



**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
NANJING 01/09/2017 - h.10:00
*Hotel Hilton Riverside***

MINUTES

WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT

President Aracu welcomes all the participants in the fourth Executive Board Meeting of the year. Before starting, President Aracu introduces the special guests attending the meeting: representing the IOC, Mrs. Jenny Mann; representing the Chinese Federation Mr. Liu Bejang and Mr. Huang Qiang. A special greeting goes to the delegation of Barcelona RG 2019, headed by Mr. Marc Caballè, Executive Director, and Mrs. Maria Moltò.

President Aracu informs all participants that his address and his report are included in a single speech, and thanks the staff of FIRS for their daily work as well as for the extraordinary work they are carrying out in Nanjing.

Another Congress is going to be held after six months only. It represents another turning point for FIRS. Over a few months, one discipline was included in the Olympic program, and another discipline, speed skating, became part of the YOG in Buenos Aires.

During the YOG of Nanjing 2014, the kids attending the schools of Nanjing elected speed skating as the best discipline of Sportlab. Mr. Aracu wishes the same to Buenos Aires, which he hopes will be the hosting city of 2021 Roller Games.

During the Congress, the change in the name of the International Federation will be proposed; this needs to be considered as part of the modernization process of the Federation.

The EB has already approved the name change into WORLD SKATE.

The Congress convened six months only after the elective Congress was necessary to swiftly make decisions allowing World Skate to carry on its Olympic program. Additional changes will be introduced, allowing World Skate to act as a multinational company and to develop a single marketing plan. Continents will not be detached entities anymore: they will have more power to manage Continental Championships on behalf of World Skate, and their Presidents will be Vice-Presidents of World Skate. The qualifications for the Olympic Games will be carried out through Continental Championships, under the supervision of World Skate. Each affiliated National Federation shall make any effort to include skateboarding, therefore contributing to build World Skate as an International Federation and sole Governing Body of nine different disciplines.

This is the main message to be conveyed to the delegates on the occasion of the Congress.

President Aracu then moves on to the Roller Games. He thanks China, Nanjing, the Chinese Federation, and the President and the Secretary General of CARS for their efforts and for the extraordinary organizational standards.

He thanks the Chairmen that take care of the different disciplines with their professionalism. Barcelona will certainly do better than Nanjing, but only because it can build on the foundations laid by Nanjing, and Buenos Aires will surely outperform Barcelona in case the city decides to organize the 2021 Roller Games.

President Aracu gives the floor to the delegation of Barcelona for a presentation of their activity.

BARCELONA 2019

Mr. PANIAGUA thanks the President, China and Nanjing for this wonderful experience and for giving the delegation of Barcelona the opportunity to present their event. In Barcelona sports represent an integral part of the daily life of the city, and specific attention is paid to our disciplines. Barcelona 2019 is a project based on a joint effort between the political and the sports sector, and an experienced team was involved; the ultimate goal is to organize Urban Games with a common element represented by the wheels; the *Real Federacion Espanola* and the Catalan Federation will show their professionalism through the setting up of a *roller sports council* as a joint and proactive organization. Furthermore, the best technical conditions will be provided in order to allow athletes to experience the excellence in sports organization.

The team includes the best professionals managed by Marc Caballé, to whom Mr. Paniagua gives floor.

Mr. CABALLE thanks Mr. Paniagua and says that Barcelona 2019 will be a great challenge. He shows a few slides that sum-up the main concepts and aspects of the event, reassuring on the fact that the budget will be spent responsibly.

An important legacy will stem from the Roller Games. 120 thousand people are expected to participate in the event, including experts and athletes. The mission of the LOC is to organize everything in a transparent way for FIRS, Spanish institutions, for the sponsors, for official disciplines and for the non-official ones that will however be present.

All the projects related to the Roller Games shall represent a wealth of experience also for the future. Any organization shall aim to support the other cities all over the world intending to organize the Roller Games in the future. The competitions in Barcelona involving our disciplines will be held in sports venues, 75 % of which were already used on the occasion of the 1992 Olympic Games.

