

**FIRS General Ordinary Congress  
Nanjing (China) March 11, 2017  
10h00  
Hotel “Hilton Riverside”**

**National Federations attending:**

- |                    |  |               |
|--------------------|--|---------------|
| 1. Argentina       | 26. India  | 52. Tanzania  |
| 2. Australia       | 27. Indonesia                                      | 53. Thailand  |
| 3. Benin           | 28. Italy  | 54. Uruguay   |
| 4. Brazil          | 29. Ivory Coast                                    | 55. USA       |
| 5. Cameroon        | 30. Japan  | 56. Venezuela |
| 6. Canada (ILH)    | 31. Korea  |               |
| 7. Chile           | 32. Latvia Skateb. ( <i>with no voting right</i> ) |               |
| 8. China           | 33. Macau  |               |
| 9. Chinese Taipei  | 34. Malaysia                                       |               |
| 10. Colombia       | 35. Mexico   |               |
| 11. Congo          | 36. Mozambique                                     |               |
| 12. Croatia        | 37. New Zealand                                    |               |
| 13. Cuba           | 38. Pakistan                                       |               |
| 14. Czech Rep.     | 39. Panama   |               |
| 15. Denmark        | 40. Paraguay                                       |               |
| 16. Dominican Rep. | 41. Poland   |               |
| 17. Ecuador        | 42. Portugal                                       |               |
| 18. Egypt          | 43. Puerto Rico                                    |               |
| 19. El Salvador    | 44. Russia   |               |
| 20. France         | 45. San Marino                                     |               |
| 21. Gabon          | 46. Senegal ( <i>with no voting right</i> )        |               |
| 22. Germany        | 47. Singapore                                      |               |
| 23. Great Britain  | 48. Slovakia                                       |               |
| 24. Guatemala      | 49. Slovenia                                       |               |
| 25. Hong Kong      | 50. Spain  |               |
|                    | 51. South Africa(Art.Speed))                       |               |

**FIRS Executive Board Members attending the 2015 FIRS Congress:**

Sabatino Aracu - President  
Armando Quintanilla Cerpa - First Vice President  
Patricia Wallace - Vice President Oceania Confederation  
Alberto Herrera Ayala – Vice President Pan American Confederation  
Guoyong Liu - Vice President Asian Confederation  
Nathanaël Koty – Vice President African Confederation  
Fernando Claro – Vice President European Confederation  
Harro Strucksberg - Rink Hockey Chairman

Jorge Roldán – Speed Chairman  
Olivier Pascal - Inline Aggressive Chairman  
Sigi Ziestler - Roller Alpine and Downhill Chairman  
Carmelo Paniagua - Protocol Manager  
Roberto Marotta - Secretary General  
Laura Morandi – Vice Secretary General

#### **FIRS Staff**

1. Caterina Noto - FIRS Staff
2. Alessandra Lunadei - FIRS Staff
3. Lina Maria Lizcano - FIRS Staff
4. Francesco Zangarini – FIRS Sport Director

#### **Barcelona Delegation**

1. Isidre Ligau
2. Albert Cucarella
3. Xavier Moyano

#### **Skateboarding Commission**

1. Gary Ream
2. Josh Friedberg
3. Simone Masserini
4. Neil Hendrix

#### **VIP's**

1. Ching-Kuo WU– IOC EB Member
2. Kit Macconnell – IOC Sports Director
3. Jenny Mann - IOC Head of Sport Partnerships & Coordination

The Congress opens at 10.00 a.m.

FIRS President, Mr. Sabatino Aracu, greets the distinguished authorities attending the meeting: Mr. Ching-Kuo Wu, IOC Executive Board member from China; Mr. Kit McConnell, IOC Sports Director; Mrs. Jenny Mann, IOC Head of Sport Partnerships and Coordination; Mr. Guoyong Liu, President of the Asian Confederation, the delegation of Nanjing 2017 Roller Games headed by Mr. Cheng Weihong (Mark), the delegation of 2019 Roller Games, and the Executive Board of FIRS, with its Vice-Presidents, including the newly elected President of ACRS Mr. Nathanaël Koty, and some Chairmen of Technical Committees. Mr. Sabatino Aracu also greets the Tokyo 2020 Skateboarding Commission and its Chairman, Mr. Gary Ream. All the delegates from National Federations representing the 5 Continents are also warmly welcomed to the first Congress of Olympic FIRS.

