



**MINUTES OF FIRS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
FREIBURG  
20<sup>TH</sup> - 21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2010**

Members in attendance:

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

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

**President Aracu** welcomes all participants. He thanks Harro Strucksberg, as President of the German Federation for the excellent organization.

He welcomes Wendy Gila, newly elected President of the African Confederation and Patricia Wallace, for the first time to our meetings as President of the Oceania Confederation.

He thanks the staff and particularly FIHP, present here with its Secretary General Emilio Gasbarrone for the support

**Struckberg** asks for a change of the agenda because of commitments as President of the German Federation

## **2. Approval of the EB Minute of Rome.**

Approved unanimously

## **3. Communications of the President.**

**Aracu:** Since the assembly in Rome up today many things have happened. The most important one was the Olympic vote: we presented a good product, getting congratulations. The international press has been interested in us and a great part of it considered us as included for the show and the quality of our sport. Unfortunately, already in March, some rumors gave winning golf and rugby to 7. The EB of the IOC, which met in Berlin last August decided to vote for 2 sport to be included in the Olympics in 2016 and gave preference to golf and rugby 7. Needless to say that among the 7 disciplines candidates these are the richest ones, those with more sponsors and more media coverage. I thank all those who cooperated and worked with us. Yesterday we met in Lausanne, the IOC President, who has reaffirmed that our movie was one of the most exciting. We must accept the result and move on. We have given to our sport an image, that it did not have. We regret only the fact that this Olympic project was not started many years ago. We spent 168.000 \$ for this movie. Also yesterday, we met the Sports Director of the IOC, Christophe Dubi, to whom we have put many questions. My personal opinion is that the IOC has gone where there are economic forces. Rogge pointed out, that we have all we need to become an Olympic sport with any of our disciplines. Rogge's commitment is that he will value, in the future, the opportunity to bring our sport to the YOG 2014. They are interested in skateboarding, because it attracts young people, to combine with another discipline. They have criticized us for not providing an image of high-level, FIRS brand, like the other 2 selected sports. He calls the EB to a commitment and a joint in which the image and logo FIRS can be improved to the utmost; we need to create structures, that could always more emphasize us, and we can not afford, not to organize World Championships at a top level. We must all be united and not allow the skateboarding going on its own, we must include it in the FIRS.

All of us should put a great effort to avoid that skateboarding goes away on its own. Two years ago, after the meeting with Rogge in Guatemala City, I have sent a circular to all countries around the world, saying to ensure that skateboarding will become one of our disciplines, otherwise we risk, as it is already happening, that independent groups of skateboarding, especially strong as the American one, want to make an independent international federation. To let this discipline go out from the Roller Sports would be a suicidal policy.

FIRS should look for sponsors to help even the African Confederation in the creation of new Federations. Africa is a great basin in this direction. Unfortunately we had not the participation of some countries for Mediterranean Games 2009 Pescara and our presence has been cancelled. In a sense, we must consider this as "something good" for failing to show to the IOC the diversity of technical training, that exists between nations like Italy, Spain and France and the emerging Albania, Croatia, etc. In the future I wish that FIRS office and employees will be available for the Technical Committees to do their job when necessary. Our professional and financial commitment is that by next year we will make a promotional video, as we have done for speed, for all other disciplines, that also includes skateboarding, to be sent worldwide. We worked a lot in the communication sector with the development of Roller.tv which will become a habit for all of our disciplines.

President Aracu speaks about his personal and professional vicissitudes, that he is experiencing for few months with a denigratory smear campaign on private and political level, that have brought him up in Court to prove his innocence and no veracity of the charges.

**Ferreira:** expresses his solidarity with the President, as both sporting and political leaders as well as his appreciation and friendship.

**Leftwich:** She has worked closely with the President and the Secretary General in this last period and wishes to thank them for what they have done for Roller Sports. Surely we will go ahead with the Olympic project.

#### **4. Olympic project**

The Secretary General points out that the President has already spoken about the problem in his communications, but he wants to add that in recent years, our sport is known in environment of international importance (IOC, World Games, GAISF, etc.). Today, finally, when they meet us, they identify us as the delegates of Roller Sports. After our participation in the Barcelona 92 Olympic Games with the rink hockey, many people identified us only with this discipline.

After the meeting of yesterday, with Dubi and Rogge, we have to decide if we want to go on fighting to become someday Olympic or if we continue in our little world. We need to remain fastened to the IOC, but it is necessary that all our Federations add another discipline, controlling and promoting it: the skateboarding. The IOC is interested in opening to the world of youth. In winter sports there is snowboarding, in the summer games the BMX. Skateboarding is practiced by young people on every road, it is not necessary to have big organizations, it is a social reality. If we want to get even with other disciplines, we must avoid that an International Skateboarding Federation is recognized by the IOC and works independently.

Today almost all the NOC respect us, because we belong to a short list of sports (5) which could become Olympic. My opinion is to go on fighting to stay on the short list even if we have to promote a new discipline: the skateboarding.

He asks the opinion of everybody present.

**Strucksberg:** thanks the President and the Secretary General for their work and recalls his meeting with Bach. He is disappointed for the result, but we must move forward. Perhaps we need to wait 1-2 years before resuming. Regarding skateboarding he points out that kids do not like to be part of organizations: it is a free movement. However we must incorporate them in our Federation.

