



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE ROLLER SPORTS

**FIRS General Ordinary Elective Congress  
Rome (Italy)  
February 23, 2013  
Salone d'Onore del CONI  
L.go Lauro de Bosis 15 – Roma**

Federations in attendance

1. Angola
2. Argentina
3. Australia
4. Austria
5. Belgium
6. Brasil
7. Canada (Speed-Artistic)
8. Canada (Hockey Inline)
9. Check Republic
10. Chile
11. China
12. Chinese Taipei
13. Colombia
14. Costa Rica
15. Croatia
16. Cuba
17. Danemark
18. Ecuador
19. Egypt
20. France
21. Germany
22. Great Britain
23. Guatemala
24. Hong Kong
25. Hungary
26. India

**FIRS**

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- 27.Iran
- 28.Israel
- 29.Italy
- 30.Japan
- 31.Korea
- 32.Latvia
- 33.Macao
- 34.Mexico
- 35.Mozambique
- 36.Netherlands (Speed)
- 37.Netherlands (Hockey-Artistic)
- 38.New Zealand
- 39.Pakistan
- 40.Panama
- 41.Paraguay
- 42.Perú
- 43.Polonia
- 44.Portugal
- 45.Puerto Rico
- 46.Republic of San Marino
- 47.Singapore
- 48.Slovakia
- 49.Slovenia
- 50.Spain
- 51.South Africa (Speed-Artistic)
- 52.South Africa (Hockey)
- 53.Switzerland (Hockey)
- 54.Switzerland (Artistic – Speed)
- 55.Usa
- 56.Uruguay
- 57.Venezuela

**a) President's opening remarks**

**b) Appointments of scrutineers**

The President, Sabatino Aracu, welcomes all participants to Rome and introduces two distinguished guests: the newly-elected President of the Italian Olympic committee Giovanni Malagò and the IOC member Mario Pescante.

Both Malagò and Pescante thank Aracu for his invitation and wish him and the world of Roller Sports good luck for the inclusion in the 2020 Olympic Programme.

President Aracu expresses his satisfaction for the presence of representatives of Federations from five Continents, and communicates that the Congress is broadcast via Live Streaming on the Web Tv of Roller Sports, so that everybody may participate in this event. Although some defamatory

letters tried to spoil the climate of this Congress, this day may be considered as a beautiful day for democracy, a day in which debating about topics of great importance. The day will be divided into two parts, one devoted to the election of the President and the first Vice President, and a second part in which completing all necessary formalities and in which the amendments to the Statutes will be debated.

Then, Aracu presents two new members of the Executive Board of FIRS: Margaret Brooks, CIPA President, and Kalon Dobbin, the Athletes Representative.

The floor goes to the Secretary General Roberto Marotta that communicates that the Federations presently attending the meeting amount to 55, representing 161 votes, but two other delegates are about to arrive.

Marotta proposes as scrutineers Susan Currel, Hervé Lallement and Ignazio Gonzales, who are accepted by acclamation and begin their work.

### **c) Adoption of the minutes of the Congress in Portimao**

Harro Strucksberg underlines that in the last line of the balance sheet the amount of \$ 89,000 is incorrect, and Marotta says it will be corrected. Strucksberg then submits a formal protest against the decision adopted the day before by the EB to carry out the Rink Hockey Sub 20 Championships in Colombia.

The minutes of Portimao are approved unanimously with two abstentions.

### **d) Report by the President**

Sabatino Aracu thanks all the delegates for their presence, the staff of FIRS for the work done in the organisation of this Congress and the staff of FIHP for its collaboration. Greets the candidate to the presidency George Kolibaba and the candidates as First Vice Presidents Valerie Leftwich and Armando Quintanilla.

FIRS often appears as a family-run Federation, but a quality improvement must be deployed in order to grow and become a managerial Federation, ready to solve the problems coming from the various federations and that all Federations might address, certain and aware that they will find the support and the help they need.

Over the last few years, FIRS has deeply changed, not only because the number of member Federations has grown, but also because the Roller disciplines increased up to including freestyle, inline alpine, downhill, skateboarding, roller derby and others that are becoming more and more widespread such as roll ball, or that wish to become closer to our Federation, such as ski-roll. All these disciplines are destined to grow, and in the next few months the attempt will be made to organise a meeting with the Chairmen of the Technical Committees of all the disciplines of Roller Sports.

In the last years, the structure of FIRS became increasingly efficient, also through the training of the people that work in it. It is important to have one single efficient headquarters of FIRS, acting as a point of reference for all the Federations that still nowadays make confusion between the present offices of Technical Committees and the international headquarters of Roller Sports. This shall not happen anymore; the image outside must be of a single headquarters, a single Federation to be referred to for all disciplines.

FIRS also underwent an important economic development. From a past debt situation of FIRS, thanks to huge efforts the present Federation is in the position of providing guarantees, is profitable, and started to find sponsors. Revenues from TV rights, thanks to a high-quality product, have more than doubled.

The headquarters of FIRS presently host also the sports facilities office, with professionals able to provide designs for the implementation of venues for all disciplines, as well as a legal department available to all.

If a managerial quality improvement is wanted, then it is necessary to increase the technical level in all countries; this is the reason why FIRS will put its economies at the others' disposal to organise in different countries stages and courses for athletes and for trainers of all disciplines. Nations like for instance Italy, ranking first at world level for artistic skating, shall share it trainers so that the level of this discipline all over the world might increase; the same shall be done by Spain for rink hockey or Colombia for speed. The IOC ascribes great importance to those sports in which many nations have the chance to be on the podium, as it happened in speed skating that saw four continents winning the gold medal during the last world championships in San Benedetto.

The trainers project will be accompanied by the ambassadors project: a meeting was held already on this topic, and other ones will take place in the future. They shall receive a managerial training, in order to allow them to help the Countries in which our sport is developing to create a suitable Federation, to train managers able to autonomously manage their federations.

The quality of world and continental championships must be improved; FIRS was the first International Federation endowed with a web TV; it had a great success, but it needs high quality connections that were not always available within the organisers of international events. There are also apps such as Roller TV allowing anyone to watch events on the iPhone or another smartphone. A restyling of the website was also carried out, which the IOC greatly appreciated and considered it among the best ones in absolute terms. Always in the field of communications, FIRS is also present among social networks such as Facebook and Twitter, which allow the participation in surveys organised by press agencies, such as Sportpro. During the world championships in San Benedetto, highlights were broadcast to 26 countries all over the world, live broadcasts were made with over 7 million accesses, and the artistic world championships in Auckland, New Zealand, had similar results.

All these projects characterise an international Federation that wishes to continuously grow and that needs to have stronger and stronger member Federations.

