



## Fédération Internationale de Roller Sports

### MINUTES OF FIRS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

**PORTIMAO**

**3<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2010**

#### **Members in attendance:**

Sabatino Aracu	FIRS President
Roberto Marotta	FIRS Secretary General and CIC President
Valerie Leftwich	FIRS 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President
Fernando Claro	FIRS Vice President (Europe)
Patricia Wallace	FIRS Vice President (Oceania)
Carlos Orlando Ferreira	FIRS Vice President ( America)
Wendy Gila	FIRS Vice President (Africa)
Gilbert Portier	CIRILH President
James Pollard	CIPA President
Harro Strucksberg	CIRH President
Laura Morandi	FIRS Vice Secretary General
Luis Alfonso Munoz	Auditor
FIRS Secretariat staff:	Simona Mercuri, Raffaella Spagnuolo, Lorena Piccolo
Interpreters:	Alessandra Lunadei, Cecilia Nadin, Ricardo Araujo, Olga Soto
Guests:	Emilio Gasbarrone

#### **1.Welcome and communications of the President**

**ARACU:** Dear friends, hello and welcome to Portimao. I thank the FIRS Vice President and the President of the Portuguese Federation Fernando Claro with his staff. Commendable job and excellent organizational efficiency. Portugal did not organize World Figure Skating Championships since 32 years. Today the new Vice President of the International Federation Mr.Shen Zhigou, who is the new secretary of the Chinese Olympic Committee is not here.

We should talk about the problems of our Federation: with the IOC, with skateboarding, the African Confederation, which we must boost for the coming years, development and promotion of

our sport through international events. Let me remind you also that we have done a strong action for the Olympic project, which has not come off, but we did receive many compliments from the international press. Many press agencies considered Roller Sports one of the favourite sports for its spectacular aspects and this means that we have presented to all a high-level program. We all know who won: money. We have visited all the Olympic Committees, Harro knows that together we went to Bach, but Rogge at the last moment decided not to go to vote during the assembly, but to vote within the Executive Board, i.e. between his loyalists, so our work was vain because all those who had voted us, had not the chance. But we must go on. Rogge spoke again with us and gave us an extraordinary contribution of \$30.000, that we had not before, to help us. We had also contacts with the University of Sport in Lausanne to create with them a development program for Roller Sports. We must not lose our enthusiasm, but we must be convinced that our project will go ahead, that our disciplines will grow. We should in future include in the budget important amounts, to send coaches to all countries of the World, especially to those who need it most, such as Africa. It is a goal that an International Federation had not pursued until now, we are ready and according to what we started, we must not give up, but we must have the courage and strength to transform ourselves. This EB must be one entity that can decide in the consciousness, that what we are doing is right. We will have to change our mentality.

The World is progressing fast and we must be flexible and adapt ourselves to the times or there will be others that will change us. Our goal must be the development of our sport: the amendments to the Statute that we should bring to the assembly are, in my opinion, an unnecessary work. We have an old statute, whose grounds are 40 years old and it is a nonsense to change only some points. We must do a new statute taking on us important commitments: I first, with the help of my secretariat, take on myself the commitment to prepare a draft statute to bring in two years to the Congress as a new statute. To do this we must organize more meetings and video conferences in the offices of Rome to discuss any problems. Next year we could organize two meetings, one for the World Inline Championships in Roccaraso and one in Brazil for the World Figure Championships, where we could talk about these issues because the statute is a political and not just a technical aspect. We need more appropriate structures, and I do not want to think that the future of this Federation is the future of more Federations:; today we have Federations (artistic, hockey, speed etc.. ..) which work at different speeds, but we could also have other sports such as skateboarding.

In the communication we are doing very important things: the Roller TV, for which I have fought so much, has produced for the only Junior Championships 250.000 accesses, we have other web sites that have requested access and perhaps are even willing to pay for this.

I am convinced that this Federation will produce strong economies, that could change the Roller World, but only if there is the will of all. It is not possible, for example, that the IOC asks us to increase the value of our brand and we do not do this and I address it to the Technical Committees, because it seems like something that does not interest. Everyone thinks that the own World Championships is the most important one, but it is not so: I wish that every President of Technical Committee is also interested in the problems of other Technical Committees.

Today we will probably talk about other changes such as the organization of the World Championships every two years, to give value also to the Continental Championships, because in this way we are killing them. Italy sends to the European Championships athletes, who have not ranked for the World Championships, we must understand that we must change. In the future FIRS TV we must broadcast the Championships of all specialties, so that everyone in the World can see it.

About our brands e.g. it is important that this is present also on the letterhead of the Federations to show the bond that exists between the National Federation and FIRS. The enhancement of the brand will in the future produce a certain economy.

About facilities, we are going to approve all the facilities for international events, all companies that produce facilities will have to pay and we are also planning to approve tracks, fences, products.

If you remember, when we were involved in the Olympic project we were doing a kind of card with companies such as Rollerblade, Roces etc. Everyone would have supported the promotion, spending some money, about \$ 10,000 per company; when we have lost the Olympic bid these have disappeared as if they cared only that. It is difficult to achieve important goals without the participation of the companies in our activities, so that tomorrow at the Congress, I took the liberty of inviting all the producers of skates to come to listen to our Congress. Despite many difficulties we have found a company, which we are trying to close a contract with. It would be an important beginning, we could guarantee the presence of their logo on the uniforms of coaches, skaters, players etc.. I have tried to spread other messages: you have seen the organization of the Grand Prix of Artistic Skating, which is not a real competition because the jury is formed by people from the World of the entertainment, journalism, politics etc... it is a show that, as promotion, should bring us economic resources, which will be reinvested. We also started the organization of the Roller Cruise, closing agreements now in the Mediterranean area with a cruise on one of the greatest ship in the World, during which shows, roller training etc.. have taken place. Many other cruises like this could be organized: one in the Mediterranean Sea for Europe and Africa, one in the Caribbean Sea, that may include the entire Panamerican area.

I really want to understand how we want our sport in the future; I am increasingly convinced that we should organize Roller Championships all together, because with the Championships of the individual disciplines sometimes we do not have many spectators and this happens also in important countries such as Italy, Spain, USA. I believe in the organization of a 15-days event with all four specialties, with a clever calendar, that does not put in conflict finals of different disciplines. When swimming did this, it created a turning point, an event with 5000, 6000 people or more. If today we were going to decide to organize the World Championships every two years, we will have time to organize all this; championships could be directly asked to FIRS, that every two years could examine several candidates presenting their products: e.g. in 2015 Federations which come with the majors of their cities, with the Olympic Committees, if possible, and sponsors with the will and the possibility to support such an event. And we must be able to make an inspection in these cities to see its features. This is the future.

In Gijon, in 2008, representatives of the IOC have come to see our Championships, and we were told before that they would have come, but they have found empty grandstands. We did not have the ability to fill the spaces with schools, children etc ... It is impossible to go on, to work in this way, if we want to change this World we can not think to maintain some privileges, we must seriously think about making a change all together as protagonists.

**FERREIRA:** I would like to make a constructive criticism: FIRS languages are Spanish and English as per statute. Today there is only in Italian and English, so it is very difficult for me to be able to understand what is spoken

**ARACU:** We knew that Olga was here for that reason, otherwise we will not have made this choice. I believe that until a few years ago there was no translation, there are now translations in all the conferences. Here is also Fernando Claro who speaks Portuguese and he just brings Ricardo to help him; otherwise we should be here alone without translators. Officially no translation is

provided, neither English nor Spanish. With Isidro Oliveras there were no translations, never, even at the elective Congress. Let us all help in this direction.

### **Approval of previous minutes FIRS EB meeting Freiburg 2009**

**PORTIER:** Do you have some news about the Youth Olympics 2014, because it is written in the minute?

**MAROTTA:** We speak later about this, because now we must approve the minute of Freiburg.: please put up the hand who is in favor. Against? Abstentions? Unanimously approved.

Before discussing point 4 in the agenda, each of us can have the floor to speak about the report of the President. If nobody asks for the floor we go on with point 4 of the agenda: Vice Presidents' report.

### **Report of FIRS Vice Presidents**

**MAROTTA:** We begin with the report of Valerie, first Vice President. I suggest not to read the reports, that each of you has in the own folder, but to comment shortly the own report.

**LEFTWICH:** As written in my report this year I have done not so much regarding FIRS and representing Sabatino, because he has done the work himself., but I have been working with inline hockey and I have been with Jim Pollard in the artistic. I have not had the chance to be with you Harro unfortunately. About the antidoping we will discuss later, it has become quite a problem for us financially, but we must do it, because the IOC requests it. I think also that artistic is running very well under Jim Pollard and thanks Portugal for the excellent organization of this World Championships.

**MAROTTA:** Thank you Valerie: The floor to the Vice President Carlos Orlando Ferreira.

**FERREIRA:** The report of the Pan American Confederation Congress will be presented directly to the Committee and to the Congress. There are four important points: the administrative organization of the Pan American Confederation, our presence in the four-year Olympic cycle, the events that the federal government plans to introduce in the Americas and the work we are doing with private companies and the government to obtain sponsorship and financial support. This Confederation is the only one recognized by FIRS as the official voice of Roller Sports in all disciplines in the Americas. Given the extent of the Americas, we divided the Confederation in sub-continental Confederations. We currently have twenty-one recognized national Federations, but we are going to recognize eight in the Caribbean area . We recognized the South American Confederation of Roller Sports, which is the oldest and best developed in America. Now we have recognized the Federations of Colombia and Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay, and we are dealing with the recognition of Bolivia. The four recognized sports are present in all Federations. The second recognized Confederation, the Central American Confederation, is one area where the Roller Sports are starting to grow: we have Panama, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and Cuba These are recognized and we have other seven countries, that are asking for recognition. This area has limited financial resources for the development of Roller Sports, but nevertheless they are making efforts to participate at the World Championships. For this reason, listening to the report of the President, I think important to take into account that we need financial assistance for the development of the sport in this part of the World. We are also trying to unify a Confederation in North America, which would be formed by Canada, Mexico and the United States. We are also working to add in the Caribbean area the missing countries: We have contacted the Olympic

Committees and people interested in working for skating. These countries are Belize, Barbados, Guyana, Haiti, Bermuda, Jamaica, Virgin Islands and the Bahamas.

For 2011 we plan to organize seminars for technicians and send our technicians to reach such a level in two years that can allow the participation of these countries in international competitions. In broad terms this is the administrative organization of the Pan-American Confederation, with three sub-continental Confederations (North - Central and South America) with 21 countries and others that will be included as soon as possible.

Second point: participation in Olympic Games: the most important thing for us and the priority is to keep Roller Sports in the Pan American Games as well as in other games we have in the area and that are organized by the Olympic Committee and are held every four years.

For this reason this Confederation participates actively in the meetings of ODEPA, ODESUR etc. which are directly responsible for organizing these Games that are part of the Olympic cycle.

As you know we have always difficulties to be included in these Games, not being an Olympic sport. So every time we have to be there and organize lobbies. In this regard, I appreciate the work done by Jim Pollard, Danny Brown and Gary Castro who came with me through all the countries to avoid that Roller Sports were excluded from these Games. ODEPA President and our friend Vasquez Raña was always present helping us. In any case we got for the next Pan American Games to be held in October next year in Guadalajara, Mexico, for speed competitions, that each competition will be awarded, not as they did in the Pan American Games where we had to organize combined competition. The report of Mr. Pollard explains how these competitions will be organised inside the Pan American Games, the number of countries and the number of medals.

Roller Sports have taken part in the Bolivian Games which were held in Armenia y Pereira in Colombia in 2005 with speed and artistic and in March and April of this year speed and artistic have participated at the South American Games. The South American Games have 16 countries in this area. This year we also have the Central American and Caribbean Games, the venue was Puerto Rico, but the Roller Sports will not be included in these Games. We got the city of Bogota to organize the participation of five sports including figure skating with the goal of saving our participation. So we can have the participation of Roller Sports in speed and artistic.

The Central American Games bring together 35 Olympic Committees. They will be organized in Guadalajara, Mexico. The Pan American Games in October, bring together 42 Olympic Committees. In order to participate in these Games we have to do selective championships to be held in Rosario (Argentina) in the month of March with the participation of 21 countries recognized by the Pan American Confederation. It 's very likely that some of the eight countries that are going to become members will participate in Rosario, possibly Bolivia, Belize, Haiti, for which it will be asked the recognition of the Pan American Confederation and of FIRS. This is the work I did with the Olympic Committees to attend these Games.

We managed to do a seminar sponsored by ODEPA with a program of Olympic Solidarity to promote and support sport. It was held in El Salvador in Central America with the participation of 35 persons from 12 different countries.

We will organize the Championship of Rosario March 5 to 12 and we have also given permission to have an International Cup for Clubs and next week we will have a competition in Ecuador named South American Open.

Work undertaken with the government, the television and the industries: we are working on a project to promote Roller Sports in Central and South America and we are looking for sponsorships, that can support us in the promotion of sports schools. We are discussing this possibility with a company of the SARS group, that could help us through a sponsorship or to find a

sponsor to help us and the TV rights of the SPN FOX Television to inform about this sport throughout the Americas.

**MAROTTA:** Thank you Carlos Orlando. I have two questions. The first one: which kind of work is doing the Pan American Confederation towards the organizers of the Panamerican Games 2015 to maintain our sport in the program?

**FERREIRA:** Together with Jim we have the opportunity to gather in Guadalajara with the justification of an ODEPA meeting with the Organizing Committee of the Games in Canada. We are trying to have a new meeting for February to be ready. Jim is fully aware of what we are doing and what the Organizing Committee of Canada is doing.

**POLLARD:** In the folder that you have there is a report about Guadalajara ,at the end of which there is a picture of Toronto with the contact we have had the opportunity to meet: Ian Troop chief executive of the Games 2015.

