



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE ROLLER SPORTS

**MINUTES OF FIRS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
ROME
13th -14th FEBRUARY 2014**

Members attending:

Sabatino Aracu	FIRS President
Roberto Marotta	FIRS Secretary General and CIC President
Armando Quintanilla	FIRS 1 st Vice President
Fernando Claro	FIRS Vice President (Europe)
Patricia Wallace	FIRS Vice President (Oceania)
Gilbert Portier	CIRILH Chairman
Margaret Brooks	CIPA Chairman
Harro Strucksberg	CIRH Chairman
Laura Morandi	FIRS Vice Secretary General
Erika Zanetti	Athletes' Representative

Guests:

Fernando Graça	CERS Secretary General
Ricardo Araujo	CERS Vice Secretary General
Ping Cheng Chiang	CARS Vice President
Peter Liu	Vice President of the Chinese Taipei Roller Sports Federation

FIRS Secretariat Staff	Simona Mercuri
	Caterina Noto
	Lina Maria Lizcano
	Alessandra Lunadei
	Sergio Francesco Sacripanti

ITEM 1 – OPENING OF THE PRESIDENT

FIRS President **Sabatino Aracu** welcomes all the participants and in particular the first Vice President **Armando Quintanilla** and the representative of the athletes **Erika Zanetti**, present for the first time in the EB. He also greets the guests: **Fernando Graça, Ricardo Araujo, Ping Cheng Chiang, Peter Liu** and asks for the utmost discretion on the content of the work that will take place at this meeting. After thanking all his collaborators the President gives the floor to **Armando Quintanilla** and **Erika Zanetti** who greet, thank and hope to be able to give their contribution to the work that will take place.

ITEM 2 – APPROVAL OF THE EB MEETING 2013

The minute of the EB meeting held in Rome February 22,2013 is put to the vote.

Unanimously approved.

ITEM 3 – REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President **Aracu** begins his report by recalling the passing of people very close to FIRS: Ernesto Cajaravilla, President of the Federation of Uruguay, Roberto Ordonez, President of the Federation of Mexico and the Secretary of the Federation of Chinese Taipei, known as Yang, passed away in the previous days and therefore calls for a minute of silence.

Much work has been done in this year, things that are essential to undertake the new direction desired by the Congress, beginning with the drafting of the new Statute. The centralization of the international activity has led to an increase in the activity of the secretariat, with an average sorting of 300 emails a day and the FIRS offices have become a reality very different from the past.

The reaction of FIRS because of the exclusion from the Olympic Games has been hard through statements in the newspapers that have also led other international federations to take this path. The change of the IOC President, from Rogge to Bach, led to a demonstration of sympathy and friendship thanks also to the friendship that binds **Harro Strucksberg** to Bach. Bach has immediately answered by putting three new sports in the Youth Olympics and suddenly with a press release the Roller Sports found themselves to be a demonstration sport in Nanjing next August. There has been already a contact with Dubi, responsible of the Olympic Games, but even they do not know what to do and will tackle this problem after Sochi. This is a great news and at the end of the Sochi Olympics FIRS will return to Lausanne to reach an agreement on how to best organize this participation in the Youth Olympics.

The Roller Games: the preparation of the bidding application took months of work, the whole sporting world knows that in 2017 FIRS will present the world championships of all disciplines in one single event ; it was made a very important promotional and marketing plan: the bidding application was sent to the sports ministers of all countries of the world, the mayors of the major cities such as Paris, London etc ... The feedback was very positive, e.g. by the Mayor of London and by the one of Budapest. It has been conveyed the message that FIRS will stay for 15 days in the host city that could become the city of the youngster, a city that hosts something new, unconventional, from traditional sports to new sports such as skateboarding.

All this was a first work of institutional promotion. Soon we will have to organize targeted meetings with the chairmen of the various disciplines for technical and organizational details. The organization fee of U.S.D 900,000 may seem exaggerated, but it was important to present oneself to the international sports world with an upscale image.

The World Championships are the image of FIRS and that is why we are preparing the bidding application for all specialties: the one for artistic has already been sent and in short time it will be sent the one for

speed skating. The new Statute gives to the EB and no longer to the Technical Committees the responsibility for choosing the most appropriate seats even if the opinion of the Chairman of the discipline involved will be important. FIRS has to make a qualitative leap, it will no longer be tolerated World Championships, as often happened in the past, that have created a great damage of our image through a superficial and poor organization, and certainly not up to an International Federation. The streaming of the FIRS World Championships is followed by millions of people, the last championship of artistic had 9,000,000 visitors and for this reason FIRS should provide an image of the highest quality: the function of the bidding application will be therefore this: to dictate the organizational conditions.

FIRS has to work in this field as in so many other fields as a team, something that has not happened in Africa where, unfortunately, the lack of communication by the former President of the Confederation Wendy Gila prevented FIRS to intervene and ensure, as its right, the regular development of the elections monitoring on its regularity.

FIRS has been output from the Asian Games because Korea, the Organizing Country, failed to make a request, but now it is looking to enter the European Games of 2015 through contacts with the European Olympic Committee.

Participation in international conventions such as City Events has shown that there are many countries and city locations such as the Scandinavian countries, Albania which are interested in organizing big events and this is an important aspect because it is not only necessary to organize in countries where our disciplines are present.

The disciplines develop and grow more and more: the inline hockey, thanks to the hard work of the Chairman **Gilbert Portier**, has grown insomuch as not being able to involve in a World Championship all the nations which request it and that feels also the necessity to organize European Championships, for which solutions must be found.

Skateboarding has now a Chairman, Titus Dittmann, known thanks to **Harro Strucksberg**. Dittmann has a team of people working with him and will attend a future meeting of the EB: it has been made a commitment to organize the first World Championships of Skateboarding in Germany in 2015 on the occasion of the Ruhr Games.

We are also trying to involve skiroll at international level.

Important aims:

- Streaming with a fee that, given the high number of visitors, we had 9,000,000 for the Artistic and Speed World Championships, would become an important income for FIRS;
- An app Roller Sports with the virtual Speed World Championships and with a prize for the winner.
- Ambassadors Project: it began with Speed Skating because it is easier. In view of the commitment by the government of a developing country like Africa to build a venue, FIRS offers the sending of a person who helps in the spread of the discipline and in the creation of a Federation and who will be salaried by FIRS for the first two years: an amount of € 100 monthly are for some African countries an important amount and for FIRS a good investment. The first experience in Cameroon has been extremely positive and in the course of 10 years, the African Continent will be able to achieve high levels of development in our sport.

ITEM 3 – REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

The Secretary General **Roberto Marotta** emphasizes how intense was in this last year the activity of the secretariat: the preparation and the drafting of the Statute, the preparation and the organization of the Congress in February 2013, the preparation of the questionnaire of the IOC for the inclusion in the short list of the eight sports candidates in the 2020 Olympics.