The President thanks the City of Nanjing for hosting and making this Congress possible. FIRS appears for the first time as an Olympic Federation; even in the past, however, it has always been considered as a virtuous Federation, particularly as regards the anti-doping activities, for which Mrs. Patricia Wallace, the Director of FIRS Anti-Doping Commission, is particularly thanked.

President Aracu highlights how FIRS is a multisport Federation that allows to organize multisport events, and in which all disciplines are used to coexist in a framework of total autonomy. He wishes that this may also be the case for skateboarding. All disciplines, in fact, share a single and great passion: the “wheels”.

Skateboarding was presented in Tokyo as a young discipline, and all Federations shall allow the youth to develop a deep passion for this sport in their Countries. Nanjing believed in this project. The City Council established the Roller Sports Division in the Olympic Museum, and after organizing the Youth Olympic Games decided to host the Roller Games, the world's first multidisciplinary event of FIRS. This is a global product that involves young people.

President Aracu recalls that FIRS moved its headquarters to Lausanne in order to be closer to the IOC, with which it is forging closer and closer bonds.

President Aracu closes his introductory remarks and gives the floor to Mr. Ching - Kuo Wu.

Mr. Wu, after greeting all participants, is pleased to acknowledge the efforts made by FIRS over the last few years, as well as the hard work carried out to convince the IOC to include Roller Sports in the Olympic Games; skateboarding, in fact, was included in the Agenda of Tokyo 2020.

FIRS therefore succeeded in proving the IOC that it did it: the Executive Committee of Tokyo 2020 approved the participation of FIRS. Mr. Wu, in his capacity as IOC member, welcomes this sport.

During the Youth Olympic Games, particular attention was paid to the success obtained by FIRS with the media, and the IOC understood that FIRS was ready to join the Olympic family. The Executive Board will meet in Korea, and Mr. Kit McConnell will report on this Congress.

Mr. Wu also focuses on the great importance of Roller Sports being present in the Olympic Museum of Nanjing, which he visited and where he admired – besides all the objects exhibited – a picture of Mr. Samaranch who truly loved Roller Sports and, in his youth, played Rink Hockey. He would certainly be happy to see that FIRS is finally Olympic.

Mr. Wu closes his speech by wishing great success to the Congress of FIRS.

President Aracu gives the floor to Kit McConnell

Mr. Kit McConnell expresses his gladness for being back to Nanjing after the Youth Olympics; he thanks the hosts, particularly Mr. Cheng Weihong (Mark), and the Chinese Olympic Committee, and underscores the importance of having Mr. Ching-Kuo Wu on this occasion.

The IOC is a great family, and this Congress also provides the opportunity to meet the delegates from different Federations and have an in-depth understanding of the world of Roller Sports. In thanking President Aracu, Mr. McConnell acknowledges his merit for achieving the Olympic objective through the outstanding activity carried out jointly.

At this point, reference is made to the partnership with the delegates of the Skateboarding Commission; this partnership needs to be strengthened, and Mr. Gary Ream is deeply thanked for his efforts to increase such collaboration. Thinking about Tokyo 2020, it is necessary to take into consideration the opportunities that have to be seized to be on the podium of the Olympic Games, as well as to involve the different communities, and show the special features of this world. Several multidisciplinary sports participate in the Olympics, and differences must be appreciated, safeguarded and celebrated.

It is the first time that a LOC in Tokyo had the chance to submit this proposal, which was unanimously approved; this opportunity entails any efforts to allow skateboarding to grow and develop by 2020. When talking about Olympic Games, reference is also made to the philosophy of the Games: sport is not just medals; a lot of work will be done to include new sports in the Olympic arena through partnerships at all levels, and with a great respect for all. This creates a great involvement among the youth communities of the world. Partnership is important starting from top levels, and with respect for everybody. In 1977 FIRS obtained the IOC recognition, and now it is an Olympic Federation: this means difficult challenges to be faced. The IOC will also analyze the proposal to include Roller Sports in the Youth Olympic Games that will be held Buenos Aires, with the goal to allow speed skating to be duly emphasized.

