

**MINUTES OF FIRS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
ROME, 5<sup>TH</sup> - 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2009**

Members in attendance:

Sabatino Aracu	FIRS President
Roberto Marotta	CIC President and FIRS Secretary General
Valerie Leftwich	FIRS 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President
Fernando Claro	FIRS Vice President (Europe)
Simon Wilkins	FIRS Vice President (Oceania)
Guo Min	FIRS Vice President ( Asia)
Carlos Orlando Ferreira	FIRS Vice President ( America)
Gilbert Portier	CIRILH President
James Pollard	CIPA President
Harro Strucksberg	CIRH President
Laura Morandi	FIRS Vice Secretary General
Qin Jihong	Secretary General Asian Confederation
Luis Alfonso Munoz	Auditor

FIRS Secretariat staff: Francesco Giordani, Simona Mercuri, Raffaella Spagnuolo

Interpreters: Alessandra Lunadei, Cecilia Nadin, Rex Xin, Olga Soto, Ricardo Araujo

Guests: Emilio Gasbarrone

5th February 2009 h. 10.00 a. m

**1. Welcome of the President**

**2. Approval minute of the CC meeting Gold Coast 2007**

**3. Communication of the President**

President Sabatino Aracu welcomes all participants and thanks in particular Valerie Leftwich for her valuable collaboration and loyal friendship. He points out that Ferreira and Strucksberg will arrive in the afternoon, having had problems with their work and flight.

It is an historical moment because, for the first time in FIRS history, we have a representative of athletes, G. Duggento participating in our meetings. Now he is an athlete and we hope to have in the future a manager. Our Auditor, Luis Alfonso Munoz, is with us: I thank him because he has always been close to FIRS, first as President of the Colombian Federation and then as a Auditor. All what he does is for love. A special thanks to Emilio Gasbarrone, Secretary General of FIHP, in him I thank also the CONI for the support, it offers to FIRS. Greetings also to the FIRS staff, that is here with us.

FIRS Congress in Rome: the President has fought for this site, so that all delegations could focus their attention on FIRS elections, and not on World Championships. The IOC member, Mario Pescante will be present and tomorrow evening, at a welcome cocktail, also Franco Carraro, President of the IOC Program Commission.

A few days ago, together with Roberto Marotta and Strucksberg I met Mr. Bach of the IOC in Germany and we shared with him our Olympic project, asking for advice.

Sometimes criticisms have served to do better, just to build. Since the meeting in Gold Coast many important things have happened: \* IOC Manager Christophe Dubi (Sport Director of the IOC) and Pierre-Ducrey, his assistant, came officially to see our Speed World Championships in Gijon and have been with us for 3 days. We have been selected among the 7 most important sport for the inclusion in the Olympic Program. They have found us worthy of that position. We present us as young sport, the skate as the evolution of the shoe, we entered their mentality. Our Federation has been the first to have a Web TV, appreciated by the IOC, and the FIRS Congress will be broadcasted live. It is a sign of transparency and democracy. By the IOC we have also received criticism for the few spectators and the little visibility of our logo; standing with them, we have let them understand that we can improve. Now we start with the speed, then we will move on to other disciplines. We also have a team sport, hockey, which can make good returns in terms of betting. We are making an agreement with Bwin, which can bring incomes with television filming and online betting. Artistic skating is also important, just think that on ice it is the one that has the largest television rights for its spectacular aspects. The political commitment is that, if we enter, also the other disciplines will be included. We must also consider the skateboarding. In March we will meet the American Association of Skateboarding, the strongest in the world and we have informed the IOC to have proposed them to come nearer to us. Their TV rights are managed by the NBC, and with it we will have a meeting. NBC prompts very much to let skateboarding enter the Olympic project. We must recommend to all our Federations to improve skateboarding. \* Today we are self-sufficient as Federation. The autonomy of today comes from fees, it is not much, we must increase our incomes. We started to sign contracts and for the first time, in the Olympic Project, skates producers will finance us. We do not have at our disposal a lot of money like other competing federations: golf, rugby, baseball, but we have spent 150 thousand dollars for our video presentation to the IOC. We have struck at the heart of everyone, we are the only Federation, that has Olympic champions without being Olympic sport. Derek Parra and Ippolito Sanfratello switched to the ice to win an Olympic medal. Only a great sport like ours can do it.

- \* SportAccord in Athens. Great initiative to light a poster with a photo of G. Duggento with the word "Amazing Roller Sports", to show that we were there. Located at the arrivals, all liked it.
- \* We are moving from an amateur to a professional federation.
- \* There are signs to leave a trace of openness to dialogue.

MAROTTA: the political background shines through the words of the President. I ask if anyone wishes to speak before moving on to discuss the issues of the agenda

DUGGENTO thanks all present and announce that he was invited by the IOC to the International Forum of Representatives of Athletes in Morocco at the end of May, this call is important for FIRS as a signal of openness by the IOC.

MAROTTA points out, that the Forum was reserved, until last year, only to Olympic Federations.

#### **4.Olympic Project**

MAROTTA: in the folder there is the text with the interventions made during our interview last November 14<sup>th</sup> in Lausanne. It has been among the most appreciated interventions, our movie costed to FIRS 150 thousand U.S. dollars, while the movie of rugby 1 million dollars.This let you understand their financial resources! On the last page of the Olympic Project there are the questions we were asked by members of the Program Commission and it is important to focus on these aspects.

MAROTTA asked to contact all the IOC members of the respective nations.

CLARO: in the third week of July in Lisbon, there will be a meeting with the Europeans National Olympic Committees and some African nations. I will attend this meeting and invite the FIRS President to assist. I am sorry to say that there are people in the Executiva Board and in our affiliated Federations, that do not comply absolutely with FIRS statute: all federations are obliged to respect the art. 4 of our Statute, that says, that we must respect the Olympic Charter. We must have the courage to chase the defaulters. We are here because we believe in our sport, we must be strong.