FIRS has always been present during the meetings of Sportaccord; it is known and appreciated by all IOC members, as witnessed by the presence in San Benedetto of Indrapana, a distinguished member of the Programming Commission of the IOC, who decided to participate in the prize-giving ceremonies since he was enthusiast of the athletic performance seen.

On 19th December 2012 FIRS presented to the Programming Commission of the IOC speed skating as the discipline of Roller Sports selected to be included in the Olympic programme of 2020; between May and June 2013 it will be presented to the EB of the IOC, and on 13th September in Buenos Aires the final voting of the IOC will take place. Our Federation in Argentina shall have a leading role: along the streets of Buenos Aires there shall be thousands of skaters showing the beauty and the spreading of speed skating. Also the organisation of a marathon would be a good idea.

At the end of his speech, President Aracu reverts to the topic of World Championships, wishing that in the future they might be decided four years in advance through candidacies possibly submitted during the Congress, in the presence of the political authorities of candidate countries, as it happens in other sports.

Finally, Aracu lingers on what he considers as his most ambitious project: the organisation of Roller Games in 2017. It would be a huge event with 3000/4000 athletes in addition to the accompanying persons, totalling about 10,000 people, entailing economic related activities amounting to thousands of dollars. It will be necessary to find the suitable location allowing to



host several competitions at the same time and delaying the finals so that spectators might follow the most important competitions of all disciplines, and also establishing a village able to host athletes and accompanying persons like in a sort of Olympics of Roller Sports.

This is a big dream for whose implementation FIRS will make any possible effort.

#### **e) Presentation of candidates to the Presidency**

The Secretary General Roberto Marotta gives the floor to the candidate to the Presidency of FIRS Mr. George Kolibaba, who thanks and introduces himself. He has been the President of USARS - the US Federation of Rollers Sports – for 12 years, and is also in charge of its administration and events. After working as manager engineer within the Tektronix Corporation in Oregon, he dealt with the management of the Amusement Park that also hosts a roller skating rink.

Kolibaba believes that the changes that will be proposed during this Congress risk to jeopardise the democracy of this International Federation disguised as a modernisation process.

The amendments to the Statutes shall not allow the interference in sports disciplines and the loss of independence by the Technical Committees, which shall keep their authority and freedom of action.

The centralisation of FIRS will make it impossible to distinguish between Federations and Continents.

This project risks to jeopardise the future of FIRS and the Olympic recognition of our Federation.

The nations participating in World Championships shall have the right to vote to elect their representatives, their regulations, and supervise the events. New disciplines were included in the existing committees, but they have no experts contributing to their development, therefore such disciplines undergo a lack of growth.

In case elected as future President of FIRS, Mr. Kolibaba promises he will keep the democratic principles of the existing Statutes, the independence of Technical Committees to chose their regulations and elect their representatives. Every year the balance sheet will be examined by the EB and sent to all the Federations, so that everyone knows how money is spent.

Furthermore, there will be a higher control of all those federations that are suspected of being inexistent since they carry out no sports activities whatsoever. The USARS strongly supports Valerie Leftwich as First Vice President and Richard Hawkins as future Secretary General. Offices would be moved from Rome to Lincoln, in Nebraska, the present headquarters of USARS, with no additional charges.

Marotta gives the floor to Sabatino Aracu, candidate to the Presidency of FIRS.

Aracu believes he already mentioned the main items of his program, and therefore does not have too much to add. Results are not obtained by withdrawing Statutes or proposals, but by talking about them. All the 57 nations attending the Congress carry out their activities with a great deal of sacrifice. Aracu traces back his activity in roller skating, saying that he is celebrating 50 years in this sport, as athlete first, then as trainer, and subsequently as creator of the magazine International Skating that was published in three languages. He presently works as Member of Parliament and entrepreneur, and owns a company employing 2,000 people; therefore, organisation is the secret for the good working of everything.

#### **f) Election of the President**

Marotta explains that he will call all the delegates by nation in alphabetical order, and they will receive the number of ballots equal to the number of votes they are entitled to. At the moment,

55 nations are present, totalling 161 votes. He then gives the floor to the scrutineers who explain the voting procedures.

At the end of the voting procedure, the count of votes is made.

Votes obtained: Sabatino Aracu 115

George Kolibaba 46

Marotta announces Sabatino Aracu as President of FIRS for the four-year period 2012/2016

#### **g) Presentation of candidacies as first Vice-President**

The Secretary General Marotta, after specifying that the number of nations shifted from 55 to 57 and the voting rights from 161 to 167, gives the floor to the two candidates to the Vice-Presidency, Valerie Leftwich and Armando Quintanilla.

Mrs. Leftwich reminds to participants that she included in the folder her candidacy with a short profile. She thanks the staff of FIRS and President Sabatino Aracu for organising the Hockey Championships and for hosting them. She recalls her love for hockey and artistic since she was young in England, and her mandate as President of the Australian Federation and of the Confederation of Oceania for 15 years. She is still Vice President of the Inline Hockey Technical Committee and hardly worked with Gilbert Portier for the development of Inline Hockey – women's in particular, increasing the number of women hockey's teams from 5 to 12 at an international level. She asks all federations to carefully think of their vote because it's them having the last say in the Congress and because all the decisions are in their hands. She thanks everyone for their presence and for listening to her.

Armando Quintanilla thanks President Aracu for his kindness and the Italian Federation. He recalls he began with roller skating 25 years ago and that he's the President of the South American Confederation. His candidacy included in the folder also contains a description of his programme. He only adds he intends to collaborate with President Aracu and to work for achieving the Olympic objective.

Marotta opens the voting procedures for the election of the First Vice-President according to the procedure already followed for the previous vote.

Votes obtained: Valerie Leftwich 80

Armando Quintanilla 81

Marotta announces Armando Quintanilla as First Vice-President of FIRS for the four-year period 2012/2016

Marotta proposes a change in the agenda, with the adoption of the balance sheet and the budget of FIRS, as well as of the ratification of new affiliations, and then to resume the agenda immediately after the lunch break.

This proposal is approved unanimously.