Experienced people (nearly 70) were involved in order to guarantee the success of the event, in addition to the volunteers that will work hand in hand with FIRS, the Technical Commissions, etc.

A timeline of competitions was drafted: 10 days of competitions, from 5th to 14th July, in addition to non-sports events; *street* and *park* will be included in the entire city, and the facilities selected are very close to one another.

Mr. Caballé also underlines that an official travel agency will be at participants' disposal.

President ARACU thanks Marc Caballé and gives the floor to Mrs. Jenny Mann for a short contribution.

Mrs. JENNY MANN thanks for the invitation and expresses her utmost satisfaction for the fact that after the several meetings and discussions in the last few months, the situation is very positive at present.

She informs the Executive Board about the time spent by IOC President Bach in Poland, where he attended the *speed skating* competitions, and this is a positive element for FIRS with a view to next year.

According to the IOC, Change is very important; the rebranding of FIRS - besides being more appealing for young people - will be fundamental for the promotion of roller sports at an international level. Many Federations carried out marketing researches and understood the

importance to change their names, especially if made up of acronyms that are difficult to understand. Barcelona will be an important showcase for Tokyo, where a great deal of enthusiasm is shown for the disciplines falling within the Roller Sports. The road to Tokyo was long and difficult, but it is important to be there, passing through Barcelona and Buenos Aires. Mrs. Jenny Mann says that she will attend and watch some competitions, and wishes all the best to Nanjing.

Secretary General MAROTTA takes the floor and informs participants that the meeting agenda is available in their folder.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21ST JUNE VIA CONFERENCE CALL.

Voting:

Votes against: 0

Abstentions: 2 (Mr. Claro and Mr. Regueiro abstain as they did not attend the 21st June meeting)

The minutes are approved.

REPORTS BY THE VICE-PRESIDENTS

The Vice-President of CPRS Alberto HERRERA takes the floor. He sums up his pathway within FIRS: in July 2015 in Toronto he became the President of the Pan-American Confederation, and automatically Vice-President of FIRS. In the last two years he believes he developed some important activities: three Executive Committee meetings, two in Bogotá and one in Brazil, and one Extraordinary Congress in Buga. He provided support to the different Federations by sending judges and coaches to try and improve their activity; an important work was carried out with Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Ecuador, Peru, and Brazil. It was also possible to find the best way to work with Bolivia, which next year will participate in World Championships with Speed and Artistic skating. Costa Rica solved the problems of the past by recovering an important role. Peru as well now has a Federation recognized by the government, and asked to become part of the FIRS family. The Artistic Skating Pan-American Games were organized in June last year in Brazil, with the participation of 1,000 athletes representing 15 Countries.

Last year the Speed Skating Pan-American Games were organized in Colombia, and 1,700 athletes participated in competitions. The Rink Hockey and Inline Hockey Pan-American Championships will be held later this year, and next August a Skateboarding Championship will take place, involving 19 Countries and 120 athletes. Next year's calendar has already been drafted by the Confederation: the Pan-American Games will be held every two years: in even years Artistic and Speed Championships, and in odd years Inline Hockey and Rink Hockey Championships, in addition to the Championships for the new disciplines. Therefore, a revolution has been introduced in the management of the Pan-American Confederation. A Congress was organized to amend the statutes, in order to make them compliant with the Statutes of FIRS, and an important activity was carried out for the development of Bolivarian and Central American Games, in order to provide additional opportunities to win medals in artistic and speed skating. Colombia is strongly helping Bolivia in training Artistic and Speed Skating athletes in Colombia. Efforts are ongoing to include skateboarding in Pan-American Games.

The Commissioner for Oceania, Mrs. Patricia WALLACE, takes the floor. She states that the Federations that are part of the Confederation are closer than in the past. Championships for all disciplines were held, exception made for Artistic Skating, which will take place from 21st to 24th September. A meeting on the new regulations will also be organized in Perth with the Chairman of Artistic Skating, Nicola Genchi. In this regard the two Federations of Australia and New Zealand are expressing some concerns although fully supporting the decisions of the

Artistic Committee, as they received information about a workshop to be held in January in which judges shall undergo a test to qualify for next year's World Championships. She asks whether - in consideration of the difficulties due to the distance and therefore to the high travel expenses - the possibility exists to consider a timeframe between 3 and 5 years to qualify the judges from Oceania. It might also be useful to organize such workshops in the different Confederations, in order to allow the coaches from all the Federations to participate without incurring excessive costs. Furthermore, the interpersonal problems between the President of the Federation of New Zealand Roger Boulcott, and the President of the Federation of Australia Karen Doyle have been solved, and now they are doing a very good job and showing great skills.