It is a person who has great interest in the inline hockey, very involved, I can give you more information after our meeting in January.

**MAROTTA:** This means that we will have three disciplines?

**POLLARD:** Absolutely possible. Hockey in Canada is very popular and also for the Inline Hockey there is a good opportunity. We would like a meeting with the representative of Inline hockey and hockey in Canada. You can imagine that we must start working now for 2015. We can not wait. One of the things we have learned traveling around the World and talking with these international figures and the Pan-American Confederation is to be present at every meeting at every level with the Olympic Committees and this is why we had success with South American and Caribbean Games . This happened after having done a good job with the Pan American Games. The battle to do to stay in all these Games is this: it is written in the report I gave to you: to be recognized they want 20 Federations in the Olympic movement. For each team-sport you should be able to have at least 5 different Federations, for individual sports such as the artistic you must have 8 official and recognized Federations. The problem is that even in the Americas: for some events it is difficult to get to five, in hockey there was the problem with the South American Championships. We have not five Federations and could not attend. About Inline hockey we know that there are countries, which do not have this speciality, they have the Ice Federation and when we speak with the Presidents of the Olympic Committees, they ask why our Federations do not recognize inline hockey as sport. And you know which they are: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, they do not pay attention to inline hockey, they prefer the traditional one. The same problem arises for the World Games, they ask for more flags, more nations.

As for the Olympic Committee I insist that we must be present at every meeting that is organized. The best thing is to hear when you walk through the door of a meeting: " Hey, here come Roller Sports!"

**MAROTTA:** Thank you Jim, the two last things you have told us are very important: we must be present at all the multi-level sport events in the World. We must create problems and confusion, they must recognize us in the meetings, they must understand that we are Roller Sports and not only, artistic, speed or hockey, but a World and only united and representing a World we can become a power.

The second question for Carlos is this: you have spoken about a South American Open: is it an international event for clubs?

**FERREIRA:** Yes it is. In summery, I would like to leave this message: for the Games of Toronto we have a greater difficulty: the Organizing Committee should include all the Olympic sports of the Pan American area and this means that in Toronto we have two new sports: rugby and golf. It is

therefore important to see if there is a possibility for those not included. We have only the goodwill of the Organizing Committee to include Roller Sports as Jim just said.

**PORTIER:** I would like to clarify something about the Inline Hockey in South America, Argentina is back and we have a good chance to have Ecuador.

**MAROTTA:** Jim, Carlos, think about what Sabatino and I can do in the Panamerican World, let us know what exactly should be done.

**POLLARD:** For Ian Troop it would be a great honor if FIRS President could come with me.

**MAROTTA:** Keep us in advance when there will be the next meeting and Sabatino and I will try to be there.

**FERREIRA:** Do not forget that your presence is very important at the Pan American Games in Guadalajara next year.

**MAROTTA:** The floor to Fernando Claro

**CLARO:** I would firstly like to thank and congratulate the President Sabatino Aracu, all components of the Central Committee and the staff. It is an honor to have you here in Portugal with friends and skaters. I wish you a pleasant stay in Portugal, a good job in this meeting and a successful championship. Because of the organization of the World Championship I have submitted my report with some delay, but as you can see it is in your folder.

In my report, and beyond the economic crisis that pervades all Europe I would like to inform you that all the scheduled competitions and championships have taken place, I made a special report on the Technical Committees for their work, support and availability. I would also like to thank all the National Federations, that have made easier the work of the Technical Committees.

**MAROTTA:** And now the report of Wendy for Africa.

**GILA:** Thank you very much. You have all got my report, I will highlight only some important points: we were very busy to establish contacts with the Federations in different countries and in many of these countries we have found more than one group of people that believed to be a Federation. We decided that the best solution is to consider only the Federations recognized by their National Olympic Committees or from the Government Sports Council of their countries: Cameron, Egypt, Kenya, Mozambique, the two Federations of South Africa, Namibia which have actively worked and also Ghana, Ivory Coast, Uganda, Nigeria, Malawi and the Democratic Republic of Congo were present at the African Championships. We received great support by the Organization of World Inline Coaches: they make a beautiful work in Africa by sending different coaches in different countries. South Africa has hosted a Championship of great success and Kenya participated with a large number of people, the biggest team that this nation has ever had. It was a very successful event with seven international participants, including a team of four skaters from Italy and I thank Sabatino and the Italian Federation that also help our athletes to let them reach an international level. In the future, these championships will be held every two years. In July there was a Hockey Championship for Clubs, unfortunately I was informed just two weeks after the event was held. It was supposed to have been founded by Mr. Boaventura, who, I believe, is known by the EB, but unfortunately I never met him: at the last minute he drew back with economic aid, Egypt, unfortunately, had already arrived in South Africa wondering where was the competition. Angola, at the last minute, with two more countries have come to South Africa and the competition could take place. This kind of competition is totally against the principles of our government and our Olympic Committee, then such things should not be allowed in future and we need to do serious considerations about these events. I went to Egypt to assist a club with artistic skating as they have had big problems with the Egyptian Federation, which did not want to meet me and did not allow this club to participate in competitions.

The African Speed Championship took place from 10th to 11th December: we had confirmed seven nations, most of this championship was sponsored by the Federation of Roller Sports South Africa and must be considered the beginning of our Continental Championships. We had the Minister of Sport of South Africa who participated in this event as well as the President of the Olympic Committee. In Africa we have many communication problems: many of you probably do not realize that many of the people whom we work with, do not even have a phone line or a fax. We found a solution with internet, because in some places there are Internet cafes through which communication is possible. Another problem is to get the fees for affiliation to the African Federation: up today only one country was able to pay all affiliation fees to the Confederation and this makes difficult the progress of this Confederation. I am working with Alessandra to distribute FIRS skates in different countries, but one of the biggest problems are the import duties and taxes that nations must pay when they receive skates. It has already happened some time ago, Kenya had to pay \$ 2,000 to receive materials. The point is not that they do not want to pay, but that they can not pay and those skates were sold in a market and they lost all the equipment. Mr. Pollard was very kind to give me some material for the artistic that we tried to distribute to other countries.

We will have a next meeting of the EB of the African Confederation during the African Championships and in the future we hope to have Championships also for Inline Hockey, Rink Hockey and Figure Skating.

There is a new sports news channel in South Africa that can be broadcasted in all countries of this zone and then we are very excited to let our sport grow also in this way.

**STRUCKSBERG:** I have a question: I would ask the President and the Secretary General to investigate two questions related to what Wendy said. The first regards Egypt: Wendy pointed out the problems she had and I think that FIRS should intervene with this President, and on the other hand I think we should talk about this issue of taxes and import duties if we want to help these countries.

**ARACU:** First of all I want to tell Wendy that I am united with her. We should make a warning to the President of Egypt for refusing to speak with her as President of the African Confederation and above all as Vice President of FIRS. This behavior is not correct and should be blamed. We are ready to take a quantity of skates and to provide to send technicians directly. We will create a group of coaches who, as FIRS ambassadors could manage training courses, specialized in inline hockey, rink hockey, artistic and speed. They will be there as technicians, but with all the characteristics to be real FIRS representatives in countries that are lagging behind. We may occasionally send them, giving them financial support. I know that you are in contact with Alessandra every week, we will help you unconditionally, the important thing is sharing information. Then to let enter particular disciplines such as hockey, we will talk with the persons in charge of the sectors

**MAROTTA:** How do you think you can solve the problem of the fees for sending materials to African countries?

**STRUCKSBERG:** I think we should talk about it later, I have some idea about it.

**GILA:** I would like to answer to Sabatino regarding the possibility of developing the various disciplines. From different countries come to me several images of attempts to practice all disciplines, but without order. We have to consider, if it is better to make one large workgroup in which the interested nations can join or to create small staff of people willing to travel for teaching.

**ARACU:** Important is the development of a strong discipline and that the ambassador, whom we will send for speed or artistic or hockey should know that he must create a Federation.



**MAROTTA:** Thank you. The floor to Pat.

**WALLACE:** Regarding the Confederation of Oceania I can say to have participated in the meeting of the IOC in May of the two nations of the Confederation: Australia and New Zealand. We do not have big problems, we can work very well, the only problem is the isolation from the rest of the World and I think that the proposed new rules for World and continental competitions will have a great impact on our Confederation, making our isolation even stronger and then I would say something about it. Another problem is the financial one: in Australia we have the mentality that "everything must be gold, silver is not enough" and then we are very strong in Olympic sports and help is given to the already rich Federations: e.g. swimming has just 3 Mill. and will receive an additional 3.5 Mill. This is the situation of Olympic sports and sports that are part of the Commonwealth Games but are not Olympics, if they are able to win medals, they should be able to find their own money. In Australia all athletes pay to participate at the World Championships. If we look at the development of the Confederation of Oceania in the South Pacific we recognize that the financial problem is the most important.

**MAROTTA:** One question: what did you do and plan in Oceania to enter the Commonwealth Games? This is a job up to the Oceania Confederation, trying to enter the program of these Games. I have personally spoken with the organizers of the last Commonwealth Games in Australia two years ago, I asked if Roller Sports could enter and I was told that there was no official request by a Commonwealth country, for this sport enter their program. I do not know if it is true, but this is a job that you have to carry out in your continent.

**WALLACE:** I personally have not had contact, but Valerie yes in previous years. I attended the meeting of the Commonwealth Games in 2008 in Gold Coast, but to take part in these meetings in other countries is very expensive for a country which has no sufficient financial resources, so we need help from the FIRS

**ARACU:** I understand that everyone sees in FIRS the solution of the problems, but to do that, FIRS must become strong, big and rich. If we do not help to achieve this, we can not hope that FIRS helps us, because I am convinced that it is easier to make a joint effort that brings large economies, than to divide efforts in all the continents.

Oceania has two important countries, such as Oceania and New Zealand, but there are also small states such as Figj Islands, They are small states in the hottest area of Oceania and it could be important to develop Roller Federations there.

**MAROTTA:** Let me say a few words on the Asian continent. As you know the President of the Asian Confederation is today absent, but back from the Asian Games I wish to inform you about what happened during the Asia Congress and what was the level of organization at the Asian Games.

A new President of the Asian Confederation has been elected, Mr. Shen Zhiguo who replaced Mr. Guo Min in his two assignments: President of the 24 not Olympic sports Federations in China and consequently, having been elected President of the Asian Confederation, he is our new colleague who will speak at our meetings. Mr. Shen Zhiguo will also be one of the three secretaries of the Chinese Olympic Committee, then a young person, very influential and enthusiastic about our sport. The Asian Games are the biggest multi sports event after the Olympic Games, the organizers of the Asian Games have specified, that the Games in China this year have been bigger than the Olympic Games in Beijing because they involved 43 sports, 11,000 athletes, 10,000 officers and technicians, 9,000 journalists, for a total of 30,000 people. I was eight days in China and attended the speed and artistic events, and also other sports and I can say that the organizational level has been extraordinary, similar to that of the Olympic Games in Beijing. This means that to be present in the Asian Games is key, but do not forget that Roller Sports were included in the six games that can be removed from future Asian Games in Korea. You know that Korea is one of the strongest

countries in speed skating, and so the organizers of the city of Incheon, near Seoul airport, will do their best to put our sport in the program, but what is happening in the Asian Games is exactly what happens in the Pan American Games. Not being Olympic sport we must earn every time our entry into these Games; the media attention in the recent Asian Games has been extraordinary regarding our sport, especially in speed so that the leading newspaper of China, the China Daily, has put on the first page of the newspaper a full-page photo of the sprint between a Korean athlete and one of China Taipei and this for us has been a great propaganda. The Chinese newspapers have talked a lot about this because China Taipei, China's colony, has won much more medals than China itself, and the Chinese leadership has certainly not liked it. That's why they want to let our sport grow: they have opened the teaching of skating in primary schools and with a billion and four hundred million people they can work on a very large base.... I say this to remind us all, that the Asian continent at the moment is booming and is perhaps the only continent that has the financial resources to support the growth and development of our sport. I remind you that the countries that are part of the Asian Games are 54, so we need to develop our sport in other countries and this is the main task that our Vice President Shen Zhiguo has in its program. Four countries have asked to participate in the Asian Games, but the respective Olympic Committees did not allow them to participate because the qualitative standard of their athletes was not so high to be put in medal zone.

### **Report of the Presidents of Technical Committees**

**MAROTTA:** Now the reports of the Technical Committees: Portier

**PORTIER:** I do not have much to say you can read it, I want to make some observations: I would like to apologize with Carlos Orlando, my report is only in English, I sent it to FIRS offices asking to translate it into Spanish, but I did not send the original in Italian. The next time I will ask Olga to translate it. I understand very well your message Sabatino, we must work with FIRS, but FIRS should work with us. I sent information to FIRS offices on Turkish Federation, that is over and on the possibility to organize a new one, I would have liked to be informed because I gave the information. I would like to feel part of the family of Roller Sports, but it is not always the case. For example the Croatian Olympic Committee said that Croatia can not practice the Inline Hockey and the same happened in Norway and South Africa and I had to write that it is not true, they can practice it. There is much to do, that's all.

**ARACU:** The secretariat is telling to me they have never received what you are talking about, but I interpret this as a criticism, because I care a lot about the efficiency of our offices.