#### **m) Presentation of the statement of accounts FIRS and report by the auditor**

The ratification of the FIRS budget is then made. (ATT.1)

Marotta communicates that the folder contains the consolidated financial statements of FIRS with the 4 disciplines. All the figures are read. The revenues of the EB amounted to 349,453 \$, the revenues of CIC 181,690 \$, the revenues of CIPA 13,1839 \$, the revenues of Rink Hockey 199,874 \$, the revenues of Inline Hockey 94,276 \$ totalling revenues amounting to 957,132 \$. Expenditures amounted to 206,527\$ for the EB, 80,250 \$ for CIC, 107,998 \$ for CIPA, 101,621 for Rink Hockey and 60,511 \$ for Inline Hockey, for total expenditures amounting to 556,907\$. The current assets

amount to 142,926 \$ for FIRS, 101,440 for CIC, 23,841 for CIPA, 98,253 for CIRH, 33,765 for CIRIHL, with a total surplus of 400,225 \$. In the end, the report by the auditor Luis A.Munoz is read. (SEE ATT. 1)

Strucksberg reiterates that the figure concerning the CIRH is incorrect, and Marotta repeats that the balance sheet is submitted to approval with the amendment of the amount notified by Harro Strucksberg.

Voting: adopted by majority with the abstention of five votes.

#### **n) Ratification of the budget**

The 2013 budget of FIRS is then analysed. It foresees total revenues amounting to 370,000 for FIRS alone, and total expenditures of 370,000\$, 0 surplus.( **ATT. 2**)

Patricia Wallace reminds that the budget allocated for antidoping amounts to \$20,000 and not 10,000.

With this amendment, the budget 2013 is put to the vote.

Voting: approved by majority, with the abstentions of 16 votes.

#### **o) Ratification of affiliations**

Marotta communicates that the secretariat received 12 applications for affiliation; the EB held yesterday rejected the application of the Federations of Greece and Malawi since the documentation needed was not sent. Marotta also proposes to this Congress the provisional membership of 4 countries that submitted the documentation although without their Statutes. The EB proposes therefore the provisional membership of Cyprus Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Turkey. The provisional membership for these countries is approved on an individual basis; provisional membership means that these countries shall not be entitled to the right to vote and their affiliation can become final only on the occasion of the next congress.

CYPRUS: approved with 4 abstentions

MALAYSIA: unanimously approved

SRI LANKA: unanimously approved

TURKEY: unanimously approved

Subsequently, members vote for the ratification of those countries whose documentation is complete:

BENIN: unanimously approved

GHANA: unanimously approved

The floor goes to the representative of Poland:

PISAREK: The Polish Federation includes the Inline Hockey discipline that competed last year; however, after the internal elections, such discipline decided to separate from us. We don't believe that a Country might have two Federations, and therefore we don't agree with this decision that we don't deem fair.

Marotta believes that with the opposition of the Country involved, it is not possible to proceed to the approval; therefore, the delegates of the two Federations – the member one and the one that applied for affiliation – are invited to meet and come to an agreement. Consequently, the eventual affiliation of such autonomous Federation is postponed to the next Congress.

Aracu believes that it is positive that the delegate from Poland states he is ready to open to inline hockey. In this case, if a rapid agreement is found, there will be no need for a new affiliation.

The voting for SERBIA takes place: unanimously approved.

SVEZIA INLINE HOCKEY: it is a new Federation for Inline Hockey only. The member Federation was asked whether it was interested in inline hockey, but it is not; therefore they accept a new Federation for Inline hockey.

Approved by majority with 4 abstentions.

Trinidad and Tobago; unanimously approved.

The works of the Congress are suspended for the lunch break.

As the works are resumed, the Secretary General Roberto Marotta verifies the presence of all delegates and explains the item in the agenda:

### **I) Analysis of the proposals concerning the Statutes**

Two different amendments are proposed: the first concerns the present Statutes only as to the medical rules of FIRS and the setting up of the Athletes Commission. These changes are necessary since requested by the IOC; they were timely sent to all the Federations in order to be analysed.

Susan Currell, the delegate of Australia, takes the floor and states that the Australian Federation proposes these two amendments to the present Statutes.

The proposal is put to the vote and approved with two abstentions.

The second amendment to the statutes relating to the setting up of the Athletes Commission is examined. The proposal is approved with the abstention of Latvia.

The proposal to amend the Statutes submitted by the Italian Federation is then tackled. President Aracu takes the floor.

ARACU: This proposal is submitted by the Italian Federation in compliance with the Statutes, but it was developed by a Commission proposed by the EB of FIRS. The old Statutes have several gaps, the figure of the President is not described, neither in terms of role nor in terms of tasks. There are then substantial aspects that change the rational we have had until today. One of the central aspects is the following: we presently have 4 Technical Committees autonomously elected during assemblies held on the occasion of World Championships; the Chairman of the Technical Committee elected according to such procedure is entitled to seat in the EB of FIRS and has one vote like the President and the Vice-President, who are elected by an Assembly representing all the member countries in the world. Is it right to hold five different assemblies instead of one, as we are doing today, a solemn and important meeting, with scrutineers, in which attention is paid to any minimum detail? I have seen sector assemblies that suddenly changed their dates also after being summoned, where simultaneous translation is rarely provided, where the Presidents of the Federations are never present, and where often there are athletes, trainers or even referees.

This is the present situation we are faced with; we have the opportunity to chose: either five assemblies in one year, or one. This is my proposal; if I lose, it's my loss; if I win, we will all win together. I made an hypothesis: Why don't we elect everyone during a single assembly of FIRS? Or, in case of trainers, why don't we appoint them? In many Federations the President or the EB appoint the trainers: if they work well they keep their office, otherwise they can be changed.

Another important point is to show to everyone that there is one single Federation. Some consider FINA, the Swimming Federation, as the one that shall set the example. Within FINA the Congress elects the Bureau and the Bureau appoints the persons in charge of each sector; then the sector

committees are set up, with a Vice Chairman and a Secretary that manage the daily activity of the sector. These two roles shall be separated: one thing is the technical organisation, the one managing referees, judges, that analyses matches as in the case of Hockey, that schedules competitions, and training sessions... a purely technical role! Another thing is the image, the choice of strategies to become important.

I was suggested to make the proposal of appointing the Persons in Charge of Technical Committees in a single team presented by the candidate to the Presidency before the elections. I do not see any disadvantages in this proposal, because if I included in my team unqualified and incapable people you – who elected me – might ask me for the reason of my choice. The important thing is to have a Technical Committee that is technical and not political! Since technical committees are elected, they need consent, and often the collaborators are chosen on the basis of the votes they bring and not on the basis of their skills.

The chairmen of Technical Committees might also be elected, but that would be in a single assembly as today's: we would probably vote also for the countries in which the voted discipline does not take place, but that would like to have our support to start its development. Clearly, these Federations would have only one vote against the other federations in which the discipline is already widespread and that would have two or three votes.