Mr. McConnell subsequently talks about the Tokyo competitions: there will be 4 events, involving 80 athletes in total, 40 women and 40 men. It is necessary to try and have the best skaters in the world, and allow skateboarding to stand out for its coolness. The partnership between FIRS and ISF is an outstanding innovation, and the reason for it must be acknowledged: the experience of ISF in competitions has to be used, and sustainable models of skateboarding and sports all over the world must be developed. So far the communities reacted wonderfully, and this trend must continue.

Partnerships between an IOC-recognized International Federation and another association are also established in other sports: gymnastics, sailing, basketball etc.... It is not unusual; rather, it is an approach that recognizes the differences between two sports organizations, and therefore the Skateboarding Commission will focus on the best chances in Tokyo, and each one will have the opportunity to showcase the best athletes. In order to do so, the skills and knowledge of ISF will be used, although FIRS shall be in charge of the institutional aspects of the Olympic Games.

Mr. McConnell thanks President Aracu for the sustainable models developed, and thanks each delegate, giving everyone the opportunity to meet both Mrs. Jenny Mann and himself during the evening, in order to share information about the situation in the relevant countries, as well as the difficulties that can sometimes be encountered with the National Olympic Committees.

At this point Mr. Kit McConnell gives the floor to Mrs. Jenny Mann.

After thanking all participants, Mrs. Jenny Mann reminds the deadline for the recognition by NOCs to the Federations that are Member of FIRS for this discipline, with the subsequent allocation of funds: 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017.

Member Federations of FIRS shall provide outmost support to the skateboarding communities that are present in their Countries. All the representatives of Member Federations will be given the opportunity to talk about this aspect as well as about any other issues relating to skateboarding.

Each Federation shall establish, inside of its organization, a Technical Committee in charge of skateboarding, to which the funds paid by the IOC through the Olympic Solidarity Funding will be allocated.

Funds may also derive from TV rights, and shall be reinvested by NOCs in the development of the skateboarding activities of the different Federations.

Programs devoted to athletes, coaches, scholarships and funds to support refugee athletes shall be considered.

Mrs. Jenny Mann shows a slide with the names of contact persons to be reached for additional information, and says she is available to talk about this topic with anyone interested.

President Aracu gives the floor to Mr. Gary Ream, the President of the International Skateboarding Federation, underlining the importance of this partnership that must be considered as a value added, which completes and strengthens FIRS and all national Presidents.

Mr. Gary Ream thanks all participants, focusing on the long and complex process to approach the world of Roller Sports. Skateboarding is deeply different from the other disciplines; it has its own philosophy and is entirely managed by skateboarders.

Media events with large sponsorships are organized; there are athletes with multi-million dollar contracts, and this can be neither forgotten, nor destroyed. Tokyo shall be used to showcase skateboarding, and athletes in Tokyo will have the chance to sign millions-worth contracts. In this process leading to Tokyo 2020 it is necessary to be open-minded to understand skaters, as well as the fact that it's youth that leads this sport.

Having completed the speakers' contributions, the institutional part of the Congress begins.

The Secretary-General Roberto Marotta notifies the Assembly that 56 Countries are present, 54 of which with voting rights and 2 with no voting rights, representing 185 votes in total. Therefore, the legal number is formed.

Mr. Marotta proposes that Mr. Jorge Roldan, Mr. Danny Brown and Mr. Eddie Chua act as scrutinizers, as they are not delegates of their Federations, and tackles the items on the agenda.

## **1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF 2015 CONGRESS**

The minutes, previously sent to all Federations, are put to the vote.

The minutes are unanimously approved.

## **2. REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT**

Mr. Marotta gives to floor to President Sabatino Aracu.

In his report, Mr. Aracu recalls how, in 2013 Elective Congress, he promised he would entirely devote himself to FIRS and Roller Sports, and this is what he did, as he stepped back from his political and managerial life. In the last four years, some extraordinary targets were achieved, such as – first and foremost - the Olympic Games, the World University Games, the Asian Games and, soon, the European Games.

Mr. Aracu thanks once again the Mayor of Nanjing for the support provided to FIRS and for the signing of an agreement and a project after the Youth Olympic Games, which led to the setting up of several competitive clubs in China, and which allowed more than 200,000 kids to wear skates. In this regard, President Aracu thanks FIRS sponsors, Cougar and Powerslide, which extensively contributed to the success of these projects.