MAROTTA: We must focus our attention on what we have to do and it is much.

ARACU: asks to read the questions of the IOC members to understand their strategies and their answers.

MAROTTA analyses in details questions and answers.

Our best athletes will participate in the Olympic Games. To avoid problems for the Organisation the presence should be limited to 50 men and 50 women, selected through pre Olympic continental competitions.

The athletes will participate in all the competitions, that have to be spectacular.

Possibility of having a 200 meters speed track inside a cycling track. It has been a challenging question, because we can use the same facilities of cycling so that they are not expensive.

We have a representative of the athletes in our sport.

In our video we talk about 50 million practising skaters worldwide, the competing athletes are about 1 million.

Our sport has developed in all 5 continents but Africa needs assistance from us.

During the competitions you may have accidents that are kept down thanks to the security of the rinks and to the helmet, which is obligatory.

In our recent Worlds 57 countries have participated representing 5 continents and 14 countries of 4 continents have won medals. This answer has impressed the IOC members because it shows that it is not concentrated in a few geographic areas but throughout the world.

We have anti-doping controls, we have made 108 controls on over 500 athletes

The sports facilities are not very expensive, even if we can reach 700-800 dollars and sometimes they break.

In our sport we have sometimes to stop the competitions for the warm up.

All the questions are designed to test the acceptability by the television.

ARACU: in June we will have a presentation to the IOC Board and in October, the final decision in Copenhagen. It is necessary that all the components of the Executive Board contact the IOC members.

## **5. Reports of the Vice Presidents**

VALERIE LEFTWICH: (see report in attachment)

MAROTTA asks her officially to deal with WADA problems. We must strengthen our Medical Commission. Today we are fortunate to have Dr. Pat Wallace, but we can not remain in the hands of one person. We need a staff, eager to work.

He asks Valerie to stay close to Pat, in expectation of finding another 2 doctors. The doctors that we have appointed in recent years have also not done their work in its entirety. Pat has revealed a series of changes to regulation and not to the statute, to be submitted to the meeting. In the Congress we need only to confirm the adherence to the WADA Code.

It is necessary to think about the parts that are compulsory for us towards the IOC and about the parts that serve to regulate our internal functionality and the costs to be incurred for the Medical Commission. Compliance with these rules is absolutely fundamental for speed skating and realizes that it is too costly for the other disciplines.

CLARO repeats that the doping control is transverse to all sports. It is essential to control costs and find a balance.

MUNOZ: the topic is serious. It is necessary to know the procedure to meet the demands of the IOC. All nations, that organize a World Championship, are forced to carry out doping tests.

MAROTTA: we do not have the economic resources to have 4 Medical Commissions. In CIC the rules impose on organizers of a World Championship to pay the expenses for a member of FIRS Medical Commission. Now obligations are starting to become heavy and applications fall. An event like this costs more than one million dollars.

POLLARD: we must remember that each discipline has its needs and its problems.

LEFTWICH: I would like to add one small thing: I would like to thank Roberto and Sabatino for having understood the difficulties of living on the other side of the earth and for having had many contacts with me in this last period.

GUO MIN: after the meeting in Gold Coast we had the Asian Championship of rink and inline hockey in India. This has included male and female rink hockey and male inline hockey. The artistic championship took place successfully in Haining last year. Thanks dr. Marotta for the trust given to China, as host nation of this championship and of the Speed Championship this year in Haining where everyone is invited. Roller sports have also been confirmed in the Asian Games 2010 and this is their first participation. Concerning the antidoping, the Asian Confederation pays close attention to this issue and this

issue was included on the agenda of the Central Committee of the Congress of the Asian Confederation last year in Haining. We will put soon in the statute more precise rules to control the athletes in our national championships and I thank FIRS for the economic support given in this area to the Asian nations. Pakistan is a very active nation, that wants the organisation of a championship even if the political situation is not peaceful; many countries of the Confederation have expressed their concern in this regard and therefore we have given to this nation no confirmation. We consider the Asian Championships in 2010, there will be cooperation between CARS and the Chinese Confederation for the organization in all disciplines. I wish to express to FIRS my collaboration for the Olympic project and for the long way to walk for this goal.

FERNANDO CLARO: (see the report in attachment)

MAROTTA: And now the Presidents of the Technical Committees. For the Artistic the floor to Jim Pollard.

POLLARD: It is a real pleasure to be still head of CIPA, we had a great championship in Kaohsiung, which will also be the host city of the World Games for the first time in Asia after 24 years when we met in Tokyo. That was the first time we showed our sport in Asia and it was very beautiful and interesting to see the great progress made about it in this country. Speaking of this, a special thank must go to Mr. Noguchi, who worked so that our sport was part of the Asian Games. This combined with the participation in the Pan American Games and the Mediterranean Games is a great step towards the Olympic movement.

In the CIPA Congress, we have defined the deadline for the participation of our skaters to the World Games, we had many agreements, we are waiting for Italy, Spain and Germany. I believe that the World Games are our Olympic Games, what we have now, they also give us the opportunity to return to Kaohsiung to examine the facilities, since the problems occurred in the last championships. Apart from that, their hospitality was exceptional, as well as preparations for the World Games.

As for the future in this part of the world we want to do as much as possible in the training, we have contacts with Shanghai, with Taipei City. We have also travelled to Brazil to work with South America for the judges and we have made progress.

