



**MINUTES OF THE FIRS ORDINARY CONGRESS
ROME - ITALY
February 7th, 2009**

Members in attendance:

1. ANGOLA
2. ARGENTINA
3. AUSTRALIA
4. AUSTRIA
5. BELGIUM
6. BRAZIL
7. CANADA
8. CHILE
9. CHINA
10. CHINESE TAIPEI
11. COLOMBIA
12. COSTA RICA
13. CROATIA
14. CUBA
15. CZECH REPUBLIC
16. DENEMARK
17. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
18. EGYPT
19. EL SALVADOR
20. ECUADOR
21. FINLAND
22. FRANCE
23. GERMANY
24. GREAT BRITAIN
25. GUATEMALA
26. HONDURAS
27. HUNGARY
28. INDIA
29. IRAN
30. ISRAEL
31. ITALY
32. JAPAN
33. KOREA
34. MEXICO
35. MOÇAMBIQUE
36. NEDERLANDS
37. NEW ZEALAND
38. PANAMA
39. PARAGUAY

- 40. POLAND
- 41. PORTUGAL
- 42. RUMANIA
- 43. SINGAPORE
- 44. SLOVENIA
- 45. SOUTH AFRICA
- 46. SOUTH AFRICA
- 47. SPAIN
- 48. SWITZERLAND
- 49. SWITZERLAND
- 50. USA
- 51. URUGUAY
- 52. VENEZUELA

President's opening remarks

ARACU: Dear friends, dear President Petrucci, dear President Pescante, this is our world, a part of our world. We have showed to you all our disciplines, as we have submitted to the IOC Program Commission, by the spectacular view of figure skating, in line hockey, rink hockey , speed, downhill, freestyle and the magical world of roller sports, that we wish the whole world could discover.

Let me say to you Mario, you're an influential member of the IOC, that we have presented the skates as the evolution of the shoe, because we believe in it. The skate is fast, the shoe of the future, in many cities of the world we see policemen with skates as well as entire families to spend their Sundays in parks, like Central Park, on skates. I think this is a big world. We are not an Olympic sport, but every year we make the World Championships with more than 60 countries and I think that many Olympic sports, which I respect, do not reach these numbers: we are present on all continents and this year even in Asian Games and in the Mediterranean Games. Today we are in Rome, and all the people we see, have come here only to make our Congress. Here are all the people who love and believe in a sport, that is second to none and I let the floor to the President of the National Olympic Committee Dr. Gianni Petrucci.

PETRUCCI: Dear President Aracu, dear President Pescante, dear Congress friends, for us is a great satisfaction to have been chosen as seat for this important elective Congress. I was President of Coni since short time when Sabatino Aracu, with whom I had always had a good relationship, led me to see a competition in Rome and then I took part in Padua at the Worlds. Well, I must give credit to President Aracu, that what he has done and what your discipline has made, is extraordinary. Not only sporting successes, but also success in the organisation; we see the importance of a sport in the number of participating nations, well, over the years you have always raised the issue. We, as Olympic Committee, we can only be close to your discipline and to President Aracu. Here's the most prestigious personality we have in the IOC, Mario Pescante, who is the only Italian , member of the Executive, and I am sure, even in the autonomy, that each component of the Italian IOC has, everyone will surely fight for Olympic recognition of this discipline. It is clear, as

Sabatino Aracu says, that all sports are good, but you saw that a great champion as Sanfratello leaves a discipline and switch to another for the Olympic ideal. Well you must be sure that Italian sport, the Italian Olympic Committee, will be close to President Aracu, so that you can enter the world of the important disciplines. I make you compliments for this fine organization: in this salon we celebrate the great achievements of Italian sport and many great athletes of your sport have received here their proper recognition. Confirming to you the commitment of CONI to let you crown this beautiful impossible dream, I wish a good job at Sabatino Aracu and Mario Pescante. Thank you and good luck.