We wish to highlight the preparation and the organization of the FIRS presence at the World Games in Cali,

event in which the Roller Sports, with the speed skating, the artistic and the hockey was the star. Organizational difficulties were found in the accreditation of the extra Officials for which it was requested a revision of the rules.

Great effort in organizing all the World Championships of all roller disciplines and therefore also of the future Worlds of skateboarding in 2015.

The inclusion in the Youth Olympics has shown how the new IOC President Thomas Bach has fulfilled its commitments to youth sports, but no organizing information is yet come to the FIRS offices.

Marotta therefore reiterates how much the commitment of the Secretariat has increased and therefore announces his retirement from the leadership of the CIC and his total future commitment as FIRS Secretary General through the presence in all the World Championships, in close cooperation with the Chairmen of all disciplines for the world championships to put more and more emphasis on the FIRS brand. You will have to try to sell this brand because the implementation of all FIRS projects will be possible only with adequate financial resources.

About the OCT these will be increased as well as blood tests in the World Championships. Beyond a disciplinary regulations, which in any case will have to be drawn up, the EB has anyway the freedom to apply the sanctions.

An issue to consider is also the passage of many athletes from the roller to the ice not only for speed skating but also for hockey and for artistic. FIRS is a basin in which the ice comes for fishing, being our athletes much more numerous and this is the reason that is brought to the IOC to be recognized as an Olympic summer sport. But at the same time it is a serious limitation because the IOC believes that if it is so easy for the athletes of FIRS to win a gold medal in the ice, they accept it gladly. So it is an argument to be used with great delicacy because the IOC has no interest to bring the roller sports in the Summer Olympics being the athletes present in the Winter Games.

The CERS President **Fernando Claro** outlines the importance of a regulation within the FIRS disciplinary rules because it is important to punish wrongdoers and enforce the sanctions. This position is shared by **Pat Wallace** who would like to combine a disciplinary regulation with that of the anti-doping and by President **Aracu** who, in the revision of the bylaws, considers very important the inclusion of this Regulation, together with the technical and administrative ones. **Aracu** also outlines the importance of regulating international events by placing a fee that could be collected by FIRS to 50% and 50% by national federations and of arriving gradually in the world championships only using products approved by FIRS. To date FIRS has only Vesmaco as sponsor with an income of USD 60.000 per year

The Chairman of CIRILH **Gilbert Portier** does not agree with the concentration and the management of all the disciplines in the offices in Rome and calls for greater collaboration between the existing structures under the general supervision of FIRS, in order to feel a real member of this Federation.

ITEM 4 - GREETING BY THE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

The first Vice-President **Armando Quintanilla** greets the participants and says to be careful to learn the FIRS guidelines. He considers brilliant the idea of an application for telephony, and the creation of general secretaries in countries where skating is not yet developed and states that he will dedicate himself 100% to the FIRS in the near future.

ITEM 4 - REPORTS OF THE VICE PRESIDENTS AND OF THE CHAIRMEN OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

WALLACE: (see ANNEX 1)

FERREIRA: (see ANNEX 2)

Margaret Brooks communicates that her report is in the agenda (ANNEX 3) and shares the thought of **Portier** about a greater involvement of the Chairmen in the decisions taken by FIRS. She emphasizes the beauty of the World Games and the great success of the artistic skating, whose competitions have seen the stadiums always full of people. About the World Championships in China Taipei, despite initial concerns for their organization, the event was successful thanks to the unexpected presence of 26 nations. She finally emphasizes the intention to organize seminars for judges that have never been organized in the last 30 years.

Harro Strucksberg highlights the beauty and the grandeur of the World Championships in Angola and the Sub 20 Championships in Cartagena in Colombia with a great staff and 20 federations. He is also in close contact with the President **Aracu** for future Rink Hockey Championships.

Gilbert Portier says that in 2013 there was the Master Cup in France, the World Championships in the USA, where for the first time the Junior women were present. A Championship with many teams, but certainly not the best one. The World Games have been a great event that, however, have shown that in the future the Championships must be divided into two or possibly three phases. It was not possible to involve all nations in the next World Championships in France although we have tried to find a solution with the organizers. Two weeks with four championships and 68 teams is a crazy job. In 2014, the Master Cup will be in Prague, the World Championships in Argentina, but before we have to define the new format of the competitions. There are many international events without the aegis of FIRS as the Sparta Cup, a lot of people playing in different countries, and for this problem you have to find a solution as soon as possible because you may lose credibility in our sport.

Roberto Marotta states that the CIC can proudly say that of 114 affiliated countries 86 countries actually practice speed skating, participate in the Championships and organize Championships. This success will expand over the years. The quality of judges, coaches and managers must grow even more organizing refresher courses at international level and therefore a part of the resources of FIRS coming from the Technical Committees could be used for this. The CIC has organized the last one in Madrid in November with 56 international judges.

Thanks to the efforts of **Pat Wallace** FIRS got respect and credibility by IOC showing an absolute respect for the rules of WADA. This will be continued in all disciplines: in the World Championships the organizers will have to bear the related costs. Athletes must comply with the "whereabouts" and to do this it is necessary to have a great maturity and growth even in coaches and clubs. FIRS will continue to penalize those who do not respect these rules.

President **Aracu** thanks the Chairmen, who from now on will have to be considered leaders because part of the Executive Committee and then though overseeing their specialties they will be involved also in the other ones. In the artistic skating there was a stillness for 30 years and then we have to help Margaret in her work and perhaps we will see the results from 2016 onwards. The specialty of artistic skating is the only one in which the judge determines the victory and then you have to invest in courses for judges. In inline hockey and speed it is also important to follow the Master Championships because they represent people who love Roller Sports and practice them even in mature age.

(OUT OF THE AGENDA) ANTIDOPING

The representative of the athletes **Erika Zanetti** praises the work of **Pat Wallace** and highlights the importance of the “clean” athlete and the importance of controls on the blood as well as on the urine. Disciplinary measures must be taken and respected.

Pat Wallace talks about her report that must remain confidential. Surely the blood tests are important, but even more important is the biological passport with the blood profile because it is much easier to notice the ingestion of substances that increase the level of oxygenation of the blood, when the analysis differ from routine controls. Any deviation from the standard is considered a positive result by the WADA and by the Court of Sport Arbitration. The problem is the interpretation of these results. You must find a way to get the expert panel to be able to interpret them. Looking forward for the WADA conference she will see what WADA adopted in interpreting these results because it is ridiculous that each association should have its own interpretive panel. Another important issue is the body passport in relation to steroids, with the different values of steroids that each athlete could take and that they are already able to assume. Necessary is just the interpretation of the results because at the time an athlete from Asia could take all the steroids in the world without resulting in a control during a competition, because they have a certain body composition.

