

**2017 FIRS Executive Board Meeting - Conference Call**  
**Rome, 2<sup>nd</sup> May , 2017**  
**12h00 GMT**

**MINUTES**

The Executive Board met via “conference call” on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 at 14:00 in Rome at FIRS field office.

EB Members attending in Rome:

SABATINO ARACU- President  
ROBERTO MAROTTA- Secretary General (with no voting rights)  
LAURA MORANDI . Vice Secretary General (with no voting rights)  
NICOLA GENCHI – ATC Chairman

EB Members attending in “Call Conference”:

RICCARDO GRIN – FIRS First Vice President  
NATHANAËL KOTY – FIRS Vice President (ACRS)  
GUOYONG LIU – FIRS Vice President (CRSA)  
PATRICIA WALLACE- Firs Commissioner for Oceania and Antidoping Manager  
CARMELO PANIAGUA –RHTC Chairman (logs off at 2.30pm and resumes the connection at 3.00pm)  
OLIVIER PASCAL – STC Chairman  
ALBERTO LASTRUCCI – IHTC Chairman  
SIGFRIED ZISTLER – ADTC Chairman  
JORGE ROLDAN – STC Chairman  
FERNANDO REGUEIRO – RDTC Chairman

FIRS Staff attending in Rome

FRANCESCO ZANGARINI – Sports Director  
PIER PAOLO ROSSELLI - Marketing Director  
SERGIO SACRIPANTI - General Affairs  
CATERINA NOTO - General Affairs  
MARTINA AIELLO - General Affairs  
LINA MARIA LIZCANO - General Affairs  
ALESSANDRA LUNADEI - General Affairs

DORIS GENTILE – Interpreter

FIRS// Maison du Sport International  
Av. De Rhodanie, 54 // 1007 Lausanne – SWITZERLAND  
Phone +41 21 601 1877

[info@rollersports.org](mailto:info@rollersports.org) // [secretariat@rollersports.org](mailto:secretariat@rollersports.org)

[www.rollersports.org](http://www.rollersports.org)

The Secretary General Roberto Marotta, ascertained the attendances , declares that the quorum has been reached with 13 members on 19 and gives the floor to President Aracu.

Aracu thanks those present for the opportunity to speak for the first time with the new members of the EB and illustrates the reason for the urgent convocation.

There have been many developments in skateboarding since the Nanjing Congress: there have been many meetings and phone calls with the IOC and the ISF: the IOC, while recognizing the role of FIRS as the governing body of skateboarding, is to keep the relationship of collaboration with the ISF.

President Bach himself asked Aracu to have patience in order to arrive in 2020 without creating too much confusion and this will surely lead to great achievements. A great result is that FIRS has already achieved the inclusion of Speed in the YOGs of Buenos Aires and this demonstrates the readiness of the IOC towards the goals of the FIRS, that proposes to the Olympic Movement two disciplines of great appeal to the youth world. Just to be closer to the youth world and to make the name of the Federation a more appealing and modern brand, eliminating the acronyms, the IOC asks FIRS to change its name to a shorter one as it has already been done by the Rugby and the Sailing Federation, which could be eg. World Skate.

The IOC found interesting this name that joins part of skating and skateboarding and has pressed and is pressing in that direction because changing the name would make easier the agreement with the Americans. However, to formalize all this, it is necessary to go through the formal procedures that consist of convening a new EB meeting by mid-June, when the change of the name and not only shall have to be approved and of summoning an Extraordinary Congress that shall have to take place shortly. The Executive Board has therefore more than a month to reflect on these changes. Given that the Roller Games in Nanjing will see the presence of delegates from all over the world, the best date to convene the Congress could be September 3, 2017 in Nanjing.

The convocation for the Extraordinary Congress will be sent in the statutory terms.

Aracu asks if anyone wants to intervene.

Everyone agrees with the President's proposal.

MAROTTA adds that the IOC has demonstrated to support FIRS to become an Olympic Federation with two disciplines and will also help with other disciplines. The FIRS must therefore help the IOC and support it in its requests for skateboarding. Having confidence in the IOC will mean achieving satisfactory results.