**Marotta:** In recent years we have tried repeatedly to contact the U.S. Skateboarding Federation which is sponsored by the NBC television network, but without success. They have an important circuit of international events and economic resources: when we invited them to Denver at SportAccord they said, they were not interested and then wrote to IOC in order to be approved independently. The IOC has informed us of this request and has invited us to find to resolve the problem. They are not interested in joining FIRS, because their sport philosophy is entirely different from that of our disciplines. They are free, without rules and with a particular sportswear, expression of youth. We have already lived this experience with the inline downhill and freestyle, we were ready to open the doors to one of their representatives in our Board. They are not interested and have even prevented the FIRS to organize a World Championship in Rome last year, asking their members not to attend on pain of exclusion from their professional circuit. If

we want to solve this problem we must do so in a short time with our Federations, otherwise this organization will ask again the IOC recognition.

**Aracu:** Another strategy is to put pressure on NBC. On December 5<sup>th</sup> I have an appointment with the president of NBC. Maybe our disciplines may join the NBC. Something is breaking even in the commercial policy of NBC with the IOC. It 'a very important commercial sports policy. Talking with Rogge I asked him, if we could hold an additional meeting of EB or FIRS Congress in a hall of the IOC in Lausanne, because we have to show the IOC that we are with them. We must have a close relationship with them. Use their University of Lausanne Sports Management to create all the projects. The key to enter today are the Youth Olympic Games: skateboarding, wheels that attract young people. The choice to support speed was not for sympathy, because even sport team is important. Our world is interesting because it touches so many tastes. Our project should go forward, regardless of discipline that we pursue. We must become a major international association of elite, offering a great product.

## **5. African Confederation.**

**Marotta:** after many unsuccessful attempts last year the African federations came together and democratically elected the President and the Board. Africa is of strategic importance to us because the whole world looks at sports that can do a lot for young people in a continent with many economic and social difficulties. Success in Africa mean for us a great card. Our congratulations to Wendy on her election. We are confident that the enthusiasm inherited from her unforgettable parents helping her to promote Roller Sports in Africa.

**Wendy Gila:** thanks and reads part of the report already delivered to the other members, highlighting the most important points. In September 2009 the African Confederation was created with the participation of only 5 countries, in the headquarters of the South African NOC. Also present were V. Leftwich, R. Marotta. Carlos Ferreira sent one delegate, Triana, with an agreement proposal between the African and the Panamerican Confederation. Then she communicates all the people, who were elected in the Board. She speaks about the activities in various countries, continuing to list short and long term priorities. She invites all members to contact her before answering to any unknown person, because there are fraudulent activities in Africa, through internet and you must always check with the respective NOC.

99% of the athletes is black and this is very important for governments. The economic situation in Africa is absolutely not thriving, she speaks of the assistance program in sports (a meal for each athlete before a competition) and asks all for cooperation and assistance, sending outdated skates left in the warehouses, sending coaches and organizing seminars etc..

We must work for a good image of Africa, we do not want to be present at World Championships and see that people are sorry for us, otherwise we will never grow. Please help us to have the necessary materials, taking into account that a pair of skates is shared by many athletes throughout the day and so soon we'll have a multitude of athletes in poor areas. It will be a long road with a lot of work.

**Marotta:** your report is truly impressive for the difficulties that you face every day, difficulties, that Valerie and I have seen during our visit. We wish you great success and all the federations in the world will try to be near you.

## **6. Report of the Vice Presidents**

**Guo Min**: greets all present. He remembers the organization in 2009 of Speed and Freestyle World Championships and their great success and the victory of two Chinese athletes in Haining, which is very encouraging. The Asian Confederation thanks FIRS President and Secretary General for their work on the Olympic project and for the video produced, that has been uploaded on the website of China and is much appreciated. Our sport has never received so much interest as now and many young people are approaching us. Speed and Figure Championship are held in even years, while Hockey Championships in odd years. The hockey championships had to be held in Pakistan, but for security reasons they will be held in north China in January 2010. The Asian Championships will be held in Guangzhou / China in November 2010 where Speed and Figure Skating have already been confirmed. Speed 23-24 November while Figure Skating 25-26 November. This event will be the most important for the CARS in 2010.

**Carlos Orlando Ferreira**: greets all present. The main activity has been focused on maintaining the skating in the Games organized by the NOC in America, which are held every 4 years and which involve the 26 Olympic sports and any sport that does not have this feature.

Pan American Games: second in the world after the Olympic Games, organized by an organization called ODEPA / PASO. It 's always more difficult to keep skating because they want Olympic sports. Thanks to several visits made in Guadalajara, Acapulco, Ciudad de Mexico, San Juan de Puerto Rico with Jim Pollard, George Pickard, Olga Soto and Roberto Ordoñez on November 4<sup>th</sup> in Mexico City it was decided to keep us in the edition 2011 of October, involving speed and figure skating. In January / February we will have a meeting with the Technical Committee to decide the number of medals, athletes and competitions. It will be very difficult to stay in these games because they are accepting other sports. Today they have 37 sports.

In 2015 they will be held in Toronto. I ask the attention of FIRS President to start already working with the Canadian NOC to accept our sport. I see hard the staying of our sport.

South American and Caribbean Games: our sport was not included, but when Bogotá was chosen as the site I managed speed and figure skating

ODESUR Games, the South American continent, with 14 NOC. Ensured our presence in March 2010 in Medellin / Colombia.

The South American Confederation organizes championships, which serve for selecting the Pan Americans, in Puebla, Mexico, from 24 April to 1 May.