I want to remember what happened in South America in Artistic skating for the first time. Our friends have entered skaters, who were not of the Federation, who had not been approved to participate; they sent also official judges, my committee and myself have pointed out that they had taken part at the Championship without approval and that if it were happened again, they would have been excluded from international competitions. I told the South American Federation that if they do not intend to follow the rules of FIRS and CIPA for the conduct of the competitions, even their judges will lose the international requirements. We had this problem with the hockey and we had it with the artistic for the first time. All started from the group of Catalonia, I talked to Francisco for what concerns the artistic and I think that our future in this sport, if the problem of Catalonia ends, will go forward positively. On this issue there have been questions raised by Vasquez Rana and by the Olympic Secretary of Argentine. As most of you know, we did not need to have these problems in our sport, but we must do our best to be correct.

For the future world championships we are happy to tell you that we have requests until 2013: this year we will go to Germany, next year to Portugal, to Brazil and then later we will come back to Australia or New Zealand and then in France. We are really lucky with the federations asking for our championships.

PORTIER: this is my first time here and I am happy. My charge is to find the next President for the Committee because I am "young". You have my report I also sent that of George Pickard, but I see that is not included.

I ask to attach it because it is very interesting and as sign of respect to our great friend and manager George Pickard.

Pollard spoke highly of Kaoshiung, I saw that the floor is bad for inline hockey, but because of FIRS Olympic Project, also my discipline can not fail to participate. The future of our sport is in Asia, China, India. I can speak of the future because the past was done by someone else. My goal is to schedule the World Championships 2 years in advance. We do not know yet what we will do next year, our contacts are friendly.

We must increase our visibility; on the web site of the World Games they talk about speed and artistic, nothing about inline hockey. I ask FIRS to help me to get a page and to do a global project of development of our sport.

MAROTTA: Regarding my charge of President of the Technical Committee for Speed skating I will confirm that last September in Gijon I have been re-elected as President for the next 4 years: it is a great honour and a commitment, that I took with the world of speed skating to try to bring our sport in the Olympics.

For that reason I thank all the International Federations, that are working to achieve this objective with the participation of their national teams in World Championships (550 athletes representing 57 countries). This is the main job of our Vice-Presidents: in their countries they must encourage their national Federations to take part at our World Championships. Many National Olympic Committees are showing an interest ever shown before in our sport: we held a meeting for the Mediterranean Games in Pescara at the presence of many African countries of the Mediterranean coast, that have shown interest in developing in their country a new federation for roller skating.

I have to thank the organizers of the last World Championships Korea 2006, Colombia 2007 and Spain 2008, excellent championships with a lot of effort and money. We had to participate in 2009 in Switzerland to promote the presence of IOC members; unfortunately, the economic difficulties encountered by our Swiss friends have enabled us to hold in that country the World Championship in 2009. We have then chosen the Chinese Federation, that I thank together with the President Guo Min and the President of the Chinese Federation Ms Lin Jie and the organizers of the city of Haining who have met all my requests for these championships. Unfortunately there is a conflict of dates, since September 19<sup>th</sup> is scheduled the marathon in Berlin, a great event at international level (in 2008 was attended by 8500 athletes). I ask you therefore to communicate our embarrassment to those who will complain about this conflict of dates, but on the other hand, this also indicates the growth of events in our sport.

In the current year 2009 the World Games will take place in Kaohsiung in China Taipei. I invite you to ask the Federations, that have qualified athletes in all disciplines, to ensure their participation. All sports that have become Olympic in the last 15 years, came from the World Games and then be present at the World Games is the prelude of the Olympic Games.

In 2010, for speed skating, we will go to South America, Argentina or Venezuela: it depends on economic and political guarantees that we will be offered. In 2011 we come back to Asia, in Korea and in 2012, after 8 years, again the World Championships will be held in Italy.

DUGGENTO: As an international representative of the athletes I have made a request to the FIRS that this sport has more growth and visibility, but above all I consider important that the Federation guarantees to the athletes the greatest security on the rinks (floor of the facilities). In the past FIRS has approved a system of acrylic resin which has given excellent results in the speed skating, improving the records and increasing the spectacular aspects, we would like that these floors were included in all the World Championships, World Games, European and international competitions.

MAROTTA: Our main objective is to combine the spectacular nature of this sport with the utmost safety of the athletes: personally I go to check the facilities in the world asking for protection, unfortunately not always the organizations are able to understand the risk and hazard for our athletes. We will do everything to ensure that a technical committee ensures the safety of facilities for each speciality.

Problem of Catalonia: FIRS has spent much time and money to defend itself at the TAS for the problem of Catalonia also with the convening of an Extraordinary Congress. With regret I must say that one of our Vice Presidents has not worked to protect the activities carried out by FIRS, and to avoid the problem of Catalonia was to emerge again. This is not a sport, but a political problem: the government of Catalonia offers sums of money, to try to accredit a sport autonomy that does not exist. Catalonia is a region, that is part of Spain, our affiliated Federation is the Spanish one, which we have the duty to protect and we have the duty not to create a precedent that could be a problem for us all. I say with regret that our Vice-President who should share with us this behaviour, has allowed in South America competitions in which, in the guise of club competitions, the flags of countries were showed, all the media have spoken about the results obtained by athletes of different countries not mentioning the name of the clubs, but the membership of the nation of athletes. We can not continue to live in the misunderstanding, seeking economic assistance from Catalonia and live under the FIRS. We have to choose, either you live in FIRS with the rules of our Statute or you go out. The IOC has repeatedly said that our application will be never considered, if we continue to discuss the problem of Catalonia. I ask therefore to you, to be firm in the need to close the door to political problems: the door remains open to athletes of Catalonia who, as Spanish, can continue to participate in all competitions under the flag of their country, that is Spain.

STRUCKSBERG: (see the report in attachment)

## **6. OTHER DISCIPLINES**

The Secretary General Marotta notes, that FIRS is the only governing body recognized by the IOC for all roller disciplines and therefore is responsible for their growth in all nations.