Nanjing also had the merit of establishing a division devoted to Roller Sports in the Olympic Museum. The legacy with the city will be represented by an annual marathon, and will certainly not end with 2017 Roller Games.

Mr. Aracu underlines once again the “coach ambassador” project, based on which coaches will be trained and go as managers to the Countries that need them in order to establish Federations.

This year is characterized by the great event of Roller Games, launched 4 years ago with the presentation in Rome of the candidate cities of Barcelona and Lima, made by the Presidents of the relevant Olympic Committees. Very few Federations can be proud of encompassing 9/10 sports and organize alone such a multisport event. The beginning will not be easy, but Nanjing is certainly going to be a success, and Barcelona even more, as it will be able to borrow the positive experiences of Nanjing and learn from the negative ones in order to improve. And in 2021 the Roller Games will be held in South America.

The Roller Games will give FIRS the opportunity to negotiate with the governments of the Countries in which Roller Sports are not very strong, such as Africa, which in this way will have the great opportunity to develop our disciplines.

FIRS must be brave and succeed in renewing itself and improve in all areas. It is not possible that in a four-year period no workshops take place to debate on the disciplines: last year a successful symposium for Rink Hockey was organized, but the new Technical Committees shall be inspired by such event and organize workshops for all the different disciplines.

A Sports Director was included in the staff of FIRS; he is a former skater that coordinates the different activities by trying to solve the problems and criticalities of all the disciplines.

Mr. Aracu says that, according to the Statutes, he drafted the list of Chairmen that will be part of his team. Their names are the following:

- Nicola Genchi
- Alberto Lastrucci
- Carmelo Paniagua
- Jorge Roldan
- Idroose Tambarin
- Olivier Pascal
- Fernando Regueiro
- Sigfried Zistler
- Eddie Chua

Mr. Aracu also thanks Mr. Harro Strucksberg and Mrs. Margaret Brooks for their work in the previous years.

Mr. Olivier Pascal moves from Roller Freestyle to Skateboarding, as he is an expert in both disciplines. Roller Freestyle goes to the experienced Malaysian Mr. Idroose Tambarin, who is wished all the best for his work.

Mr. Aracu recalls that inside Technical Committees there shall be experts in every sector, and that none of the members of Technical Committees shall be allowed any longer to act at the same time as judges, like it happened in artistic skating.

There are people that would like to have the Chairmen of Technical Committees elected by the relevant Assemblies, as it happened in the past; this would however take FIRS back in time, and several small Federations would be reestablished.

Mr. Aracu recalls that the headquarters of FIRS are established in Lausanne, within the Maison du Sport; this allows being close to the IOC, but the offices in Rome are still operational.

FIRS is a large Federation, which however employs a limited amount of staff; Mr. Aracu seizes this opportunity to thank all the employees and the external collaborators that work for FIRS, hoping to increase the number of staff in the future.

After thanking once again all the participants in the Congress, the President ends his report.

### **3. ELECTION OF FIRS PRESIDENT**

The Secretary-General Roberto Marotta states he only received the candidacy of Mr. Sabatino Aracu to the Presidency of FIRS, jointly with the letters of support as provided for by the Statutes (Art. 18). It is therefore possible to proceed to the election.

Since there are no other candidates, Spain proposes to elect Sabatino Aracu by acclamation. This motion is seconded by Argentina.

As no one raises any objections, Mr. Sabatino Aracu is elected by acclamation President of FIRS for the four-year term 2017-2020.

### **4. ELECTION OF THE FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT**

The Secretary-General Mr. Roberto Marotta notifies the assembly that he received two candidacies within the deadline set by the Statutes: the President of the Brazilian Federation, Mr. Moacyr Junior Neuenschwander, and the Argentinian Undersecretary for Sport Mr. Ricardo Grin. He gives the floor to both candidates.

Mr. Moacyr Junior Neuenschwander notifies his personal information, his profession, and the decision made by the Pan-American Confederation on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016 to propose him as a candidate to the Vice-Presidency of FIRS. For 12 years has been the President of the Brazilian Federation of Roller Sports that includes all the disciplines of FIRS.