**PORTIER:** The Federation is very efficient, this must not be intended as a criticism, but it does not walk much together with the Technical Committees

**STRUCKSBERG:** My report was included in the documents that I distributed to the General Assembly last month in Dornbirn

**POLLARD:** I gave you all the reports of the last two years updating with the latest works of CIPA. I just wanted to say that when I am out, I work also for the rink hockey, inline hockey where it is possible, to give the possibility to new Federations to participate in our sport. Many think that our only concern is to think of figure skating, but this is far from the truth. I believe we must do all we can financially for the development of these associations such as Cuba or the Dominican Republic and what we do, must be done together and I propose that the Presidents of the Technical Committees should sit together and plan together a work group. For example in the U.S. we have 500 pairs of inline skates that are being sent to the Caribbean and you know that in this area there are 32 Olympic Committees and where do the kids skate? On the beach. They need rinks, facilities,

but also people who go to see them. I think they need coaches for speed and hockey, for the artistic it is more difficult for coaches to find time to go to these countries and help out. I know that they cannot make the grade without financial help. One of the problems I found going to China was, for example the following: I paid for two coaches who came with me, but the President of Shanghai told me, they wanted to be paid \$ 10,000 for two weeks, and this was impossible. It 's true that China has money, but not in this way. I think we should do everything possible for the development and I think we all are aware of this. I think we should talk together with all the coaches to understand how we can work together as a unit, talking about all our sports, not only about individual disciplines, we must respect the desire of nations to develop this or that discipline, knowing that the trainings are different, but are for the development of this sport. It is clear that we must have patience, we can not imagine that a country that starts speed with a boy and a girl can have an international team in a short time. For hockey many things must be put together: when I left Cali after the WG they were desperate for the equipment, I put together three sets of equipment for little money instead of their real value of \$ 1500. Many people in our World work for sport companies, and we must try to involve them to help those who can not make the grade.

About the last two World Championships we had two very successful editions: Freiburg, thanks to Harro and his staff it was a great Championship and the same here with Fernando.

I have drawn up the timetable for the next two years and you can see the different events, which we take part at. I always get requests from Federations asking me help for judges and skaters, and so we must try to do as much as possible .

**ARACU:** Jim I am convinced that what you say is springing from the enthusiasm and determination to do the best, but I think we also need to look at what are really the problems of our disciplines. I do not hide a certain embarrassment ,talking to you about artistic skating that unfortunately is going back. Yesterday, except two Italian couples, the spectacle was unseemly, impossible to be sold even to one regional TV. The quality, compared with that of few years ago, has lost points and this is a problem that has to be analyzed. I tell you very sincerely that the quality of the organization of the World Championships that we're going to organize is entrusted only to the ability of a country to organize, we had this year Fernando Claro with Portugal, last year Harro with Germany, which are two countries that have taken to heart, but we have also seen many bad World Championships. We must choose; it is better one championship every two, every four years, but well organized, otherwise we can organize something else: e.g. an international meeting, because a World Championship means image. The Vice Presidents are the expression of the problems that exist for each continent and I will fight because the decision to organize a World Championship will not be put only on one person. It is not possible or appropriate and gives no results: these are decisions, that must be taken here. We need quickly to cut it out the assigning of a championship to the first one, who raises a hand or it will be too late. Many athletes give up, because they do not feel happy to take part at a championship, that does not gratify them. Last night we had an award ceremony without the public and this is not possible. As FIRS we must do strict protocols such as FIRS, the last awards must take place the day after, as at the Olympics. Among us we must discuss where we make mistakes, otherwise we will never develop.

**MAROTTA:** The latest report is that of speed skating. There are a few things to say, in my report are the details of activities. I just wanted to mention that in the last two years we had the renunciation of countries, to which originally World Championships had been awarded and we had to find replacements very quickly. As you know in 2008 the World Championships were attended by 57 countries. The organization today of a Speed World Championship has become a very big and very expensive event. For this reason, in 2009 Switzerland, that had requested the

organization of the World Championship had withdrawn its candidacy, and we must thank the Chinese Federation that, in less than a year, has managed to organize the 2009 World Championship. Unfortunately the same episode occurred in 2010 because Venezuela, cause of a political crisis between the governor of Lara state and the President of the Chavez government had to give up the organization and we have to thank the Colombian Federation that, in seven months, has organized the World Championships. That is to say that we are now important, that the expectation of becoming Olympic opened the door to new Federations, but we must continue to increase the number of Federations in particular on the African continent and even in Asia because we can not afford to have only seven or ten Asian countries participating in a total of about 54 countries that could take part in our events.

For our sport it was also important the participation in the WG 2009 that are now and for the future, together with figure skating and Inline hockey a very important part of the WG. We have become perhaps the most important Federation of the WG and so we must ensure the participation of the best athletes and teams, we can not afford to send athletes and teams from second level.

**ARACU:** Thanks Roberto. The revocation of two World Championships in 2009 and 2010 let us understand that the way in which we are giving the World Championships is wrong. We must therefore start from today a new way, considering whether to make the World Championships every two years, but keeping in mind the continents that are more isolated, as Pat pointed out ; we must try to see if it could be possible to organize, in the years without championships, great meetings for clubs, e.g. in Africa, helping them in the organization. It 's absurd to assign a World Championship without absolute guarantees. In all international bodies, as the Pan-American, the IOC, the Mediterranean Games, a Technical Committee goes around only to assess which are the most suitable sites for this type of events. We must do it too.

**POLLARD:** Mr. President, for figure skating we do not have problems for countries bidding to host the World Championships, I think the problem relates more to other games such as the Caribbean, South American, Asian Games. By entering Roller Sports in all these Games we send our athletes to all these Championships all around the World. I disagree a little from what you said: every discipline of Roller Sports has its own problems of development and a different assessment of the value of the World Championships and I think we must see all aspects, starting with Hockey, where there is the category A and B, and unfortunately the American team runs every year from A to B and then to A. I think we should pay attention to these aspects; since we entered the junior in the World competitions we have developed biggest competitions in speed and artistic, but Federations want and require the organization of these championships and we will have to pay attention to this. Furthermore, when you talk about multi-disciplinary championships (speed, hockey and artistic) to find four facilities in a city that understands exactly what we need, is practically impossible and that is something to which we must be careful. We saw this in South America where they organize championships in this way and the Federations are asking us to separate them and keep them together anymore. On paper the project is beautiful, but in reality it is almost impossible. I would call it not a problem, but definitely a challenge.

**ARACU:** Certainly, if in an area like this, with many hotels, all disciplines would have been present, also the audience would have been greater. Think ,how many journalists come for hockey and speed and it is clear that if they are here they go also to see artistic skating, and vice versa. This means doing a general promotion and creating a great event. It is true that for the artistic, nations wait in line to organize the World Championships, but because it is a business even though organized in a familiar way, because it has not e.g. the organizational problems of speed. Anyway we must be careful because some World Championships have been organized at a lower level than

a regional championship in Portugal or Italy. Who asks us for organization must ensure right venues, facilities, how will people be organized and the period because the success must be certain.

I am committed to Gilbert personally to take in hand the organization of the World Inline Hockey Championships, that is the last discipline entered and I would like it to become a real event.

**WALLACE:** I think we have missed an important point about the quality of a World Championship: it depends on the participations of the athletes at the very beginning and I think that the participation has gone down and this also because the number of coaches has gone down and no more with the passion of years ago. We must promote participation at school level, into community to arrive then to a high level.

Another question: why is the representative of athletes no present today?

**MAROTTA:** She could not come because she is pregnant

**WALLACE:** It would be important to have an alternative or must we elect another one?

**MAROTTA:** Athletes have elected two representative, one man and one woman. The first two years there was a man, the second two ones there is a woman.

### Venue and date of the next World Championships

**ARACU:** I propose to analyze point 12: dates and places of the World Championships. Here we have a table up to 2013, for the artistic we have 2011 Brazil, 2012 New Zealand, 2013 France or Italy, but I think Jim has also the requests for the following years

**POLLARD:** Yes, they are in the folder: 2014 Spain and 2015 Colombia.

**MAROTTA:** We are going now to confirm dates and places of the next World Championships:

For speed: 2011 Yesou Korea, last week of August and first week of September, 2012 Italy, we do not know the city, probably Rome, 2013 Belgium, Ostend. Figure Skating: 2011 Brasilia in November 14/27, 2012 New Zealand, Oakland from September 30 to October 13, in Paris in 2013 and 2014 probably Spain. In Line Hockey: 2011 Roccaraso Italy, from 2 to 16 July, 2012 France and 2013 U.S. Rink Hockey: 2011 sub 20 Barcelos, Portugal from 11 to 17 September. Rink Hockey A 2011 at San Juan Argentina, 2013 Angola, Rink Hockey B 2012 Macao or Uruguay. Inline Downhill, for the moment we have no confirmation, but I'm trying to find an organizer for next year, same thing for the freestyle. The Inline Alpine, as you have just heard the Worlds in 2011 in Yokohama in Japan in Sept. 2012 in Switzerland. Furthermore, as information for all of you in 2013 we have the World Games in Cali, Colombia from July 24.

	<u>2011</u>		<u>2012</u>		<u>2013</u>	
DISCIPLINES	DATE	PLACE	DATE	PLACE	DATE	PLACE
<b>SPEED</b>	1st week of Sept.	YEOSU - KOREA		ITALY		BELGIUM
<b>ARTISTIC</b>	Nov. 14 - 27	BRASILIA - BRASIL		NEW ZEALAND		PARIS -FRANCE or ITALY
<b>INLINE HOCKEY</b>	July 2 - 16	ROCCARASO - ITALY		option CANADA or FRANCE (USA)		Huntington Beach (CA) - USA
<b>RINK HOCKEY SUB 20</b>	Sept. 11 - 17	BARCELOS - PORTUGAL				
<b>RINK HOCKEY "A"</b>	Sept. 24 - Oct. 1	SAN JUAN - ARGENTINA				ANGOLA

<b>RINK HOCKEY "B"</b>				MACAU - URUGUAY		
<b>INLINE DOWNHILL</b>	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
<b>FREESTYLE SKATING</b>	tbc	tbc				
<b>INLINE ALPINE SLALOM</b>	September 4	YOKOHAMA - JAPAN		CHAM – SWITZERLAND		
<b>WORLD GAMES</b>					July 24 - Aug. 5	CALI - COLOMBIA

**ARACU:** If we decide to make the championships every two years, from when do we begin? Another problem is this: in 2014 Spain, but with Spain we have a problem on which we shall discuss, if you remember we had given to Spain time till March to pay TV rights, that it did not pay and so it is clear that if it does not pay, it does not organize the championships. Spain has signed a contract for hockey with FIRS for the television rights and has never paid. We urged it and have given time I think until April, but it did not pay, we made a new request and then it is clear that we are here today also to discuss this.

**POLLARD:** Beware of the decision you take, people could think that the Championships in 2014 are not given to Spain, not because of FIRS, but to give them to Italy

**ARACU:** If this is the problem, Italy gives up 2014

**STRUCKSBERG :** I think this is a problem of the Spanish Federation, as they have violated the Statute.

**ARACU:** We take note of the proposals until 2013 and then eventually we decide that from 2013 onwards we could make the World Championships every two years, we should have them in odd years adapting ourselves to hockey.

**HARRO:** I think this is a critical issue that needs to be discussed with calm, examining all the problems that may arise.

**ARACU:** We must decide together if we do the Championships every year or every two years as rink hockey. We must decide this together, because until 2013 they must be organized every year because just assigned.

**MAROTTA:** Up to 2013 there is no doubt that you can not remove the already assigned championships to nations and since 2013 we analyze the possibility of making the championships every two years and in that case we should stop participating in 2014, but we will discuss it on the point of the agenda. For this reason I propose to decide dates and venues until 2013.

**POLLARD:** We must also see the other Games, World Games, Pan American Games, etc. .. in any way we can have all these events together, we need a global schedule to see what happens, what are the events we attend, apart from the championships.

**ARACU:** But we know that the Pan American Games are in odd years, the WG are in odd years and then we could decide to organize them in even years. But we have the problem of the rink hockey in odd years

**POLLARD:** I would like to add one more thing Mr. President. I do believe that to organize the Inline Hockey every two years means the end of this specialty. We must be very careful.

**ARACU:** This is another problem we faced with Gilbert and we will discuss it later, we had another meeting with Fasel and we are working on this. In general I am convinced that if there are the WG

and the Panamerican Games in odd years, and these are now in the Roller World the most important games, we can organize in even years. So we get to 2014 then we stop in 2015 and then we take other decisions. That is why I think it is important to decide first of all among us every how many years we want to do them, so I would like to hear your opinion.

**GILA:** I think we should also consider that many countries, not only Africa get money because of the World Championships, and these are also the only international events in which they participate, and if these athletes will have the opportunity only every two years, they could lose definitively interest in this sport. Also for the junior category, there may be athletes who have a one-time opportunity to compete in a junior World Championships and this could adversely affect our sport. We risk also that many athletes pass to ice. I believe that, as administrators, we should never lose sight of why we are here: to do our best for the skaters. If we are not able to organize things every year we must try to do it, not to cut the careers of skaters.

**HARRO:** I speak as President of the German Federation. We support the proposal of Spain and France, the only reason is financial. We have many skaters, who want to participate in both events: European and World Championships and in Germany each skater waits for the Federation to pay all the expenses. I understand very well these continents, that do not have similar Championships and desire to have World Championships every year. As for the other point Jim, I remember we had the same situation for the rink hockey with Olympic demonstration in 1992. We moved the Championships in odd years, before we were in the even ones.

**FERREIRA:** I understand the point of view of the athletes if the own Federation has no other competitions but the World Championships and on the other hand, we must think that a World Championship loses importance, if every year. We see that all International Federations organize their World Championships every two or four years. My opinion is every two years and, at the same time, to empower the continental championships as well as the region, clubs and association Championships so that athletes have other incentives to compete. Moreover, if we make the World Championships every two years, we also decrease the economic pressure on the national Federations and then we could think that way: one year the World Championship of the senior category and the following year the Continental and the Junior World Championship as many international Federations are doing. So the World Championship would become very important, we have a perfect example with Colombia and the Speed World Championship, that is losing its importance: it is no more so important to be World champion. On December 1, the best athletes in Colombia were awarded, and despite the excellent results of the World Championship only one prize was awarded to an athlete of Roller sports, third in the ranking. In the past years when Colombia began to be champion a prize was awarded to the best skater, the best athlete, the best director, the best team and the best coach of Colombia.