PESCANTE: Dear President Aracu, friends and colleagues of Roller Sports, first of all welcome in Rome. This is an historic day for you at this Congress. We are always closer to the IOC session in Copenhagen, where it will be decided which sports will be included in the new Olympic program. Roller Sports have for a long time the goal of becoming Olympic and in my opinion, but I think it is the general opinion, they have all the conditions and requirements to achieve this recognition. It is a popular sport, widely spread in many countries, practiced by millions of kids, a spectacular and modern sport. I wish now to express some observations: in the past, frankly, you were lacking in the communication and promotion. Your message came very faded to the IOC, which was to take the final decision. In any case, I must admit that recently, your campaign has been very, very effective. You have promoted your image in a much stronger way, showing the special features of your sport and the expectations for the future. Even your recent presentation at the headquarters of the IOC has met a huge success. I want to emphasize another aspect: no secret of the fact that in the past members of the IOC were off by your demands, such as the recognition of the Federation of Catalonia. Catalonia is a very important region of Spain, but in agreement with the Olympic Chart, it can not be recognized as a nation with regard to the recognition of independence. Thus any admission as International Federation had challenged the rules of the IOC, that, we know well, recognizes only the Olympic Committees, that belong to countries that are members of the United Nations. Fortunately, such a claim was not pursued further. You have avoided the mistake of the past and we are moving in a way that is more in line with the rules of the IOC.

ARACU: Thanks to Mario Pescante. With full transparency we wish that our meetings are followed, and I say with pride that we are now on television all over the web world. This is the first federation to send its Assembly live on television. With us there is mass democracy, the vote is totally secret, even the countries that have more votes (4 or 5) will receive 1 vote cards. Nobody can think, that we can identify the votes. Democracy is an important thing and today in this conference I want to say to you that we have the ambition to make a quantum leap. I think that this Congress is at a turning point, in which we pass from an amateur stage to a professional stage.

Dear Mario, dear Gianni, we would be happy if you stay with us, but feel free to go. Thank you for your presence here.

Gianni Petrucci and Mario Pescante leave the assembly.

We begin immediately with the agenda, so I give the floor to the Secretary General Roberto Marotta to start the meeting.

MAROTTA: Thanks, good morning to you all. We begin our work. I communicate the number of the participating countries and of the available votes. We have 173 votes, representing 52 countries, the quorum of majority is 87 votes. Before proceeding with the work we have to appoint the scrutineers. I propose to appoint Ms Wendy Gila South Africa, Mr. Harveè Lallement from France and Mr. Ian Pietrowski Belgium. If you agree raise your hand, or else take the floor.

The assembly votes in favour, no votes against or abstentions.

In your folder, including in your documents, you have the report of the previous Congress, we must approve it: I ask you to take the floor if there are objections.

Brazil takes the floor

BRAZIL: I would like that the agenda could be in compliance with the Statute of FIRS and that the election is the last thing in the program, Art. 11 of the Statute. Simply because the statute says this. I say this because I believe that this is the first time, we have a Congress with two candidates. I want to know if, by statute, the new President-elect, must ratify the decision of the former President. In any case art.11 of the Statute, the election must be held at the end.

MAROTTA: Article. 11 of the Statute provides that the FIRS Agenda is drawn up by the President. The President has the obligation to put in the agenda all the items provided for the art. 11 of the Statute, which was perfectly done, so the Agenda remains that which was sent to all participating Federations.

ARACU: The President has the authority to prepare the agenda, because it has to use, beyond what the statute says and suggests, common sense in drawing up the agenda. I tell you what has inspired me with all sincerity: this is an important Congress because many nations are present, but it is also important because there are two candidates. This is a great sign of democracy, such as sport teaches us. We felt that the attention, especially at the beginning of the Congress, is focused on this election. It is clear that it would be hurt, if only the President could speak , not the candidate, but I will make my report as President, then both Carlos Orlando Ferreira, candidate in opposition to me, and I, will do our speech.

Then we will give the word to the only person who will be sure elected, my Vice-President Valerie Leftwich. I think that democracy means also this: to avoid that between the speeches of the candidates and the election there are many discussions of the technical committees etc. .. We can go on with the work.

MAROTTA: We report the speech of Brazil and we must approve the minutes of the previous Congress.

The assembly votes in favour, against the vote of Panama, abstension of Ecuador, because it was not present at the Congress in Murcia.

The President takes the floor for the report.

ARACU: Dear friends, once again, after having heard Mario Pescante, one of the most influential representatives of the International Olympic Committee, I am here with you to tell you that it must not only be an elective Congress, but I hope the Congress of a turning point, a Congress that, in some way, can change in our head, how to go forward. We all understand the need to transform our sport from amateur to professional. We are working together and I hope that this team will expand and that from this conference comes a single team. There will not be winners or losers, but the Rollersports team , a team that can work together: none of us should see in the person nearby a rival and judge him only because he belongs to a deployment. It would be the saddest thing we could do, we should see close to us people with which we know we're going to build something together, because this means development.