He listened to the future Olympic prospects with great interest, and has a close-up knowledge of a series of situations caused – in his opinion – by a management that is not in line with the real needs of athletes and their Federations. Many of them, in fact, are not receiving any financial support from governmental bodies and Olympic Committees; often athletes would like to participate in international events and World Championships that require the payment of a fee, but they have economic problems and therefore have to give up the idea of entering competitions. A stronger support by FIRS would therefore be necessary.

He also states that Technical Committees should be the only ones entitled to manage the budget of their disciplines, as they are aware of their real needs. Mr. Moacyr states he knows very well the situation from the inside, and therefore knows what real needs are.

He would like therefore to change direction, by always however supporting President Aracu who is a dear friend and that he holds in high esteem for the great things he is doing for FIRS.

In the end, he asks to be elected in order to represent the needs of all the Federations that still do not have a say, and to introduce the necessary changes.

Mr. Marotta gives the floor to Mr. Ricardo Grin.

Mr. Riccardo Grin thanks and greets all participants, and expresses his great passion for Roller Sports to which he devoted most of his life, and for this reason he feels a great responsibility towards this world. He underlines his love for Speed Skating, and that he has been part of the Speed Technical Committee for many years. Mr. Grin reminds the audience that in 2018 the Youth Olympics will be held in Buenos Aires, with a marathon that will likely see the participation of over 20,000 people; Skateboarding will be part of the competition, and Mr. Grin hopes that Speed Skating may be part of the program as well. As Director of CeNard, the National Centre of High Performance Athletics of Argentina, he is working extensively for this project together with the Director of the Games and the Argentinian Minister for Sport. Mr. Grin closes his speech stating that he is 100% in line with the policy of FIRS and its President, and hopes that a single pathway to cover will be found through joint work.

Secretary-General Marotta opens the voting procedure, which ends with the following result:

- Moacyr Junior Neuenschwander: 69 votes
- Ricardo Grin: 116 votes

Mr. Marotta declares Ricardo Grin elected as First Vice-President of FIRS.

## **5. AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES**

The Secretary General Roberto Marotta informs the Assembly that 3 proposed amendments to the Statutes were sent to the headquarters of FIRS: 2 by the Executive Board and 1 by the German Federation, seconded by four additional Federations, in compliance with the provisions of the Statutes (Art. 20.2)



The first proposal, submitted by the Executive Board, concerns the definition of Acronyms for the names of Technical Committees, therefore amending art. 7 (a formal reading of the article is made), and consequently art. 21.

The President of the German Federation, Mr. Harro Strucksberg, asks for the floor, and declares himself against this proposal, stating that Technical Committees should be legalized by at least 10 Federations performing the relevant discipline.

The proposal is put to the vote

Votes in favor: 157

Votes against: 7

Abstentions: 21

The motion is approved

The second proposal submitted by the Executive Board of FIRS concerns art. 22: Financial Year-Auditor

Mr. Marotta explains that such amendment, proposed by the Executive Board, and relating to the selection of an auditing firm or an auditor, and providing for the setting of 180 days as the deadline within which the balance sheets have to be submitted, is necessary to allow our statutes to comply with the Swiss Law, having considered that our Federation has its registered office in Switzerland. The Auditor shall therefore have 180 days at one's disposal to approve the Financial Statements.

President Aracu underlines the importance of such amendment.

The President of the German Federation, Mr. Harro Strucksberg, asks for the floor, and proposes to delete from the amendment the wording "to the appointed auditor"; this proposal is not seconded, therefore it cannot be taken into consideration.

The proposal is put to the vote

The proposal is unanimously approved

The third proposal is submitted by the German Federation and concerns Art. 21, International Technical Committee, and in particular paragraph 3 on the appointment of Chairmen.

This proposal, seconded by United Kingdom, Uruguay, Brazil and Switzerland, provides for Chairmen to be elected by the relevant Assembly instead of being directly appointed by the President of FIRS.