Then there are the Bolivarian Games with 6 nations. Because of the lack of participation of Venezuela the minimum number of 3 was not reached (Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador), so we are not present in these Games. Because of political problems, because of medals.

A small comment on FIRS policy. At last FIRS Congress in Rome, I pointed out that this policy was not balanced and that it would have not lead us to Olympic success. We need to work for promotion and development in different countries where our presence is nothing, mainly in Africa and Asia. Increasing our presence in America and in the Caribbean and waiting for the development of Eastern Europe. I am ready to work as Executive Board. You have to work with journalists and ensure that all the Worlds have television coverage. Golf has TV channels that broadcast 24 hours a day, for skating some news from time to time.

The President and the Secretary General did an excellent job and I'm sad for the non-inclusion of our sport.

**Pat Wallace** congratulates the President and SG for their work. She has delivered to all her report and will speak about some points. She has taken part at the meeting with Australia NOC and has

seen their commitment for the Youth Olympic Games, noting that in summer sports skateboarding and extreme sports have high visibility. In Australia we have since some years speed and skateboarding and we thought it appropriate to create another branch under the umbrella of our Federation with young employees. We also have a website that deals with skateboarding.

We have the marketing for skateboarding that is interested in obtaining grants from the government and other bodies, organizing competitions and another that deals with events that have ranking and diffusion.

I think it is appropriate that a member of the CIC takes charge of skateboarding and gets a place among us, as we did in Australia.

Then she lists the locations and the dates of the Championships of the Oceania Confederation in 2010 hoping to work closely with the Asian Confederation.

**Fernando Claro:** greets everyone. He considers very important to increase the development of skating in the African nations and says that the European Confederation is available to help the African Confederation. In Europe we are working to improve the quantity and quality of our athletes. This year in Europe the Hockey World Championship took place in Vigo and now we see those of Figure Skating and I want to congratulate the friend Harro Strucksberg for the excellent organization. We must increase the visibility of our sport, technical rules were also changed for hockey to be more spectacular. He congratulates for introducing Show Groups in Figure Skating, that made sure that many of our athletes do not leave our sport. All these changes were made worldwide thanks to the hard work of the European Technical Committees; as always our continent is the engine of the world.

During the meeting of FIRS Executive Board in Rome, February 2009, it was set up a working group to revise the Statute made by him, Valerie, Carlos Orlando. They have not yet had the opportunity to start this job, but hopes that it will be done soon.

**Valerie Leftwich:** I delivered my report to you all. This year I attended the World Games in Kaohsiung, I was at the World Championships in Varese as CIRILH member and I represented FIRS at the election of the African Confederation and at the opening ceremony of these Figure Skating World Championships. Living in Australia is easier for me to go in Asia and help them in promotion. I have nothing to add, having written it in my report.

**Luis Alfonso Munoz** a small comment on the work done by FIRS for the Olympic recognition. I belong to FIRS for more than 30 years and has always worked and tried to enter the Olympic Programme. First with hockey and then with speed. I fully understand the work done with the IOC. It is essential from a political point of view, but it is not only a work of the President and the Secretary General. All continental Confederations are responsible. When we read the IOC report because we are not Olympic it depends on the weakness of the continental confederations, the little presence of some nations in continental and world championships and the little TV coverage in our world. I invite everyone to cooperate in this new stage with well-defined tasks, and with a clearer approach to NOC. I also wish that FIRS in the near future will allocate the organization of the Worlds only to nations that may have the television coverage for a matter of revenue.

**Marotta:** remembers that some disciplines have difficulties in finding organising nations.

**Aracu:** wants to renew the appointment of Luis Alfonso Munoz, as FIRS Auditor. Topics to be covered later.

## COFFEE BREAK

**Strucksberg:** his report was presented to all the Federations during the meeting in Vigo and sent to FIRS Secretariat. If someone wishes to ask questions, he is happy to answer. He points out the crisis in line hockey and the possibility of participation of teams abroad. There are also problems for visas when you invite teams of Asia or Africa to participate in European events. He calls all for help to reinstate rink hockey circuit in the major events around the world.

**Marotta:** notes that we are one big family and asks Harro to say in what FIRS may be helpful, except for financial aid since FIRS has no resources. Maybe a few years ago, it was necessary to change the rules to become more spectacular.

**Portier:** is pleased to participate for the second time as CIRIHL President at the EB meeting. He regrets that the Ice Hockey Federation has reported on its website that inline hockey is under its control. July 2009 was very interesting for us with the organization in Varese of the World Championships and thanks FIHP for the excellent organization. Then at the end of this month the World Games took place in Kaohsiung that, despite the size of the track (small), were for us a success. Therefore he speaks about the activities in 2008 and 2009, calendar of the next years, targets to achieve with the media, website development, twitter, facebook, etc.. good connections in the world. Back to the problem of ice Federation and asks if FIRS President has recently contacted René Fasel to resolve urgently the problem. CIRILH is also researching the global promotion of the discipline, with juniors tournaments in all continents. He urges in particular the assistance of the Pan-American Confederation for including some federations under the umbrella of FIRS. He announces that there is a new Secretary General, an Italian Lamberto Lastrucci, who lives in France and is an affiliated of FFRS.