Dear friends, I have four years to tell you that for me were exciting. My first four years as President of FIRS led me close to you with an enormous enthusiasm, with a desire to do, although there have been moments of despair: four years ago we inherited a Federation difficult to manage, which had just debts. Imagine that the fee of GAISF was not paid for three years, think what kind of image they could have .. The IOC didn't give contributions: we were known only to pursue a problem, which was the Catalonia. As if Roller Sports were running only around one problem and you do not have idea of what problems we had the first few years just to settle this matter, paying lawyers to appeal to the TAS. I must thank all the people, which I had close to me starting with Valerie, my first Vice President. Let me express my particular thanks to Roberto Marotta, with whom I have a personal friendship, I wish to thank all the other vice-presidents, as I said before, Carlos Orlando Ferreira, President of the Pan-American Confederation, Mr. Guo Min, who is just for two years Vice President of FIRS and President of the Asian Federation of an important country like China, to thank Fernando Claro, person of great culture and good sense, who for me was as an adviser, and Simon Wilkins our Vice President of Oceania.

I wish to thank also the Presidents of technical committees, who have composed this committee, starting with Jim Pollard, President of Artistic Skating for many years, Harro Strucksberg, President of Rink Hockey. Harro is a person that I have learned to know more and more, a fair person, who tells you what he thinks and acts always in a correct way. A great point of reference. To have a President for hockey, who is not Italian, not from Portugal or Spain, means that this world is opening up the horizons, is growing. Allow me, to thank Gilbert Portier, who replaced George Pickard, whom I want to thank. He is still close to us, though he is no more President of a Technical Committee. Thank you Pickard, thanks to the Federation of the United States of America and to its President, who is here today with us, for giving us honest and fair leaders and with the desire to do, but I repeat Portier is new,

enthusiastic, is from France, I have to say a person with whom the in-line hockey will get great things.

Today for the first time we have here with us a representative of the athletes: Gregory Duggento, whom I thank for being involved.

Economical problem: we had a Federation with debts and no employees, a Federation without a website, a Federation with no possibility to communicate, which aspired to go to the Olympics without an image and without a structure. Today I can proudly say, that I had a Federation with debts and without an image and now I am ready to give you all the budgets.

I must say thanks to the Technical Committees, which were directly involved and to me personally: I myself, to give the example, I gave the money, but it was a choice that I did not because it was a duty, but because my heart told me that we needed to do so. We could not ask countries for another tax, countries need help.

So we solved quickly the economic problem, as you can see later in the budgets. Revenue of the Central Committee is around \$ 270,000 and only \$ 26,000 is the contribution of countries, i.e. the membership fee. Today I have to thank everyone, because in an historic turning, even the producers of our sport are present here outside. There is the Vesmaco, which is the largest firm in the world, which makes the flooring for roller skating, there is another company: Bresciani, which is close to us. I must publicly thank Vesmaco the company, which has become our partner and each year gives \$ 60,000 to the Federation to help us in the Olympic project.

Organization. Thanks to the Italian Olympic Committee, the Italian Federation of Hockey and Roller Skating and we have offices and facilities. We have 8 people working full time: under the leadership of Roberto Marotta, are working Laura Morandi, who is also Vice Secretary-General and coordinator of the organization, Alessandra, my international secretary, who is at your disposal every day, Lorena that takes care of the general affairs of the Secretariat, Francesco who cares marketing, Simona who cares only the communication and Raffaella, who care only sports facilities.

Three important points: marketing, communication, sports facilities, are three important areas for the growth of our sport. We will use two new people, who will take care of international relations policy. I am a member of the Italian Parliament and two people of my structure will treat only relations with the foreign affairs departments of your government. A structure, with which FIRS will interface with the government of every country for your needs.

We would like to set up assistance through a toll-free number: Just send a mail to the Federation and you will be called directly by phone. We wish to give you the best help: FIRS will be as strong as you'll be stronger, everyone in his country.

I went to many countries to visit the members of the IOC. Some of them I met during the meetings, I tried to speak one by one with everyone, trying to let them understand how important we are. We have been present at all possible meetings, in all the meetings, that made the IOC. We even started to call the

members of the IOC in our meetings. We have sent them material, brochures, letters. We invited for example to the World Championships in Colombia members of the IOC, we have offered them hospitality and for that I thank the Colombian Federation, which has offered the hospitality and the International Federation, which paid for the ticket.