President Aracu asks for the floor and expresses his puzzlement about this proposal. He explains that in the past, during the meetings of the different Technical Committees, the Chairman was elected most of the times by the coaches or the judges that were attending World Championships, and not by the Presidents of Federations, as it had to be the case. Making a step back to the past would mean disaggregation, whereas – in order to be strong – we proved that centralization is needed. The President of FIRS must take on oneself the highest possible number of responsibilities, so that if anything goes wrong he can be directly liable to the Federations.

The proposal is put to the vote:

Votes in favor: 31

Votes against: 140

Abstentions: 14

The motion is rejected.

## **6. REPORT BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL**

The Secretary-General Roberto Marotta makes his report on the activity of FIRS as from 2015: all the disciplines participated in World Championships, exception made for Skateboarding and Roller Freestyle. Nearly 3,000 athletes and 82 countries were involved.

The Secretariat of FIRS, with its 8 employees, was committed in the management of both said disciplines and the Olympic project.

The IOC recognized that FIRS is the governing body of all roller sports, and therefore it will manage the participation in Tokyo 2020 with the discipline of Skateboarding.

On 4<sup>th</sup> December 2016, in the presence of 15 African Countries, the mandate of the Secretary General as Commissioner of the African Continent came to an end. Mr. Nathanaël Koty became Vice-President of FIRS in representation of the African Continent, and full member of the Executive Board.

To date FIRS has 108 affiliated Federations. Today the Congress will ratify the affiliation of additional 5 Federations that applied for membership: Afghanistan, Belorussia Skateboarding, Norway Skateboarding, Togo and Armenia.

The financial situation of FIRS is good, mainly thanks to the payment of the Roller Games 2017 fee paid by China, and the down payment for Barcelona 2019 paid by Spain.

As from 2017, FIRS opened its office in Lausanne, and employed Mr. Rohit Ramesh. Every activity of FIRS is now Olympic, therefore under the direct control of the IOC. Therefore it is extremely important to have the athletes' representative in the Executive Board, as well as anti-doping tests. At the end of his report, Mr. Marotta thanks the members of the Secretariat for their work.

## **7. PRESENTATION OF FIRS ACCOUNTS AND AUDITOR'S REPORT**

The Secretary General reads the Balance Sheet of 2015 as well as the auditor's report included in the folder handed out to the delegates.

The Balance Sheet of 2015 is unanimously approved.

## **8. RATIFICATION OF THE BUDGET APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

The budget for 2017 is markedly higher than the ones for 2015 and 2016. Revenue increased thanks to the payment of 900,000 USD by Nanjing, for a total of 1,513,840.35 USD. Consequently, FIRS drafted a budget that includes the expenses for the promotion and development of Roller Sports and

the financing to the activities of Technical Committees, the expenses for Roller Games 2017, and the expenses for the Olympic project, totally amounting to \$ 1,605,340.35, with a surplus of 48,500 USD. The budget was already approved by the Executive Board, and is put to the vote of the Congress for ratification.

The budget is unanimously approved

The Secretary-General points out that the budget ratification by the auditor is no longer necessary following the amendment to the Statutes, under art. 22.

## **9. RATIFICATION OF NEW FEDERATIONS**

The Secretary-General, having verified that all applicant Federations submitted the documents requested by FIRS for affiliation purposes, proceeds to the vote, with the following result:

AFGHANISTAN: unanimously approved, with the abstention of Tanzania.

ARMENIA: unanimously approved, with the abstention of Tanzania.

BELORUSSIA SKATEBOARDING : unanimously approved.

NORWEY SKATEBOARDING : unanimously approved.

TOGO: unanimously approved

## **10. ANTI-DOPING**

The Secretary-General gives the floor to Dr. Patricia Wallace, in charge of the Anti-Doping Commission.

Mrs. Patricia Wallace hopes that communication between herself and the Federations may improve in order to increasingly spread the culture of anti-doping. In referring to the substances and medicines that athletes must declare through a duly signed form, she reminds that an on-line database exists, ADAMS and WADA, containing any necessary information about anti-doping rules. Extensive documentation and training courses in different languages are available on-line.

Any information is sent to Federations, which in turn shall send it to athletes. Having considered that this might not be enough, an e-mail can be sent, and a list of prohibited substances and medicines will be provided. Mrs. Wallace reminds that whenever athletes are selected, they need to notify all the substances they take, including supplements. Athletes must also state their diseases in case of pathologies treated with prohibited substances; in such case, their intake is subject to approval.