At the moment in accordance with the nr. of tests that are done, in 2015 we will have to make at least 3 tests per athlete and we will be required to include the pH and the HTG test and we will be forced to mark the physiological requirements for each event. For this work **Wallace** considers great to get some help. The nr. of tests done during the championships should be removed because no one is organized properly. You can draw a mapping only with the OCT, for which this year 30.0000 USD have been spent and **Wallace** says she needs to know much more about the training preparatory programs for competitions so to understand if and where there is doping. At the moment she has no access to all this. It is an hard work, she sends mail to all the athletes involved in the whereabouts even four or five times and then she is forced to write to the president of the federation; there is not always cooperation, there are those who ask for the reason of the involvement of their athletes. The problem of the failed whereabouts is not just for the federations but also for her who has to write two or three letters.

Wallace finally tells to be very happy to work with all members of the EB and hopes to continue to have the exchange of timely communication.

There is debate on anti-doping and **Marotta** hopes to have a special contribution by the IOC because the OCT cost a lot, but **Claro** believes that in this case we should not be worrying about the cost. The countries that host the World Championships should know that cost for doping controls is high but must be addressed.

ITEM 5 - YOUTH OLYMPICS

About the Youth Olympics Bach and his EB have decided, without the Organizing Committee of Nanjing's knowing something, so that the IOC has decided to financially help the committee in hosting the demonstration disciplines. We suppose an open area where the demo disciplines can organize throughout the day, competitions and demonstrations for all who wish to attend.

FIRS will alternate competitions with demonstrations of our coaches to help local youth teaching them to skate. It is not excluded, if there is the possibility to show that the Roller Sports are also other, hockey, a spectacular performance of figure skating etc. It is necessary to wait for the decisions of the IOC. To **Wallace's** question about who will represent skateboarding **Aracu** replies that it is a question already done to the IOC but they did not give a real answer. FIRS is recognized as the governing body but the activity is done by others. If skateboarding performances will take place, FIRS will organize aggressive performances in the same venue. Not even the IOC has clear ideas on this, but behind the ISF there is the power of NBC one of the most important sponsor of the IOC.

ITEM 5.1. – FIRS HEADQUARTERS

President **Aracu** presents the proposal to have an office in Lausanne: this would give to FIRS great prestige; sooner or later it will be necessary, but now it is too early, a benefit is the total tax-exemption but the cost of the staff in Switzerland is high; there will be a meeting in Dubai: they want to propose for a home office. The important thing, however, is to be able to have an independent FIRS that does not depend only on the help of a country, as is the case now, but that can be independent.

ITEM 6 - TORONTO 2015

The Secretary General **Marotta** says that for the Panamerican Games FIRS had many meetings to ask for a modification of the road and a week ago it was announced the transfer of the venue in the sports center where there will be all the other disciplines. There is an overlap of competitions between speed and artistic but it is not a problem. It was repeatedly asked the inclusion of the inline hockey but for this edition it will not be possible.

Ferreira, whose report is in the agenda (*see Annex 2*), attends all meetings and everything seems to be going well. To the perplexities of **Brooks** about the importance to be involved in the qualifications as a representative of the artistic and the non-use of international judges in such competitions, **Marotta** answers that the organization of the Panamerican Games is entrusted to the International Federations that use their continental organizations. In fact, the Panamerican Confederation has a representative for artistic and one for speed that collaborate with the organizers. CIC and CIPA, however, must be informed and FIRS should intervene only in the case of decisions against its rules. For artistic skating there is Pollard, for speed Grin. Regarding the issue of the judges **Marotta** asked **Margaret Brooks** to send an official communication in order to enable FIRS to write officially to **Ferreira** in this regard.

ITEM 7 – INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

UNIVERSITY GAMES

Mister **Ping-Cheng Chiang**, CARS Vice-President, greets all the Executive Board members and wishes to share with everyone some info regarding the 2017 edition of the University Games, a great platform for both the FIRS and the Chinese Taipei Federation of Roller Sports to promote our disciplines. During the FISU Executive Board meeting held in December 2013 Roller Sports have been accepted as demonstrative sport in the 2017 University Games (August 19-20) with the participation of 14 obligatory sports, 5 optional sports and 2 demonstrative sports. **Ping-Cheng Chiang** explains that the hosting Country shall organize a tested event in March 2015, therefore he asks to invite 10 Federations affiliated to FIRS to take part in this very important event. If this is successful, the role of Roller Sports within the 2017 edition could turn from demonstrative to optional.

President **Aracu** stresses the importance of participating in this event and proposes the 2015 tested event to be held under the FIRS aegis, a single event just for 2015, not to be repeated yearly. Because of the high costs to be undertaken by the athletes to participate in this event in Taipei City, **Aracu** asks if there is going to be some kind of financial help from the Organizing Committee. Mr. **Ping-Cheng Chiang** ensures that the municipality of Taipei City will pay the accommodation of all the athletes attending and they shall only cover their flights.

Mr. **Marotta** asks Mr. **Ping-Cheng Chiang** to send to the FIRS offices a draft proposal so that FIRS can start working on the project.

Aracu puts to vote that the 2015 tested event during a total of 3 days is carried out exceptionally as an official FIRS event.

Unanimously approved.

2015 SKATEBOARDING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN THE RUHR GAMES

Harro Strucksberg talks about the establishment of a FIRS Technical Committee for the discipline of Skateboarding led by a new Chairman, Mr. Titus Dittmann, and presents the Ruhr Games in Dusseldorf, during which the first FIRS World Skateboarding Championship will take place. The Ruhr Games Organizing Committee strongly wants to host a spectacular sport in the event, therefore it will support the inclusion of Skateboarding only if it is an official FIRS discipline.

Aracu describes the matter as a unique opportunity for the FIRS and stresses how Titus Dittmann is the only person capable of establishing a viable alternative to Gary Ream's International Skateboarding Federation, composed by a group of American pros that organizes high level events. Titus is the right man to do so and is backed by Ralf Middendorf and Shiran Habekost that possess the right international vision and can properly support him. **Aracu** adds that a circular letter shall be sent to all International Federations introducing the 1st FIRS World Skateboarding Championship and pushing each country to develop Skateboarding within its Federation.

The organization of the above mentioned Championship is put to vote by **Aracu**.

Unanimously approved.

2019 EUROPEAN GAMES

Aracu explains that Roller Sports are surely going to be in the 2019 European Games but he also adds that the FIRS is currently working to be included in the 2015 edition to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan with a Roller Speed Skating Marathon.