The President of CERS Fernando Claro takes the floor, and congratulates President Aracu and the other colleagues.

He acknowledges the great efforts made by FIRS.

As regards the general situation, he believes that a few procedures have to change in order to better collaborate with FIRS. All the compulsory procedures of CERS are performed in compliance with the Statutes of FIRS. This includes the scheduling of all national championships in all disciplines. He thanks the different European Commissions for the work carried out, and underlines the fact that all activities are important for the development of sports.

The floor goes to Mr. Huang QIANG, Secretary General of CARS, who apologizes because President Guoyong Liu could not attend the meeting. 17 Asian championships were organized in November in 5 disciplines: Artistic, Speed Inline, Rink hockey and Freestyle. He hopes that additional disciplines are included in the future. Asian Championships take place every two years. A Congress was organized with two new members for skateboarding from Thailand and China. He informs the Board that the Asian Games next year will take place in Indonesia, and after several years of efforts, Roller Sports were included in the program with 6 competitions, two for speed and 4 for skateboarding.

The medal winners of such competitions can be selected for the Olympic Games. The Secretary General and Sports Director of OCA did a great job.

President Aracu takes the floor and thanks all the Continents, Asia in particular for the support to the Chinese Federation on the occasion of the Roller Games. The Asian Games represent an important achievement, as well as the development of the Pan-American Games.

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMEN

Secretary General Marotta moves on to the Chairmen of the different disciplines, and invites to take the floor only those who have problems to report and share.

Mr. Olivier PASCAL, Chairman of Roller Freestyle, takes the floor. He underlines how Roller Games represent an epoch-making event for Roller Freestyle, under the aegis of the International Federation. Besides the event held in Montepellier and in Hungary, a competition will take place in China next November. 50 riders, both men and women, participated in the World Cup in France; amateurs were present as well, also competing in Nanjing and Budapest.

The 50 riders participating in Roller Games come from 16 countries; some countries could not send riders since they have not yet endowed themselves with a suitable organizational structure, but it is possible to say that the goal for next year is 30 nations. Next year there will be four events that are part of the World Cup, including Japan. The goal of the Chairman is to allow the development of Roller Freestyle within FIRS, with a view to taking this sport to high levels of professionalism, especially in consideration of the fact that the company with which Olivier works, *Hurricane*, already collaborates with BMX Freestyle and UCI. There are several targets ahead, especially with a view to the Olympic Games that will be held in Paris in 2024. The IOC is pushing to have "urban" events linked to young people, and this sport is definitely appealing among the youth.

The video of the World Cup event in Budapest is shown to participants.

Secretary General MAROTTA expresses his gratitude, but underlines that next time the logo of FIRS must be shown. Pascal explains that the event was shared with UCI.

The Chairman of the Artistic Committee Nicola GENCHI takes the floor and replies to Patricia Wallace about the change in the regulations of Artistic and on the organization of the Workshop to be held in Rome in January 2018. He explains that Pat is certainly right when stating that the distance of Oceania represents a problem, but he underlines that the workshop in January is only the beginning, and other ones will follow in different areas of the world.

At 12.00 the President of the African Confederation, Mr. Nathanael Koty, joins the meeting.

FIRS-WORLD SKATE REBRANDING

President Aracu states that the approval by the Congress is needed for the rebranding of FIRS. As far as marketing is concerned, a draft plan is presently available, which will be finalized by the end of the year. Next year the World Championships will be held, and the objective is to allow everyone to “sell” the same product, both at a world and continental level. This marketing plan is based on a clear project, and FIRS aims to circulate it as soon as possible. It can be easily translated into all the languages so that all Federations are covered, and this represents an important achievement that can help anyone, including the Countries with financial difficulties. A workshop will be organized where sharing ideas. Each one must think globally. A single product needs to be available when dealing with the IOC, as this is the right approach for them to consider FIRS as a modern Federation.

AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTE

Secretary General Marotta recalls that the Executive Board held on 21st June approved the amendments to the Statutes that will be submitted to the Congress for approval.

Mr. HERRERA wishes to make a few remarks. In his opinion the work carried out by the President is significant, as well as his intention to give the same identity to all Federations, but he believes that Continental Confederations should be autonomous, whereas according to the Statutes amended by the EB they would become Continental Areas entirely depending on the Executive Board. Continental autonomy should be kept, but according to the new Statutes any autonomy and power would be lost, especially in consideration of the fact that the quorum for EB decisions is set to 5 members, whereas it should be the half plus one member, and this goes against democratic principles.

Mr. Herrera underlines a typo in the Spanish version related to the word “secretaria”, and the Secretary General takes note of it.

Mr. MAROTTA replies that clarifications were already provided last June: the Presidents elected by the Confederations are Vice Presidents of FIRS, and choices are therefore to be considered as shared. There must be decision-making continuity between Vice-Presidents and FIRS. There is no reason to be afraid, as the decision-making power and the financial autonomy remain, in line with the needs of all the other Confederations that are part of the EB of FIRS, where the decisions concerning the entire organization are taken.

President ARACU confirms that Continents must have power, but a central legal representation is also needed. Organizations such as Asian Games or Pan-American Games etc.. have relations with FIRS, and it is FIRS that shall delegate its own representatives within each Continent. Nothing has changed; within a single organization, work is planned together.

Management will be in the hands of Vice-Presidents, but FIRS shall be the guarantor of all. The EB is the only body in charge of making decisions about the rules, including sports planning. The continental regulations in force shall be the ones developed by the International Technical Committees approved by FIRS. Hopefully the Presidents of continental committees will be part of the International Technical Committee in the future. This would certainly make a difference. According to its Statutes, FIRS can organize Continental Championship inside of which selecting the athletes for the Olympics.

Mr. HERRERA replies that he will be respectful during the Congress, but introducing Continental Areas instead of Confederations means to eliminate the present continental structure; consequently, he does not agree on this organization that in his opinion is not the best possible option, but rather a reorganization that will not contribute to achieve the main goals of the International Federation. Confederations will become subordinate to the central structure of FIRS, which will manage them.

Secretary General MAROTTA says that Continental Areas will keep the same autonomy as today through the election of their Presidents; he also makes reference to geographical areas through the example of Israel that although being geographically located in Asia belongs to the European Continental Area when it comes to sport.

Mr. PANIAGUA says that - in his Capacity as President of a Federation - he understands the concerns expressed by Mr. Herrera, but explains how with the new Statutes he will have the same power as today, or even stronger. FIRS intends to unify and decide with Confederations, and wants to work with Vice-Presidents on the development of the different disciplines within the Continents. For many years international competitions have been held in the different Continents, and FIRS knew nothing about them; this represents a critical error to be remedied. In all International Federations (FINA, FIBA etc...) continental events are regulated by international directives.

Mr. CLARO understands that a final decision will be made by the Congress, but it is necessary to consider that the link between FIRS and the Confederations is a positive fact; as the President said, there must be support for all championships, and a central body may also reconcile eventual disputes at a continental level. He therefore agrees with the position of FIRS. Having considered that the EB decided to name the Confederations after "World Skate" plus the name of each Continent, maybe the word *Confederation* can be added if this is considered as a problem.

President ARACU thanks Mr. Claro underlining how several ideas were considered when choosing the name, but what matters is to have a young appeal. The change of the name does not mean anything in terms of power; rather, it is a way for strengthening those Continents that are more in need.

Nowadays there is no clear link between Continental and International Technical Committees. The approach is not that of a single family. World Skate cannot accept that continental guidelines are in contrast with the choices made by the International Federation. Continental Championships cannot be managed by the Continents in a way that appears detrimental to the international approach of World Skate.