If we want to make the World Championships stronger we need to organize them at least every two years. This is my opinion

**CLARO:** This subject requires great consideration, because we have to keep in mind the sporting and economic aspects. As we all know the most countries are living a great economic crisis and the first cuts you make are to the sport. But it is equally true that we should give to the skaters interesting reasons so that they can skate; if Federations have not money, it does not matter every year or every two years. On the other hand, the Presidents of the continental Confederations need to do their work; which is the development of this sport in a continent? To bring athletes to the World Championship? I can tell you from personal experience because it happened to Portugal. 23 athletes entered in a Speed European Championship, but for the Worlds we have sent in Colombia, only three skaters and we must thank the Colombian Federation. If the continental Confederations organize competitions, these can be strengthened if organized every

two years, because what gives importance to our sport are the athletes' performance, but also the image given by the organizers. It is also important to have the facilities and for these reasons I think the World Championships should be organized every two years, but I will respect the decision of the Executive Board.

**PORTIER:** World Championships are important also because they are under the eye of the media, but I understand that many Federations need money, therefore the solution would be to organize the Championships every two years and another competition every two years, organized e.g. by other people such as clubs, where maybe you can find the money. It 's impossible to decide now, we must think carefully, I have the example of inline hockey or rink hockey but perhaps it is not the same for speed and artistic.

## LUNCH

**ARACU:** We heard the most speeches on the possibility of making the World Championships every two years. This means remaining so until 2014 and then change, then we are going to vote anyway, but it seems that the majority is in favour of " every two years". It seems to me that the biggest problems affect those countries, which attend not always the championships. In any case other initiatives may be organized by us, as the World Championships for clubs that could be artistic, hockey or speed always managed by FIRS. It could be a good way to organize activities in countries a little "separated" from the World. I heard that countries like New Zealand take the contribution from the results they bring, but this is now happening around the World including Italy, but if the World Championships take place every two years, as in almost all sports, it is the last championship attesting for the contribution.

**PORTIER:** There is a danger in Inline hockey, because if we have the championships every two years and those on the ice every year I'm afraid that people think that the Inline Hockey is under the umbrella of Ice.

**ARACU:** Gilbert is right for this problem but we have time until 2014. I hope that in 2011 at least in 2012 we find a solution through other meetings with Fasel, because this issue finds a solution; if this problem should not find a solution, we will discuss again for a solution. We can now take a decision that anyway affects the World and we have a meeting tomorrow at which we must put this problem and ask what they think.

**PORTIER:** I agree, if we find a solution ok, but otherwise we have to be careful.

**MAROTTA:** I now wish to express my opinion. As you know I was always firmly again the World Championships every two years, because the fear is that developing countries in our sport, not having a World Championship every year, may lose the interest of their athletes to participate and we know that for some countries the World Championship is the only international event in which they can participate. I am otherwise aware that going on with the championships every year, especially in our discipline, where we have 26 different competitions in the championship, can be an inflation in publicizing the event. Furthermore the organization in our discipline is very high for the Federations which have therefore difficulties in organizing such an important event, and some Federations, particularly the biggest ones, asking not to organize every year because they are forced to fund their participation in all disciplines with a huge outlay of money. I think we can maintain this program until 2014, cancel the World Championship in 2015, but with the commitment to review all of this already next year. Then in the next EB we evaluate again this issue, but having discussed it, gives us the opportunity to think seriously about the opportunity of having the World Championship every two years starting in 2014, and deleting the year 2015. We



must consider the possibility to speak about it in next EB to see if all the considerations of today remain valid .

**LEFTWICH:** I believe that for these European countries for example it is easier to participate in these competitions: they could go with a bus or train or car, but for Australia and New Zealand to participate in any competition, whether it is in Oceania or in the rest of the World, it is always a big financial problem. Secondly, I think that it would be a total disaster for inline hockey and also because I believe, and I hope to be wrong, that there will be no reconciliation with Fasel, something that it has not happened in the last fifteen years, so I think that for inline hockey it would be an absolute disaster.

**ARACU:** What you have said is a problem for us all. We now have to assume a position, but not too strict: we must say to all the countries we're going to change our strategy, but that we are careful to see how to do it, we have taken five years time to be able to see all the problems, also the economic ones The Italian Federation had also to make choices; in some countries everyone is spending on their own and this is a habit. In Italy saying: you spent by yourself, it would mean a revolution.

**GILA:** I do not want controversy, but many countries come to the Worlds with 32 athletes for example, all are in a four or five stars hotel, when they could very well stay in hotels with two or three stars, all have the Ipod, the Iphone and other similar instruments, so I do not think that money should be a problem.

**LEFTWICH:** I think that if you want to skate , you are also willing to make sacrifices.

**ARACU:** I think at this point we have discussed all the problems, then we can vote: who is in favour of making the World Championships every two years, please raise your hand. 4 votes to, 5 against. Ok, the World Championships are made every year. I just hope that the assembly tomorrow does not deny this, then we must resign.

**PORTIER:** We have to explain to the assembly why we decide not to do them every two years, because we do not know what could happen, we should study and discuss it at the next congress.

**STRUCKSBERG.** Normally we should be ready and it should not be necessary to discuss it at the assembly, if I remember correctly this topic was in the agenda already five years ago. I understand the situation well, hockey does not have European or Continental Championships. I think it would be difficult for me to go back and talk to my Federation (German) and say that after having talking we made a decision, many would not understand .. For my Federation as well as for many others it will be increasingly difficult to bear the costs to send skaters in all international events. Maybe we can find a solution for inline hockey, but I do not know which one.

**POLLARD:** But when you spoke to decide if every year or every two years, have you also considered the period between now and 2014?

**ARACU:** No Jim, even if today's decision would be positive in every case from 2015. What I put to the vote is not to do the World Championships every two years, but that by 2015 we can try to organize them every two years, checking in 2011 and 2012 to understand, if the decision was correct or not. Even if we voted yes, all would have begun in 2015.

I'm sorry, maybe I was not clear: if you agree I re-explain the proposal and put it to the vote.

The proposal is this: since 2015 we can start to make the World Championships every two years. In previous years, the championships will take place every year because they are already on the calendar. So who is in agreement with this proposal that will start in 2015, raise your hand

**PORTIER:** This can not be a decision, but a project.

**ARACU:** We must say to all the countries that this is a project that we approved, but that in the following years we will study the problem and if necessary we will be willing to revise our decisions.

Who is in favour of this proposal? All, no one against and no abstentions.

### **Inline Alpine Slalom**

**MAROTTA:** I present to you all Mr. Ziestler, who is the President of the International Federation of Inline Slalom, new discipline developed in many countries, similar to ski slalom, but played with inline skates. It is a discipline which we propose to include in the CIC, as in the past it happened for the downhill and freestyle. Mr. Zistler will now illustrate the characteristics of this sport.

**ZISTLER:** I am grateful, that I was given the opportunity to present this sport. I have a presentation for the pc.. This specialty is called inline alpine and what you see are images of the 2006 European Championships,: many spectators, entertainment, sports, we had many international competitions last year, even Mr. Marotta has seen one of these at Unterensingen. In two years we will have a World Championship. I am the coordinator of the IAC Inline Alpine Committee, founded a year ago and I am also an athlete. The first rules of this sport were drawn up in 1996, initially it began as a summer training for skiing, in fact, many athletes come from Switzerland, Austria, Germany. Over time, however, it became an independent sport, the first races in 1997. first international races in 1999 in countries like Switzerland, Austria, Germany and Italy. Then we had other partners as the Czech Republic, but the association became international 6 years ago. Later there were associations from Latvia, Croatia, Slovenia, Slovakia and Russia. In Germany we are already in the association of German Roller Sports and in that of skiing. Many of these countries have their own association of Inline Alpine and many of them want to join the association of Roller Sports because if the whole family of Roller Sports is together, we can grow together. In 2004 we had a European Cup, since 2009 we have a Committee of Inline Alpine and in 2010 also Russia and Japan joined to the IAC. Last year we had for the first time the World Cup and World Championships at Unterensingen. I can give you the list of races for next year and people who can be contacted for information. About Unterensingen the organization belongs to the German Federation and Harro Strucksberg also was present. The descents have usually a gradient of 20%, in Unterensingen 14%, but it's really spectacular. We believe that if FIRS welcomes us as a specialty, we have a further development and a greater number of nations, because many do not know this specialty. Now in Asia there is a great interest in organizing an Asian Cup with nations such as Korea, China, Singapore. During the vote we had 37 votes in favor of joining with FIRS, surely we are not very strong financially. Our dream is to have in this specialty the giant slalom, slalom and parallel slalom as in skiing, but right now it is better to start working together and looking forward. I distribute a list of members of the IAC and international competitions; they are not complete because we had discussions about the location for the World Championships, originally a town in Germany but you can also choose another location. There will be no problem for the antidoping, in the International Committee we all agree on the international rules.

**MAROTTA:** When I came to Germany, invited by the friend Strucksberg, to attend a championship I did not think of being in front of a so exciting sport, and that is why I proposed to the FIRS EB to put it initially under the umbrella of CIC, such as downhill and freestyle to promote it among our all member Federations. The EB will vote now the decision to take the Inline Alpine under its umbrella, and if the decision will be positive, as I hope, this sport can have a great development and a great future. Thank you for your participation.

**ARACU:** As President I support this request for inclusion in FIRS. I appreciate that you all did a vote and a decision to stay together in the family of Roller Sports, this shows the importance of working together and being able to organize a single championship with all the disciplines together in a big

city. We will do our best to propose to our National Federations to let the Alpine Inline enter between their disciplines.

**STRUCKSBERG:** I thank the President for having given to Mr. Zistler the opportunity to explain this sport. Marotta was present at the World Championship and also I have seen this sport for the first time. I think it is right that it comes into the family of Roller Sports, and I understand that, especially at the beginning of this experience, it would be important for them to reduce the fees in order to involve an increasing number of skaters. FIRS can always count on the collaboration of the German Federation.

**FERREIRA:** We are voting whether to accept it now? I have two considerations: before voting we should have an internal debate to assess the advantages and disadvantages, and then I consider that the person should not be present at the vote.

### **Roller Derby**

**MAROTTA:** I now ask Mr. Hawkins to take the place of Mr. Zistler for his presentation.

**HAWKINS:** I am Richard Hawkins, Executive Director and Secretary Treasure of the USARS. We are here for the presentation of the Roller Derby with President George Kolibaba and the Sporting Director of Roller Derby Danielle Krienert Fairbanks, who will personally present this sport. What we ask is that today FIRS establishes a possible Committee or a division for Roller Derby, sport that is becoming increasingly popular in the U.S. and we are trying to avoid the problems that may arise in the U.S. and in other parts of the World about the organization of competitions such as Inline hockey, downhill or freestyle.

**KOLIBABA:** It is very important to explain this specialty, because it is a further possibility of media coverage for Roller Sports. In the United States Roller Derby is broadcasted on TV since 1950, today's events are offered on television. Roller Derby can be an important theme for the television and we hope a financial help for FIRS. Also on You tube there is a chance to see the explanations and demonstrations of how one plays a game of Roller Derby. I give the floor to Danielle for the presentation.

**KRIENERT:** Roller Derby is taking the sports World by storm as it continues to be the most rapidly growing sport! With well over 500 women's leagues in 16 countries (all over North America, to Europe, Australia, and Brazil) it is definitely more than just a fad. It is fun, yet highly competitive as it encompasses individuals of all shapes, sizes, and age.

Roller Derby is a contact sport that is played on quad Roller skates. Players skate counter clockwise around an oval track. Games, referred to as bouts, consist of two 30-minute periods. Each period is divided into 2-minute long jams. Teams can have five players on the track during each jam consisting of a pivot, jammer, and three blockers. Pivots wear a striped helmet cover and skate at the front of the pack; they set the pace and are the last line of defence. Blockers work to keep the pack in a tight formation as they work to defend the opposing team's jammer while also trying to assist their jammer through the pack safely. They are largely responsible for the constant contact as they engage in checks and bumps. Jammers wear the star helmet cover and are positioned at the back of the pack. It is their job to work through the pack to score points by passing the opposing team's skaters. A jam starts when the referee blows the whistle. At that command, the pivots and blockers begin to roll forward. The jammers begin racing through the pack at the second whistle (double blast). The first jammer that gets through the pack without committing a penalty is the 'lead jammer'. After the initial pass the jammer is eligible to start scoring points. A jammer receives one point for each player of the opposing team that they pass. The 'lead jammer' has the option to stop or call off the jam before the full 2 minutes is up if they

so desire. Here a brochure for all of you, where you can read rules and see the slides just seen. Thank you

**KOLIBABA:** Danielle belongs long since to the International Committee of this sport. I thank Richard, Danielle and the EB for having listened to us.

**ARACU:** We saw another important point of Roller Sports Federation proposed by an important Federation as the United States, which shows us that our discipline is growing. We will follow this development with interest and it is clear that our intent is to have all the possible disciplines in order to have a great festival of Roller Sports.

**FERREIRA:** I would like to make a comment. It seems to me a highly spectacular sport, so that we can fully discuss its recognition. My question is: it is a contact sport, with some form of aggression, there are restrictions on children, young athletes, who come to this sport?

**KOLIBABA:** The rules of the sport are no different from what they were in 1950. It is less violent than hockey. There are some simplifications for the younger ones, a different type of contact.