URBAN GAMES

Aracu introduces the Urban Games, an event organized by SportAccord, whose President, Mr. Marius Vizer, supports Roller Sports and is very receptive of the proposals made by FIRS.

This event includes all those disciplines that can be performed in a urban setting, therefore the FIRS would like to take part in event with a Road Marathon (Roller Speed Skating), with Skateboarding as Aggressive and with Freestyle. It is a very important showcase indeed, but SportAccord is still looking for Organizers and funds that are necessary to successfully run the event, so for now it is a work in progress that needs to be monitored.

ITEM 8 – 2017 ROLLER GAMES

Aracu wants to add some information to what is already been said.

2017 is not a very easy year: apart from the Roller Games, there are going to be also the World Games and the University Games, therefore three important events in the same time-frame. **Aracu** hopes that there will be several candidatures to host the event so that also the 2019 edition of the Games can be assigned immediately and turn the Roller Games in a biannual event that falls outside the University Games' and World Games' time-frame.

He also stresses how everyone should be proactive regarding the promotion of the bidding document of the Games; Organizers shall be contacted personally and convinced of the validity of the event. The Presidents of the FIRS National Federations shall also pitch the event to their municipalities, governments and potential bidders. Organizers must know that the Games will create significant profits and bring prestige to the organizing city, also counting on the youth aspect that the event has. It is not only a sporting event, it is also a place that brings people together, with the *Roller Village* as perfect location, a big area with cultural and food stands of each Country that can promote their sponsors or showcase folkloristic, traditional and musical performances.

We have received several proposals, including one from Milan, that will host the 2015 Expo. Evaluating all the proposal will require the dedication of everyone. The Chairmen will be involved in the process of selecting the hosting city and will visit all the eventual venues.

Apart from the financial issues, there are also a lot of technical ones: venues shall welcome a lot of people, schedules of competitions shall be properly established in detail, and the calendar shall be made in a smart way.

Strucksberg asks if there is a deadline for the assignment of the Roller Games so that, in case of no candidatures, the Technical Committees can plan FIRS Championships for their disciplines.

Aracu shows the timeline in the bidding document of the Roller Games given to all the Executive Board members; the deadline for submitting the candidatures is set for October 30th, 2014.

Peter Liu asks if there is an official date of the event because he is afraid that it could happen in the same days of the University Games.

Aracu says that the event can take place from June to November 2017, but it cannot be decided if FIRS does not find the hosting city; the weather and the climatic conditions of the city are vital for the implementation of the calendar.

ITEM 9 – CANDIDATURES AND RATIFICATIONS OF THE NEXT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Aracu explains how there are already proposed candidatures only up until 2015, since from 2016 there will be bidding documents for all the World Championships of the FIRS disciplines. The bidding documents bring a new change; when submitting a candidature, a bidder can also offer to pay a higher organization fee, showing a real interest in organizing the event and that will make him more eligible to be chosen. The bidding documents also stress the importance of the proper promotion of the FIRS brand during a Championship; the brand of the International Federation shall be present and visible within the venue. He also adds that all the assignments of the Championships will be considered valid as long as the contracts are signed.

Aracu goes through all the events for **2014**.

- The 2014 FIRS World Roller Artistic Championship in Reus, Spain, is considered not assigned yet because the contract has yet to be signed. **Aracu** puts this assignment to vote provided that the contract will be signed soon.

Unanimously approved.

- The 2014 FIRS World Freestyle World Championships has no candidatures yet.

- The 2014 FIRS World Inline Alpine Championships in Oberundem, Germany is put to vote by **Aracu**.

Unanimously approved.

- The 2014 FIRS World Downhill Championships in Teolo, Italy, is put to vote by **Aracu**.

Unanimously approved.

- The 2014 FIRS World Inline Hockey Championships that have already been assigned to the city of Toulouse, France, are yet to be signed.

Portier explains that the contract had been sent to the Organizing Committee in February 2013, but FIRS replaced the Technical Committee in handling the Championships and changed the contract slowing everything down and that is why the contract has not been signed yet.

Aracu explains that, following the moment of transition that the new FIRS Statutes have brought, the contract for the World Championships needed to be changed and that required a lot of time and effort. Drafting the contract for a 2014 FIRS World Championship has been challenging, but it will not be the same for the contracts that will follow, because the bidding documents will put a stop to any issue. **Portier** also complains about FIRS not informing him of the changes made to the contract. **Aracu** says that in the future there will not be such issues and thanks **Portier** for his contribution.

- The 2014 FIRS World Roller Rink Hockey Ladies Championship to be held in Tourcoing, France, from October 14 to November 2, 2014, has already been assigned. **Aracu** asks to vote again to confirm the assignment.

Unanimously approved.

- Regarding the 2014 FIRS World Roller Rink Hockey B Championships, **Aracu** explains that many countries want the Championships A e B to be held together, therefore FIRS must find a solution that makes everyone happy and is both technical ad spectacular.

Aracu has the duty to take a final decision after he will speak with **Strucksberg, Claro** and all the other managers of Rink Hockey.

Unanimously approved.

- Regarding the 2014 FIRS World Roller Speed Skating to be held in Rosario, Argentina, from November 6 to 12, **Aracu** tells all the EB members that a new track has been built in the municipality of Rosario in order to properly run the event and that there is a lot of enthusiasm over the event. FIRS already has the contract signed by the Organizers, therefore there will be no vote.

- Proposal for the Master Marathon in Dijon, France, from June 14 to 15.

Unanimously approved.

Aracu goes through all the events of **2015**.

- **Aracu** tells the EB about the request made by the Italian Federation to host the 2015 FIRS World Freestyle Championship, which came without the name of the hosting city and it is therefore to be considered incomplete. He stresses how it is vital that each request submitted to the Executive Board shall be formally complete, therefore he decides not to vote on this item until the name of the hosting city will be disclosed.

- Assignment of the 2015 FIRS World Roller Artistic Skating to the city of Cali, Colombia,

Unanimously approved.

- Proposal by the Argentinian Federation to host the 2015 FIRS World Inline Hockey Championships in a location still to be defined. Both **Portier** and the FIRS offices are asking the President of the Argentinean Federation Marcelo Martinez to obtain more precise information seeing that there are three candidate cities; Mendoza, Rosario and Mar del Plata. **Aracu** asks the Championships to Argentina anyway so as to obtain an official commitment by Martinez.

Portier also stresses how the 2015 format for the competitions is not clear. When Argentina submitted his candidature to the FIRS Executive Board, the format included all the Championships together during an event lasting 2 weeks, but now the number of the participating Federations has increased, therefore the event should last at least 3 weeks. **Portier** is not sure that Argentina can carry out this kind of event, therefore he thinks that maybe the Junior and Ladies Championships could take place somewhere else.