**Aracu:** the real problem for the two disciplines of hockey is economic. Inline is also in competition with ice hockey. As earlier mentioned by Portier, he is worried that countries like Argentina, Brazil, Chile want to transfer to ice. We must find a condition, that does not exclude nations, an agreement with ice if we want to live. A single Commission, the inline is useful for the improvement of the ice and we use it in countries that do not have ice. It is already done in speed. The Italian Federation of Ice for example is looking for our athletes and even for our coach Ippolito Sanfratello and has offered him 4 times more than what we offer to go to ice. It is opening up a dangerous period because it all depends on inline skates. They use the roller and then go on ice saying that they have so many nations. We will make this meeting with Fasel, but this is the only solution we have.

**Marotta:** we will have a meeting with Fasel in Zurich in the coming weeks and we let you know about it. Fasel is the most powerful man in the IOC after Rogge and secures his sport. He does not want us to create him problems with the IOC and certainly he will help us. Our position is only good in relation to the rules, because we have the wheels.

**Harro:** asks to prepare very well this meeting contacting George Pickard on a meeting held in 2002 with the corresponding agreement.

**Marotta:** to gain time he unifies his relations as FIRS Secretary General and CIC President. In February we had a meeting with Bach with Sabatino and Harro. Bach is probably the future IOC

President, knows very well our sport. IOC members are all very nice, but in the end when it comes to voting ...

Also in that time we have prepared the Elective Congress of FIRS, and in March we were at the GAISF Congress in Denver; to be present in these international meetings is important for two reasons, because they have to identify that person in the sport. We must create an interpersonal relationship, communication and friendship with them because they vote.

For the third time in 2 years we have prepared a questionnaire for the IOC, a volume of 200 pages, that needs more than a month of work.

In May we completed the video for the presentation in Lausanne. In June, the problem of the Mediterranean Games where skating has not taken part for not having reached the minimum number of nations. In July, we had the World Games with great success for our disciplines, preceded by numerous problems, particularly for facilities. Speed on that occasion received the visit of IOC Vice President Mr. Igaya, of the factory owner Mizuno, Mr. Mizuno, Pierre Ducrey, Lesley Neri and Ron Froehlich who confirmed his satisfaction for the quality of our disciplines.

In August, the IOC in Berlin did not select our sport. We have already discussed, we have no other choice but to continue fighting. I was in Shanghai for the 3rd Freestyle Worlds organized by WSSA with 23 participating nations. It 'a discipline that the IOC is watching closely because practiced by young people. It is an urban sport, played by young people on the street, without any specific system. The organization of China was a success and I would like to thank them for having hosted two World Championships (Shanghai and Haining).

In September, I attended the Congress of the Africa Confederation in South Africa with Valerie and I thank Wendy for her hospitality. It is true that few nations have participated, but it was the first Democratic Congress.

In the same month the World Championships were held in Haining and I wish to thank the Chinese Association and the Organizing Committee because they have organized this event in 10 months.

At the end of 2008 the Swiss Federation has given up the Organisations of the Worlds 2010.

In October I attended the IOC meeting in Copenhagen, where the Congress has finally ratified the decision of August.

Now we are in November and we have not yet managed the revision of the Statute as agreed at the FIRS Congress in Rome in February. During the next year we will go on with this work.

## 16. Financial Report

**Marotta:** In the dossier there is the balance of the EB 2008 and the budgets 2010. 2009 is not yet completed and will be delivered next year. He reads and explains the relationships in detail.

**Aracu:** The budget shows that only if FIRS is organized, it can do something, because the only revenue related to affiliations are nothing. There is the help of the Italian Skating Federation involved both economically with the provision of € 50,000 and with its own organization. With the sponsors we hope to reach \$ 180,000. We had a committee for sports facilities and get to give approvals that will bring in revenues. We are building an organization not only technically good, but that will take larger and larger economic resources.

We are planning to hold a World Cup of figure skating with stops in Rome, Buenos Aires, Bogota and Dubai, to promote our sport and earn a little money. I hope that this can happen, to become independent and so that FIHP, because FIRS President is Italian, should no longer support us.

The 2008 technical sponsors were Vesmaco and WIC.

He states that the IOC has highlighted the lack of enhancement of FIRS brand, even in the brochure of 2009 World Championships in China is nonexistent. We must ask all our Federations



to put on their letterhead the FIRS logo. Entries must be managed and invested in various fields, but the different disciplines should not appear as separate Federations

**Strucksberg:** asks if the accounts of the Technical Committees are checked and corrects that the sum allocated as FIRS support to the CIRH, as its budget, is the TV contract of Montreux.

**Marotta:** points out that all the proceeds go to FIRS and the contribution of the TV of Montreux paid to FIRS has turned to CIRH. The TV rights are owned by FIRS and not by Technical Committees, and the sums given are a support given by FIRS.

**Aracu:** Television rights taken by FIRS are not all gone to CIRH, but a percentage has remained at FIRS. We must understand that we are one Federation, sometimes we think we have an own management and this is wrong. The areas must be helped, but by everyone.

**Strucksberg:** requests to add a dash with TV rights. It must be clear that financial support to CIRH results as entry of TV rights of Montreux.

Accepted by Marotta.

## 17. Communication

**Aracu:** in 2009 we established another step with the live or deferred streaming of the Worlds, We have been on online magazines such as Future Sports, Sports Management, Sportcal, Insider and Sports Around the Rings and other international ones.

In 2009 we have closed a contract of € 36.500 in 4 years with "The Sportsman Media Group" (BWIN), that certainly will help us in international communication. Over the next 3 years we must provide coverage for at least 4 world championships a year of rink hockey, inline hockey, junior and senior men and women. We are also closing a very strong contract on TV rights for the next Rink Hockey World Championship, that will allow us to collect € 140,000.