**KRIENERT:** The contact is only with the shoulder, there are no punches, low blows, etc..

**FERREIRA:** Another question: the current track that we use for speed skating can be used for Roller Derby?

**KOLIBABA:** Many of those who begin to practice this sport, especially women, people aged between very young kids and 25 years and do not know how to skate well and then they train separate to learn on simple tracks, where they can get up if they fall, you can also use banked track

**MAROTTA:** You can use inline skates?

**KOLIBABA:** They are almost all in-line skating

**GILA:** How many mt. is the track?

**KOLIBABA:** No longer than a track of 100 meters.

**STRUCKSBERG:** I have two questions: You mentioned leagues, are they clubs?

**KRIENERT:** They are called leagues instead of clubs, but they are the same.

**STRUCKSBERG:** If I understand correctly the 10,000 members are members of USA Roller Sports.

**KRIENERT:** It is correct even though there are some 5,000 who are not registered with us.

**STRUCKSBERG:** The events are organized by the American Federation of Roller Sports or professional companies?

**KRIENERT:** The most by the Federation. However, there are companies which care facilities and organization.

**KOLIBABA:** It 's more or less the same organisation of artistic or speed. There are leagues or Federations that organize events

**STRUCKSBERG:** The last question as President of the German Federation. If I have good understood you spoke of nine clubs or leagues in Germany and I wonder if it is possible to see the web page so I could get in touch with them. Do you have addresses?

**KRIENERT:** Each club has its own website. If there are problems I can help you

**FERREIRA:** It would be interesting to see a race, to see how it works.

**KRIENERT:** If you come to Chicago next week there is a very strong team.

**ARACU:** We thank the American friends and pass to the vote.

**FERREIRA:** Granted that I believe that these two disciplines should be under the umbrella of FIRS, today we do not know them and what will be their future. We need to know how to consider them. I do not think it is correct to create a Technical Committee for each of these sports.. My proposal is to create a Technical Committee for all of these specialties through which we can manage them. It is important to keep them in our Federation, to avoid that other Federations take them.

**MAROTTA:** The idea that we proposed to these new organizations is to come under one of the four disciplines that we already have. After a period of several years, that will show us the type of events and the number of countries participating in this discipline, in the future we can create a discipline recognized by FIRS, bearing in mind that at that time we will give to the corresponding Federation one vote more. I therefore suggest that for the moment these new disciplines will feel part of FIRS, but without having a vote more, because they will be part of the individual Committees. I believe that as well as for downhill, also inline alpine is a discipline that may fall under the control of CIC, while I think the Roller Derby could fall under the control of the artistic. The important thing is that they feel part of our organization, we must first vote to decide whether to admit them or not, then we decide which Committee will take over temporarily to control this sport. I think I put a representative of the downhill and alpine in my Committee, which may then feel part of a Federation and then I will be the spokesman in the EB.

**FERREIRA:** I think you will have a great job as President, then the Vice-Presidents as Valerie, Fernando Wendy and I could set up a Committee that undertook to study this.

**ARACU:** I believe that today the solution is bureaucratic, not technical, it is clear that we must have the contacts, who self-organize their specialty. Now if we decide that CIPA or CIC take them in their Committee is not so important, then they organize their championships. They must show us how they grow and how they develop. This must not commit us too much. It is clear that if one of these disciplines were to become so big in the World, it is clear that they will become autonomous disciplines. Of course if there are televisions, for example in America interested in these disciplines, as Danielle said for Roller Derby, it is clear that they are an economic force.

**FERREIRA,** Mr. President, it seems clear that this discipline will be included in FIRS and that is why I spoke of a Committee, that deals with analysis and development of these specialties and then considers whether to accept formally these specialties.

**ARACU:** I'm afraid that a Committee let us waste more time.

**MAROTTA:** My idea is to accept immediately the two disciplines under the umbrella of FIRS, to instruct one of the Committees or one or two representatives of this Committee to liaise with the organizers of these disciplines because we have no knowledge and we can not understand technical aspects. We can only control and say: you have the World Championship under the umbrella of FIRS.

**ARACU:** None of these will carry the exclusive brand of a Committee and if someone like Valerie, less overworked than the Continental Presidents, offers her help this is of course welcome.

**POLLARD:** If I understand correctly we are talking about a sub-Committee of a Committee that already exists I know Roller Derby, because it is just controlled by us and understand that someone like Danielle is sufficiently experienced and willing to join a Committee, as well as in the Alpine there is certainly someone, that can join a Committee. If you want I can help you with the Roller Derby. I believe that everything that has to do with the wheels must also be controlled by us. We have already made the mistake with skateboarding when it was young, then when they grow, they do not need us.

**MAROTTA:** I suggest you to say, however, they must consider also in-line skates, at least both types of skates and then decide what is the best.

**STRUCKSBERG:** I agree with you, but I would like a minimum of rules. I give the example of Germany: if we take them under our umbrella. they will want to participate in a World Championship and could ask for this reason money to the Federation, then they could participate taking advantage of our brand, but with their own logo

**MAROTTA:** They must respect FIRS, our statutes and WADA rules.

We are voting to accept the Inline Alpine under the umbrella of FIRS: In favour? Opposed? Abstentions? Approved unanimously. We shall now vote to accept the Roller Derby. In favour? Opposed? Abstentions? Approved unanimously.

### **Contracts**

**MAROTTA:** Now the point regarding the contracts

**ARACU:** With regard to the contracts we have also here big problems. We closed a contract with BWIN, World betting agency, contract that I signed myself, because in these situations I must be fast, I can not meet all, but even here I had problems, as for example we are not able to name the teams in time, the match schedule. I understand the difficulties of specialties such as hockey, which often manage to have a nation that guarantees the minimum number to play a championship at the last moment, but we could not fulfil the contract. However, we lose part of our image, since entering the World of gambling is to enter into their private circuits.

We have a problem with Spain, which has not paid the television rights of Vigo, as we decided last year. We have decided in this way: we give time until March to pay the rights, if they do not pay by March, at the next EB, that is now, we will provide a sanction against Spain, so now we have to decide the penalty, because we can not assign a World Championship to Spain, if Spain itself in another World Championship has not paid for television rights to FIRS. I want to hear your opinion, I believe that the minimum penalty, that we can apply until they pay this fee is that they could not ask for organization of any World Championship. Another penalty that I would put are arrears, that every year, will increase 10% on what they must pay. I think this means seriousness, otherwise no one will pay more the TV rights. I say this even after having talked with Harro, interested in this because it was a hockey championship, and I had promised to Harro that we would have given aid to Rink Hockey Committee, it is clear that if money comes from TV rights of hockey, it must be spent in part for the promotion of hockey.

**FERREIRA:** Before giving my opinion I have two questions: what was the sum fixed by the contract to be paid and then to FIRS: to belong to FIRS you need requirements, one of which is to be up-to-date with payments: I can not remember well what the statute says in this regard, since the last election, every country, to have the right to vote, had to pay and up to date on payments. When you decide to participate in a World Championship you have to pay a fee to the Committee. So if a Federation wants to remain member, must follow the rules

**STRUCKSBERG** I think that, before discussing, we must read the art. 10 of the Statute that is very clear in this regard and that I think it should be followed, otherwise surely we receive a letter from Spain by lawyers. Article 10 Expulsion of members and it is written very clear what to do in point 2.

**ARACU:** The contract is € 45,000, more or less \$ 60,000 and it was signed on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2009 and was signed by me as FIRS President and Carmelo Paniagua as President of the Spanish Federation. I must say that this article, on which I had not thought, it is very clear.

**MAROTTA:** *reads art.10/2 of the Statute.* So we had to send a registered letter which states that their rights are suspended until they pay.

**FERREIRA:** And this does not allow them to participate in a World Championship

**MAROTTA:** This is not written

**FERREIRA:** But if they are not members how can they participate? Roberto, it is logical, if you are not a FIRS member, you lose the affiliation, and then you can not participate

**MAROTTA:** Here is written that the membership is suspended. I ask that the decision we are going to take, will be then observed in all cases in which the Federation has not paid the annual fee or any other debt owed to FIRS, something that until now has never been made; some Federations

will pay the fees for this year tomorrow morning. This means that they have not respected the payment terms of the Statute. So if we take a decision, and I am in favour of taking a strict decision, we must take it for all and this is very dangerous. It is important that you consider this.

**CLARO:** We are talking about two different topics that are in the Statute. Who does not pay its debts to the International Federation can not participate in international competitions and FIRS should send a list of payments to all Technical Committees before the beginning of the championships; in this list the Committees can see who has paid fees and who does not and who has not paid is not permitted to participate in any competition unless they pay by the date of beginning of the competition. Regarding Spain, this issue should already be solved, if FIRS would have not been kind to them, because the term given was the end of March. This is what the central Committee decided in Rome. So to avoid that this situation will backfire against us and to follow what is written in the statute it should be sent, as Marotta rightly suggested, a registered letter to the Spanish Federation with our decision, giving a deadline after which they and all other Federations shall be automatically suspended from all activities. This is my proposal.

**FERREIRA:** I agree with what Fernando says. Let us give them a deadline and then follow what the statute says. I remember when I was President of the Federation of Colombia, Roberto told me that the Federation owed money to FIRS, and if it did not pay, it could not participate and I have paid to participate.

**PORTIER:** *Speech without recording*

**CLARO:** *Speech without recording*

**ARACU:** Here is a contract, which, by statute, shall be signed by the legal representative of the Spanish Federation, the President and by the legal representative of FIRS, which is the President. The statute speaks of FIRS and organization. The legal representative has signed and it is therefore correct, it has been accepted and if there were exceptions they had to be made at that moment and not today. Exceptions were made neither by the Spanish Federation nor by FIRS. There are other points: after we had written to request the payment, the Federation has answered to me May 5, 2010, and I ask Carlos Orlando to read it because it is in Spanish.

**FERREIRA:** *reads the letter*

**ARACU:** This letter confirmed that Carmelo had a debt to the Federation, but it is not enough. He also received a letter, which says that we will have made decisions, it is written in English and Spanish and I read it in English. It seems to me clear. It was written on September 30 and no one has ever answered. I can not say today, when the World Championship has begun, Spain can not participate. It is true as Fernando says, that countries, that do not pay membership fees, can not participate, but we have always communicated through mail to the Technical Committees which of the countries were not in compliance. When there is a World Championship each Technical Committee is responsible for the payment of fees by the nations, that have not paid the affiliation of that year, which was made in Colombia .

We can also avoid to punish the athletes, but at least the suspension of voting. My proposal is that in the letter, Spain can not participate in the request of any organization of World Championships and will have no World Championships until this debt is not paid, and anyway we can add, that if they go on not paying, the next year they will also be excluded from any competitions. It is clear that this type of sanction will then be made for everyone. It is also an important amount: 45,000 €. Today we have the duty to take this measure. Furthermore this is a sum that a great Federation can support. If my Federation had such an undertaking, even if all the money was committed in the budget, to let my athletes compete, I would ask for a bank loan. If there are other proposals well, otherwise we vote on it.

**MAROTTA:** I believe that we should not be swept away by animosity and emotions, but we have to comply with the statutes. Now we are talking of Spain, which is one of the strongest countries in our sport, but we could also speak of Honduras, which is one of the last countries arrived. We must respect the statutes, which clearly says that we can not give a penalty, but we have to write a letter, setting a time limit within a sum must be paid and if not ,it will be suspended from all re affiliation rights

**ARACU:** But we had already written the deadline by which they had to pay. If we can not decide about an official sanction, we can decide among us and vote that any request of Spain at the World Championships is accepted.

**STRUCKSBERG:** It is not possible. We must follow the rules and in the regulations is written that we have to write an official letter where we give a deadline set by the statute to pay. The letters you wrote were not official. I think you need to speak with Carmelo and Marotta and see: if he pays ok, otherwise you send the letter giving the deadline and then we suspend the Federation. But now we can not talk of the championships in 2014, because Spain could be useful.

**FERREIRA:** I think we should communicate to the Spanish Federation and to any other Federation with debts that they are suspended and can not attend events, or applications for events to be organized.

**VALERIE:** I think that the statute is very clear about the Spanish question: you must write a letter giving 30 days time to settle. Even in the Financial Regulation in the Bylaws, par. 3 the procedure is clearly written.

**PORTIER:** I agree with Carlos Orlando. We must apply the statute and I think I know the opinion of the Executive Board. Have you sent a registered letter? You have to do it, following so the statute.

**ARACU:** Ok, on Monday we will send a registered letter.

**MAROTTA:** I suggest that on Monday, the secretariat verifies all Member Federations which have debts owed to FIRS, for the membership or for other debts, and that within the next week a letter will be sent to all Federations, whose rights are suspended until they have paid the amount due.

**ARACU:** What Valerie said is true, we have never even applied the 25%, but we did it with common sense, understanding that there are countries that forget, that do not have a true Federation, but this is different .These Federations have always paid at the competitions, or at the Congress. We have written and rewritten at the Spanish Federation, which is among the 10 Federations in the World as economic strength, and they know that this is a fee which FIRS lives with. Harro do you have requests for rink hockey?

**STRUCKSBERG:** At the moment they request any kind of championship. It is sure an unkind attitude by the President of the Spanish Federation that we must suffer. I have re-read the contract. It is said that he had to pay € 45,000 upon signature. And he said, "Okay I pay next week". This is a contract not a piece of paper. This is a situation that I can not understand. The letter must be sent and it must be said that the Federation will be suspended. In the future I think we should carefully fill each part of a contract and put a clause stating that if you do not pay on time, you have to pay a penalty as a percentage.

**ARACU:** If you agree then we send the letter on Monday 13. Who is in favour? No abstentions or against. The proposal is approved. We have to vote even the World Championships with the dates and locations that have been communicated with the exception of the World Championships requested by Spain. All are approved with the exception of the championship claimed by Spain in 2014. Do you agree? Abstentions and none against. Also this point is approved.