Aracu says that the problem is easy to resolve, seeing that the municipality will be happy to host the people attending the Championships for an additional week and that will lead to more financial gaining.

Portier says that maybe the venue of the event could cause some problem; in Toulouse, for example, the Palais du Sport that will host the 2014 FIRS World Inline Hockey Championship is available only for 14 days and is not at all flexible. Therefore, before assigning the 2015 Championship to Argentina, he thinks the issue needs to be investigated more.

- 2015 FIRS World Under 20 Rink Hockey Championship is already been assigned to La Roche Sur Yon, France. But whether the Championships A and B will be staged together is yet to be decided. Spain, Argentina and Portugal have submitted their candidature to host the above mentioned event. **Fernando Claro** says that, when there is more than one candidature, the Championship should be assigned to the country that has never organized a Championship of that same discipline. If all the countries have already staged a Championship, then the chosen one should be the one

that has staged the event longer ago. He also adds that the last Inline Hockey Championship has been staged in Colombia, therefore in 2015 should be assigned by the Executive Board to Europe, preferably to Spain. **Strucksberg** agrees with **Claro**, however he adds that Spain has also requested to stage the 2016 FIRS World Ladies Rink Hockey Championship. Therefore Spain should be asked which Championship they would prefer to host. **Claro** takes the opportunity to stress that the Under 20 and Ladies Championships are two different events, therefore assigning one does not preclude the Federation to stage also a second one.

Aracu proposes to assign the Championship to Spain, waiting for them to communicate dates and location.

- 2015 FIRS Roller Speed Skating Championship to be held in Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei.
Aracu explains that **Marotta** and the CIC Committee have already visited the location; apart from the already present venue that hosted the World Games, the municipality of Kaohsiung is building a new one which is better and more modern and is still under construction. However, should the new venue not be ready to host the event, Chinese Taipei is still able to host the event on the venue already existent. The contract is already been sent to the Organizer, it just needs to be signed.
Aracu proposes to assign the 2015 FIRS World Roller Speed Skating Championship to Kaohsiung.
Unanimously approved.

Aracu goes through all the events of **2016**. The Championships will not be approved since in 2016 bidding documents will be sent to all nations, therefore he will just inform all those present of the requests received.

Italy has requested to host the 2016 FIRS World Roller Artistic Skating Championship.

Germany has requested to host the 2016 FIRS World Roller Downhill Championship.

Spain has requested to host the 2016 FIRS World Roller Inline Hockey Championship and the 2016 FIRS World Ladies Rink Hockey Championship.

Colombia (Cartagena) and Netherlands have requested to host the 2016 FIRS World Roller Speed Skating Championship.

Portier says that he received Namibia's candidature to host the 2016 FIRS World Roller Inline Hockey Championship.

Since the bidding document for the discipline of Downhill has not been drafted yet, he proposes to only assign the 2016 FIRS World Roller Downhill Championship to Germany.

Unanimously approved.

ITEM 9.1 – BIDDING AND CONTRACTS

Aracu shows to all those present the bidding document for the FIRS World Roller Artistic Championships, that will be the draft for the bidding documents of the other disciplines.

Margaret Brooks proposes some changes. The first one pertains to the dates of the event; in page 7, the sentence "between July and November" shall be changed to "between September and December".

Unanimously approved.

For the second change, in page 9, in the section about the responsibilities of the Organizer, **Brooks** asks the inclusion of the accreditation of the officials (athletes, coaches, judges, etc.), a process that for the sole Artistic Skating involves more than 3,000 people.

Unanimously approved.

Brooks also asks for a change in the clause 9 in page 18, in the Streaming of the Championship section; an article regarding the DVD's destined to the Technical Committee shall be added. She says that at the end of the last Championship, CIPA had to pay 600 USD in cash to the live streaming staff in order to get a copy of the DVD of the Championship.

Aracu tells **Brooks** that FIRS will check on the situation because things like that should not happen.

Patricia Wallace warns everyone that the part relating to the anti-doping procedures is quite ambiguous, since it states that National Federations should take care of the infrastructures and management of the anti-doping procedures, therefore creating a misunderstanding on the responsibilities. In her opinion the National Federations should cooperate, but they should not be directly involved in managing the anti-doping procedures because the athletes that will be tested and the competitions during which the tests will be performed shall remain secret. The article could be misunderstood by the National Federations, making them have too much power in the anti-doping issues.

Marotta explains that that clause of the bidding document only identifies a person within the Organizing Committee that is the *trait d'union* between the Organizing Committee and the anti-doping control and who is responsible to make a request to the Medical Commission of his country and identify the lab where to perform all the analysis.

Aracu explains that the bidding document will be submitted to a mayor or a municipality, but it will be followed by a contract, where every aspect will be clarified.

Seeing that during his last experience in the European Championship in Santomar, where a German coach had a medical issue resolved by the presence of the Italian Federation's medical staff that had the proper equipment, **Fernando Claro** proposes the inclusion of the defibrillator within the venues of the FIRS Championships.

Unanimously approved.

ITEM 10 – MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

President **Aracu** presents different aspects of the FIRS Communication Plan.

First of all, the FIRS TV continues to be developed with the inclusion, during the streaming broadcasting of the Championships, of advertising of brands, sponsors and also municipalities of the Organizing Committee. In 2014 for the first time FIRS will send to the main tv broadcasters around the globe a proposal for the broadcasting of the FIRS World Championships, so that they can buy a whole event or parts of it.

Another very important aspect is the promotion of the FIRS brand during the Championships. **Aracu** wants to establish a Protocol Commission, whose President will probably be Carmelo Paniagua, President of the Real Federación Española de Patinaje, and famous for his preciseness, strictness and reliability. Duty of said commission will be ensuring that during the Championships all the rules are followed, that the ceremonies are compliant to the FIRS protocol and that the brand of the International Federation is well promoted.

Aracu also adds that, in order to have the same format, all the Bulletins by the FIRS Technical Committees shall be sent by the FIRS offices and signed by the FIRS Technical Chairman and the FIRS Secretary General.

Margaret Brooks is not so sure of the validity of this proposal, because in case of an urgent Bulletin that could slow things down. **Aracu** stresses that Bulletins regarding the World Championships, with info and schedules, shall be sent by the FIRS headquarters.

ITEM 11 – PROPOSAL BY THE BELGIAN FEDERATION

Fernando Claro strongly opposes the proposal made by the Belgian Federation to change the nationality of an athlete and explains in detail the situation; a French coach has some issues with the Fédération Internationale de Roller Sports therefore quits and starts coaching in Belgium. Therefore, the Belgian Federation wants the athlete that was coached by the French coach to participate in the Championships representing Belgium. **Claro** also adds that the Belgian Federation already made this proposal to the CERS and it was denied.

Unanimously denied.