The important thing is to leave this meeting knowing what the future of FIRS will be. Shall a President be the guarantor of all without not even knowing, sometimes, that a World Championship has been moved? Do you really think that this is a Federation? What shall I be a guarantor for? I might also not talk about the Statutes, because already in the past this caused problems to me, but I believe it is more important talking about Statutes than talking about who shall be the President. How do you think we might organise the Roller Games with four Technical Committees that decide alone what to do and how to do it? The present Statutes contain no rules preventing all this. My proposal now is to appoint the Persons in Charge of the Technical Committees, but we need to talk about that because I don't want to be misunderstood. There are those who accuse me of wanting to act as a dictator and that I want to appoint them; but they may also be appointed by the EB, I have no problems; I mentioned the fact that they shall be appointed by the President because the President is the guarantor of all, as it happens with the mayor of a city who appoints one's councillors and takes on the responsibility for one's choices. The country considered among the greatest democracies in the world, the USA, elects the President who appoints his ministers, whose names are disclosed after the elections.

If this system does not work, then one single assembly is organised and the problem is solved; the assembly must be strong, all the countries must become strong, because the stronger the countries, the higher the strength given to the President and to the EB representing them. So let's open the debate and see who is in favour and who is against: I propose to give the floor to someone who is against my proposal and then to someone in favour, as it is done in all Parliaments. These are the preliminary questions needed to understand whether we can proceed or not. I wish nobody leaves this room at the end of the meeting without having a clear understanding of the situation; we shall all be liable for fulfilling our duty; if it is right or wrong, the story will tell.

MAROTTA: I would like to sum up: we have the draft of new Statutes; before moving on to the voting, article by article, the President submits to your attention 3 different options concerning the Technical Committees.

- 1) The Technical Committees are elected by the technical assemblies
- 2) The President drafts a list of collaborators and, once elected, appoints the Presidents of the Technical Committees

3) On the occasion of the FIRS Congress, the election concerns the President, the first Vice-President, and the Chairmen of the 4 Technical Committees; in practice, the right to elect the Chairmen of the 4 Technical Committees is given to the Presidents of the Federations in a single meeting.

These are the 4 solutions proposed, on which we have to define what is the will of the majority, and from that moment onward we enter to the specific aspects relating to the single articles. Therefore, as the President suggested, if any delegate wants to express one's opinion, the floor is open.

NETHERLANDS: I would like to have some clarifications: the proposal was entirely accepted by FIHP, therefore I believe it should be discussed as a whole; however, there are some amendments proposed by the President himself, so I would like to know what the procedure will be. Shall we vote article by article? According to me, we should vote it as a whole. I would like to have some clarifications

ARACU: I believe that the main change is whether holding a single elective congress or appoint the Chairmen of the Technical Committees. Once this aspect is decided, we might analyse article by article. If we don't agree on that, it is unnecessary to go ahead.

CAJARAVILLA/URUGUAY: I think we should vote on whether we agree with the reform or not: we might vote and then proceed article by article. In particular, we would like to refer not only to the Technical Committees, but also to the central Treasury, as it happens in 95% of Federations - similarly to what is proposed in the reform – that appoint the Chairmen of Technical Committees. I am referring to a single Treasury, which we presently do not have within FIRS.

PANIAGUA/SPAIN: I believe in the need to change, to be able to adapt ourselves to modernity; times and people have changed, and these Statutes have to be adapted to our times. Besides the issue of Technical Committees, there are other important aspects tackled within these draft Statutes, and therefore I believe we have to decide whether changing or not, and if we decide to change here we have a draft that people worked on for two years. My position is that if we agree on the new Statutes, once approved we might set a period of one year or eight months to give time to all countries to see which other amendments or corrections might eventually be adopted, and subsequently analysed by the legal commission in order to have in a future meeting modern Statutes in line with our times.

ARCILA/VENEZUELA: these changes are the precondition to obtain the results we want, first and foremost the Olympic Games. Therefore, I propose to immediately vote.

CURRELL/AUSTRALIA: If I correctly understood, a committee was already appointed within the EB to draft these Statutes, which were presented yesterday to the EB; I believe however that the EB has not approved these Statutes. I agree with the Netherlands on the fact that if these Statutes were presented as a whole they cannot be changed unless the Italian Federation undertakes to amend them first; in essence, I do not believe we can vote changes that were not previously approved by the Italian Federation and then resubmitted.

NETHERLANDS: We are certainly in favour of some changes but not to all of them. I heard that my colleague from Spain believes we might gather ideas and proposals and then have a special

meeting in eight-nine months to analyse an eventual proposal of the EB and then vote on it. Have I correctly understood? I might agree on such procedure.

PIETROWSKI/BELGIUM: I think that what the President said is very clear. We are asked to decide on three proposals: either the Chairman of the Technical Committees are elected by their assemblies, or are appointed by the President, or are elected by this assembly – which is the most democratic option. Belgium therefore proposes the election of the Chairmen of Technical Committees during the Congress.

PERU: I think there is a big confusion, because according to the existing Statutes the President is the legal representative of FIRS, but Article 1 says that FIRS has jurisdiction over all the disciplines; according to a formal logic, it should be the President. In the future there will be many new Technical Committees, therefore I find this proposal very good and thorough because it clarifies the role of FIRS and of its disciplines. If we talk about more than eight disciplines, than it is fair and logic that the President as legal representative has the right to appoint the Chairmen of the Technical Committees to monitor the correct development and good management of each discipline – since in the end we are all here as a family – and to guarantee the integrity and the unity of the institution that is FIRS. The best thing would be that the President presents all the candidates and manages them in the way that he deems more suitable. FIRS is the guarantor of all the disciplines of Roller Sports, and according to the common sense the President is obliged to act so that all disciplines develop effectively.

STRUCKSBERG: The President and the Dutch representative made a proposal. We have to vote.

CHIFFOLEAU/FRANCE: We believe that the third proposal is a good one, but France agrees with Spain: if we adopt these Statutes, they will be enforced within four years, and therefore we will have time to reflect and decide without any urgency until the next Congress in two years.

CURRELL/AUSTRALIA: I would like to shift your attention to art. 11 item 7 concerning Confederations. As you know Oceania has two Federations, and according to this Article the Confederation would be dissolved and Sabatino would appoint a commission to supervise this area.

By reading the report by the President of the Oceania Confederation, it is clear the difficulty of having more Federations, mainly due to the existing huge geographical distance. This article would remove from the Confederation of Oceania the right of being represented in the EB in favour of a commission. I would like to know with which criterion this commission is appointed and how this could help this geographical area more than what was done until now and that is being tried to do.