### **Alterations to Statutes (FIRS Commission-France-Spain-Israel)**

**ARACU:** Before giving the floor to Roberto to see which are the number of proposed amendments to the Statute I wish to comment what we have done in previous years. One year ago we asked Valerie if, together with Carlos Orlando, Fernando Claro and Roberto, could make statutory changes. I think they tried to change things in an old statute, I think they have tried to change points in an already old statute. I think it is better to write it again than to modify only some points. We have to decide to say to the assembly that we want to make a new statute and we will not do it sooner than two years. We could try to be ready for the elective Congress in two years. We could do a two-day Congress, in which one day is for the election and the next day for the Statute. It is clear that to do a statute together is a strong political act, because we are going to decide together something that will take on us responsibilities. I propose that next year we meet at least twice, I hope to bring a draft prepared by experts. We can see us in Brazil or at the Speed Championships in Korea and make a two-day meeting of EB, one single day only for the statute, to have two very important meetings. It is clear that we need to communicate each other some ideas before, not the day before our arrival, we send our ideas by e-mail. That's why I think we should work at least two years with three or four meetings with at least one day for each meeting. Having said that we can see what are the points that we must now accept.

**MAROTTA:** The first page that you find in your folder concerns the rules for the antidoping. These rules were developed by Pat Wallace and if Pat confirms these changes, we will approve and put them in the regulation. The proposal is therefore to incorporate the amendments proposed by Pat Wallace in the Bylaws. Who is in favour, against or abstained? Approved unanimously.

Now we have proposals by Jim, George Pickard, Valerie and Pat. I believe that for these changes may be valid what the President has just said and that is that these changes are a partial view of the statute and will be added to other modifications of a very old Statute, so the proposal, which the President has done, which I personally agree with, would be not to amend the current statute, but to revise it in full and therefore do not consider these changes. I disagree about this change, because we now have a term of four years, which coincides perfectly with the Olympic cycle, and then there is no reason to change the term of office, which is four years and will expire in the year 2012, the same year of the Olympic cycle, then we will go accordingly with our EB and our President every four years, as was done in 2008 until 2012 and as we will do in 2012 until 2016.

**ARACU:** I agree with this, not because I do not want to do one more year, but I think that we accidentally have found ourselves at the deadline; 2012 will be the year of the election of all the Technical Committees and when all this will be over, like last time, in the first three months of 2013 we will organize the Congress for the election of the President and the Vice President.

**LEFTWICH:** There is one problem: you said that the new statute will require two or three years

**MAROTTA:** Although we do not have a new statute, why do we have to change the current statute on the duration of the mandate if we have a mandate coinciding with the Olympic cycle?

**LEFTWICH:** There is no reason, it would be better to do it with the new statute.

**MAROTTA:** We will propose the new statute in the Congress of 2012 and so this will coincide with a period of four years starting in 2012 and ending in 2016. There is no reason to change the current statute.

**LEFTWICH:** I refer only to the fact that Sabatino believes it takes a few years and from now to the Congress of 2012 there are less than 18 months.

**STRUCKSBERG:** I remember that in Rome we decided to form a group to change the statute, I remember that last year I asked in Freiburg how far have you got with the work and I know that Valerie has been in the U.S. and now we are speaking to do a new statute. I understand that

Valerie is a little peeved by this. I have read carefully all that has been written and so we should apologize for this.

**LEFTWICH:** I think only that to make a new statute will take a long time, as Sabatino said, you should get a lawyer and that takes time. I do not think it will be concluded in 2012, because everyone will want to have his say.

**STRUCKSBERG:** There are certainly other points to be reviewed and then we need to calculate two years.

**CLARO:** I have to justify myself, because in Rome it was decided to form a group with me, Carlos, Valerie and Marotta and we set out to change point 1 up to the end and I have to apologize with Valerie because she had to work alone without my help for these reasons: the person who had to work with me was the secretary of CERS, who is a lawyer, who last year however had personal and professional problems and as a result of this I too had to change my staff and to replace the Secretary-General. Please understand this and also another situation that has led me to make changes in the statutes of the Portuguese Federation, because the Portuguese Government has asked all national Federations to change their statute, and then from now on I will be completely committed, and then ask Valerie to suspend all the work done up to now, because I do not consider a good idea to change the statute now only in few points, if we then have to make a completely new one. I wanted to explain this to the Executive Board because it understands the reasons why I did not give my contribution to the Executive Board.

**FERREIRA:** I think there are many concerns in the National Federation about the change of the Statute, and therefore I propose the following thing: we must give time to all Federations to discuss the matter because a real revision of the Statute means, as you suggested, to change "the car". I propose that these changes are made within 2012, so to be in line with the Olympic cycle because these are the times of the sport. All Federations must work to collect proposals and draw up new statutes.

**MAROTTA:** Are there any further speeches or do we accept the President's proposal to postpone any discussion on the statute waiting to have a whole new one?

**LEFTWICH:** I'm happy about that, but I wish from you a promise, and that is that we will be involved in all this, because we need at least three meetings.

**ARACU:** Valerie of course I promise it, we must bring to the Congress, a statute worked out by a Central Committee, and not by just a person. This would not even be correct, then I think it must be worked out in the scheduled meetings, bearing in mind all the problems we know and to find solutions for a truly modern statute, that at least we all share. I believe that if we bring it to a Congress, already approved by the EB, it is a document that has strength, otherwise if it is presented by a person with others who do not agree, is a weak document. Thanks anyway for your work.

**PORTIER:** It would be useful to have the proposals before the date we are looking to establish for the meeting, so we have time to study them.

**ARACU:** I believe that today we could say to have four official Technical Committees, but since ours is a developing Federation, we may put possible new disciplines in charge of someone of one technical sector. Today Robert and Jim are doing us a pleasure taking under them the Alpine and the Roller Derby, but if in the new statute it was written that a new discipline can appoint a representative to convene, this would be a step forward. Today the current statute does not allow it. Anyone of us might have new ideas for the development of the own discipline, the statute is not a technical act, but a political one and, therefore, Valerie, we have to do everything together. Back on what just said, about the election in 2013: the four – year period of Olympics ends in 2012, and also all elections of our Technical Committees, as now we have all decided that the FIRS

Congress must not be done during the Championships, we can do it in January or February 2013 with expiry 2016, when there is no sporting activity, countries are quieter and thus we have exactly four years. .

**MAROTTA:** Then we have two proposals: one of the French Federation and one of the Spanish Federation, both do not ask for a change, but to take into account the hypothesis of the World Championships every two years: we have discussed it and decided. The French Federation proposes to unify the junior age in all disciplines of FIRS and proposes to use the same system used by the IOC for the Olympic Youth, according to which athletes participating in the Olympic Youth must be 15/16/17 or 18 years old on December 31 of the year of the Olympic Youth. This could mean for us, that we consider junior, athletes who are 15/16/17 or 18 years old on 31<sup>st</sup> December of the year of the Championships, that is exactly what already happens for artistic.. For speed, until today, we have from 13 to 17 years, but we want to conform up to 19, but we need to change from 15 to 19 because we can not put in our discipline an athlete 13 years old with one 19 years old. So for speed from 15 to 19, for figure skating from 12 to 19 and then I ask to Harro and Gilbert which they think is the age limit for junior.

**PORTIER:** At the moment junior are under 19, but we can change under 20, I am not against it.

**HARRO:** Yes, we too are under 20.

**MAROTTA:** So we have Rink hockey, Inline hockey and Artistic under 20.

**POLLARD:** No for artistic under 19. From 12 to 18 years on January 1, you can become 19 years old after January 1. I would not do the same for all disciplines, if it was so now, we would lose 3%, three junior.

**MAROTTA:** I do not mean the minimum, but the maximum age.

**FERREIRA:** We can unify the little ones: if we allow boys 13/14 years old to compete in speed, they will not give great results, but there may be new Federations that send them to the Championships

**MAROTTA:** India participated with a 12-years-old kid, who could not skate and he competed in a 10 km. race with an athlete 19 years old. This becomes a responsibility that I do not want to take.

**STRUCKSBERG:** I think this is an issue for the Technical Committees: e.g. in the artistic you may be younger, in hockey, boys and girls also with 12 years are very young, it can also be very dangerous. The minimum age is 14 years in our specialty.

**MAROTTA:** The risk in the races is very different than for example in the artistic

**FERREIRA:** When we do the Pan American Games we need to establish a minimum age and to be conformed with the artistic we establish the same age also in speed.

**MAROTTA:** We can not change our rules for the Pan American Games: I understand that this can be a problem for you, but for the safety of the athletes in my discipline I prefer to maintain the minimum age of 15 years even if I get a lot of pressure to let compete athletes with 13 years, but it is very dangerous

**POLLARD:** So we have to work on this in an independent way in the Technical Committees In the artistic we have already changed last year by granting an extra year

**MAROTTA:** I understand your reasons, that are the same that I have in my rules, but if we want to follow the system of the IOC, we must speak of December 31 as the deadline for 19 years

**ARACU:** I think that this is a technical issue: artistic has a problem, hockey has another problem. So we can give a maximum age, but for the minimum age we can leave the choice to the Committees. I believe that this French proposal should be brought to the assembly of the Technical Committees.

**MAROTTA:** a change to the statute has been proposed by Israel, but it is actually a complaint against Jim, whom I ask please to explain what happened last year.

**POLLARD:** Speaking of this is a waste of time. He wants to be free to go and talk to the judges sitting in the judges area, he wants a sort of green card to go everywhere.

**ARACU:** This is not a problem of FIRS

**MAROTTA:** As you know in our disciplines it often happens, that an athlete changes his nationality, often because they can not be part of their national teams and, having a double passport, they ask to compete for another country. The problem is to decide, as our current statute states, that if an athlete competes for a country, can not compete for another country, if not stopped at least three years. This concept is well explained by the French proposal, which follows exactly the rules of the IOC. This means, that is not up to us to create our own rules, but to copy exactly what the IOC says, therefore I suggest to answer to the French Federation that in the revision of the statute we will take in full the rule of the International Olympic Committee regarding the change of nationality.

**STRUCKSBERG:** I would like to remind you that in this regulation, there must be the exception of Macao, Hong Kong and Andorra

**MAROTTA:** There is also another proposal from Spain, but concerning only the unification of the calendars. Surely all nations should send proposals and the Technical Committees make the calendars not only for official events like the World or Continental Championships, but for all international events.

**LEFTWICH:** There is a third point of the French proposal that says if the Technical Committee decides to change a rule or to make a new one, it must be ratified by the assembly of this discipline. Mine is only a question about this event

**MAROTTA:** The answer is simple: no.

**STRUCKSBERG:** We have an agenda of meetings and this means that if a Federation asks to change a rule, this should be discussed and voted by the Technical Committee, which has an Executive Committee consisting of the chairman and five members.

**FERREIRA:** Sorry, but I want to go back briefly to the theme to compete for other countries: there are athletes, who have never be selected in Colombia and that means choosing a country for which they can compete and the country gives them residence and nationality: for example USA, Dominican Republic etc.. and in this way they will never belong to the Colombian national team, so if they want to go back to compete for Colombia, they must wait three years right? Ok.

**STRUCKSBERG:** How do we answer to the proposal of Israel?

**MAROTTA:** We must answer that we have a statute to be respected by the Technical Committees and affiliated Federations, who are entitled to speak in technical meetings or at the Congress of FIRS, but have no right to go and talk personally with the judges or with the referees during a World Championship

**STRUCKSBERG:** Maybe I was misunderstood: Israel complained about not being admitted into the VIP area and I want to talk about it, because last year we had a lot of competitions in Germany and for me as President is very difficult, because everyone wants to enter the VIP area and we have to find a solution. In my opinion it would be better not to talk at all of a VIP room, which concerns more guests and sponsors than athletes and judges.

**MAROTTA:** I understand your difficulties but the answer we must give to Israel is that the Federation has the opportunity to speak during the just mentioned meetings and that the organizing Committee of an event must be taken to select who can enjoy a VIP accreditation or not. We have a protocol that must be respected and that says that such accreditations must be given to FIRS components and not to the Presidents of National Federations

**ARACU:** I understand these requirements, but I think that the Presidents of the International Federations, who are our first partners, should have this protocol.

**MAROTTA:** So you have to change the protocol.

**POLLARD:** We have a clear regulation that says you can not talk with the judges during a competition, you must speak with the Technical Committee.

### **TV Policy**

**ARACU:** We are doing everything to concentrate the biggest incomes in the communication area, from the traditional TV to the Web TV because we want to put also in the Roller TV commercials, made especially for companies of skating equipment, interested to have the visibility by those who know the Roller World. This is something we are pursuing vigorously, doing well investments, because having thousands of visitors on this TV, we need a very expensive broadband. FIRS is one of the most advanced International Federations with this way of communication and I hope it will give us an economic feed back as the television rights, because we made a contract with a Portuguese agency for about \$ 90,000 for each championship. In this regard I must say that the problems that are sometimes found with the Committees are not technical or because we want to have more influence in the Committees, but sometimes we do not feel them close to the us in this area. I can not accept that when we ask for an ADSL line for a World Championship a Technical Committee is unable to guarantee it.

Regarding the contracts concerning this, which are going to be closed I ask you to prepare the agreements to be signed by FIRS to validate the organization of the championships required. Often we are not able to give highlights to the international televisions because we do not have support in the places where the World Championships are organized.

### **Firs Website**

**ARACU:** Regarding now the FIRS Website, I give the floor to Simona, because we wish to present the new website that I hope in a short time may be ready and efficient, a site that allows us to communicate with the World.

**MERCURI:** *presents the new website with the help of images and says:* we need full cooperation from you. We have the ability to upload images and videos of national, continental and World championships, but you have to provide them to us.

**MAROTTA:** I think that having a good website is the key to our sport to come at the highest level in the World, because now everyone, who wants to value a sport, check in Internet the website of the sport. We must have a site easily accessible but also updated daily; so in order to have qualified material to be included in the site we need a technical reference for each Committee, which can provide all the information that we can put on the site, so we ask you to select a person responsible to follow all aspects of communication of each Committee. For FIRS website, the person in charge is Simona Mercuri, who looks after this aspect.