ITEM 12 – APPOINTMENT OF THE OCEANIA CONFEDERATION COMMISSIONER

Aracu points out the need of an actual development programme for Oceania in order to bring as many countries as possible within the Confederation, and all of this calls for the support of the whole FIRS Executive Board. **Aracu** proposes to establish also in Oceania the FIRS Ambassador's Project, the development programme of roller disciplines where roller skating is not present.

He also stresses the importance of the role carried out by **Pat Wallace** in the development of roller skating in that continent and how she is the only one who can play that role and achieve all the goals there. Therefore he proposes to appoint her as Oceania Commissioner.

Unanimously approved.

ITEM 13 – APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW TECHNICAL CHAIRMEN

Aracu lists the new FIRS Technical Committees and puts the appointment of the pertaining Chairmen to vote.

- CISB (Comité International de Skateboarding), with Titus Dittmann as its Chairman.

Unanimously approved.

- CIFS (Comité International de Freestyle), with Eddie Chua as its Chairman.

Unanimously approved.

- CIRA (Comité International de Roller Alpine), with Sigi Zistler as its Chairman.

Unanimously approved.

- CIRD (Comité International de Roller Derby), whose Chairmen is yet to be chosen. **Aracu** explains to everyone that he still has some doubt regarding the appointment of the Chairman of this disciplines. At the moment Roller Derby is managed by two different organizations; one within the USARS (recognized by the FIRS) and one out of it. During the ISPO convention in Munich **Aracu** has met Tony Muse, Roller Speed Skating champion for 9 times and not Roller Derby athlete. Muse has told **Aracu** that the organization not recognized by the USARS has no structure or respect of the rules, but it is also the most successful one. The FIRS would like to unify the two organizations, but at the moment it is not possible to do so and also **Marotta** has already tried it before. Tony Muse has made himself available to become the FIRS Chairman for the discipline of Roller Derby, but **Aracu** proposes to wait and see what the next developments will be.

Fernando Claro draws everyone's attention to the Art. 7 d) of the FIRS Statutes stating that the Chairmen of the new FIRS Technical Committee can take part in the FIRS Executive Board meetings with no voting rights.

ITEM 14 – FIRS BYLAWS

President **Aracu** tells the Executive Board that the FIRS is working hard to fix the FIRS Bylaws and in the future he would like to also change all other regulations. He asks the whole FIRS Executive Board for support in drafting the document, so as to have a final document which is proper, modern and that can meet everyone's needs.

ITEM 15 – NEW FIRS AFFILIATIONS

FIRS Secretary General Roberto **Marotta** explains that during the course of the year the FIRS receives several requests of affiliation, some with all the documentation required and some who are incomplete.

Normally the FIRS tends to grant provisional affiliation status to all the countries applying for recognition so as to have a number of FIRS Federations higher than 100, seeing that a lot of FIRS Federations are inactive.

Marotta proposes to give official recognition to the following countries;

- Guinea Conakry (Speed Skating, Rink Hockey, Inline Hockey)
- Ireland (Inline Hockey)
- Liberia (Speed Skating and Artistic Skating)
- Nepal (Speed Skating and Artistic Skating)
- Senegal (Speed Skating)
- Seychelles
- Tanzania
- Tunisia (Speed Skating and Inline Hockey)

Unanimously approved.

Fernando Claro cannot help but notice the irregularity of several National Federations which are affiliated to the FIRS but not to the Continental Confederations and that do not submit all the documentation requested.

Marotta says that if the FIRS was to do a check on the actual documentation submitted by each FIRS National Federation, then there will be no more than 15 Federations officially recognized. It is interest of the FIRS showing to the IOC the highest number of affiliated countries, looking forward to their documentation to be completed.

Claro does not agree with what above mentioned and also stresses how some countries do not pay the registration fees during the FIRS World Championships.

Marotta says that during each FIRS World Roller Speed Skating Championship the CIC gives a help to the developing countries attending by cancelling the registration fees and giving free board and lodging to a maximum of 40 athletes coming from those countries. This leads to 86 countries taking part to a Roller Speed Skating Championships, something that other International Federations cannot do and that makes the FIRS look good before the IOC,

Aracu adds that a new system should be established, allowing a Federations that becomes official member of the FIRS to automatically be affiliated also to the pertaining Continental Confederation.

The meeting is adjourned.

SECOND DAY

President **Aracu** greets the participants and introduces the Secretary General of the FIHP Angelo Iezzi who forward to all the greetings of the Italian Federation and leaves the meeting wishing everyone good job.

OUT OF AGENDA - SKATEBOARDING

The CIRH Chairman **Harro Strucksberg** makes a brief presentation of the new Chairman of Skateboarding Titus Dittmann through a series of slides. In Monaco there was a meeting with him and **Aracu** and two other members of his committee, very professional people who will bring skateboarding to great levels in FIRS.

Dittmann has been involved for over 20 years in the German Federation, has organized many competitions starting as coach and founder of skateboarding in the early 60s. His role is recognized by the young world of skateboarding and is well known in the USA. He is a deeply honest man, known by the politicians and often on the press. He wrote a book presented last year and now teaches at the University of Münster and socially helps many people. The next step will be a meeting with **Aracu** for a project involving as many federations as possible, the second step will be the World Championships in Dortmund in the Ruhr Games in 2015. The budget will be high and with the support of FIRS they will also ask the government for help with the hope of finding also sponsors in Germany. **Strucksberg** thanks for having decided

to take him as Chairman of Skateboarding. In March there will be a general meeting in the Federation and he will be president of this department in the German Federation.

ITEM 16 – FACILITIES

President **Aracu** communicates that FIRS is now able to send more detailed plans for the facilities concerning speed skating, Christophe Audoire in his recent trip to Cameroon as FIRS ambassador has submitted to the government plans for a multi-functional track and FIRS hopes to do with Vesmaco, current sponsor of FIRS, an international agreement. The strength of an international federation lies in having a single company that makes the product approved by FIRS and only on such a product you can play international events as it happens for example with the athletics. You may have one or more than one, but worldwide controlled. This should also be written on the bidding.

The president also hopes to be able to get soon the approval also of the equipment and hopes, through sponsorship, to have over the next three years, a rink for artistic and for inline hockey to be made available, free of charge, to the organizers who will pay only the shipping.

FIRS should try to build indoor tracks that can, for example, also be used by athletics and this can make more attractive its feasibility. We must start so soft, but slowly we should arrive.

Quintanilla suggests the creation of a committee to manage the investments of FIRS and a FIRS representative to speak about facilities with the governments and considers important that the Federations cultivate their contacts with the Olympic committees.