ARACU: This is another point, but we must give a clear answer. Art. 11 says: Every Continent, in order to hold elections, shall have at least 5 Countries performing agonistic activity. Our proposal says: in the absence of 5 Countries, a Continent cannot have elections. Oceania has 2 member Countries only, i.e. Australia and New Zealand, which are important in our sports, 2 very active Federations that we have to congratulate. However, I would like to remind you that Oceania is made up of at least 20 countries. Some say that these Countries are distant from one another, but if someone wants to be the President of a Federation believes in one's mandate and travels to promote roller skating; therefore, the proposal to put the Confederation under a Commissioner, obviously a person from Oceania, is conceived to spur on the commissioner with the objective – for instance – of having at least additional 2 Countries in the next 2 years. It is an incentive not to



relax. If you look at the Statutes of FINA, Oceania may only have 1 representative within the EB, whereas the Pan-American Federation has 6, Europe may have 5 and Asia 5. They have a different weight. Presently, within the EB, we have three members from Oceania: Valerie Leftwich, Patricia Wallace and the athlete's representative Kalon Dobbin. They are good and it is ok, but it is an anomaly.

Now we have to understand whether the assembly wishes to amend the Statutes as to the Technical Committees, otherwise it is useless to proceed. I agree on the fact of not immediately implementing the change concerning the Technical Committees, but a clear sign must be given now. Obviously, those who were elected keep their post. The assembly may proceed to gain some time, but I don't believe it is an advantage.

STRUCKSBERG: It is very easy; we vote, and if the Congress intends to adopt the new Statutes we will talk about them item by item because it is very important; we cannot wait for another year to use the new Statutes, we have to work on them.

WALLACE: In Europe there are great Federations that often have no money or resources to send athletes to World Championships, and FIRS expects the two Federations of Oceania to pay to set up new Federations within the Pacific Region in which the closest Pacific Country is 3,500 Km on the eastern side of Australia – which is the same distance as between London and Istanbul .

A commissioner would have the same problems in terms of financial resources, and I wonder how FIRS intends to finance this resource; maybe with an economic support the existing federations will be able to obtain positive outcomes.

If the Confederation of Oceania is removed from the EB, this will not help the Olympic dream because 5 confederations have to be involved, and that would be a negative step back. I honestly believe it is really unfair for a Federation that carried out seven World Championships, and that is the federation of the antidoping representative and of the person that fine-tuned the electronic scores for artistic, and that tries in any possible way to support FIRS. It seems to me that there is the wish not to have our involvement in FIRS anymore, and this is very difficult to accept.

ARACU: It is a fact that in the last 20 years we have had only 2 countries.

NEW ZEALAND: I find it unfair to penalise Oceania for this reason; however, now we have to consider the Statutes proposed; there are three options and we have to vote to make a decision.

KOLIBABA/USA: Some of the things contained in the new Statutes are important, but the problem is that the EB already expressed its position against them; therefore, I propose to send the Statutes submitted by FIHP back to the commission together with the proposals coming from other federations, in order to find an agreement. Such draft will be subsequently sent to the Federations that will have the time needed to analyse them before the next meeting. Furthermore, besides the Statutes representing the laws of the Federation, there shall be the bylaws completing them, and which are not present.

PERU: I believe that first of all it is necessary to guarantee that procedures are complied with, and in this case we have the Italian Federation that submitted a proposal within the deadlines provided for by the present Statutes. I think we should vote for this proposal in the agenda in order to be serious, since in the future this might be done by any Federation. I would like to congratulate the Italian Federation for its effort of drafting a written proposal; it is not an easy task, and the time has come to vote. Working on the regulation of the Statutes is another step:

these are the bases, now we have to vote and guarantee the seriousness of the persons who worked on such proposal.

GRACA/PORTUGAL: I believe that the assembly, on the basis of the proposal made by Italy, might decide what is important and what is not by analysis article by article. It might not be necessary to discuss every article. I would like to raise a problem as concerns the three proposals made by the President: in my opinion we have to exclude those that might produce a negative result for our sport. If we trust a President guiding the future of FIRS we believe that he has clear ideas on the future and on the development of our Federation, but he might find within his team someone who is against him, and this would not be a positive thing. What we said here today is that it is necessary to have unity of principles and actions.

FERREIRA: I would like to express my position to all of you as I did within the EB.

I believe that the management of FIRS in this moment is not modern; FIRS needs a reorganization placing it in the modern framework of international federations presently existing all over the world. It is necessary to be a monolithic Federation. I had the chance of dealing with several World Championships in my capacity as President of the Pan-American Confederation, and I perceived that FIRS and its President are confused with the organising committee of the World Championship; in an Artistic Championship, for instance, according to many athletes, trainers, the public and mass-media, the President of the Artistic Technical Committee is the President of FIRS. In this way, the unity and the vision by those who should be our world Federation are lost. I believe in a reform of the Statutes with a monolithic Federation, but we have to discuss article by article. A proposal was made, and we have to vote as the Delegate from the Peruvian Federation said, because such proposal is in our agenda. We have to decide whether amending the statutes, and if yes, then we will find the way to discuss and change the articles.

I participated in the Statutes Committee, but for personal reasons I could not participate in the meeting; however, I made some written considerations, including the fact that I do not see positively the consequences for Oceania deriving from the reform of the Statutes.

I am a manager and have contacts with several Olympic Committees from all over the world and with the IOC member; our objective must be the Olympic Games. It would be negative not to give a position to Oceania that represents a continent geographically different from all the other ones; probably within the Statutes we need to find a different way to evaluate, ascribing more weight to the most developed countries and a lower weight to the countries with a very limited participation. I wanted to share this view with you, and this is somehow the idea from Alaska to Patagonia: a reform making FIRS an International Federation, sound, modern and monolithic, with decision-making powers, ready to be Olympic.

PIEMONTESE/SWITZERLAND: I heard several debates on what is the best solution, and I share the idea of Spain according to which we certainly deem it necessary to change the Statutes, but we need time to amend what was proposed by Italy. We need maybe 8 or 9 months to review the pros and cons of this proposal, listen to the opinion of the EB or also of the President, and convene an Extraordinary Congress to come to conclusions, because as America rightly said, the Statutes are the legal basis of our Federation, so I suggest to take some months and then make a new proposal.

PANIAGUA/SPAIN: I propose to approve the general lines and then allow some time to the countries to submit the issues they do not agree with.

ORDONEZ/MEXICO: According to Carmelo's proposal, we should decide whether amending or not amending the Statutes in general, then take some time to make amendments because today we do not succeed in debating article by article, and after some time, after receiving the proposals from all over the world, we might convene an extraordinary meeting exclusively to vote the new Statutes of FIRS.

This is the proposal of Mexico: if we agree on the need to amend the Statutes, we can however reserve the right to discuss the articles one by one. Each one presents one's proposals on the articles that are not shared, and subsequently – after a period of 6-8 months of analysis – convening a new congress for the voting.

