is an amount of more than 1000 ECU of outstanding subscriptions! On the other hand however, the situation is very good.

B.K. makes a comment saying that in Enniskillen (IRL) we decided that all delegates are entitled to assist a bureau meeting if they wish. But the invitations should also be distributed to all delegates!

8) Review of the country subscriptions

JCT notes the actual subscription rates: 10/80/100 ECU for less than 100 cavers, between 100 and 1000 cavers and over 1000 cavers in a member-country's caving structure.

> The AGM decides that there is no need for a change of those rates this year.

9) Projects

A.E. Now we will have a look on the current situation on the projects.

G.T. If a country will participate in a European project it has to pay around 50% of the cost by it's own.

As Federation we cannot prepare a project of about 50.000 ECU without knowing that the participating countries are prepared to pay for it.

We might try to present a project with both, a sporting part and a scientific part, as the European Commission will not fund a purely speleological project at all. We will have to jump on board at an existing big project.

G.T. George wants to know of any addresses of institutions for collaboration and fund raising.

R.B. went to Brussels to the DG10.

In most countries speleology is related to sport, and in that case the "Eurathlon '97" of the EC is a well defined project in which we might take part. Roger would like to have i.e. "Casola '97" as a part of the "Eurathlon '97" project and present the happening in Brussels at the DG10.

A.E. There is an opportunity to get money for sporting and for scientific projects.

B.K. DG10, is purely a sporting commission. It will be difficult to get contacts with the scientific commission. A German expedition in Mosambique should be refunded with 20.000 ECU after the final report has been send in.

A.E. An Euro-expedition would be the obvious way to get financial help.

We actually have some ideas to get money, but we definately need people to prepare and present the projects for the FSCE.

10) Future meetings including

a) European Expedition meeting

A.E. the next one will be in Castleton, Derbyshire in Great-Britain 25-26/04/1998

There might be around 200 people. This event should be organised by the FSCE. Eventually a bureau meeting could be organised at the same time.

b) European Congress

A proposal from Austria for 1999.

K.H. Austria might organise a European Congress, but he isn't informed about the intentions of his federation.
A proposal from Portugal for 1999.

O.C. (SPE) Portugal has two federations, both are represented by their respective presidents!

J.P.M. (FPE) It took them 3 years of work for this proposal, supported by state and university. He doesn't agree that the other SPE organises meetings.

A.E. The Portuguese question is an internal problem which should be sorted out first.

Voting: for Austria: D, S, IRL, B, L, GB, GR, A for Portugal: P, E,
no votes from NL, F

A.E. Voting here for Austria means that we all support Portugal for the hosting of the UIS meeting in 2001.

c) Scientific Convention

It seems as it is relatively easy to get European money for scientific projects. 2 people should raise time to prepare serious documents as a proposal. A meeting/congress might be organised in central Europe on this issue.

A.E. Is there anyone interested in this job? > no direct response

B.K. Of course he will support this type of meeting and is helping to find a location i.e. the University of Karlsruhe. But personally Bernhard is fully booked out and has not enough time to work for this idea himself, sorry.

G.T. Would it be possible to find a company to cover all expenses until FSCE has enough funds to pay back? Bernhard would that be possible with your company?

B.K. Logistics is not a problem.

A.E. How about you George, are you interested in organising such an event?

G.T. I cannot organise a congress in Central Europe, that's too far away.

d) Future Bureau Meetings and General Assemblies

AGM 1999, Austria would be a good possibility, together with the European congress:
Bureau meetings: not yet specified.

11) European Insurance

A.E. A lot of discussions have been made over the past years, and we are making good progress. GB is currently negotiating as a starting project and then all other countries are hopping in.

Current talks are made with AON France, then with the Anglo British company.

We have members in Europe to achieve a good priced insurance. The amounts may be around 10GBP for a year national coverage and 30GBP a year for international coverage.

P We have an insurance for 10 days, but cost 3 GBP only.

E. Our prices are half of the proposed ones.

G.T. How about a list with all prices and guarantees of all countries, thus we are able to compare exactly.

12) Equipment Standards

a) new European rules

R.B. On behalf of the expiring date on every item, new rules have come into action in 1996, but nobody was correctly informed before, so none had time to react against these rules.

N.W. we should contact the national working groups (if they exist) and see what happened so far. Nick himself is a member of the British Standards Commission, but doesn't know anyone abroad on the same level.

R.B. we could prepare a questionnaire and ask all member countries about their existing commissions and workgroups.

N.W. UIAA and CE labels are recognised as the same standard for mountaineering equipment. Cavers should now make pressure onto the EC to get standards adopted to caver's requirements.

b) FSCE - Technical Trainer

The Spanish delegation has a proposal to implement the title of "Technical Trainer"

A.E. It might be a bit early for the FSCE to work in that direction of implementing titles. Andy proposes that the Spanish prepare a proper document with their idea and it will then be distributed among our member countries.

13) Elections

This year there are two posts that need to be reelected.

To be noted that the President and the General Secretary should not be reelected in the same year.

Roger Boislaigue, F resigns from the post of Vice-President, he will not stand as a candidate.

The result of a thrown coin between President and General Secretary: > Andy Eavis resigns as president.

Calling for candidates:

Andy Eavis, GB stands again for the post of president

Orlando Cordeiro, P stands for the post of Vice-President

Everybody present agreed on the following bureau:

President:	Andy Eavis	GB	1997-2001
Vice-President:	Orlando Cordeiro	P	1997-2001
General Secretary:	George Theodorou	GR	1995-1999
Treasurer:	Jean-Claude Thies	L	1995-1999

14) Any other business

JM.M. has prepared a document in French about the cave rescue situation in each member country. After JC.T. has done the translation into English it will be distributed.

JC.T. It is important for the federation to collect as much information following every questionnaire so he is reminding everyone to answer all forms, that way the federation is moving a step forward.

G.T. has some ideas to do a numbering system on all FSCE documents, he will finalise this and distribute the system.

B.K. Shall we consider The Netherlands as a member country or not, as they haven't paid their subscription.

A.E. They might do so and join back, the chances are good.

L.S. Sweden asked 5 years ago about the subscription rates and the National Federation voted against joining the FSCE. But now they agreed to join as a full member. There are about 600 members in the Swedish federation of which there are only 100 active cavers. There are no big caves in Sweden, the longest is about 5 km in the North region. There are a lot of non-lime stone caves all over the country. There is one Tourist cave on an island. The cavers are used to travel to Norway to do caving.

A.E. In the name of the FSCE he is pleased to meet the Swedish community among all of us.

JC.T. The address list needs a review and he asks everyone to correct the data. A new list will be distributed after.

F.M. Would like to know the national caving school programs in order to set up a common program.

G.T. For all document exchanges, please use floppies and Microsoft Word as application.

A.E. The president is closing the AGM, he thanks everyone for coming and for the good work which has been done.

END

report done by:

Jean-Claude Thies; L