Communication and image: We have a website, that I think is very effective and will improve in the coming times, we are the first Federation in the world, that started with a Roller TV. We have taken the World Championships of Figure Skating, Hockey in Switzerland, the world championships that we have broadcasted from Cali and Gijon. Today, for the first time, cameras are filming our meeting. I think this is a quantum leap. We have begun to be present at events such as Sporttel in Monaco, where all the major television producers meet. Many television stations have contacted us and we share relationships with many international broadcasters, we have granted images and interviews with more than 100 countries worldwide. We made an agreement with the largest news agency in the world, Sportcal, in which all people of the IOC read the news agencies, that continually send messages of our business and will do so even of this assembly. For the website I ask you a partnership, we must give space to all countries, if there are news. The website must be done by an editorial team, and it is not easy, because it is like a daily newspaper; please send news and movies from all countries, my dream is that in the future from the website of FIRS you can click and open the web page of any country. I think this is a quality leap, that we must do all together, to demonstrate that we are a real team. We have been interviewed by the major international broadcasters such as Fox TV and others, we are dealing with Biwin for hockey, why hockey will enter the international world of betting; another very important agreement is the one with Transworld TV. I believe that for the first time we are trying to sell web television rights, to improve and prepare a package because we will sell our international television networks.

Sports facilities, you will get in few months a manual of sport facilities (speed, hockey, figure skating), made by the best technicians. We have a committee that will communicate shortly with lists of facilities approved by FIRS and that means resources and guarantees. If we want to look for sponsors, we must be credible as other federations do. This is a very important point. Producers are close to us and we must always have them near us.

Promotion and development: I have talked about the relationship with the Olympic committees, but we did not stop, we began to organise international seminars for coaches, beginning with speed skating and artistic skating, from which I hope to bring out not only coaches, but the creation of an International School for coaches.

Presence at the Games: With the help of Al Sabath, sheikh of Qatar, about whom Mr. Guo Min spoke, with the help of Pescante, which was very effective with his friendship, we were able to include roller skating in the Asian Games and now we are seeing in how many disciplines. This is important as the inclusion in the Mediterranean Games, which are important for a political reason. The Arab countries consider them almost more important than the Olympics, especially those of North Africa and of the Mediterranean, because

they consider them a sports joint meeting with the West. We all know that we are included in the Pan American Games, we are entering the Mastergames and also we should be able to get, through Valerie, the Commonwealth Games.

I thank everyone here today, the organizers of the World Championships, because all have made great sacrifices, even if we have to change: we organise World Championships in an amateurish way, but in future we will have to create a structure, that would give assistance to all countries, that can find synergies with important international agencies. Someone has organised them in an excellent way: I have to thank Korea, that has organised so well with high professionalism, also the organization of World Championships in Colombia, those of Italy. Efforts need to be done by the center: we can not think that a year the Worlds are organized well, because the organising country has many possibilities and countries, which do not have these possibilities are not able to organise them. The organization of a World Championship is an opportunity to let a Federation become strong. This is the message.

We have started for this reason very strong relationships with the UAE through visits. You all know that the Emirates, Dubai, Kuwait City, have a great economic strength. With them we are starting a relationship in order to organize special events for skating.

One thing that we consider important for the future of our Sport is the Roller Festival: as if we organised the World Championships in all disciplines, rink hockey, in-line hockey, figure skating, speed, downhill, skateboarding to which I dedicate a special chapter. Imagine to see 5.000, 6.000, 7.000 people all in an area as if it were Roller Olympic Games: what a promotion for our world!

We spoke about skateboard and I wish to tell to all countries: skateboard must be affiliated to our Federation. It is a sport loved by young people, the Olympic way goes also through skateboarding. In Italy, for example, we have it in our Federation, but we must also manage it at international level. The name of our Federation today is International Roller Sports Federation because the IOC has identified, that we are the Federation, under whose umbrella all roller sports are present. So we have to accept everyone, be more open, with freestyle, with the aggressive, all specialities must come close to us. The President of a National Federation should be President of all roller specialities.

Olympic program and sponsor: We have pointed to the Olympic program, the logo you see was done by professionals, was studied to be a logo that youth could like and that affects the public opinion and the IOC: to give the idea that we are a sport in movement. The IOC today needs a sport loved by young people.