We entered also the World Sport Group with Rink-hockey and Inline hockey Worlds for legalized gambling, another form of revenue. (Bwin for example, has also a TV circuit).

In 2010 we want to make a leap in quality with a professional editorial staff, so that all federations can use our website and get the benefits.

We want to create even a web radio when the condition of the facilities used to perform the world do not allow streaming video.

We did a good job with the media, sending articles and photos.

Marketing: we have closed with Vesmaco a contract of € 45.000 in 3 years, while with Iguana, which grants the WIC, one for € 95.000 for 4 years until 2011. We are also speaking about a valorisation of the logo.

He also presents the draft of the new letterhead, as well as the address of the technical Committee, he would add the address of Rome.

We must let disappear other logos and emphasizing that of FIRS. All referees and judges must only have the brand FIRS, other brands disqualify us. It is impossible not to enhance the FIRS brand in our international events.

**Strucksberg:** asks for the revision of FIRS Statute to focus the article that deals with TV rights, especially regarding the lighting and any change in programming competitions after signing the contract.

**Aracu:** reassures CIRH President to contact him in advance to check technical details, before signing any television contracts.

## **8. New discipline: Freestyle skating.**

**Marotta:** tells to have participated in the three previous editions of the Worlds (2007 Italy, 2008 Russia and China 2009). There are 2 different regulations in the world, ISFA in Europe and WSSA in Asia, we are trying to unify them. This discipline is similar to the artistic and present the proposal to give the freestyle to CIPA. Jim Pollard is not present and the debate was postponed until tomorrow.

**Strucksberg:** proposes the creation of an ad hoc Committee as in the German Federation

**Marotta:** all these new disciplines are very interesting but before creating a new committee they have to pass the initial phase, having included in an already existing Committee. The inline downhill and the aggressive can stay in CIC, but for freestyle, with the preparation of the judges, it should also be controlled by CIPA.

**Portier:** in France there are the commissions for new disciplines.

## **9. Skateboarding**

**Marotta:** We have already discussed. Skateboarding refuses to participate under FIRS control. We will go on trying to convince this American professional organization to be part of our Commission, but I think this can only walk through a growth of skateboarding as part of our national federations. Only when we can organize our world championship, we can sit at the same table, we are now in a position of subordination.

**Ferreira:** knows that skateboarding has tried unsuccessfully to join the UCI.

**Marotta:** it was prevented the FIRS, they were trying to do the matching BMX with half pipe, thinking through the UCI, to become Olympics.

**Ferreira:** he was reported that skating could join the program of the Olympic Youth Games in Singapore, but there was also an afterthought for skateboarding.

**Marotta:** When the IOC has prepared the program, was designed to include all non-Olympic sports. Then they realized that the existing facilities were inadequate and therefore had to follow the Olympic sports that have made even pressure to do so.

In Singapore there will be more than 3,700 athletes, managers etc.. and difficulties in the organization.

Rogge pointed out yesterday that, after this first edition, is their intention to open the doors to non-Olympic sports, but with a reduction of athletes allowed.

**Ferreira:** comments that in America the same associations have refused skateboarding athletes for their behaviour. He points out that we must all fight for one goal, to avoid losing energy.

**Marotta:** We must decide what to do in the future. Go our own way, or follow the path suggested by the IOC, remaining near them.

**Claro:** agrees with Ferreira, remembers that hockey was a demonstration sport at Barcelona 1992 and wishes to continue in FIRS Olympic Project.

**Strucksberg:** thinks we should monitor what is happening by sending a letter to all the federations to check the status of skateboarding, to open the doors to this discipline. He considers correct to continue the Olympic Project for speed.

**Ferreira:** Many of the answers to "why are we not Olympics" are enclosed in this book, the report of the IOC. There are many questions on which we must work in the future.

Roller Sports were the first to be excluded from the seven sports.

We need to work on the universality, the number of members. We have said 111 and we must strengthen in Oceania, that has 12% of IOC members and in Africa. Popularity of our sport: when they ask us the number of sold tickets and spectators, we are talking about 40 thousand and 28 thousand sold. It is too little. The same for the TV coverage.

The first thing to do is to mass sport, enhance our disciplines in Africa possibly spreading the TV rights.

In the future the organizers of the World Championships have to ensure the TV coverage.

We must recognize our weaknesses and improve.

**Wallace:** for the IOC the audience is important and they are interested in youth sports like skateboarding and aggressive. In Australia we have these disciplines and TV coverage, we must clearly identify this market and put skateboarding in other federations.

## **10. Places and dates for the next World Championships.**

### INLINE HOCKEY

2010 m Junior Men Düsseldorf June 27 / July 2  
Seniors Women Beroun / Czech Rep. 2 to 8 July  
Senior Men Beroun 11-17 luglio  
With TV coverage

2011: TBC

### RINKHOCKEY

2010 - Alcobendas (Madrid) September 27 to October 2 Women  
World B-Dornbirn / Austria 24-30 ottobre

2011

Worlds in Maputo / Mozambique  
World Juniors in Portugal

**Claro:** submits nomination of Oporto for World Championships 2013.

### ARTISTIC

2010 November 24 to December 2 - Portimao / Algarve Portugal

**Strucksberg:** notes that during the Assembly CIPA it was presented the project to play the Worlds every 2 years.

**Marotta:** This topic is discussed every year. The National Federation can be happy, but it is an handicap for our athletes because many athletes of the developing countries participate in the Worlds.