**ARACU:** The observer of the IOC of the University of Lausanne, met in Dubai, told us that without a functional website, it is impossible to have any communication policy, that is why I ask the Technical Committees strongly to communicate a contact person. Through our website we could have joined the large platform made by SportAccord, but with a continuous sending of videos. I will talk about this issue in our Congress to try to convince our national Federations to help us, but also to promote themselves. I ask Simona to update the Technical Committees on the number of accesses that the broadcasted events had, but we must also think that more people can see us, more the propaganda can be positive, but also negative, if a championship is poorly organized. Yesterday, for example, there were people scattered in the stands, you must fill before the stands

taken by the camera. These are important issues that should be included in the protocols of communication.

### **Anti Doping, RTP and OCT**

**MAROTTA:** Now the antidoping with the report of Pat Wallace.

**WALLACE:** *reads the report in the folder*

**ARACU:** I would like to thank Pat for the great job she is doing. Pat is one of the most respected people in the WADA and we must help her to maintain this consideration.

I was very surprised that an athlete tested positive for doping in Colombia has been disqualified for only thirty days and I would like to know what WADA said, as our athlete, positive for doping in the artistic, Sara Venerucci was stopped for a year

**MAROTTA:** I want to add that speed skating is the most exposed and therefore follows most closely all directives WADA, but I ask that my colleagues in other Committees pay close attention to this issue, asking the organizers of the championships World to pay the costs of doping controls. To organize a championship is not just having a nice arena and many athletes, but also to have perfect doping control.

I wish to inform you, that this year we planned to do the blood testing Colombia, because you know that the hematocrit control is through the blood test. Unfortunately we could not do official controls to be sent to WADA, because the Colombian Olympic Committee did not have the proper equipment to do the blood testing that must be maintained at a constant temperature and sent to a laboratory in the United States or Canada. We have also sent the blood test to a laboratory in Bogota to give to the athletes a signal of that. What I am asking, is to have the cooperation of all to do this.

**ARACU:** But we must also take action, because an International Federation that does not take action is not credible and therefore I ask Pat and Roberto, since speed is the most exposed discipline, to being able to report immediately. I propose to say to all those countries that as soon as they have a positive case of doping, it should be reported immediately to the international Federation, so that an appropriate measure could be taken.

Let us deliberate and then send a communication to all affiliated Federations, that when they have a positive case they must notify it within seven days to the International Federation, so that Patricia Wallace could provide immediately and report them to us ,also by phone, so that FIRS takes immediate measures.

**WALLACE:** Do not forget that all reports of the hearings must be communicated to WADA, we have to work on the individual facts and circumstances, we need to follow the policy and if you want to appeal against the sanctions, you should follow what the policy says and understand how to oppose the decisions of the National Federation

**ARACU:** So my proposal is not feasible?

**WALLACE:** I suspect that is not possible, but I want to look at the policy again, before giving a definite answer. I can give you a response within two weeks.

**ARACU:** Knowing the balance of Pat I would also agree to use Pat as our single judge qualified to take disciplinary action with the ratification of the EB, so that Pat, if we give her today the mandate, she knows that, depending on the issues, she can act immediately.

**WALLACE:** I do not want to take such decisions alone, there should be an internal FIRS Committee and I think that the policy has one: a member of a sports-medical Commission and two members of the Technical Committee, who are not involved with athletes: e.g. if it were a speed athlete the

Committee would be composed of one member of the Medical Committee and two members of the EB excluded Marotta. But I can not bear the responsibility of making decisions alone and in any case I think it is still against the policy. Germany, like other great nations, has a very good anti-doping agency involving the Federation and therefore does not require an external commission, but there are many places, that have no good anti-doping agencies

**FERREIRA:** I think we have to work very hard on the antidoping, because the IOC looks very favourably those International Federations, which work seriously on this topic. Surely we can not be at the level of cycling, but I know because I have read much in this regard, there is an automatic penalty when there is confirmation of a positive result with the suspension of two years beyond the internal process of the Federation, and the penalty should be applied because it is the only form of anti-doping and no preferences must be done

**WALLACE:** No one talks about this, but the information is not entirely correct. The penalties depend on the type of drug. It is an extremely complex topic, every time there is a case even slightly doubtful, I always turn for advice to WADA.

**CLARO:** I think Pat knows how the anti-doping is treated in Portugal, it is very strict and penalties go from six months to two years depending on the type of substance and the amount taken. If the expert Committee of the Federation imposes the sanction, the anti-doping agency agrees, there is also the support of the Portuguese law, which may make the penalty even higher. I can also tell you that we have in this Championships doping tests nearly every day paid by the Portuguese Federation and when I hear talking of autonomy in the penalties I think we should create a technical disciplinary Committee within FIRS. I can give you an example of what I did for Europe with my Confederation: a special disciplinary Committee with three lawyers together with the Technical Committees to implement the disciplinary action within Europe

### **Situation in Mexico**

**MAROTTA:** I summarize the problem: FIRS has received from the President of the rink hockey Harro Strucksberg directly from the Agrupación sobre patines de México, an organization that is playing hockey outside the Mexican Federation the request to be independently recognized as a FIRS member, but since we have a Federation that is regularly recognized, Mexico, Harro asked to proceed to a vote by email for the recognition of this new organization as an independent affiliation to FIRS. I have written to the members of the EB asking if they were in favour of this procedure, but the majority said not to be in favour of a vote by email, because the problem required a deep discussion here. What we need is to respect the right of the Mexican Federation, that has also showed to carry out activities in all four disciplines and therefore also in the rink hockey. My idea is therefore to maintain a legally correct relation with our affiliated Federation and to disregard the request for an independent affiliation by the agrupación, but about this I wish to hear the opinion of Harro, who knows this problem very well.

**STRUCKSBERG:** I tried to find a solution with the President of the Mexican Federation, but it was impossible. In my opinion, this group meets all the requirements and to me the situation is clear: It is a private conflict, and this is not a good solution because there are all the requirements of the statutes and my idea is to accept not an affiliation, but a pre-membership.

**CLARO:** Regarding this issue I have two questions to be asked to Harro: did the Mexican National Federation hold a national competition? During the past three years did they have participated in World Championships?

**STRUCKSBERG:** Yes, they have played in competitions, but did not participate in World Championships in the last three years.

This year, obviously, but this is a political solution, in the last three years no.

**CLARO:** Did they attend the last Worlds?

**STRUCKSBERG:** Yes they attended this year, but the request was made on March and before March they had not participated.

**CLARO:** Having attended the last World Championship and as the meeting of the Executive Board of FIRS is today, whereas article 3 of FIRS Statute, no other Federation or Association can be recognized.

**STRUCKSBERG:** It is probably right, but it is not easy for everyone to understand. So rink hockey in Mexico can be considered finished.

**CLARO:** As I said this is an internal problem to be solved in Mexico

**STRUCKSBERG:** I ask the Presidents to vote, let us see what is the decision and see what will happen in the future.

**MAROTTA:** I want to clarify well: the request of Harro is for a provisional accreditation of the Agrupación de hockey sobre patines Mexico, association outside the Mexican Federation, which nevertheless attended with a team at the World Championship this year and Harro wants the EB to vote for provisional approval of this organization.

**ARACU:** Before you vote, let me know if we asked the Mexican Olympic Committee if they consider this association for a possible affiliation. Voting today is to risk doing damage, in one way or in another.

**STRUCKSBERG:** It is a closed circle: Ordoñez has made a request to the Olympic Committee, but had no answer. We have the example of Switzerland. From my point of view, it is unthinkable that the President of a Federation considers himself the owner of the sport.

**MAROTTA:** I want to talk about situations like this, that we have around the World. Very often internal conflicts develop inside the national Federations and a part that comes out of the national Federation asks for a recognition by FIRS. I believe that FIRS must always protect its Federations member and only if there is a clear willingness by a part of an affiliated Federation not want to be responsible for a discipline, we can allow the creation of a second Federation recognized by FIRS

**CLARO:** Just look at the art. 3 of the statute (*he reads it*)

**PORTIER:** You're right, tomorrow someone will ask you to be able to create an independent Federation of Inline Hockey in Portugal.

### **Memberships: Acceptance of new affiliations**

**MAROTTA:** FIRS has received many proposals for membership, but all are missing documents required by statute as, in particular, the acceptance by its National Olympic Committee. However FIRS needs to create many affiliations and then I propose a provisional approval to bring tomorrow at the meeting. Final recognition for 7 countries and provisional for others. The seven countries are Congo, Gabon, Moldova, Uganda, United Arab Emirates and Latvia. We propose a provisional approval for Turkey, Greece and Malawi

**GILA:** I have a problem with Congo. I have doubts about the name of the President, who is not like the one you found on the website. Next week there are African Championships and they were asked to participate; they say they can not come because they have no money and want everything free, but this is not acceptable. I am a bit worried also about the letter of the Olympic



Committee in this regard so I would like further confirmation of this Federation, because the name I was given by the Olympic Committee is not the same found on the website.

**ARACU:** We need to proceed to the membership, if the documents are regular, but if a document would be proved as irregular, the resolution will be revoked.

**GILA:** in Africa we must be careful, because many people try to take advantage of the situation and I worry when, offering an economic aid, I do not get an answer.

**MAROTTA:** I propose to recognize this Federation, writing a letter by FIRS, that if within one year, they do not attend an international event, they will be automatically expelled.

**GILA:** I think it is a good solution, because we will understand if they are people who really want the development of a sports Federation, such as it happens in Nigeria.

**ARACU:** We must also think that the Federations need time to prepare their athletes at an international event. We can do, however, a resolution on the matter for a continent like Africa, which may be a continent at risk. We agree then for the recognition of the above mentioned countries and the provisional recognition of Turkey, Greece and Malawi.

### **Skateboarding**

**MAROTTA:** We have repeatedly called ISF International Skateboarding Federation to become member of FIRS, but this has always refused and asked SportAccord to have a self-recognition. We have written to SportAccord saying not to be in favour for the entry of a new self-discipline and therefore in Dubai SportAccord rejected the request of the Skateboarding Federation; afterwards the request was put forward again and this request will be taken to the next SportAccord Congress scheduled in April 2011 in London. This association wrote again to FIRS wondering why we are against their own international recognition. My opinion is that we must affirm that all Roller sports are under our control but we must also be honest with ourselves, because we are saying for two years we must organize in our national Federations a section dedicated to skateboarding and since two years we are trying to organize a championship of skateboarding, but we did not succeed. We can insist on not wanting an international Federation, but I must ask you all to promote in your Continents the affiliations also of sections devoted to skateboarding.

**WALLACE:** In Australia we managed to have an international Federation with professional athletes. Suppose that we achieve our dream and that the IOC tells us: "Come on FIRS, enter with skateboarding!" . What would it happen? None of us knows anything about skateboarding, we will not be able to move in the right way and this could put us in a negative position regarding the IOC. If we are going to promote skateboarding we need the support of the ISF and of its group. In Australia we had skateboarding for five years, before they had an international competition.

**ARACU:** I started by the Italian Federation because the President comes from Milan and I have appointed him responsible of the Italian skateboarding. He has met all the clubs in September in Bologna, which unanimously voted and agreed to enter the Italian Federation, a Federation recognized by the Olympic Committee. Now I am going to convince this person to be with us, because it is not true that the ISF is the only alternative in the World, because America has already created an alternative association, that has invested more than one million dollars for a tournament only to take away their athletes. We can also take the responsible of skateboarding in Australia. If the Australian skateboarding is a member of the Australian Federation why do they not want to be with FIRS? Because the ISF gave them the possibility to organize a big event every year where they earn money and they do not want to give up this, but someone has to explain them, that they can organize a big event like that and more. We try to do a meeting with the responsible of Australia, to let him meet with the other European leaders to try to make an

association. Why must we give everything in the hands of the American Association instead of giving to them the possibility to guide an international Federation? I wish to have mail address and telephone of the Australian manager. If this Australian association decides to go with the ISF, it becomes a problem also for Pat, who will be forced to let them go. We must convince them to join and stay with us. Harro, for example can help us, because in Germany there is a good association of skateboarding and through an Olympic Committee to which he is very closed. We must try to organize a meeting among the leaders of the skateboarding, even if we must invest something, we can do it in Rome, I offer the accommodation, the hotel, but we organize an important meeting. In thirty years nothing has been done in our Federation for skateboarding, in four months with a clever action we collected all the Italian skateboarding, doing also a national championship with the participation of the best teams. We can not leave free hand to ISF, but we must say them, that many of our affiliated associations have the skateboarding. We can also say that we waited to make the World championship only to respect them and to try to create a synergy, because they want the breaking and we send it in copy to the IOC.

**PORTIER:** Connecting with the FIRS website, I see that there is nothing for skateboarding, so I wonder what FIRS might give. The French Federation is very involved with skateboarding competitions and many of these are not official. The French Federation would also like to change the name to French Federation of Roller Sports and Skateboarding, but I do not know if it is the right time. I believe that FIRS needs material to put on the website and I do not understand why, if the Italian Federation is so involved, you do not have uploaded pictures and videos on the site.

**ARACU:** Because we just started three months ago and we had an Italian championship a fortnight ago. If France and Australia are sending us images we can begin to put them together with those of Italy.

**PORTIER:** Do not forget that skateboarding means a great job for the anti-doping Committee.

### **Approval of Sports Facilities Rules**

**MAROTTA:** Let us go to item 13: the approval of the rules of the sport facilities. We have prepared a regulation for the approval of the rinks and sports equipments. The regulation has already been delivered, we have just to approve it.