To make an Olympic project we went to find sponsors, we had a meeting in Monaco during the ISPO with the largest companies producing skates, that are Rollerblade, K2, Roces, Fila and Powerslide. These are the companies that will finance in a stronger way our project. We completed with them beautiful relationships for the future, as the Roller Day. We will have to program all together the Roller Day, and decide on that day, even with the environmentalists to make a green day based on rollers, because rollers are the smallest and ecological means that exists. These companies will help us, for example with posters, all over the world, in skates shops on which it will be

written: "Roller Day" or, this year, on four million skates boxes there will be written "Roller for Olympics".

But we need to increase the value of our logo: FIRS logo must be the image of all and should be present in all the Federations in the world, because each of you is part of FIRS

It is clear that the most important thing is the Olympic project, we have pointed to speed, probably skateboard could stand close to it. Speed does not want to be our only horse, speed must be the key, the pass, here are the friends of figure skating, of rink hockey, of inline hockey, who ask: why speed? We must be very practical: speed is the only discipline for which we need only a road and can be done all over the world, but the vote will be on Roller Sports, then I would be foolish not to think that if we enter with speed, later we may enter with a team sport and then with artistic, which is the musicality, the discipline that attracts all ages. We have to improve this, but after we should go. This, I repeat, is the input, the key.

But let's go to this Olympic project we have created a commission chaired by Luciano Barra, who has been General Director of the Olympic Games in Turin, a man well known by the IOC, who is now working for the promotion of the Olympics in Chicago in 2016. We are not doing anything amateur. Imagine, that we are seven sports, that the IOC believes to be the ones that can enter the Olympics. This means, we have the titles to go to the Olympics. It's a great result, we believe to be among the best of these seven sports, we say this with pride, we are not making a policy to denigrate others, but we have a sport for young people. The other sports are golf, a beautiful sport, but I do not see many young people playing golf, rugby at seven? I've ever known rugby at 15. We talk about sports for men and women: we are a sport that has a competition for men and one for women, even our hockey organises women's world championships and it is right to continue, even if with difficulty, to push for women's hockey. All women of the IOC, members of the IOC, have us openly advocated: the athletes' representative, who was Manuela Di Centa and Gunilla Lindberg, Finland, said that among the sports, that are inside and those who want to enter, skating is the only sport that respects in equal way male and female rules.

Today you will approve a draft of WADA, the antidoping IOC commission to which we must adapt well and which will be discussed in the second part.

We have started a promotion going to Sportaccord, which is the most important sport meeting, that takes place every year. We were one of the few Federations in order to enter the Olympics, which occurred with a stand and with the movie that you saw outside. All members of the IOC were to visit the stand, where we did a promotion, that no sport has done. Our posters with photos of Duggento, bright, were present at the airport. Imagine, arriving at the airport of Athens, to see a large poster with a large photo of skating, with "Amazing Roller Sports." We must be proud of us, that's why I say to you, we must be convinced to do so. This year in March, we will go again to Denver for Sportaccord. The President and the Secretary of the American Federation will come with me, they have friends in the American Olympic Committee, and together we can arrange lobbies and other operations. Remember, we are playing the game this year and the game began with the official presentation of all the seven sports on the 14th November at the IOC Program Commission presided by Franco Carraro. The movie you have seen is the movie that we

have presented, professionally done by directors; think, that rugby and golf have spent one million dollars to do their movie. We did not have these economies, but we spent \$ 150,000 that we found through the sponsors. You saw, that sometimes there was a break: there were three interventions, mine, that of Roberto Marotta: we have explained in three, four minutes we had available, that ours is a beautiful sport, that if the police go with skates is because the future is not only a show, but because the skate is a reality. We see millions of skaters on the streets because they like skating. We see so many young people, because ours is a young sport. The most exciting moment was the speech of Derek Parra, an American boy, a wonderful person, who was one of our world champion, for many years. He, as Ippolito Sanfratello, stopped and switched to the ice. He won in Salt Lake City the Olympics in the ice, the same thing did Sanfratello and won the Olympics in Turin. Derek Parra, as Ippolito Sanfratello, introduced himself with the Olympic gold medal around his neck in front of the Program Commission of the IOC, in a room where they were all seated, from all over the world, and with the hand on his heart said: "Dear sirs , I love skating but my dream has always been to get to the Olympics, and roller skating has not given to me this opportunity, so I switched to the ice for the Olympics, the only thing that I was missing. I was lucky enough to win, but the enthusiasm, the love I have for roller skating is not comparable to that for ice. I am a man, who won on the ice, but roller skating is another thing. "