My position, at least for individual sports, is to ensure Worlds each year. The main difficulty now is finding the organizers.

**Aracu:** considers that the EB of an international federation should not only ratify the dates and places of the World Championships. It 's the proof that we are 4 Federations. It is time to start talking. You can not think that there is no contact between the organizers and the International Federation.

We need more guarantees for TV rights and the web. There are always problems: we ask for an ADSL connection for streaming, specialists leave to ensure everything and can not find answers. We must always remember our goal: to ensure equal organizational standards to the events. Contact with the organizers are through FIRS, otherwise we must ask the good will of the organizers.

It is responsibility of FIRS in the near future to prepare a manual about FIRS organization of international events, covering also the procedures for submission of applications for the nominations and allocation of World Championships with the definition of a contract to be concluded between the Organizing Committee and FIRS.

It is true that there are many nations, that want to organize: it will be sent a questionnaire with the requirements, requesting letters of reference of the Government, etc.. and then a proper Committee will select the EB will then decide with 5 years in advance. There must be a contract between organizers and FIRS.

## **END OF THE FIRST DAY**

**Marotta:** Starts the meeting by leaving the floor to Jim Pollard for the report of figure skating.

**Pollard:** He distributes a folder to all present with the minutes of CIPA Assembly of November 17, the calendar of figure skating for 2010, the calendar of the coming years for Figure Skating World Championships and his personal report on the events of 2009.

He believes that the figure skating discipline is very lucky, because many Federations want to organize the Championships, the organization of such events allows federations to have extra income to help the spread of this speciality in their countries.

About the Pan American Games, Pollard points out that his presence and that of Carlos Orlando Ferreira at all meetings with the Olympic Committee in South America have helped to maintain the Roller Skating in these Games. In this regard, he points out the development of roller sports in the Caribbean and Cuba in particular where the inline hockey is starting thanks to a donation of 900 pairs of skates, that can be distributed in the form of solidarity.

An important issue concerning South America is that of Catalonia; in the artistic it was not allowed to any judge to judge under the flag of Catalonia, but this discipline has not big problems, bigger problems are for speed and inline hockey as Catalonia is trying to buy small federations in South America that can support it.

World Games: disappointment with the organization, there were initially no help to make available the facilities and only thanks to the President of the Chinese Federation, who paid by his

own, there was a track safe for the athletes. Then things got better and however the building has always been full for two nights with over 3000 people. The representatives of the WG have been deeply impressed by this and the secretary of the WG has asked for help to find suitable facilities for the 2013 edition of Cali. You have to think that the WG are our Olympic games and we must send our best athletes, for the first time in 50 years we have been on the short list of the IOC for the Olympic Games and this means that we must not stop, but go ahead with meetings, presentations, seeking support.

Doping: banned for an artistic pair because of an athlete found positive during the Italian Championships. They have been asked to return the medal to prove that FIRS follows the WADA.

**Marotta**: wants to make three comments:

1. World Games: he reiterates what was said by Pollard about the importance of participation of the best athletes in each federation. He requests that the President of the Pan American Confederation investigates, why the Argentine Federation has prevented its athletes of figure skating to participate in the artistic WG even when their families would be incurred travel expenses.

FIRS had several problems at the WG because of small and unsuitable facilities and of the lack of coordination between delegates, trainers and the board of WG. President Fröhlich has spoken in favour of roller sports, that are the most important part of the WG and that have filled the halls in all three specialties.

2. IOC. We must remain near the Olympic Committee and therefore we must put pressure on the presidents of all the federations to be present in all events and meetings

3. Doping: the National Federations must understand more and more that we must respect strictly Wada rules, otherwise we pay dearly.

**Guo Min**: highlights the problem of combination of the dates of the Asian Games and World Championship of Figure Skating and asks for a solution to allow top athletes to participate in both events, whereas the dates of the WG can not be changed .

**Pollard**: suggests that the Federations select athletes to send to the Championships and to the WG.

**Aracu**: considers right to move the dates of the World Championships to allow the participation of the best athletes in both events. This would meet even the needs of the IOC.

**Pollard**: believes that FIRS should publish on the website the calendar for all Championships and all international events for a better organization of activities; we will still do everything possible to frame the two events.

**Aracu**: The Asian Games are very important for us because we have very strong lobbying to get in, so I think we will find a solution with Fernando Claro. FIRS offices have the calendars of all international events and the technical committees must not speak with the nations, but with the central offices of FIRS, which will have all the information they look for. About international events, my goal is to promote a project in which we develop criteria for allocation of such events in the future, especially now that with two new vice-presidents we have the plenum of FIRS. After this meeting I would like a meeting with Fernando Jim and Roberto to find a solution that allows full participation in the Asian Games and the FIRS Congress in Portugal.

There are countries that have yet to pay taxes: Spain has still to pay for television rights of the Worlds (45,000 €), it said, it will pay by March, but the Federation, asking for the organization of championships, must assume their responsibilities. A defaulting country can not claim to hold an international event. Spain has time until 31 March, or in the future it may no longer require the world championships.

**Marotta**: the Organizing Committee of Vigo had an economic deficit, the commitment to pay television rights had been hired by the mayor of Vigo for internal problems, this cost will be charged to the 2010 budget.

The Spanish Federation has engaged in this, but we must not forget that we assign Championships to the Federations and they are the only responsible for their organization.