INLINE DOWNHILL: discipline under the control of CIC

FREESTYLE: FIRS has organized the fourth World Championship and aims to unify the regulations among the different continents. Until now this discipline has been under the control of CIC, but Marotta suggests Jim Pollard to bring it under the control of the artistic because of its characteristics.

AGGRESSIVE and ALPINE:two specialities of extreme sports, followed by television that we are committed to control in the future.

SKATEBOARDING: This speciality has its own commercial structure in the world and has not felt until now the need to join our Federation, but to be recognized, on the advice of the IOC, they have to join FIRS. We must transmit, on a continental level, to all federations in the world, the importance of having the skateboarding in their specialities. President Aracu notes that there are negotiations in progress with the NBC and the Federation of Skateboarding, to whom is to be given the hope of becoming the fifth discipline of FIRS, which in London in 2012 may already be demonstrative. The Secretary General Marotta commits himself to send a circular to all National Federations to determine if athletes are able to address a worldwide competition organized by FIRS.

MUNOZ I think it is a very important subject. From some American Olympic Committees, I heard that skateboarding is trying to be recognized by the IOC and that can be dangerous for FIRS. If they go forward, we go back in our hope of becoming Olympic. It is important to combine all these disciplines within FIRS to avoid surprises. The Central Committee must create a commission or a responsible manager who can follow it. It is not only a sport aspect, but also an economic one, because in America skateboarding has a great television coverage.

MAROTTA: We wish to organize as FIRS this year a World Championship but I need to know the power in each nation.

PORTIER: It is time that FIRS is interested in this discipline. In the French Federation exists already committees: the aggressive and inline downhill.

MAROTTA: The problem of the double hockey world championships (ice and roller) was discussed in the past with the then President of IOC Samaranch in Lausanne, which summoned both us and René Fasel, President of the Ice Federation of Ice and member of the Executive Board of IOC. Last year President Aracu and the Secretary General Marotta had a meeting with Fasel, who asked for one year time to find a solution. After the decisions of the IOC in October a meeting will be prompted. There is the possibility of finding an agreement for the use of tracks by both specialities. President Aracu suggests a meeting in the coming months in Lausanne with René Fasel together with Gilbert Portier.

CLARO would like to know the statute of this other Federation.

### **7. New affiliations**

The Secretary General Marotta invites to consider the applications for membership received apart from that of Bosnia, not in the folder, because just received.

Please note that the requests of FIRS to the nations, that want to join, are very detailed and require the filling of a form, the drafting of a statute and the recognition by their National Olympic Committee. Only Peru has presented these documents in perfect order. Please note that the recognition of the National Olympic Committee is essential to be recognized as federations, but FIRS needs to have at least 106 nations real affiliated. Consequently it is proposed to accept applications for membership and thus participation at the World Championships in various disciplines, giving these countries the time to submit a statute and the ratification of its national Olympic Committee.

This opens the debate:

MUNOZ: We can give a time for nations to bring in good standing but it is necessary that the Federations have their statute.

POLLARD: Puerto Rico asked to return in FIRS at which it belonged in the 70's. They have resumed their activity and have participated at the Artistic World Championships. The President of the Federation of Puerto Rico Hector Cardona is also President of the Caribbean Games

ARACU: We must let more possible Federations participate at our sports, but we must follow the law. I propose that the Central Committee provisionally accepts the membership and thus participation only in the championship in these countries, but without voting rights, while Peru, which is in good standing must be submitted for ratification during the assembly. Our fear should be that countries, where there is terrorism, mafia and drugs, can take advantage of an easy sport to get into our countries.

PORTIER: understands the concerns of Claro, but in the statute, there are some possibilities for interpretation. Either we follow it literally such as lawyers or it is a painting. The smart way is to accept certain nations and help them to respect the Statute.

GUO MIN: It is important to increase the number of nations in roller sport and let them participate at international events, then I believe that FIRS should recognize these nations.

MAROTTA: After having listened to all the opinions the ratification of Peru will be brought to a vote in the Congress, while other nations, not yet in good standing, will be granted 120 days to submit the Statute approved by their government.

### **8. Disciplinary sanctions**

MAROTTA: During the meeting in 2007 in Gold Coast it was decided to punish with a fine of \$ 1000 nations, that had participated in an international hockey competition at which Catalonia took part. Four of these nations, despite having been warned not to participate, decided also to take part at the competition and had to pay \$ 1000: Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Colombia. We must be careful not to lose our authority and give a strong political answer.

This opens the debate:

STRUCKSBERG: I do not agree on sanctions, that go against the statute of FIRS. The problem of Catalonia is a political problem of the Spanish Federation.

MUNOZ: I propose to advise these countries, that if this happens again, the penalty of \$ 1000 will be enforced and the prohibition to take part at official international hockey events.

POLLARD: We have experienced in the artistic a similar problem with Catalonia. I sent an official letter to Spain and to whom had participated without the permission of Spain or CIPA. I think a letter from the Central Committee, signed by the President and the Secretary General, as Munoz suggested, is the best solution: a repetition of what already has happened, excludes the nations involved from subsequent competitions. I think that, insisting, nations would pay, but I think it is better a warning letter.

MAROTTA: I summarize the proposal: The Central Committee accepts the appeals of the 4 sanctioned Federations and announces that if they run again into this infringement, they would be punished and suspended from all competitions in all disciplines.

STRUCKSBERG: I propose that all nations in all continents receive a copy of this letter.