Dear friends, we have studied these words every day for 10 days, in a television studio, I, Roberto Marotta and Derek Parra have repeated the lesson with the director. We are not professionals, but we put in it all the possible professionalism. The next steps will be in front of the Executive Board in June, and especially in Copenhagen, where we will have the help of the Danish Federation, in October, because there will be the final vote. We will have to do some "movement", let us see, if we can, in Copenhagen, with the jacket, the tie, but with skates. When the members of the IOC arrive at the hotel, they must see people skating. You see, dear friends, I spent part of my life for this love, I have my political activity, I am a businessman, I have a company that has over a thousand people, but my life is this, my team is here, skating is the love of my life. I have no personal interest, perhaps someone will let you believe different things, even with personal attacks, made in a subtle and anonymous way. I do not think, that is sport but I'm not interested in talking, I go forward, I do not know if we will arrive at the Olympic goal, but one thing is certain: we are and we will be seen as an increasingly sport. This is the work and the objective we should meet together and which I continue to spend my life for. I close with the same sentence that said Derek Parra: with the hand on my heart I say to you: I am here because I love this sport, which wants the dignity of being an Olympic sport, and the pleasure to feel important and great. Thanks to all of you, we will be able to do this. Thanks for being here with us.

MAROTTA: Thank you President. The floor to Carlos Orlando Ferreira, candidate.

FERREIRA: Dear friends, I want to begin by congratulating the President Sabatino Aracu, greeting all members of the Central Committee and a very special greeting to all the nations present here. I am very happy to be here, with 50 countries and I feel happy to be candidate for the presidency of FIRS, here with the representatives of skating in the world. I remember that four years ago there was half of these participants and this for several reasons: it is

the first time in the history of the International Skating Federation, that there are two candidates for the presidency. This is due to the great work, that has been done in these four years to develop this sport. And within this, Carlos Orlando Ferreira, Colombia and its Pan-American area did a wonderful job. I still remember the first world junior championship of all specialities, which are the basis of the development of skating in the world, championship which was held for the first time in Colombia. How can we forget that an oil company financed me because we wanted to organise with our ideas the first World Junior Championship in Barrancabermeja; how can we forget the City of Bucaramanga, which put the money to organize the first World Junior Championship of Artistic Skating in Giron and how can we forget the help of the city of Cali to organize the first Hockey Junior Championship. We are pioneers in the development of skating in the world .. We have worked so that from Alaska, from Patagonia to the Caribbean everyone knows what is skating. When I became President of the Pan-American Confederation there were 8 nations, today the whole American continent has skating. And we are working to let the Caribbean have it. President Aracu, Roberto, we were recently invited to attend a meeting ODEPA with 42 Olympic committees to discuss with other countries and other sports the chance that our sport becomes Olympic. President, you did a great speech on the theme of the Olympic Games and I want to say that, regardless of what the result will be, Carlos Orlando Ferreira will work, as he did in recent years, in order that this sport becomes Olympic; however I am seriously worried about an interview granted to the greatest television sport channel, that will be broadcasted on Eurosport in Eurovision, and I am seriously worried about the end of this interview in which the possibility that the roller skating and karate athletes will be included in the decision of October, is ruled out.

I am also worried when Mario Pescante, member of the Olympic Committee repeats, as I have heard for thirty years, that he will do all he can for our sport to become Olympic, but who is here, knows that it is not a reality. President, I will not deny that there have been great efforts, together with Roberto Marotta and all members of the Central Committee, but I believe that it was mistaken on logistics and way to go to the Olympics. I returned from the meeting in Africa with a very big concern. In 50 years of existence of the International Skating Federation, it was the first time that a member of the Central Committee held a meeting with members of those countries. We must work where it is necessary: in Africa, in the East countries, Central America and the Caribbean, because if we want to build more Federations, that will be affiliated by the Olympic Committee, we will impress the Olympic Committee so that our sport could one day become Olympic. I wish to speak here about a great sportsman: Mr Derek Parra, who is also one of my friends and Mr. Ippolito Sanfratello, our companion: what may seem a good thing could change in a bad one. Roller skating has an Olympic alternative: ice skating and we heard that our skaters have had to move from rollerskating to ice; it is worrying that they are ambassadors of our sport in Lausanne. In a meeting attended not only by our International Federation, but a meeting at which other sports, competing with us, were invited. It is probably that in July we will have only four sports that can be included in the final decision in October: what the Olimpic Committee is going to discuss, is that in the decision of October there will not be seven sports. And we must fight in these months to be able to be taken into account in October. To be mass sport is very important and the

Federation should give aid to those countries who want to build a sports scene, instead seeking a fee to play this sport at international level. I think we should review this point, because if we continue in this way, third world countries, poor countries, will not have the money to remain in this sport world. President, also my life was dedicated to this sport and I have a company not with a thousand employees, but with the half, that is dedicated to education. I am the President of a University in my country, and I struggle so that many children and young people of not wealthy classes can go on through education. I am very proud of my work. When I arrived at the presidency of the Federation, Colombia had 300 skaters, and today it has more than 16,000, we want to build in five years more than 130 skating facilities and I look with concern to those countries and continents where it is difficult to find even a single rink.