He goes back to paragraph 8 (New disciplines: Freestyle) and repeats what above said for Pollard, who was absent. (See paragraph 8).

**Pollard**: believes that this discipline is technically different from the artistic, and Marotta suggests that the organization is entrusted to Asia.

**Aracu**: I disagree. If a technical committee can not support the organization of another discipline it is not thinkable that this is entrusted to another organization. You must create a sub-committee with three experts, that, for now, may depend on the CIC. We will in future have the same problem with skateboarding and also for this we have to find a referent. I think if we do interesting proposals to the number ones in these disciplines, we will find them ready to work. If freestyle will pay to you taxes for the world championships we can support one of their component to take part at the Executive Board.

Everyone agrees.

## **11: New Memberships**

**Marotta**: None of the countries that had expressed a desire to affiliate, has sent the necessary documents to date, but there are new contacts: Cyprus, Greece, Lebanon, Albania, Congo, and then we have the problem in Nigeria where we have a president who emphasizes his role, but is not accepted by an athlete, who is trying to promote our sport and who represented us at the meeting of the Confederation of African Olympic Committees: Princewill Ngbor. I wrote to Wendy asking to understand which is the real situation. Sometimes it seems that the demands of Africa are designed to be able to leave the country.

## **12: World Games**

**Marotta**: Of this we have already spoken. We must find three technical delegates, who live in Cali and can protect our interests.

## **13: Asian Games**

**Marotta**: We had contact with the Secretary of the OCA and Mr. Guo Min has already told us which are the competitions admitted. I only ask to understand the selection criteria.

**Guo Min:** for speed we have 300, 500 and 10,000: for every nation 4 men and 4 women for speed and the same thing for the artistic. All together 16 and 16 and how to select them, depends on the National Olympic Committees. The technical text of the Asian Games will be ready in the coming weeks.

The calendar will be very detailed.

**Aracu:** the Asian Games, for their importance, will certainly bring many Asian countries to join. If there were the European Games, it would be important for those European nations, that now have no interest in joining, although they have skaters. Then we must send a letter to all federations to take part at the Asian Games. We work for even one of our disciplines come in African Games. The European Games are only for Youth: we will be able to enter this. This is the future. If we could join youth would be a fortune, as said with Dubi and Rogge. Another goal is also the entrance at the Oceanic Games

## COFFE BREAK

### 14: Pan American Games

**Ferreira:** I add some observations on what I said yesterday.

1. Organization called " Pan American Solidarity " like the Olympic Solidarity, which in December will organize a training course for trainers and managers of the Pan-American area in El Salvador paid by them. There will be a delegate for each country appointed by their respective Olympic calendars.

2. South American dates of the Games change from July 2011 to October 2011 from 14 to 26 in Guadalajara

3. Besides figure skating and speed in Pan American Games we are trying to introduce the inline hockey, which is very difficult. We would like to increase medal speciality which are already 6 (4 for speed and two for artistic) with two more medals for speed, then 6. Hopefully we will change the program by awarding a competition for the long distance, one for the short distance and one for speed, differently from now, that we award speed combined and long distance combined. I will ask CIC about its the opinion in this regard, so that a speed winner receives a gold medal and not as we do for the Pan American Games, which is the sum of different competitions. I know that we could get help from the U.S. to promote inline hockey by sending skates.

Next week there will be a meeting in San Juan / Argentina with the election of a new Director of the South American Confederation, which was obliged to respect the rules of the Pan American to resolve all previous problems. It was created a Committee for the Promotion of the Federation of Bolivia, which today does not still exist and that will participate with an athlete at the next Pan American Games

**Marotta.** We met many times Vasquez Raña to be assured that skating is in the Pan American Games. In Denver I have been assured by the presence of trainers for courses for all three specialties, now we do not have inline hockey, but we can arrange two for speed and one for artistic. We hope that in Guadalajara there is a good facility.

## MEDICAL COMMISSION

**Wallace:** Having delivered to all members of the Central Committee the report on the Medical Committee, she makes reference to it (see report attached)

**Marotta**: Thanks Pat for the job, I want to remember the importance of respect for WADA rules, and then all four disciplines must comply with this policy. Both WADA and the IOC pay attention to the checks out of competition, and therefore the whereabouts of the athletes are important, these controls are very expensive and we've spoken with the manager WADA in Denver, who will speak with the IOC, at least for travel expenses of doctors, who make these checks.

Another issue regards us as FIRS for the travel expenses of the Medical Committee: we have supported Pat with Felipe Marino, but both could face charges if supported by us or by the technical committees; we, for speed, did it for a doctor, I wish to know from the artistic and from the inline hockey.

**Pollard**: I received 811 forms filled in by the athletes and then it worked fine. I do not know what to do for the costs.

**Portier**: We must think about it; at the moment we can not give an answer. First we need to talk inside the committees.

**Wallace**: Normally the tests are organized through a national antidoping agency. It is not much work figure skating has 6 athletes in the RTP and inline 8 and can be contacted relatively easily. This type of work is now very different from before when we had to deal with 64 athletes from all over the world and was a huge job.

**Claro**: I think when a country is responsible for organizing a championship is also responsible for organizing anti-doping controls, it works so in Portugal. The costs are charged to the Government of the organizing country.

**Marotta**: the problem is to organize the whereabouts, all the controls, administrative problems linked to them, in case of positive results and organization of all subsequent checks. All this paperwork is enormous: Follow the circular WADA is a great activity before and after the championships. For out of competition doping controls we must find an agency close to the country not to nullify the travel expenses.