## **9. Statute of the African Confederation**

MAROTTA: After the meeting of the Central Committee on the Gold Coast the President and I were charged by you with trying to establish an African Confederation in Africa without giving this assignment to our friends in South Africa because we wanted to have some representatives of black Africa to give greater credibility in this event. We decided to consider lapsed the nomination of the former president of the African Confederation: the Egyptian Nabihl El Alkami. We had many contacts with the President of the Federation of Angola, who had originally secured FIRS an office and an initiative to bring together all African Federations with a new date. The Secretary of the President of Angola Damasio Santos has come twice in Italy and we talked with him to formalize the commitment. But neither the President nor Santos have realized what was arranged. So we have no contact in Africa. This is the official situation. In recent days we have heard of a meeting among some African Federations which was held in South Africa under the umbrella of the Federation of South Africa and with the support of the Vice President Carlos Orlando Ferreira, who participated in this meeting. From a communication received on February the 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wendy Gila, South Africa, Cameroon, Egypt, Kenya and Mozambique attended the meeting . They drafted a document in which they commit themselves to convene as soon as possible an official election of the Confederation. We believe that the proposal is important and must be followed and therefore FIRS will be sponsoring a convocation of all the African countries to create a new Confederation. African countries must demonstrate the strength and willingness to participate in the establishment of an African Confederation, which until now have not shown. It will be our commitment to cooperate for this to happen.

ARACU: The choice that we did with your trust to find a figure of colour went on Angola, because the Federation was strong and rich. But we have not seen results. Angola did not attend this meeting in South Africa because it held this as an electoral and not constructive meeting. Ferreira has helped the countries to make this meeting with economical support. Now I believe that FIRS, immediately after the Congress, should convene all countries. Some African countries of the Mediterranean show interest in our sport in view of the Mediterranean Games. We must make an effort, that certainly needs money. We must send coaches to prepare these nations in our sport. We have a very good example with the work done in Iran, where a very good coach has let the nation grow and has increased the growth of coaches and the sale of skates.

FERREIRA: The African Confederation is convening a meeting let circulate a proposal for the Statute. The realized meeting was not achieved with the money of Catalonia.

Luis Munoz has told me, because I was absent, that I am accused to have received money from Catalonia. This is a lie. The problem of Catalonia should be resolved by Spain as their internal problem.

ARACU: As FIRS we must convene a Congress in which all the African countries meet, without exclusion, where a statute is adopted and communicated to FIRS, which should examine it, because it must be conform to its own statute.

## **10. Countries and dates of the next World championships**

POLLARD: 2009 Freiburg, 2010 Algarve Portugal, 2011 Brasilia, 2012 New Zealand or Australia.

STRUCKSBERG: this year Vigo in Spain and the Junior Championships in Follonica, Italy in October; 2010 in Austria, 2011 in Mozambico, Maputo.

PORTIER: 2009 Varese Italy, perhaps in 2010 in Canada or Switzerland and 2011 Germany or Mexico.

MAROTTA: For Speed 2009 China, 2010 Argentina or Venezuela, 2011 Corea, 2012 Italy

## **11 World Games**

MAROTTA: In the folder there is a copy of the three disciplines that will be part of the World Games in Kaohsiung: Speed, In-line hockey and Artistic. The details are known, the hospitality is free for all subscribers on the basis of the numbers in your folder. The request must be made through the secretariat of FIRS. I pray all the vice-presidents in the affiliated countries, so that all the qualified athletes can participate. It is important because all sports become Olympic, were involved in the World Games. Federations must confirm in advance the participation of their athletes. This within the middle of March, later we will organize the accreditations, but you know how important is the accuracy of the information we need to be given.

STRUCKSBERG: It is important that FIRS checks well the acreditations to avoid problems

## **12: Asian Games**

MAROTTA: the floor to Mr. Guo Min for information.

GUO MIN:Speed and Artistic: 6 competitions with medals on November 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> . 18 athletes speed, we have for Artistic, Free, men, women and pairs.

We are yet discussing about the number of the athletes, we have proposed as CARS 4 +4 for speed and 2 +2 and two pairs for Artistic. The rink is under construction based on the rules as for the Asian Championships. We know that even roll hockey and inline hockey aim to enter the Asian Games. We have included this in our proposal but only two disciplines has been granted. The official Asian Federations 16, but in reality we have 14 members because Israel is part of the European Confederation and three are not in the list: Bangladesh, Philippines and North Korea. We will send the exact addresses of all official Federations.

### **13: Panamerican Games**

FERREIRA: would like to thank Pollard for having been next to him so many years and for helping for the inclusion of Roller Skating in the Pan American Games. Last October there was the presence of Roller Skating at the Pan American Games, the next edition will be between July and August 2011 where the presence is certain but the disciplines are called into question. In this semester we will discuss with the Technical Commission of ODEPA about the number of admitted athletes, number of medals, disciplines, basing on the years of participation in the Pan American. In the last edition only Artistic and Speed were involved. Basing on a telephonic conversation with a member of the Technical Committee hockey may perhaps participate. To take part at this event affiliated nations must participate in a selection, that will take place this year in Mexico, Aguascalientes 10<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> October. It is very important for all nations to participate in the Pan American Games. There are not only these Games, but all Games of the Olympic cycle supported by the National Olympic Committees. Central American and Caribbean Games group together 35 nations, Roller Skating is confirmed. South American Games with 16 NOC where roller skating is present. Next edition in 2010. Games of Central America, next edition in 2010. Games in the Bolivian area in 2009. In conclusion, all the games under the control of the National Olympic Committees include roller skating.

### **14: Mediterranean Games**

MAROTTA: For the first time roller skating will attend the Mediterranean Games in Pescara. This thanks to President Aracu who is also President of the Games. 23 countries will participate with 26 sports allowed. It is important especially for the participation of North Africa because we hope thereby to have more federations affiliated to FIRS. We are willing to send coaches and administrators to create federations in these countries. At these Games Rogge will be present. I pray to send a circular letter to all countries around the Mediterranean to send 10 athletes to participate in the Marathon. Everything is paid and the travel is paid by the Olympic Committee. To remain in the program we need a minimum of 8 countries.