As sporting director I am very proud to have had six times consecutively in speed a world championship, I am very proud of the great importance of the rink of Cali realized for the World Championship in 2007 and that was the setting of the movie for Olympics. In America we are in all Games and not only with speed, but also with artistic and hockey. We are in the Central American and Caribbean Games, in the Pan American and South American and Bolivia Games. All members of the Executive Committee of South America have collaborated so that all countries could participate in Games organized by the Olympic Committee.

It is a big step that skating has been included in the Asian Games but I am concerned about the presence of skating in the Mediterranean Games, and if we do not have a good number of countries, we will lose this opportunity. We need eight countries to take part at the Mediterranean Games. If we will go to the Mediterranean Games with the Marathons, we have to work hard to remain there.

President, delegates, the President was elected four years ago to end the period of President Isidro Oliveras, a period which ended last year. Today, to be clear in this meeting as was done in front of the CC, this election should have been for two years, not for four, because it is possible that, electing a president for four years, we begin to violate the rules of FIRS. Who knows the 50-year history of FIRS, knows that President and Vice President are elected two years after the election of the members of the Technical Committees. I wish to congratulate all the nations present here, because I know that many of them have made a great effort to attend this Congress. I congratulate the Italian Federation for the great support that gives to the International Federation with its employees and the economic support for our Federation, congratulations to the President and to Roberto Marotta for their work and congratulations to all the federations for the work they do. I conclude by saying that regardless of what will be the result of this election you can count on my support if I lose and I hope I can count on your support, President, if I win. Thank you very much.

MAROTTA. Thank you Carlos Orlando, the floor to the First Vice President Valerie Leftwich, the only one candidate at the Vice Presidency

LEFTWICH: Thanks Roberto. Not having opponents I do not steal a lot of time. I hope that this is an indication that I have done my job well. In the last four years I have tried to answer carefully to anyone who has requested a personal contact with me and many of you have done it and I hope to have brought in

some way new countries near the world of roller skating. As I have said, I live in Australia, far away from Europe and this has its advantages and disadvantages: one advantage is its proximity to Asia and I was able to work closely with Asia over the past four years and I would like to congratulate Mr. Guo Min, and of course Mr. Noguchi before him, because thanks to their support, their help and their knowledge we have become members of the World Games of Asia, something very important and for which I thank them.

I would also like to thank for his help Roberto Marotta as Secretary General and Alessandra, as secretary of Sabatino, who made the communication between me and Rome much easier. I have to be very honest with you: the first two years were very difficult for me because I felt isolated in Australia, perhaps because I am a woman, but now no longer. I am here for what I am worth, and now I have a dialogue with them all. The situation has changed especially with the Olympic project. John Coates and Craig Phillips, who live in Australia are members of the Australian Olympic Committee and are good friends. I can talk to them on a private way, I know their wives and children and from this point of view I am very optimistic. I believe that if this time we do not make it, it will be not because we have not attempted, because we did it very strongly and we have many aces in the sleeve in order to enter. We have men and women and this is very important for the Olympic Committee. John Coates has also advised me to open to the Inline hockey. We must be very proud of the work done and I congratulate you Sabatino, because you did an excellent job. Carlos, I think that, if elected President, you will do your best and then I want to express to you two my affection and my support. Thank you.

MAROTTA: Now we go voting. I call the scrutiny officers: Harveè Lallement, Wendy Gila, Ian Pietrowski, please come with me to help me in this work. I explain now carefully what is the procedure: I give to each delegate a number of cards, equal to the number of votes, that each Federation has. Voting for the President, there are two boxes: tick the box of the candidate, that you want to vote. We have two polling booths, in which you will come alone and a ballot box in which you will put your cards. Thank you. I will call a delegate at a time: he comes here, takes the cards, votes and puts the cards in the ballot box.