Claro, Portier and **Strucksberg** are rather skeptical about the feasibility of this project, because many tracks in Europe are not just for skating but multifunctional, FIRS can recommend but not impose it, or you'll not find someone who is able to organize the World Championships. You have to achieve the aim step by step.

ITEM 17 – APPROVAL OF THE FIRS FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Marotta reads the financial statement for 2012 and 2013 (*ANNEX 5*) and highlights that the membership fees are a very small amount and therefore the survival of FIRS depends on the ability and capacity to sell the brand. The financial statements of the technical committees are in the folder (*ANNEX 6* for the *CIC*, *ANNEX 7* for the *CIRH* and *ANNEX 8* for the *CIRILH*, *ANNEX 9* for the *CIPA*).

Discussion on the non-payment by Korea and Spain of the anti-doping tests and therefore on the credibility of the FIRS rules. **Pat Wallace** and **Claro** believe that if you establish rules these must be enforced otherwise you will damage your image; who is not in compliance with these payments should be excluded from the World Championships. **Marotta**, agrees on the need to punish the Federations in default but believes that we must proceed step by step.

Discussion on the retroactivity of that decision, and it is highlighted that the Bylaws yet in force, looking forward for the new ones, have no more value if they are in conflict with the new Statutes. Decisions taken in the meetings of the Congress and of the EB will be held good. In this regard a communication will be sent to all. The financial statement is put to the vote.

Unanimously approved.

ITEM 18 – MISCELLANEOUS

AFRICA

The President **Aracu** states as follows: On January 13, FIRS has received protests of Angola, Mozambique and Benin against the incorrect manner of convening the elective Assembly. Clarifications were requested to Wendy, who said that these countries have never been affiliated to the ACRS. The not correct convocation has been reiterated and it has been highlighted that FIRS has never been informed of this

meeting, learned only through the protests of those countries.

The last time the then First Vice President of FIRS Valerie Leftwich was present, but this time FIRS knew nothing about it. **Aracu** wonders about the reason of the four-month delay in convening, it is reaffirmed that the economic problems cannot be accepted as justification. When a meeting is convened it may be cancelled only for serious reasons, FIRS has asked the number of countries with the right to vote and how many votes they have, but it has not received any answer.

The President believes to have acted correctly, but there have been several violations:

1. FIRS has not been informed.
2. The convocation was made outside the rules.

Africa is an hard continent, which must be then kept under control, because sports culture is not easy. At the first World Championship held in Africa, the President of the Confederation was not there and this is not acceptable. The statute is not adequate, it is not known what and if any national championships have been organized and, based on the Statute, there is no fairness in the assignment of the votes. All countries had to be called and contacted.

Wendy Gila has insulted the President and sent the resignation, **Aracu** then proposes a commissioner for Africa able to revise the Articles of the Statute and to contact all countries.

He proposes to put as Commissioner the Secretary General, who in a few months will review a proper statute for Africa, will convene all countries to discuss it in order to proceed to the election of a new President.

Claro states that every Confederation must have the statute in conformity with the FIRS Statute and believes that this is not the case of the African Confederation. There is not a lot of solidarity among FIRS members, but the injuries are not tolerable. A Confederation is administratively, financially and technically autonomous, and its actions are justified by its own nations. But art. 11.8 says that FIRS will supervise the legality of a Congress and the FIRS President has acted correctly to appease internal disagreements. I believe that the President of the African Confederation. has made a mistake and we have to put a deadline for a commission to organize a general meeting with the elections.

It was decided to send a letter to all African countries to explain what will happen and time is given to the Commissioner until the next autumn to find collaborators in place and to organize the necessary arrangements with projects for the development of the continent. The deadline is set for 31 October. Voting for the appointment of **Roberto Marotta** as Special Commissioner for Africa.

Unanimously approved.

ANTI-DOPING

During her intervention, **Patricia Wallace** explains that 2014 has been a year of big change in the Anti-doping World seeing that the requirements tests are being changed. By February 28, 2014, **Wallace** shall submit a report to WADA off all the physiological requirements of the FIRS events. It is a very demanding commitment, bus she is sure she will be able to do it. After that, also a revision of the FIRS Anti-doping Policy shall be performed.

President **Aracu** takes the floor to commend the great work carried out by **Wallace**; in 2013 it has been spent for the Anti-doping Program more than what was expected, but having performed Out of Competition Tests has improved the image of the FIRS seeing that not all the International Federations do so.

AMBASSADOR'S PROJECT

Aracu explains how he has tried several times to help some developing countries by sending them equipment and how it turned out that everything that had been sent was sold or that the customs duties were very high making it impossible to re-send equipment. The FIRS has therefore thought about a new way to help the growth of Roller Sports in those countries and the solution that it came up with was the FIRS Ambassadors' Project. In one or two months the FIRS will train around 20 roller experts in its headquarters in Rome, teaching them how to successfully run a Federation, how to manage the member

registration procedures, etc. In the meantime, the FIRS will also get in touch with the Ministries of Sports and the municipalities of the target countries to establish agreements and get support for the project. Once they are trained the "FIRS Ambassadors" will go to the developing countries and will teach 30/40 local PE teachers selected by the hosting Government how to become coaches of Roller Speed Skating (the easiest and cheapest discipline to develop), how to create clubs, etc. The people that will be trained will become coaches, not athletes, and each one of them will try to establish a Roller school in his/her city. After 6 months, the FIRS Ambassador will go back to that country to verify the progress made. In the poorest countries, where the Government is not able to financially support the project, the FIRS will pay the salary of the Secretary General of the new Federation that will be founded for two years. The Ambassadors will also get commercial abilities in order to sell products of our sponsors on the spot and to successfully promote the FIRS brand. In Albania, a Secretary General of the local National Olympic Committee is ready to become the Secretary General of the Federation that will be created there.

Aracu welcomes the occasion to show pictures of the Ambassadors' Project held in Cameroon, Africa.

The enthusiasm that the project has gathered really makes him believe that in a few years athletes from Cameroon could take part in the FIRS World Championships.

VESMACO

President **Aracu** welcomes in the Executive Board meeting Mr. **Cacciani**, President of VESMACO, renowned company that produces surfacing for roller tracks and rinks and FIRS official sponsor. Without VESMACO many projects carried out by the FIRS could not have been possible.

Mr. **Cacciani** thanks **Aracu** and presents his company to all those present. Mr. **Cacciani** has been working in the sports field for competitive use for the last 48 years, and in the roller tracks and rinks field for 10 years. The Vesmaco tracks and rinks are present all throughout the World and all the skaters commend their surfaces because VESMACO has introduced a new system of flooring; the old concrete has been substituted by the asphalt covered by synthetic resins that the athletes prefer because they can skate at their best without having fear of falling and hurt themselves. Mr. **Cacciani** puts all his expertise at disposal of all those countries that request his company's assistance.