**Claro**: the Federation of the athlete should be responsible.

**Wallace**: the responsibility belongs both to the International Federation and of the antidoping agency, because both must perform tests. We work together even though I recognize that some nations did not apply the anti-doping agencies.

**Aracu**: proposes the creation of a secretariat: making an estimate of costs and then the decision will be of FIRS.

## **18: Place and date of the next Congress**

**Marotta**: In 2010 there will be the biennial Congress for which is suggested as seat Portugal, during the Figure Skating World Championships, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> Executive Board and the morning of December 4<sup>th</sup> the Congress. Although during Speed World Championships more nations are present Venezuela would lead to security problems and organizational difficulties. It is chosen Algarve in Portugal.



## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Aracu:**

- offers to the vice presidents the opportunity to transform continental confederations in FIRS offices.
- SPORTS FACILITIES: Awareness of the regulations for approval of the sports facilities: it must be created materials that are products approved by FIRS. Importance of having a sports facilities committee, It is important because it will also bring economic revenue. It is important also to hear the Technical Committee, before any approval.
- CATALONIA PROBLEM: I have always been determined to create a wall against Catalonia, but now we must relieve the strain. We must follow the rules, but we must not give the impression that we are enemies of Catalonia. We may also participate in a conference in the future about the autonomy of sport, staying on our ideas. Catalonia has a great economic power, the game is sure over, but this reality exists and we must always deal with it, then we can try to create a partnership, pointing always out the fact that Catalonia has no sport autonomy.

**Claro:** there is nothing to discuss, Catalonia is not a nation and we can not go against the Olympic Charter.

**Ferreira:** We could consider a possible Catalan company that wants to sponsor a championship, understanding that our relationship will always be with the Spanish Federation.  
The same to finding funds for the development of skating in African countries, but always stressing that Catalonia is not recognized as a country.

**Marotta:** I disagree. Economic resources shall be made by the Catalan government that wants to achieve a political objective, so this money is not spent for sport, but for politics. So I am not in favour of opening to Catalan sports bodies, which should relate to the Spanish Federation. If then there is an industry that, to promote itself, wants to give skates to Africa ,that is fine, but as private promotion by an industry, subject to the rules of the Spanish Federation.

## **URUGUAY**

**Marotta:** We received a letter from the president of the Federation of Uruguay asking to take action on the participation of a team of roller hockey sub 20 at the world championship this year in Bassano, but its Federation was not aware of this. We must ask why the Uruguay took part without permission. Harro said he had paid with his financial resources the travel of the team, because he was afraid of not having the minimum number to make the World Championship. Cajaravilla did not prevent formal participation of athletes already in Italy not to disturb their sporting performance, but later he wrote to FIRS for action, so that this does not happen again. It seems strange that Harro has allowed this participation, without the Federation of Uruguay knows anything. Harro is worried that the nr. of countries participating in rink hockey declines every year, but this is not a justification for breaking the rules of the Statute.

We can not create problems and frictions between our Federations and Technical Committees, but we must take an official position in which FIRS does not approve this behaviour. Proposal: Writing a letter of warning to the rink hockey so that such a thing never happens again. Opinions?

**Portier:** I understand the reasons of FIRS for the respect for the statute. It should be remembered that there are federations that block the development of some sports. I think at inline hockey; there are many countries, that block it.

**Marotta:** the only solution is that in those federations where discipline is not handled, you can ask the independent membership to Firs to continue its activities. If one of our federation does so with a discipline, that is the only solution that can be taken.

**Ferreira:** I know the problem of Uruguay, which is a political issue. The same thing is happening in Mexico.

**Claro:** I do not want to talk about Uruguay; Harro must be present to give us an explanation. I have to say about Portugal, with all due respect, that in-line hockey skaters are not simple. We had 7 teams that wanted to play outside the Federation, without insurance, without registering at the Federation etc. .. Many players who wanted to participate in the world live outside Portugal. If they accept the rules they will have our support 100%, otherwise not. FIRS cannot regulate this, because these are internal problems of the Federations. If Firs is involved in these domestic problems, is worse.

**Aracu:** I agree with the reasoning of Fernando, because anyone who wants to create an independent Federation begins to quarrel. We, as Firs must ask all federations to take the new disciplines, asking to accept skateboarding. Canada and South Africa are anomalies. If a federation does not want a speciality ok, but if it wants this, it must pretend that the rules are respected.

## STATUTE

**Leftwich:** asks permission to get help from Pickard for the revision of the Statute, because it is a huge job.

**Ferreira:** We have already established the committee with me, you, and Fernando.

**Marotta:** Nothing has been yet done and we must begin. George should do a draft

## REPRESENTATION OF ATHLETES:

**Marotta:** We have elected two athletes: one for the first two years and one for the latter two: the first was Gregory Duggento. For 2010 and 2011 the U.S. athlete will receive an official communication. Duggento was sent to a meeting in Marrakesh for athletes of Olympic sports and for those of the short list. This is important. The President of the Committee is Fredericks. Here is the report.

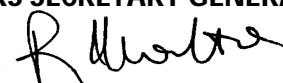
**Aracu:** thanks all for this successful meeting and for the great interest shown to work and collaborate as one team.

**FIRS PRESIDENT**



**Sabatino Aracu**

**FIRS SECRETARY GENERAL**



**Roberto Marotta**