In case of competitions other than World Championships, a dossier with the medicines taken by athletes must be collected. Such drugs are checked in order to identify any eventual alternative permitted substances; a thorough medical-history of athletes is necessary, especially in case of CT scans, MRIs, etc... Such approach is needed to assess that their wellbeing depends on a medicine that has no alternatives whatsoever. For instance, asthma can be treated by three medicines permitted by

WADA; therefore, medical statements made after competitions that justify the intake of prohibited substances cannot be accepted.

Attention must also be paid to the promotion of medicines by manufacturers, as many of them cannot be used by athletes. Many athletes take supplements, thinking that they can improve their performances, without however considering the risks they may run, and the fact that possible alternatives can be prescribed by nutritionists.

Mrs. Wallace also recalls that athletes can be tested at any time, and that the consequences of doping are highly detrimental for athletes but also for the reputation of FIRS, which runs the risk to lose public subsidies and sponsorships.

#### **11. AWARDING OF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018**

President Aracu takes the floor to notify the awarding of World Championships 2018 for the disciplines of speed, artistic, freestyle and inline hockey.

As regards the Speed Skating World Championships, the application by the Dutch Federation was received within the deadline set by the bidding, equipped with the documents requested; the application by the Colombian Federation, conversely, was received beyond the time limit set, and without the necessary documentation.

The Speed Skating World Championship 2018 is therefore awarded to the Dutch Federation (KNSB); as no other applications were received, the Dutch Federation is also awarded the Freestyle World Championship.

As regards the Artistic World Championship, two applications were received: one by the French Federation, equipped with all the documents requested by the bidding, and one by the Peruvian Federation, which is however lacking such documentation.

The Artistic Skating World Championship 2018 is therefore awarded to France.

As regards the discipline of Inline Hockey, Iran sent its application and asked for a time extension for the sending of documents; the Inline Hockey World Championship may not be awarded for the time being, and FIRS looks forward to receiving finalization of the application by the Iranian Federation.

#### **12. PRESENTATION OF ROLLER GAMES "BARCELONA 2019"**

The Secretary General Roberto Marotta gives the floor to Mr. Isidre Rigau for the presentation of the 2019 edition of Roller Games.

Mr. Rigau, in apologizing for the absence of Mr. Ramon Basiana, illustrates the timeline of the 2019 Roller Games in Barcelona: awarded in 2015, the project foundations laid in 2016, the borrowing of Nanjing 2017 know-how, the activities scheduled for 2018. Mr. Carmelo Paniagua was appointed as President of the LOC, and Mr. Ramon Basiana as President of the Executive Committee.

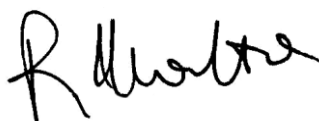
The floor then goes to Mr. Nathanaël Koty, President of the African Confederation, who intends to present the Roller Sports activities in Africa for the next 6 months. The guidelines will be drafted to monitor the revival of roller sports. He thanks FIRS for its support, and the Secretary General who attended the Congress of 4<sup>th</sup> December 2016 in Kotonou, Benin. Such Congress saw the participation of 15 African Countries, whose delegates elected Mr. Koty as President and Mr. Sameh Hager (Egypt) as Vice-President. Mr. Koty also thanks the Countries that did not participate in the Congress but that provided their contribution through actions aimed to the development of Roller Sports. Africa is working hard to participate in World Championships and to increase the number of Federations affiliated to FIRS.

President Aracu takes the floor to express his esteem and support to President Koty and to thank the former First Vice-President Mr. Armando Quintanilla.

President Aracu awards a prize that FIRS launched this year and that will be given to those who contribute to bring prestige to Roller Sports; the 2017 prize is awarded to Vesmaco, one of the partners of FIRS, in the person of Romano Cacciani who invented the material with which rinks are made (speed skating in particular) all over the world. The prize is presented to the Secretary-General of the Italian Roller Sports Federation, Mr. Angelo Iezzi.

In the end, President Aracu thanks once again all the participants in the first Congress of Olympic FIRS.

The Congress ends at 3:00 p.m.



Roberto Marotta  
Secretary-General



Sabatino Aracu  
President