HERRERA AYALA/COLOMBIA: A particular greeting to all Presidents. The representative of Peru talked about the importance of respecting and welcoming a scrupulous work delivered to all Federations today. If we started to cover the Olympic pathway it is now necessary to take a clear position also as concerns the reform of the statutes: this is one of the main needs of the IOC. Today we are all here and it is not easy to put together more than 50 federations; it is an occasion we shall not miss. If we approve the Statutes in general, I think we come to nothing; we all know we have to approve in general the change of the Statutes, but we also have to focus and linger on the articles that might create conflicts of interests within the Federation, and to rapidly approve the others. Amending the Statutes is a need to develop our disciplines at best. The President mentioned the Technical Committees: we cannot continue to have a splitting of powers within an International Federation; many Federations work with internal committees appointed without any problems. We presently hold five elections, the International Federation is often seen represented by the President of the Technical Committee instead of being represented by its President. I was included within the Olympic project, and I understood in Lausanne that it is necessary that FIRS reforms its Statutes by complying with the Olympic directives. Therefore, I invite you to rapidly approve these Statutes and linger on the most controversial subjects.

PERU: I think we are all here to help our sport. Some articles of these Statutes create a great deal of confusion among us since they are not clear. The right thing to do would be to approve these Statutes and then – as to the articles that are not completely clear – set up a Commission reviewing them. I think we are all here to help and collaborate; we all have the responsibility of "doing our part".

NETHERLANDS: I am a lawyer and I believe that when rules represent the basis of an International Federation they shall not be imposed. If they are proposed in this way I will vote against all of them, despite of the fact that I wish to have some changes. I would just like to vote on what we really want to change, and then have nine months' time to allow us to have clearer Statutes.

PIEMONTESI/SWITZERLAND: I think we should vote on the three main items. All the rest is pure rules.

MAROTTA: It seems to me that the debate was extensive and democratic; I therefore try to sum up how to proceed: we may vote the Statutes article by article, and rapidly approve the articles that are not particularly interesting, whereas we linger on the main ones as asked by the Presidents of the Colombian and Swiss Federations.

We linger on those articles and extensively discuss about them, in particular those concerning the Technical Committees and Oceania. I would preliminarily consider the will of the assembly to proceed to the amendments to the Statutes; once such will is assessed we will analyse article by

article, by rapidly approving those that create no problems at all and discussing the 3 articles that may radically change the rationale of the Statutes.

The voting is open on the change of the Statutes:

The Congress approves by majority, with 17 votes against and 4 abstentions, to proceed to the change of the Statutes.

Let's move to the voting of article by article, by asking you to please intervene only on the most important articles we previously mentioned.

Uruguay and Spain ask for further clarifications about what to vote, reaffirming that if the Italian proposal is voted as a whole, the EB shall be given enough time to amend these Statutes on the basis of the indications sent by the Federations, although in the meantime the newly-adopted Statutes immediately come into force.

Roberto Ordonez/Mexico underlines how there is no credibility before the IOC if a Federation adopts new Statutes and subsequently change them within one or two years. It is necessary to decide whether amending the Statutes or not; if the decision is yes, then articles are discussed one by one, and once approved they become the new Statutes of FIRS.

President Aracu suggests to focus the attention on the most delicate and important articles, namely those concerning the Technical Committees and their eventual appointment or election and, in case of election, whether within the technical committees or on the occasion of the congress. He invites the assembly to think about the fact that such an occasion as today's in which 57 countries are present is not easy to repeat, and therefore it is necessary to exploit this occasion at best.

MAROTTA: The Congress voted by majority its will to change the Statutes, therefore I will refer to the articles individually, which will be voted one at the time, and we will linger on the most important ones.

Article 1 - Title, Recognitions, Headquarters and Official Languages

Unanimously approved

Article 2 – Objectives

Unanimously approved

Article 3 - Membership

Approved by majority, with the vote against expressed by Panama

Article 4 – Rights and duties of Member Federations

The delegate of Portugal believes – as to anti-doping controls – that it should be written that Federations shall accept both those during competitions and the out-of-competition ones.

After a brief discussion involving the representatives of Colombia, Panama and Peru, and following the contributions by Ferreira and Wallace, the conclusion is that it is sufficient to specify that Federations accept the anti-doping controls of FIRS, as it is understood that they take place both during competitions and outside of competitions, as requested by the IOC.

Article 4 is approved by majority with 8 (eight) votes against.

Article 5 - Honorary Members  
Unanimously approved

Before moving on to the voting of art. 6, the organisation chart of FIRS is tackled, in particular whether the Executive Board shall have more or less power than the President. Being understood that the absolute authority is represented by the Congress, it is more correct to include the Executive Board before the President within the Organisation Chart of FIRS.

The delegate of New Zealand also points out that one word, in the English version, is not correct in that context.

MAROTTA: Let's now vote for article 6 with 3 amendments: 1) The President of FIRS comes after the Executive Board. 2) The word "decades" is replaced by "expires". 3) Delete the word useful within the sentence " On the 1st Elective Congress".

Article 6 – FIRS Government  
Unanimously approved

Article 7 – FIRS Organization  
Unanimously approved

Article 8 - The Ordinary Congress  
Unanimously approved

Article 9 – The Extraordinary Congress  
Unanimously approved

Article 10 – The President

President Aracu proposes to temporarily interrupt the analysis of art. 10 because, if approved as written, it would give the President the power to appoint the Chairmen of Technical Committees. Roberto Ordonez, the representative of Mexico, proposes to rapidly analyse the other articles and to subsequently go back to this one.

Marotta: The voting on art.10 is temporarily interrupted as well as the voting on other articles that might present some problems. Their debate and voting is postponed to the end

Article 11 – The Executive Board

Fernando Claro would like to suspend this article as well, because he would like to present an alternative to item 5, namely to include in the eventual list of the President also the first Vice-President.

Wendy Gila asks for the amendment to the name of the African Confederation, since the correct name is African Confederation of Roller Sports.

A debate takes place on the meaning of legislative authority and legal representative of FIRS, and Aracu explains that the President of FIRS is its only legal representative, but the legislative

authority, the one that determines laws and decides on regulations belongs to the Executive Board, and thanks the representative of the Netherlands for raising the issue.

MAROTTA: Let's move on to the adoption of articles 11 by voting item 7 first and then the article as a whole. According to item 7 a Confederation, in order to be recognised and have a place in the Executive Board, shall represent at least 5 member Federations. Our colleagues from Oceania, Australia and New Zealand raised an objection saying that it is very difficult to get 5 Member Federations.

In this regard, both Valerie Leftwich and Patricia Wallace intervene by underlining the fear that a commissioner coming from an undefined place would not know how to move without knowing the reality of the Continent, and would hardly find an economic support by the Federations that do not know him.

