



FSUE WORK MEETING 26 JUNE 2004, ALCANENA, Portugal

Present : FSUE Bureau : Claude Mouret, Christos Petreas ; FSUE delegates : Paulo Rocha-Martins (Portugal), Nick Williams (United-Kingdom) ; Francisco Martinez-Garcia (Spain vice-delegate), Andy Eavis (FSCE former president, FSCE= former name of FSUE), Robert Eavis.

Apologies : FSUE Bureau : Juan-Carlos Lopez-Casas.

The meeting was held during the 6th European Symposium on Exploration Speleology. The purpose was to improve FSUE functioning and to actively prepare the full membership of the ten countries newly associated to the European Union on the 1st of May 2004. Ongoing actions were reviewed.

Claude Mouret presided the meeting and presented the topics for discussion. He wrote this report (both french and english versions).

Welcoming the 10 new countries into the European Union

For a number of reasons, it has not been possible to gather right now the representatives of all countries newly entered in the Union. Among others, no General Assembly session takes place in 2004.

Welcoming all countries under nice conditions is of paramount importance, because their "first impression" must be excellent. So, it is planned :

1. to send them an information file, including a set of questions regarding speleological practice in their country. Christos Petreas is in charge of preparing the questionnaire, and to include suggestions and recommendations of other FSUE Bureau members. (this questionnaire will also be sent to the "Fifteen").
2. Each new country shall have to name its two delegates (main and adjunct).
3. Mail exchange is planned to take place regularly.
4. The formalisation of the membership of the new countries shall take place in Athens in 2005, during the UIS international congress, during the 2005 session of FSUE General Assembly.

Boosting FSUE commissions start

Having commissions within FSUE was officially voted in Ollioules (2003). It is a good way how to develop FSUE and it is necessary to accelerate their start. Our goal is to have several commissions proposed at the FSUE General Assembly in Athens.

Comments from two countries

Two countries (The Netherlands and Austria) have expressed their reserves on FSUE activity. We recommend these countries to actively participate in FSUE General Assembly in Athens, where a new functioning will necessarily be set up. It will be a unique opportunity to attract more people to

actively participate in the work.

Having more persons involved in FSUE was one of the objectives agreed in Ollioules. Without a larger number of working persons, it will not be possible to seriously make large actions.

Project of a FSUE Bureau meeting in Brussels

It is necessary to hold a FSUE Bureau meeting as soon as possible (and no later than the 15th of October) and to take advantage of it to meet the European Commission.

Claude Mouret shall contact Jean-Marc Mattlet, Belgian FSUE delegate, in order to organise the meeting with the Commission.

It is expected to meet several persons in the Commission.

Proposals for future actions, to be presented to the European Commission in Brussels

Identifying actions which will interest the European Commission is important. Christos Petreas proposes to prepare a review of speleological activity in the 25 EU countries and to add a study on speleological explorations and research in these countries. Among others, speleological activity of UE speleologists in other EU countries and in Europe in general should be evaluated. Also teaching and formation in the EU countries.

These actions could allow us to obtain appropriate funding and so to better work for FSUE. It is expected that they require participation of persons from all concerned countries.

FSUE Web site

Nick Williams is currently working on the updating of FSUE site, with Robert Eavis's technical assistance. The site will be operational in September.

The site is very important for FSUE, in order to spread quickly information towards the 25 countries in EU.

Documents can be put on line without any prerequisite formatting.

Eurospeleo

Preparing and sending the next issue is important, as it appears to be a key tool for communication, asked for by quite a number of persons. The table of contents shall be prepared before the end of July, in order to ensure a sending of the full Eurospeleo within a short deadline.

7th European Symposium on Exploration Speleology, 2006

So far, no country is a candidate. Candidature from one of the 10 new EU members would be a very good thing.

Miscellaneous

- Decision of meeting dates : Nick Williams wishes to receive meeting dates at least three months in advance.

- European Conférence : Paulo Rochas-Martins asks for what we shall do. Holding a European Conférence is subject to agreements with UIS. It depends on countries and dates where the UIS international Congress is held. Participants in Alcanena agree that a symposium could be alternated with a Symposium and/or Conference, with an event every two years. We will check with UIS that there is compatibility.

- Dates of manifestations : some participants in Alcanena wish that events take place in May, but out of the long week-ends.

reported by Claude Mouret, FR