**ARACU:** Since we introduced this regulation last year, we went much further. Mexico and the Pan American Games have asked us, as facilities Committee, to give the approval of the facility. We are now able to send technicians, engineers and tester to understand if the materials used are good and if the track is done well. It is clear that this regulation will take into account all the technical problems that might arise from time to time. We will then prepare the certification of products and systems to be approved. To do this we need a proxy, so I ask you for a vote to approve the facility regulations and then I will ask the proxy for the various applications. I remind you that we give the projects for free, payment is only for testing. It is clear that if we speak of a track to make the Pan American Games in Guadalajara and they ask us the certification, we send two inspectors to be paid. Our floors are made by Vesmaco, that gives us each year \$ 50,000 and we have done a certificate that the Vesmaco product is approved and recommended by FIRS, but there may be other companies whose products we tested but they have to pay. All this money will help us to reinvest in our development projects.

**GILA:** I appeal to the CIC to make better the flooring in some parts of the track as the angle of the final finish line, and other parts that are still defective in some rinks

**ARACU:** Let us approve the regulation. In favour, against and abstentions?: approved unanimously.

I ask you now a number of proxies I need to certify products and systems, to determine the criteria of marketing for the contribution that we will have to ask those , who build sports facilities, even as I ask a proxy to appoint a commission, that could meet to work on this project, which is the sports facilities Committee and a proxy to sign the sponsorship and to decide what they will be. I only do it to be fast, but in any sponsorship that will be managed the EB members will be informed immediately. Do we all agree? Well unanimously approved.

### **Inline Hockey – Ice Hockey Federation**

**MAROTTA:** Let's talk about the problem of inline hockey and ice hockey. Despite all the promises and meetings with René Fasel, the Federation goes on in organizing its own World championship and in promoting in its website that the Ice Federation is the governing body also of Inline Hockey. In May in Dubai Gilbert and Valerie attended the meeting we had with Fasel who seemed available to us, less willing his collaborators, who have made a series of observations and difficulties to remove that statement from their website. We have to decide if we want to take legal action or not.

**PORTIER:** It is clear that it is a difficult battle against a Federation, that has 12,000 members, but I'm interested in the opinion of all the members of this Committee.

**STRUCKSBERG:** My opinion is very clear, and I think we have to fight and I think that this battle will be much easier than that for skateboarding.

**LEFTWICH:** I think we should have to write to the IOC to determine which line to follow, to remove that statement from their website

**MAROTTA:** I do not agree in involving the IOC because we must not create a problem within the IOC. I was there 12 years ago with Isidro, Fasel and Samaranch, who said that we had to find an agreement and a solution and Fasel agreed, and after 12 years we are in the same situation.

**ARACU:** The Ice Federation is a power that can break us in pieces, we must have patience and try to make them again clear our need doing another meeting. They also have a problem: they would be prepared to recognize that Inline Hockey belongs to FIRS, however, they need to play with us, and then say either we play together or we play on our own. I do not think it is a problem for us even if ice athletes do inline hockey, if we could have a single World Championship highly spectacular organized by us. Under the umbrella of FIRS there should be a single Technical Committee with two representatives of us and two of them interacting. We are willing to deal on this line. I believe that we have only to gain. Countries affiliated with FIRS will vote the President of the International Committee of inline hockey. I believe that if we carry on this fight well, we can reach a fast result. Otherwise it does not come out.

**PORTIER:** The problem is not for FIRS, but for CIRIHL: twenty years ago I was on the ice Committee and I would not find myself again there in five years. The solution I have in mind is to fight, but you, Mr. President, do not agree, probably you are right, we'll see

**STRUCKSBERG:** The only interest is money and I can see it in Germany too. In Germany we have no chance to make a deal with ice

**PORTIER:** The same thing happens in the Czech Republic and in the USA

**ARACU:** I think we can persuade them to be a Federation under the same umbrella, ours, and that they can have their satisfaction in organizing with us the championships with two representatives in the Technical Committee. We can not pretend to throw them all out.

**VALERIE:** What answer do we give to our Committee? We do not want to fight against the Ice Federation? They wonder why FIRS wants that.

**ARACU:** If the problem is to keep the position to those of the Committee, then the problem is different. For me the real problem is to do great the inline hockey in the World controlled by FIRS. The proposal that we made to Fasel is this: we make the World championships with this name you do the same thing but you should not call them World Championships. Fasel said ok, but we will do a World championship that does not exist and they would organize a top level World event. But who comes out defeated? What kind of solutions have you found? The solutions must be found together, we should say to the Committee that two from ice enter, but in this way two other persons are out. If you think we have to go to war, as your President I am close to you, but I must say that I disagree, because it is a lost war.

**PORTIER:** Why can not IOC decide that we are the umbrella for the inline hockey?

**ARACU:** The IOC has told us in every way that it does not want to get in, but even if it says that the World Championships can be organized only by us, they will do events and tournaments such as training for ice and will promote the ice. How can we prevent it?

**MAROTTA:** Do not forget that Fasel has a very important role in the IOC board.

**PORTIER:** Yes, but do not forget that Fasel has also problems with the board of the IOC. It seems to me that this is a problem that affects only me and Valerie.

**ARACU:** This is not right, we are here to decide together.

**CLARO:** I do not agree with Portier, because we are all interested, but I must also say that the World of inline hockey is very difficult and I want to highlight two situations. In Portugal we do not have the inline hockey because teams and athletes do not want to enter the Portuguese Federation. They want to go to a World championship as if they were going to make a trip with friends and as long as they do not follow the rules, they will not compete at any level, because both the Portuguese Olympic Committee and the governing body have witnessed all this. We can not let go, we have to follow statutes and regulations. I can tell you that for the CC of CERS I invited all Presidents and vice-Presidents of Technical Committees, I had in charge the logistics for all, including the President of the Inline hockey, but up today no one has made a phone call or an email. I agree not to take an attitude or a decision that could damage our sport and thus it involves also Germany, I ask Harro to speak, to normalize this situation. I think this question interests every member of this Committee.

**MAROTTA:** May I ask the opinion of Jim and Carlos Orlando?

**POLLARD:** We all know that this is not a new issue The U.S. Olympic Committee is reorganizing the executive Committee within the Committee itself and the ice hockey will have a place in this Committee, but I think that you should speak with the IOC, they must respect you and it is right for them to be involved, although it is clear that they would prefer to remain outside. I would try again to do something. We have nothing to lose. Technically they have no role in Roller sports and everyone knows it, but the problem is money. They pay athletes and teams to go to their championships. Go and ask for help, do not miss this opportunity.

**FERREIRA:** This is a very difficult issue for us, I think the only solution is to try to keep the most nations close to us. I believe that as Pan-American Confederation we can give a good help, if at the next Games in Toronto we may have the participation of inline hockey, because it would be protected by the Olympic Committee.

**PORTIER:** I would like to know from the EB who wants to go on fighting and who not

**ARACU:** Gilbert , I remind you that in the meeting with Fasel it was accepted a proposal made by you: we make the World championships and you an international cup/event. Are we able to do the World championships? If we can ok, but I am afraid not. I would first try to find a solution and if it is not accepted we will make the war to the bitter end. Gilbert, if you think we should go to the IOC, without speaking with Fasel ok, but it is an improper behaviour, because in the last meeting with Fasel we took a decision.

**PORTIER:** I would like the Committee's opinion: if you do not want to go to the IOC , I will accept it, but otherwise you must accept it.

**ARACU:** Let's try at least ask Fasel if he gives us full recognition, and then we go to the IOC, but I believe that an attempt needs to be done.

**LEFTWICH:** I think the problem is not to have few nations at the World Championships, but that Fasel has said he can not remove that statement because belonging to their statute, and this is absolutely false and we can prove that he lied. What we want is only that this statement be removed, nothing more. We have done some good championships and the Ice Federation is perfectly aware of this

**PORTIER:** Just ask the IOC if it is normal to have two championships of Inline hockey

**ARACU:** We will send a letter saying to remove this statement because they can not have it and in copy to the IOC, but without saying then do whatever you want. To make a final attempt with Fasel allows us then to take tough positions

**PORTIER:** This could be the first step, but you have sent many letters to Fasel, did you get answers?

**ARACU:** These were letters before the meeting. After the meeting we have not done more letters. We decide today whether to send him a letter and ask for an appointment.

**PORTIER:** Ok.

### **Balance and budget**

**MAROTTA:** We must now examine the item concerning the budget. All cards are in the folder

**MUNOZ:** Report on income and expenses of the central Committee and financial reports of the Technical Committees for the year 2009 (*see the budget*)

*It is pointed out the invaluable contribution made by FIHP, the current sponsors and television rights; the economic contribution given by the IOC, higher than in the previous year. The increased expense, that must to be considered extraordinary, was the organization of the Elective Congress in February. All Technical Committees close in positive, pending only the payment of the television rights to CIRH of 48,000 €. These calculations were made on the exchange dollar / euro at the time. Following discussion on some budget items and on the approach to be followed regarding the payment of fees by the Federations, payment that is high only during the Congress. Therefore the decision to send a letter that says that anyone who does not pay, loses the membership.*

### **Catalonia**

**POLLARD:** As you know by 2008 the South American Confederation recognizes Catalonia as a member of the South American Confederation. This year, when I went to the South American championships, they were the only ones who waved the flag of Catalonia during the awards ceremony and the opening and closing ceremony. I have warned repeatedly that Catalonia can

not compete as a national Federation. This time I told that to the next South American Championship to be held in Ecuador Catalonia can not participate and the same thing was said by the Ecuadorian Olympic Committee. We therefore hope that they give it up! The biggest problem is that the Spanish Federation did not put a stop to all this and there were protests from two Olympic Committees during the Pan American Games. So FIRS must take a position as Sabatino has repeatedly said. Here are my reports on the behavior of Catalonia. And even in this World championship in the specialty "show groups", I was asked to present a group with the name of the club and I have repeated that this is a championship for nations, but despite this at the award ceremony they came in the uniform of their club with Catalonia written on the back and not with the uniform of the Spanish national team. I'm looking forward to go to the Olympic Committee as regards the opening and closing ceremonies and the same for the Pan American Games and World Games. It is clearly written in my report that the only uniform that can be worn is that of the belonging nation. I have written in the last point that FIRS will remove from the championships the nations, that do not respect this rule. Please comply with this directive

**MAROTTA:** We must vote only in favour of this document, or do you propose to penalize the team that attended the awards ceremony with a club uniform and not with that of the nation?

**POLLARD:** We never had a written rule about it and I think there should be a regulation; I repeat, when I went to the meeting of the World Games, the same problem came out and it was sanctioned that there should be no other colours than those in national awards ceremony

**STRUCKSBERG:** Catalonia has created enormous problems in my discipline and I sent a letter to the Spanish Federation and in copy to all of you dated May 12, 2010. Hockey Players of Catalonia do not feel part of the Spanish Federation and therefore they were excluded from the World Championships. We have no written rule that forbids them to participate in any kind of competition for nations. We are not able to find a solution to an internal problem of Spain, that both the Government of Catalonia and the Spanish one do not want to face.

**MAROTTA:** We need to decide what to do as FIRS in an incident like the one described by Jim and the decision can only be a disqualification of the athletes who have behaved in that way, because the attendance at the Figure World Championship was made by the Spanish Federation. If in the future episodes of this kind will be repeated, each Committee will proceed to the disqualification of the athletes. Then the Spanish Federation will decide the kind of measure to take against the disqualified athletes. This is their problem. We must adopt this rule

**FERREIRA:** It is clear that during the award ceremony, the athlete must wear the uniform of his country. But you can not keep an athlete in the stands or somewhere else from wearing what he wants.

**MAROTTA:** Let us vote so what is proposed. Approved unanimously.

### Miscellaneous

**POLLARD:** We address quickly the problem of Puerto Rico. What you have in the folder is just the latest correspondence received. About two months ago, I received a call from Puerto Rico: the President Tomassini had problems within the organization and this is the fourth time in four years that there are problems with the Federations in Puerto Rico. Tomassini had a great success for what he did for the Caribbean Games. There are board members who decided to take up the place of the President and this has created conflicts. I know that also the Olympic Committee was involved and Tomassini has asked me to go to Puerto Rico to resolve the problem. The President of the Olympic Committee believes that FIRS has to decide how to resolve the problem: initially they said the Federation must remain so for the next two years up to the elections, but these four board members of the Federation do not want to wait. After this meeting with Tomassini and the

President of the Olympic Committee, it is clear that these board members do not understand anything about Roller Sports. I propose FIRS to have a meeting with the Federation for the solution of this problem and in any case to wait two years before any change. The President of the Olympic Committee says they will do what FIRS will decide. I told them that also the President of the Pan American Confederation is available to resolve this problem. I think the Caribbean members of the Pan-American Confederation recognize all Tomassini as President. I ask therefore the President and the Secretary General what they are going to do.

**MAROTTA:** It is very simple. Which sport activity was done?

**POLLARD :** Speed and artistic carried out by the Federation of Tomassini

**MAROTTA:** The other organization has athletes?

**POLLARD:** No

**FERREIRA:** I assured Tomassini my support as Pan-American Confederation, but it is also right that he feels protected by FIRS

**MAROTTA:** The central Committee must ratify the decision taken by the Pan American Confederation, which recognized the work carried out by Tomassini. Do we agree in approving this decision? Vote. Approved unanimously

Carlos Orlando today informs us about the new statute of the Pan-American and the acts of approval of the new statute, which was approved July 18 2008 and asks us to be written on the web site of FIRS. FIRS has the duty to ensure that the statutes of the Confederations comply with the statute of FIRS and this had to be done in 2008, but I do not remember to have never seen it. It 's the first time I see it and I think that, like all for all other statutes, we take note of this.

**FERREIRA:** Exactly. Inside there is a commentary which will be discussed in the meeting of the EB next year.

**ARACU:** I remind you that we are together for 12 hours, I take this opportunity to thank again Alessandra and Cecilia for the work they have done, I think we did, perhaps for the first time, a really hard and deep meeting as we have dealt with very strong themes. I thank you all and see you tomorrow for the congress.



Sabatino Aracu  
PRESIDENT



Roberto Marotta  
SECRETARY GENERAL