Ordonez, the Mexican representative, believes that nobody would be able to manage a Continent better than a commissioner coming from that Continent, having the best interest to improve one's Confederation in the shortest period of time. Aracu completely agrees.

MAROTTA: Let's vote for item 7 of article 11 with 2 amendments.

"FIRS EB can nominate an administrator coming from that Continent". Do we agree? Who is in favour of item 7 of article 11 with this amendment may raise one's hand. Who is against? Abstentions?

In favour: 109

Against: 45

Abstentions: 13

The amendment is approved by majority.

Article 11 as a whole is put to the vote as previously amended.

The article is approved by majority with 33 votes against and 8 abstentions.

Article 12 - Vacancies in the Executive Board

Approved by majority with 15 votes against and 5 abstentions.

Article 13 – The Executive Committee

In the Spanish version the word "jefe" is replace with the word "director".

Approved by majority with 4 votes against.

Article 14 - The Secretary General

Approved by majority with 10 votes against

Article 15 - Membership Fees

Unanimously approved

Article 16 - Resignation of Members  
Unanimously approved

Article 17 - Expulsion of Members  
Unanimously approved

Article 18 - Nomination of President and First Vice President  
It is decided that art.18 and art. 21, concerning the Technical Committees, will be discussed subsequently.

Article 19 - Voting  
Unanimously approved

Article 20 - Alterations to the Statutes  
Unanimously approved

Article 21 - The International Technical Committees  
Art. 21 is suspended

Article 22 - Financial Year - Auditor  
Unanimously approved.

Article 23 - Federation Funds  
Unanimously approved

Article 24 - Confederations  
Approved by majority with 10 abstentions

Article 25 Other International Organizations  
Approved by majority with 5 votes against and 4 abstentions

Article 26 - Dissolution  
Unanimously approved

Article 27- Transitory Rule  
Approved by majority with 17 votes against and 2 abstentions.

The representative of Panama raises the problem of incompatibility – in his opinion – of articles 3 and 4 of our Statutes with the Olympic Charter as to the recognition by the IOC of one single Sports Federation in each single country.

Ferreira, the representative of the Netherlands, of Mexico and of the USA intervene on this topic, and all agree on such need, although the Dutch representative underlines that often the several disciplines of the same sport lead to the establishment of more than one Federation.

President Aracu rectifies these remarks by saying that as a matter of fact the Olympic Charter does not allow more than one Olympic Committee per nation, and it is therefore necessary to act so that one single Federation is in place in each Country.

#### Article 21 - The International Technical Committees

President Aracu takes the floor underlining the importance of the article that has to be the object of analysis and voting. It has to be decided whether the representatives of Technical Committees shall be elected or appointed by the President, and asks for contributions in favour and against these options.

HERRERA /COLOMBIA: If the Chairmen of Technical Committees are appointed, this shall be done by the EB, and those appointed shall include within the Committee representatives from the different Continents. If appointed, it would become a consultative committee of the EB, differently from what happens today that has the same autonomy as the President. I would like to propose that the Chairmen are appointed by their countries.

PANIAGUA/SPAIN: I think that most of Federations appoint the managers in charge of the different disciplines, therefore I do not understand why this should not be the case of the International Federation. Once the President is democratically chosen and receives full confidence, he may and shall appoint the Chairmen of the various Committees; therefore, the proposal of the Spanish Federation is that the President elected appoints the members of the Committees. Furthermore, if they prove they are not able to keep up with their tasks, the President shall have the power to appoint other members, as it happens in most of Federations, Governments and democratic institutions.

ORDONEZ/MEXICO: I believe there shall be a list siding the President at the moment of the election, which is voted with him like it happens in parliamentary systems.

The voting is open on the Chairmen of the Technical Committees to be appointed

Votes in favour: 96

Votes against: 51

Abstentions: 8

The system of appointment of the Chairmen of Technical Committees is approved.

ARACU: We only approved one position; now the voting concerns the article. I repeat the concept: the Technical Chairmen will be appointed by the President, who shall file to the Secretary General the list of names and his candidacy; I would add "with the approval of the Country of belonging", meaning that to candidate the member of a National Federation, I need to have the approval of such National Federation.

Ferreira, the representative of Uruguay, as well as the representative of Spain, as for additional clarifications since they believe that if the Congress knows the names of the list chosen by the candidate President, they are elected by the Assembly together with the President. Appointing them means that the President, once elected, appoints them.

ARACU: Communicating the names in advance is a sign of transparency, but they are however appointed, and the President also has the power to change them during the four-year term in case they show they are not suitable for their mandate.

MEXICO/ORDONEZ: It would be enough adding to item 3) “the President may at any time change the Chairmen of the Technical Committees”. If the President believes they do not work properly, he changes them.

ARACU: This is something I do not like, because to change a Chairman there shall be serious reasons, a Chairman cannot be changed on the basis of a caprice.

NETHERLAND: We are against the appointment, so I would like to have some clarifications. Within the Dutch Speed Skating Federation, it is not just the Chairman that is elected, but all the members of such Technical Committee; within the Technical Committee, however, the two trainers are appointed not by the Chairman but by the Council. It works very well; it is possible to have a proposal by the Chairman, for instance, a list of names, but also the chance for other Members to give other names to the Congress: it means that the Chairman may obviously have a list with some names changed, and I believe it is a good mix between the appointment and the election.

FERREIRA: I think that this system is not very democratic. The members of the EB were all somehow elected: the President, the first Vice-President, the Presidents of Confederations. I believe that the fairest system is that the President appoints together with the EB also the Chairmen of Technical Committees supported by their National Federations. In our country the executive committee appoints them because in any case the President is the leader of the executive committee. My fear is the following: we presently have a transparent President as Sabatino, but one day we might have a President that does not have the same ideals. I think we should leave a door open for the future.

ARACU: I am available to accept any type of solution, but there must be a balance. The Chairman must be submitted to the election by the Congress, and if a Chairman is not positive has to be changed.

It is the Congress that decides, and this is even more balanced than Continental Presidents, who are elected by their Confederations, since as in the case of Oceania, two Countries determine a general policy. The Presidents shall set up their team in their Continents, but with a world perspective and not limited to the good of their Continents.

The proposal clearly states that the Chairman will choose their team, but appointing them is not an easy task since the President shall do it by thinking about the good of the single disciplines without being influenced. I would prefer they were elected within the Congress, but if we want to appoint them it is fair that the President takes on this responsibility, because this is the only guarantee; if they are elected by the EB, any member might justify oneself by saying he/she was in a situation of minority.

The majority decided to appoint the Chairmen of Technical Committees, so let’s vote.