## **15: Proposal for modifications of the Statute**

MAROTTA: I propose to speak at the beginning about WADA problem, Section C.

1. I ask Valerie for help and summarize: to respect all WADA programs of IOC is very important to hope in the Olympic Games. We commit ourselves to pay for surprise checks out of competition and to let fill the forms of "whereabouts" by all athletes. Compliance with WADA rules involves two problems

1. adoption of antidoping policy in this folder. This was sent by the Central Committee per email. You gave your answer and the majority has approved it. On Saturday, at the Congress, the compliance of FIRS at the antidoping policy should be ratified.

2. Another aspect concerns the medical controls and the antidoping. As you know the statute consists of a statutory and a regulatory part. The statutory part is approved by the Congress with a majority of two thirds, the regulatory part is approved by the Central Committee. For this reason Pat Wallace has proposed changes regarding medical issues because our statute in the regulatory part is the same for twenty years and is therefore obsolete. I ask Valerie to explain the changes suggested by Pat.

LEFTWICH: I have extracted from the compendium of WADA rules some key points to simplify the discussion.

Article 5.1.1.: Design and implementation of anti-doping tests in and outside competitions. The actual number depends on what you believe is correct, may be one or 100, this is the problem. I believe that WADA will accept our decisions about this.

The debate opens and focuses primarily on the number of checks to be carried out during the competitions, which varies greatly between individual and team disciplines. Organizational difficulties are pointed out together with excessive costs essentially unsustainable for the Organising Committees of the championships and for FIRS.

MAROTTA: I suggest that Valerie makes the adjustments, she thinks to be appropriate after hearing all suggestions, but the day after tomorrow these must be approved. I also want to ask her for help in verifying what Pat Wallace asks us to do. We must consider that Pat Wallace has taken on a great administrative and bureaucratic paperwork and then we must decide what kind of help to give and appoint two other members of the medical committee to avoid relying only on Pat.

We must also decide with which financial resources this medical committee has to work. It is necessary, because to carry on 100 checks in speed we must educate Federations and athletes in this regard. It is an enormous paperwork. Valerie suggests to follow the prompts of Pat with the corrections that she has written in red and of which she gives us a copy.

We therefore accept the WADA policy with the amendments that you prepare for the Congress.

Tomorrow we will resume this matter.

MAROTTA: Have you suggestions regarding the two members for the Medical Committee? In the past we had three members in the Medical Committee, but since they do not have a budget, they are addressed to the belonging Federations, that often do not pay their costs and FIRS has no resources to pay the costs of medical commissions. Every year in Switzerland there is a meeting of all medical commissions, but participation is charged to the participants and those ask for help the Federations or FIRS, which do not pay. That is why it is difficult to have members of the Medical Committee. The CIC has always paid Pat Wallace, but we must find a solution to this. We need a CEO who is a doctor who understands the problems all the way and guide us in the problems. He can not be a doctor, but he must have a through knowledge of the matter.

HARRO: I think every Federation has very efficient doctors, that can address this problem without the need to have an anti-doping committee, that is to go everywhere with all the costs that this entails.

MAROTTA: I agree with you all, but let me know who will be the person officially charged by FIRS to follow this issue.

HARRO Each year new rules are sent by WADA to be followed. It is enough if the doctor of any Federation communicates what changes to do. Therefore we only have to write in the statute, that we follow the WADA rules.

VALERIE: Running tests outside competitions is a huge job. The same Pat asks the help of a secretary to do it in the best way. To do all that she should do, would mean to be involved only with FIRS and this is impossible. The importance of the antidoping for the specialty of speed is crucial for possible inclusion in the Olympic Games.

MAROTTA: The only solution I see now possible is that Pat will continue to work together and you control what is done. Tomorrow we see if we can find someone to help us, but for now this is the situation.

We accept the WADA rules with your corrections, and you try to agree with Pat. Valerie will prepare amendments that we will approve and submit to the ratification of the Congress, while for the proposed changes to the Regulation FIRS proposed by Pat Wallace, they will be controlled by Valerie and Simon, who will report on this.

***The first meeting day of the Central Committee ends at about 5.00 p.m.***

### **Second meeting day**

ARACU welcomes all the participants.

MAROTTA: we continue our work trying to define our behaviour about antidoping policy and FIRS regulation.

LEFTWICH: speaks about the articles about antidoping policy revised by Dr Wallace. Page 21 of antidoping policy, Article 5, 27 under section 7.1 2 second paragraph: delete "each competition", 7.1.1. leave "in line speed" as it is and for the Artistic cancel the rest of page 20 and replace with this "plan and conduct an effective number of tests with a min. of 12 (12)".

On page 21 for hockey and in-line hockey: " plan and conduct an effective number of tests with a min. of 12"

The next sentence, that begins with FIRS remains as it is.

MAROTTA: I will ask tomorrow at the Congress to vote the anti doping policy with the amendments made by Valerie.

It will be responsibility of FIRS to correct the anti doping policy and send it to the whole world.

CLARO: regrets that the disciplines are not treated equally

LEFTWICH: the disciplines are different, so each has its own identity.

MAROTTA: the Executive Board will care to study the amendments of the anti doping policy in the future and then to send them out to all members for approval.

LEFTWICH: Item 4. All federations must attach a copy of their statute and anti doping policy to be formally recognized by FIRS and to have the ratification of their membership.

CLARO: points out that the antidoping is responsibility of the national Federations and asks for a provisional approval; he would also like a clear draft of the anti doping policy for all Federations. It is necessary to appoint a working group to modify and to update the Statute.