Financial soundness is important as well, especially for continents like Africa. A database should be developed where entering the e-mail addresses of about 5 million skaters from all the Continents; such database should exclusively be managed by World Skate, also entrusted with the possibility of selling such addresses to the companies eventually interested, and World Skate will then proportionally distribute and allocate the related revenue to the Continents. The focus must be on the future and not on the present.

YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES

President ARACU takes the floor on the subject of the YOG, which are of paramount importance for World Skate. For the first time, speed and skateboarding are under the spotlight in Buenos Aires. The first Vice-President of World Skate Mr. Ricardo Grin is the Director of the National Sports Center that may provide greater strength to this project. The idea came out of a rink based on a Lego-type system, easy to dismantle and to handle, whose components might be transported by trucks. It is the same system that Olivier Pascal adopts in Roller Freestyle, which might be easily adopted in several different situations. On the occasion of the YOG, only two speed competitions will be held. In order to ensure athletes' participation in Buenos Aires, World Championships will have to be organized by July 2018.

TOKYO 2020

President ARACU recalls that Simone Masserini is the person in charge of the Tokyo 2020 Commission; in compliance with the agreements made, World Skate will have the opportunity to intervene as far as the organization is concerned. Agreements were also reached with the US Skateboarding Community, but some additional patience is needed. Tokyo 2020 will represent an incredible opportunity for World Skate. According to NBC, skateboarding will boom in social media; World Skate has therefore a huge responsibility, and needs to work with the IOC on a daily basis. President Aracu underlines how the several commitments he had with during the previous year made it almost impossible for him to disclose all the things he was doing. Having considered, however, that the final product belongs to all, anybody shall contribute.

ROLLER GAMES 2017/2019

Secretary General Marotta thanks Nanjing for the organization and congratulates the Barcelona delegation for their excellent presentation.

UNIVERSITY GAMES

Mr. HERRERA briefly sums up the beautiful event he attended, where speed was included. 15 Countries participated, including strong nations like France, Germany, Italy, Colombia, Korea and China Taipei. The organization of the event was absolutely positive; very good transportation, hotels and food, and athletes were satisfied and felt like being in the Olympics. Over 15,000 athletes coming from the four corners of the world were involved. This event is held every two (odd) years; in 2019 the hosting city will be Naples, Italy. Every two (even) years, instead, the World University Championships are held; next year in China Taipei and in 2020 maybe in Colombia. It is paramount to promote speed skating in Universities, which unfortunately are not too supportive.

Secretary General MAROTTA invites everyone to work so that Federations organize the World University Championships in the various disciplines, therefore laying the bases to participate in World University Games.

President ARACU underlines how the World University Games entail an important financial burden for FIRS, having considered that the International Federation pays for judges, coaches and officers.

WORLD GAMES

Secretary General MAROTTA says he attended the World Games in Poland. He expresses his gratitude to Mr. Pisarek for the organization, and underlines that Roller Sports play a fundamental role in this event that encompasses several non-Olympic sports. The President of the IOC Thomas Bach was present with his staff during the first days of speed skating competitions, and this situation certainly didn't go unnoticed by other sports.

CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018

Secretary General MAROTTA informs those in attendance that a list of some of the Continental Championships scheduled for next year is available in their folders.

Mr. ZISTLER proposes to organize next year's World Championships in Japan, and Junior Championships in Spain three days in August.

Mr. GENCHI underlines that the European Artistic Championships only were notified, whereas there is no information about the other Continents, which should conversely inform about dates and locations.

According to President ARACU, future calendars should be set two years in advance, as the time needed for organizing events has changed. A specific Executive Board meeting for dealing with this topic needs to be held.

Secretary General MAROTTA informs the members attending the meeting that a letter will be sent to all Continental Confederations and Chairman, asking them to notify by 31st October places and dates of next year's Championships, so that the EB will meet in November to resolve on a final calendar.

A Sports Department has been established within FIRS. It is in charge of providing and collecting information internationally. President Aracu thanks Mr. Francesco Zangarini for the work done so far, particularly for the fundamental contribution in the organization of the Roller Games.