ARACU resumes and emphasizes how the FIRS in its strategy must positively see the proposal of the IOC asking the FIRS to put the ISF inside. During the Sportaccord Convention in Denmark, the ISF decided to close its association and to enter the FIRS, that is, in the new " World Skate". This will involve the appointment of Gary Ream as Chairman of Skateboarding and in this regard Aracu is grateful to Olivier Pascal, who had been appointed to this role in Nanjing and who will now resume his former role as Roller Freestyle Chairman, for understanding the situation and accepting this change.

There are so many difficulties to come to an agreement with a world that is very different from FIRS, but if one can become a single Federation this will eliminate many problems and the skateboarding management in FIRS National Federations such as Brazil, Argentina, the USA or China will be much easier.

In reiterating that the next Executive Board will take place by the middle of June, Aracu also points out that another very important topic to be faced is that of the Continents because the IOC considers the FIRS and all the International Federations as top bodies that have to oversee every international event of Continental Confederations. In Firs this type of relationship and the dependence of the Continental Confederations from the Firs must be defined and understood.

To date only Oceania Africa and Asia have Statutes complying with that of the FIRS in which they feel integrated, but this shall have to happen also in the other Continents because this will give to the FIRS greater strength in compliance with the IOC's instructions.

Aracu remembers how during the Congress it was promised that FIRS would be organized in a corporate way and this is what is being done thanks to the Marketing Manager Pier Paolo Roselli, who is developing a product that will need to be approved by FIRS and spread in all Continents. FIRS hopes to be able to send an equal marketing plan around the world at no cost for the countries.

Aracu finally asks those present that, if there are proposals for statutory amendments, these will be sent by the middle of June before the next EB meeting.

A request that both President Aracu and Secretary General Roberto Marotta consider urgent is the ability to use English as the only official language in current communications, as this is the case in all the International Federations. Working in two languages overwhelms the secretariat excessively and getting through urgent practices slows down. Official documents will continue to be written in English and Spanish.

This proposal is put to vote and approved unanimously.

LASTRUCCI speaks for the French Federation, that asks for the use of the French language , being FIRS now Olympic, but MAROTTA replies that it is already difficult to be organized in the two most spoken languages in the world Spanish and English and therefore the hypothesis of French is not feasible and cannot be accepted by a small federation such as FIRS.

To avoid these problems, many Olympic Federations have adopted only English as the official language.

The proposal is put to the vote and accepted unanimously.

Finally, Aracu announces that the Skateboarding Commission will be temporarily bigger because Olympic and will be therefore formed by 8/10 people.

This proposal is accepted unanimously.

#### Athletes Commission:

The IOC asks FIRS for the presence in the Executive Board of an athlete coming from skateboarding as Olympic discipline. That name will be requested and included in the next Executive Board.

The proposal is accepted by unanimity.

#### Ratification of the nominations

The nomination of Roberto Marotta as Secretary General and Laura Morandi as Deputy Secretary-General is put to vote.

Approved unanimously

The floor is given to those present for any requests.

ZISTLER asks for two separate Committees for Downhill and Alpine.

GENCHI considers difficult to manage artistic skating often uncoordinated between the FIRS world level and the continental level. He therefore believes that it is necessary to clarify the regulations by drawing up, if necessary, a common document.

GRIN informs to know an important person who could be involved in skateboarding and Aracu says he will travel to Buenos Aires in late May for a meeting with the NOC. YOGs will be a very important event for FIRS;

There will also be a demonstration of the Roller Freestyle and a marathon with thousands of people and the discipline of Speed will be the most numerous in the YOG program with great return of image.

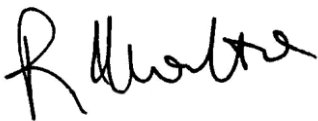
New affiliations

MAROTTA informs that four Federations require affiliation; all have submitted the required documents and Marotta therefore asks for approval of their affiliation pending ratification of the Congress.

- GREECE
- GEORGIA Skateboarding
- RUSSIA Skateboarding
- CAYMAN ISLANDS

The affiliation of all four Federations is unanimously approved.

As there are no other arguments to discuss, the meeting ends at 4.00 pm.



Roberto Marotta  
Secretary General



Sabatino Aracu  
President