Strucksberg thanks Mr. **Cacciani** and stresses how the rink in Geisingen, made by Vesmaco for a Freestyle Championship and that will be used for a Speed Skating championship, is the best rink in the world.

Aracu invites **Cacciani** to leave the Executive Board meeting together with the delegation of Chinese Taipei to discuss a new track to be built in their country.

REQUEST BY THE GERMAN FEDERATION

The German Federation, represented by his President **Harro Strucksberg**, asks FIRS for the inclusion of Rink Hockey in the World Games. **Roberto Marotta** says that he already sent an e-mail to **Strucksberg** stating that FIRS already requested that to the IWGA before the edition of the Games held in Cali, but the real problem seems to be the high number of athletes attending; having already 3 roller disciplines within the Games, there really isn't any room for a fourth. However, **Marotta** ensures that he will keep on putting pressure on the IWGA, especially on Joaquim Gossow, to include Rink Hockey in the World Games.

Strucksberg highlights how this request was of political nature and asks the FIRS Secretariat for the letter that was sent to the IWGA requesting the inclusion of 3 roller disciplines within its Games.

Marotta will send the letter to **Strucksberg**.

QUINTANILLA/MAROTTA

The item has not been discussed.

PROTEST MADE BY THE SPANISH FEDERATION FOR NOT BEING INCLUDED IN THE 2014 FIRS WORLD INLINE HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

Gilbert Portier explains that the discipline of Inline Hockey has been growing really fast; in 2011 there were 41 teams for 3 Championships, in 2012 only 35 teams, in 2013 48 teams and in 2014 68 teams. When the

Championships were held in Europe, usually the South American countries would not attend the event, while when they were held in South America the European ones would not show up. For example, in 2012 the Spanish Federation sent to Bucaramanga only 1 senior ladies team and in 2013 has sent to Huntington Beach no teams at all.

For the 2014 Championship it was estimated the participation of 12 junior teams, 12 senior ladies teams and 24 senior men teams. Once **Portier** received more applications, he spoke with the Organizer to try finding a solution in order to welcome more teams; at the end a second rink (20x40) was included, although normally a Rink Hockey rink should be 25x50, therefore allowing the participation of 16 junior men teams, 16 senior ladies teams and 24 senior men teams, for a total of 68 teams, a number very difficult to manage for a venue with only 2 rinks available. The priority for the participation was therefore given to the teams that participated in the Championship the previous year and after that to the teams that sent their applications before the others. Spain has been left out following this criteria.

Portier has tried talking again to the Organizer to add a team, but the Organizer does not want to include an additional team with the risk of displeasing the other 68. **Portier** asks the Executive Board to give him official mandate to make this request to the Organizer one more time; maybe with the FIRS Executive Board support an agreement can be reached.

Marotta agrees to send **Portier** an official letter giving him this mandate. However he points out how the exponential growth of the Federations attending the World Inline Hockey Championships calls for the decision by CIRILH to eventually split the Championship in Junior and Senior.

Aracu that dividing the Championships in 2 different events may be a mistake in terms of politics, strategy and entertainment, but for sure the current situation calls for a final solution.

Fernando Claro point out a serious irregularity in the dossier sent to the FIRS Executive Board before the EB meeting; the CIRH financial report has been presented with the signature of **Harro Strucksberg** as CIRH auditor, while he is also its Chairman. **Claro** has no doubts on the rightness of the accounts that were presented, but he feels the need to say something because otherwise he could be liable of something unlawful.

Aracu stresses how **Claro's** intervention is absolutely correct, but he would not want to dig up the past; the new course of FIRS will bring a single FIRS Financial Statement, therefore all the Financial Statements of each Technical Committee will disappear. Up until now the International Federation had 4 different minds acting independently, but the FIRS General Assembly has decided that FIRS shall be one single organization.

After the death of the Presidents of the Federations of Mexico and Uruguay, **Harro Strucksberg** asks FIRS to monitor how they are going to be run.

He also notices how Ireland has been affiliated to FIRS with the discipline of Inline Hockey, therefore he would like the FIRS to ask them to develop also Rink Hockey and affiliate that discipline within FIRS.

Fernando Graça tells the EB that the following week he will have a meeting and one of the items in the agenda is the situation in Ireland. He will keep everyone updated about it.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A CHARITY FOR CHILDREN WITH DOWN SYNDROME

Aracu introduces the last item in the agenda, a proposal by FIRS Vice President **Armando Quintanilla** to establish an international charity of Roller Skating for children with Down Syndrome. There were already some investigations carried out by Professor Starosta, back when **Aracu** was CERS President, clearly stating that Roller Skating is the best base for the motor development of a child. Roller Skating improving the motor conditions of a child with Down Syndrome could be a positive thing for the FIRS and bring great results in terms of image. The right person that will be the head of this organization, as well as the members of its Board shall be identified. Also the location of the headquarters shall be meticulously researched; depending on the location, funds such as those granted by the European Commission or American or Asian authorities, could be asked.

Aracu asks **Armando Quintanilla** to make a detailed investigation on the subject so as to start with this great initiative.

Quintanilla explains that the idea of this charity came up after having witnessed Artistic Skating performances by children with Down Syndrome in Uruguay and verifying that this happens also in Argentina and Chile; it seems like this disciplines in fact has a positive impact on the growth and in motor

development of this kids. Therefore **Quintanilla** had a meeting with the Ministries of Sports of countries like Paraguay, Argentina and Chile and has obtained their approval for the development of a Roller Skating programme for kids with Down Syndrome, a thing that can be very useful also in the FIRS dream of getting into the Olympics. He has also had a talk about it with Andres Botero, former President of the Colombian Olympic Committee and current IOC member, that has approved the project and offered to present it to the IOC board. He is also sure that there are several companies and governments willing to invest funds in a project like this; the only thing to do is establishing an organization that can manage all the different projects that can originate. Obviously the project could start in Pan America and then spread all around the globe.

Aracu thanks **Quintanilla** for his intervention.

Aracu also shows the customized layout of the trophy for the World Inline Hockey Championship that will be hold by the winning team for a year and that will be given to the next winning team of the following edition of the Championship. The trophy layout has been designed by **Lina Lizcano** from the FIRS Graphic Department, and FIRS is verifying whether it can actually be made.

Aracu commends the Executive Board for the great work carried out during 2 days and is very satisfied for the modalities of the discussion of each item of the agenda. By embracing the new course of the FIRS Statutes, the FIRS is becoming an efficient team, able to work to reach common goals.

He also thanks the 2 interpreters for the assistance in the translation, the FIRS offices composed by the FIRS Vice Secretary General Laura Morandi and the FIRS Secretariat staff.



Roberto Marotta
FIRS Secretary General



Sabatino Aracu
FIRS President