MAROTTA: points out that the WADA anti-doping policy should be ratified by FIRS Congress. There is a proposed amendment to point 4 art. 3: all the nations, that wish to be recognized by FIRS, must present their anti-doping policy. Claro thinks, it is not necessary to include this, because every Federation is subject to the anti-doping rules of its own country. We must decide whether to include this requirement, or to follow the request of Claro and not include it

STRUCKSBERG is in agreement with Claro.

LEFTWICH: P. Wallace would like a small box with the indication of FIRS Medical Commission in the pyramid.  
Unanimous answer: no.

MAROTTA: Valerie, with the assistance of Pat, will care to send to you all proposals to be taken via email, so you have the time to reflect.

LEFTWICH: in FIRS bylaws, paragraph 3 point D, change the letter D in E, by adding a new paragraph d.  
Anti doping rules, and regulations and sanctions imposed by FIRS and WADA Code. There is no change, just a further clarification.

CLARO: disagrees, because the rules set out in point 4. art. 3 go against the Statute. The rules must be in harmony with the Statute. We decided not to include the anti doping policy of each Federation and therefore we can not then ask to produce it.

MAROTTA: I think, that there is a great confusion. We have to ask Valerie with the help of Simon to order this matter and return to vote once everything is clearer. I confess my inability to control everything was sent to Pat Wallace, I lost control.

This item is postponed, we approve only the anti doping policy to be in good standing with the IOC.

LEFTWICH: "cosmetic" corrections: ID CARDS Members of FIRS ... ..  
add members of FIRS Medical Commission can have free admission.

MAROTTA charges Valerie with making any necessary changes.

### **15 a: Proposal statute modification by the Spanish Federation**

FERREIRA: In a meeting of 4 years ago it was decided that only one Federation in each continent should have been recognized and I can not find this decision in the statute.

MAROTTA: It is written there is only one confederation by continent. Article 3 paragraph 1.

FERREIRA: not by nation but by continent.

MAROTTA: our members are the national Federations.

FERREIRA: few years ago there were 2 Confederations recognized by FIRS, the Pan-American and the South American for the nations of South America. Both were recognized by FIRS, in Rochester we have discussed only a Confederation by continent.

MAROTTA: the decision of Rochester is that we have 5 continents and 5 confederations.

FERREIRA: I would like greater clearness.

CLARO: we can only change art. 21 where the Congress on advise of the Executive Board accepts only a confederation by continent.

FERREIRA: It has just been approved, but the detail in the Statute is not clear.

MAROTTA: for me it is clear.

FERREIRA: the problem is what happens to a nation that is affiliated to a federal government not recognized by FIRS? It is a question. Today there are only 5 confederations recognized by FIRS, but others want to be created as the South American.

MAROTTA: For this reason we have the art. 21

FERREIRA: Colombia is affiliated to the Panamerican Confederation that is under the control of FIRS, but according to the statute there is also the South American because it is not clear that it can not exist. For all of us it is clear what Panamerican concerns, but for others outside no.

ARACU: we are confusing the institutional organizations with the free associations. For example, if the Balkan nations will join together, we can not prohibit it, but we stop them, if they organize championships, that should have the agreement of FIRS.

FERREIRA: It is therefore clear that the South American Confederation is a free association, that may have all the members it wants and organize all the events it wants, as association.

MAROTTA: a free association is subject to the authority of the continental confederation, it means that in America 10 associations can be created under the Pan-American, that must comply with the rules of FIRS.

FERREIRA: We as FIRS recognize one Confederation by continent and the others can not be called confederations. The first one created in America was the South American. In Miami with Molina, we said that we would have maintained it.

CLARO: I understand what Carlos is saying, because art.21 speaks about geographic areas and not about the continent.

POLLARD: suggests to rewrite the art. 21 specifying "continent", because the Catalans are doing business in South America on this detail.

PORTIER: It is enough to put in art. 21 that all the associations are subject to the Continental Confederation

FERREIRA: the problem is purely of the American continent, since they organize various games (Pan American, South American, Bolivian, Carabbean, of the small nations of Central America) and whenever there are such events, everyone wants to create a confederation in order to operate.

As Aracu said, first there is a free association and then we can ask or not for the recognition the Pan-American Confederation and organize competitions following the rules or not.

Today, the South American is not part of the Panamerican, Pollard and Olga took part in an assembly in Guatemala, where we changed the rules with the approval of the Pan-American only, but if the free association exists, they can do as they wish.

ARACU: We have only one Confederation by continent. Let us not do something that destroys FIRS. We must decide, the Executive Board, we have the control. We can not allow actions that are competing with FIRS.

FERREIRA: During the Pan-American Congress at Rio de Janiero in 2007, where Aracu and Marotta were present, I asked you what to do with Catalonia, which is affiliated to the South American, and you replied that they can do, what they want but not with national teams. This is related in the minutes of the Pan-American Confederation, where we allow Catalonia to participate in Clubs Championships.

Creation of a commission composed of Claro, Ferreira, Marotta and Leftwich who will revise the FIRS Statute .

President Aracu will provide an international law firm for the full review of the proposals.

All points included in item 15 will be considered by the Commission. We can ask the Spanish Federation to withdraw its proposal. The American proposal is just a clarification, in order to eventually return to the elections at the end of the Olympic cycle.

Pollard points out that the elections were to be carried out in 2008 and that the first election of President Aracu had to terminate the mandate of the former President Oliveras. After heated discussion, it was decided that the vote will be for the period 2008-2012 and to respect the Olympic cycle.

## **16. Financial Statements**

Financial Report with the consolidated financial balance that our friend Munoz has prepared for us. Here are some explanations on the drawing up of accounts with corresponding adjustments in respect of the inclusion in the right lines. FIRS will prepare a form *ad hoc* to be sent to all the Technical Committees in order to prepare easy the consolidated balance.