Mr. CLARO states that World Championships shall take precedence over Continental Championships; the latter shall therefore be subordinate to the former.

Secretary General MAROTTA clarifies that the dates for World Championships notified within October by Continental Confederations and Chairmen will only be considered as proposals; the Executive Board will make a final decision.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018

ARTISTIC

ARACU informs those in attendance that he spoke to Mr. Nicolas Belloir about the Artistic World Championships 2018, and was told that Paris will not be hosting the event as the French Ministry of Sport downgraded artistic skating and hockey, and consequently the financial support is much lower than in the past. Therefore, the Championships will probably be held in La Roche sur Yon, where a wonderful venue is available, which already hosted the Rink Hockey World Championships.

Mr. Paniagua underlines how this change will have positive media repercussions, and Mr. Genchi clarifies that a meeting with France on this subject is scheduled at the end of October.

SPEED

Mr. Paniagua says that the city of Arnhem - where World Championships will be held - is small but well organized, with some good hotels in the neighboring cities. It already hosted very good European Championships in the past.

INLINE HOCKEY

No bids were submitted in the framework of the bidding process. A negotiation was underway with Iran, but the President changed. Colombia can be an option, but for the time being it is necessary to wait.

Secretary General Marotta gives the floor to Mr. Koty - who joined the meeting late - for his contribution about the African Confederation.

Mr. KOTY explains that the African Confederation is not in a good financial situation. Roller Sports are flourishing, and the Continental Speed Championships will be held in Togo, but it is necessary to collect some fees. Whenever financial problems appear, African Federations ask for his support, and he pays for everyone with his own money. Africa needs facilities to organize events and needs to support athletes; many of them have a good potential but they don't succeed in developing it. It is also necessary to train coaches, judges and referees.

President ARACU thanks Mr. Koty for his commitment and devotion, and believes that a strong African Confederation might have a strong impact on the IOC; it is however necessary to organize targeted meetings, and Federations must become autonomous. A great commitment is needed when developing projects, especially in Speed that is the easiest discipline to perform. It is also necessary to speak to governments, asking them to allocate funds.

Mr. ROLDAN recalls that everyone is willing to help, and that some Countries were given the opportunity to participate in training activities in Colombia; Mr. Marotta however highlights that African Federations cannot easily incur traveling and accommodation costs.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Secretary General Marotta reads the summary figures of the 2016 consolidated financial statements, as approved by the official Auditor.

Total Revenue: 1,743,136 USD, also thanks to the fee paid by Nanjing for the organization of Roller Games and the advance payment made by Barcelona for 2019 Roller Games.

Total Expenses: 981,419 USD, meaning that the 2016 surplus amounts to 761,717 \$ that, added to the assets as of 2015, leads to total cash in hand of 924,092 \$, (roughly 162,375 USD).

The amount above shall also be used to cover the expenses for 2017 and 2018.

These financial statements will also be submitted to the Congress.

Voting:

The financial statements are unanimously approved.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. PANIAGUA underlines the importance for Continental Presidents to send their activity reports, as it is necessary to plan the 2018 activities for all the disciplines.

NEW FEDERATIONS

Secretary General MAROTTA submits for approval the provisional affiliation of the following Countries:

- BURKINA FASO, which submitted a membership application but not yet the Statutes.
- IRELAND Artistic, which filed all the documents requested.
- GEORGIA SKATEBOARDING, which filed all the documents requested.

Mr. Koty vouches for Burkina Faso, which is however urged by Mr. Marotta to send their Statutes.

Mr. Herrera asks to reply to Peru at the earliest convenience, as they sent new documentation following the change of all the executives. Costa Rica as well is waiting for a confirmation.

It is also underlined that the affiliation of Georgia Skateboarding had already been approved by the previous EB, and therefore only the ratification by the Congress is needed.

All the applications for membership are approved.

President ARACU closes the meeting by underlining that for the first time a multi-games event was organized, and that it is necessary to show that FIRS is one family. The offices of FIRS will be closed for 15 days as from 12th September.

The meeting adjourns at 2.00 p.m.



Roberto Marotta
Secretary General



Sabatino Aracu
President

Nanjing, 1st September 2017