Votes in favour 78

Votes against 49

Abstentions 13

Two thirds of voters amount to 93, therefore the proposal was not approved.

Marotta explains that since this is a change to the Statutes, the majority of two thirds of voters is needed.

Some delegates believe that the proposal made before the voting was not sufficiently clear, but President Aracu believes that the Congress voted in favour of the appointment of the Chairmen of Technical Committees, and therefore it is necessary to decide how to appoint them.

KOLIBABA: We should follow a different and maybe easier pathway. Earlier on, the President of the United States was mentioned, but his team is either accepted or rejected by the Parliament. I think this is the right way, but we have to find a different approach.

ARACU: Kolibaba gave us a good idea; the Chairmen of the Technical Committees are appointed by the Executive Board upon proposal of the President, who however has the power not to accept unsuitable persons, therefore there is a right balance.

A debate begins on the fact that the members of the EB shall not appoint themselves, and the Chairmen of the Committees belong to the EB. Some delegates propose a first meeting of the EB without the Technical Committees, in which performing their appointment; others, including Ferreira, suggest to take into consideration the proposal made by Portugal and to elect them all during the Congress.

ARACU: I think that having an executive in which only two members are elected by the Congress cannot work. We should elect guarantors to give balance to the Assembly. We have to go back to the proposal of the appointment, or decide that they are all elected, one by one, by this Assembly during the Congress.

MAROTTA: The choice we have to make shall be both democratic and functional. We had 2 main options: either the appointment by the President through a list drafted by him, or a voting by this Assembly. The first solution was not accepted because two thirds of the votes needed to amend the Statutes were not obtained. Therefore, in my opinion, we should put to the vote the second option: electing the Chairmen of the Technical Committees after the election of the President and of the First Vice-President by this Congress.

ARACU: This looks like a well-advised proposal. Each country will present one's candidate. The name was changed into Chairman because it is not easy for people to understand how many Presidents exist within FIRS.

The proposal according to which the Chairmen of the Technical Committees are elected by the Assembly during the Congress is put to the vote.

Votes in favour: 128

Votes against: 11

Abstentions: 3

Article 21 is approved as expressed.

Article 10 – The President

MAROTTA: The voting of art. 10 has to be made with the amendment relating to the election of the Chairmen of the Technical Committees with the exception of letter e).

The representative of Colombia expresses some doubts and asks for clarifications relating to the appointment of the members of Technical Committees.

Some delegates believe that the Chairman of the Technical Committee, once elected, shall have the power to appoint the members of his/her Committee; Aracu, however, also supported by Ferreira, believes that this would keep the political power in the hands of the Chairmen: the most democratic solution is that the Chairman proposes the members of his/her Committee, but they are appointed by the President of FIRS

Article 10, with the exception of letter e), is put to the vote

Voters : 135

Two thirds: 90

Votes in favour: 91

Votes against: 44

Approved by majority.

ARACU: It is clear that since we have one single elective congress, failing the chairman of a technical committee it is not possible to hold another meeting like this one, and therefore – for the period leading to the next Congress – a Chairman is appointed by the President.

ARTICLE 18: Nomination of president and First Vice President

The representative of Mexico proposes to add that not only the candidacy of the President and of the First Vice President to be proposed by their Federations, but also that of the Chairmen of Technical Committees.

ARACU: We have to approve art. 18 by eliminating the last two lines.

We instruct the General Secretariat to make corrections in case of errors, by always keeping the directives adopted by this Assembly.

Article 18 is approved by majority with 4 abstentions.

#### **j) Vice presidents' reports**

#### **l) Reports by the Presidents of the four International Technical Committees CIRH,CIRILH,CIC,CIPA**

MAROTTA: Let's move on to items j) and l) in the Agenda. The communications of Vice Presidents; you all have them in your folders, so you may read them. **(ATT.3)** If Vice Presidents ask for the floor they are entitled to speak, otherwise we may proceed.

Vice Presidents decide to refer to what is written in their reports.

A debate follows between Ferreira and Quintanilla about the Statutes of the South-American Confederation, but the Secretary General refers to the reports of Vice Presidents since there is no specific item to be approved.

Since the Secretary General already presented his report, and since the new affiliations were ratified already, the reports by the Chairman of the Technical Committees are presented. **(ATT.4)**

PORTIER: Inline hockey is a small part of the family of Roller Sports, and many – also within this Federation – believe that it should be under the umbrella of the Ice Skating Federation. I congratulate you all because today we had a true democratic congress, although some items of the Statutes have to be reviewed in consideration of the procedural method that we will try to change in the next Congresses. In your folder you will find the minutes of the CIRILH Assembly in Bucaramanga with our programme for the next 4 years; thanks to the organisation of Colombia, 34 teams could live this great event. And I wish the same for 2013 in Huntington Beach in California, and in 2015 in Toulouse in France. Many countries are developing our discipline thanks to the help of the members of the technical committee of inline hockey, whom I thank. Thank you for your attention

MAROTTA: As Chairman of CIC, I would like to bring the attention of the Presidents of National Federations on the participation this year in the World Games 2013 in Cali, Colombia. As you know, they are one of the most famous multi sports events after the Olympics. We, as Roller Sports, are an important part of such event, and for this reason we asked for the participation of 45 athletes, 35 in rink competitions plus 10 for the first time in road competitions. On the basis of the World Championship 2012, the athletes coming from 28 countries qualified for the event: you may find in your folder the list of athletes that qualified. Board and lodging for the participation in the World Games are offered by the Colombian organising committee, and Federations only have to pay for the air tickets of the athletes that qualified for the competitions. This is an opportunity for several countries that never had the chance to participate in such an important event to take part in it. As you can see, the list contains Countries that traditionally never rank among the first positions of speed skating as India, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Switzerland, Sweden, South Africa. 28 Countries obtained the qualification, so I warmly recommend to ensure the participation of your athletes in the World Games 2013 in Cali.

Ferreira asks for the floor to read his report that contains many important subjects that the Assembly has to be informed about. (see annex)

Margaret Brooks thanks everybody, she says she is happy for being in the EB for the first time, and refers to her report (see annex) and to the website of FIRS for the information on artistic skating.

The delegate of IRAN submits to the Assembly his proposal to spread Roller Sports in Schools through the affiliation of FIRS to the International School Federation.

Marotta in the end gives the floor to President Aracu for the closing greetings.

Aracu thanks all participants expressing his happiness and pride for the entire team made up of all Federations, and says he is at everyone's disposal for the future activity to be carried out.

The meeting ends at 7.30 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Marotta".

The Secretary General  
Roberto Marotta

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Aracu".

The President  
Sabatino Aracu