PORTIER: points out that the presented document is not a balance as required by statute, you must be more professional. However, he congratulates Munoz for his work.

MAROTTA points out that you can attach the budgets of all the Technical Committees for greater transparency at the Congress.

MUNOZ points out that he has always received every year all the necessary documents unless a break of several years, sometimes with problems to give a meaning to some data. However, the expenses criterion must be unique.

For the 2009 the budget is only limited to FIRS Central Committee. Marotta explains briefly the items and gives the floor to the President regarding the possibility of contribution from companies. The main item is to have 292 thousand dollars from sponsors.

ARACU: in 2008 we spent 150 thousand dollars for the Olympic project and we have no debt left. We used all our economies. The year 2009 is very important and we must find the money to make a good impression with the Olympic project. The budget is the most important political act for us, I hope in the future to assist the Technical Committees.

Maybe I will sign a contract for the marketing that will bring us \$ 150-200.000.

PORTIER: if the budget passes through the hands of the IOC, there will be problems. There is a national Federation that supports FIRS. Why do not we include in the budget the balances of the Technical Committees in the future?

MAROTTA: the IOC has asked to formulate a budget and when we spoke of these sums, They have told us that we have a low budget. This is the reality.

Approval of the balance sheet: approved unanimously.

### **17-18 and 19: Communication, Marketing, Facilities**

ARACU. Communication is vital. We have rebuilt a very good web site. We were the first Federation to organise a roller.tv. to broadcast live our World Championships. We need an editorial staff, but we are working at home to save money. Our offices are coordinated and we are trying to give the utmost professionalism.

In communication, we are recovering relations with the press, especially with Sportcal of the IOC. I ask the Technical Committees and the continental Presidents to work together to offer our image in the best way. The Artistic is very functional on the site.

Regarding the marketing we are trying to improve the image through the communication in order to enhance especially the logo, the brand. We had an observation by the IOC on this, because we have different logos for our discipline. Talking to the IOC we are trying to build what they want.

The President points out that FIRS has closed an agreement with most important brands (Rollerblade, Fila, K2, Roces), which will give us money and put the brand of FIRS on over four thousand boxes of skates. With the proceeds we will send coaches all around the world.

The President asks to have the freedom to create committees, like that of the Sports facilities. CONI has provided high-level engineers, to achieve banked tracks, rinks for Artistic and Hockey, and conventions. The possibility to write sanctioned product. FIRS receives 40 thousand Euros every year by Vesmaco, sport-floors company as that of the rink of Cali.

Aracu asks for trust to continue the discourse of the sanctioned product, authorized product, official sponsor. We want to be present with our logo in all Championships.

## **20. Site and date of the next Central Committee**

ARACU: I would like to organize days of public relations in Copenhagen.

MAROTTA: I disagree, because there is a meeting with 108 IOC members and it would be impossible to enter the IOC Session and do a little lobbying. It is better to meet at the end of the year.

The next meeting is called on the occasion of the Artistic World Championships in Freiburg, on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

STRUCKSBERG: points out that the nearest airport is Frankfurt, easily accessible by train.

## **21. Miscellaneous**

POLLARD asks for Youth Sports from the IOC.

MAROTTA replies, that the IOC has included us as one of the 7 sports to be selected .

ARACU points out that in the IOC, there are many people who believe that the Olympics for Youth may diminish in any way other events. Our sport is for young people anyway.

MUNOZ: speaks about the problem of the Federation of Nicaragua.

MAROTTA: This federation must be first approved by the Congress to have then the right to vote.

FERREIRA: raises the question of who has the right to vote.

MAROTTA: tomorrow before the Congress the necessary controls will be done.

FERREIRA: asks to be present or to send a delegate during the accreditation. He speaks also about the problem of visas for the Congress.

MAROTTA: points out that all the requests for visas were forwarded to the National Olympic Committee and those, who have not received it, it is because of problems of their governments.

POLLARD: suggests that Munoz might support Marotta during the accreditation.

Afternoon

MAROTTA: Statute of the Iberian-American Skating Council. Proposal of the Spanish Federation with communication of the Statute. It is not our task, we can only receive but not to approve it.

Spain: during the assembly of CIRH in Japan there were irregularities.

STRUCKSBERG: points out that it was voted to decide if Japan could vote (16 yes, none opposed, 7 abstentions). Japan has participated in the Worlds in 2008 and FIRS statute says that the federations which have right to vote are those which have participated in a World Championship in the previous 2 years (2006 and 2007).

ARACU: CIRH's assembly is over, it is better not to damage hockey and leave things as they are.

Representative of the athletes: asks for floor, that do not cause falls or are dangerous to athletes. FIRS will take this proposal into account.

Statute of the Oceania Confederation. We have read it and is in line with FIRS Statute. Approved.

Letter from the Spanish Federation regarding the athlete Noya.

LEFTWICH: asks that in the future the documents are presented in both official languages for better understanding.

MAROTTA: FIRS official languages are English or Spanish. It is up to us to know one of the 2 languages.

FERREIRA: points out that both languages are official.

CLARO: please, present the documents in both languages.

Letter from the Iranian Federation: very little understandable.

Request by Ferreira to change the Agenda of the Congress, based on what is reported in the Statute.

MAROTTA points out that the Agenda was sent in due course by FIRS, written by the President as required by the statute with the inclusion of all points of the Agenda.

ARACU: believes that after the report of the President it is better to begin immediately with the election to turn the lights on the vote.

Long discussion.

ARACU: the Agenda remains as it is.

The two candidates for FIRS Presidency exchange wishes for the election renewing personal friendship and complete cooperation to FIRS.

ARACU: thanks all participants and declares the meeting ended.