The Secretary General calls all the delegates in alphabetical order by country and the ballot takes place

Counting of votes

MAROTTA: With 125 votes in favour to Sabatino Aracu and 48 votes in favour of Carlos Orlando Ferreira, the new President of FIRS, for the next four years 2009/2010/2011/2012 will be Sabatino Aracu.

ARACU: Thank you friends, thank you for the trust you gives to me, I will not say much, I have already talked too much, I just hope that this will be our family. First of all thanks to Carlos Orlando, thanks for having been available, this is very beautiful and very responsible, I believe, a sign of democracy. All must be sure: I will be the next four years the President of everyone, not of a party, there will never be the President of one party and not of the other, the President of all to try to make this team become increasingly strong. I confirm

Roberto Marotta as Secretary General of FIRS. Thank you and good job. Let us go on.

MAROTTA: The floor to Carlos Orlando Ferreira

FERREIRA: I wish to congratulate with Sabatino for the triumph he got today and I wish to repeat, that he will have my support. We hope that in October roller skating becomes Olympic, if not we will go on with our work. Thank you to all the Federations that have supported me.

MAROTTA: Let us go on now with the election of the 1st Vice President. According to the Statute voting will be secret. I call now all the delegates.

The Secretary General calls all the delegates in alphabetical order by country and the ballot takes place

Counting of votes

LALLEMENT: Attention, please! 156 votes in favour, 17 null and void.

MAROTTA: Valerie Leftwich has been elected 1st Vice president of FIRS. Let us go on with the Agenda. Please, the reports of the Vice Presidents.

LEFTWICH: My report was distributed. I think I have talked enough. If anyone has any questions I will be happy to answer. I do not think it is necessary to read it, but if you want I will do it. If you have any questions, I am available. Thank you.

WILKINS: My report was not in the folder, and so I will speak briefly. Congratulations to Sabatino for his re-election and congratulations to Valerie. Oceania is proud that the first Vice-President will be from Australia and we wish to Valerie all the best for the next four years. Oceania has hosted Artistic and Speed World Championships. The sport continues to develop in the regions, but it must be done even more work to expand sports and competitions in new countries. This will be our goal for the next four years. For some sport in Australia it was not easy, especially for non-Olympic ones, we have had to clash with the biggest sport, but we will go forward in our efforts and our presence. On behalf of Oceania I would like to thank the staff of the FIRS for what they did and all the Technical Committees for their professionalism. Thank you.

CLARO: I am Portuguese, but I want to speak English, if I will make mistakes, you will excuse me. Congratulations to Valerie and to the President, I greet the members of the CC and the delegates of the participating countries. You have the report of my federal government and if you want you can make me any questions. We consider important the presence of Europe in FIRS, and for this reason we must assume our responsibilities in the organization and support of various disciplines. We must recognize their differences and remove all those impediments, which do not allow the various specialities to develop properly. We must try to have facilities, that meet the criteria of an international organization of the various disciplines and television networks that encourage and spread skating strategically. We are motivated, we have will, energy and

desire for development. I wish to conclude by saying, that I am fully available to cooperate in the Olympic project. and I hope that all nations and confederations continue working together in Roller Sports. Thank you.

GUO MIN: Thanks Mr. Marotta. You have my report in your folder. I just want to say three sentences: First of all I want to congratulate Sabatino Aracu for his election as President and Valerie Leftwich as Vice President. You know that the Speed World Championships will take place in Haining in September and we invite you to participate. I believe that this Congress is a great success. Thank you very much.

STRUCKSBERG: Thank you very much. I know that you have all my report in the folder. I want only to thank the Federation of Spain, Japan and South Africa: the last year we played the Club World Championship in Spain, the Women Championship in Japan and the biggest in South Africa. Thank you very much for the excellent organization, I wanted to inform you that this year the World Championships will be held in Vigo in Spain and Pontevedra and I am sure we will have again a very good championship and I can also confirm the Junior championship in the town of Bassano. Thanks to all.

POLLARD: Mr President, dear members, it is an honour for me to be here once again with you all. It is great, to see here all the Federations and I hope, as member of the Executive Committee of FIRS, that you will continue to work hard for our sport. I wish to express a special thanks to Chinese Taipei for the championship, which closed last year, 2008. For the first time in 24 years we have been in Asia and there was a significant participation of the Asian group, which, we all know, will be in the Asian Games. You surely understand that the Pan American Games and the Asian Games are the two most important Games for Roller Sports, which helps us to open the doors to the International Olympic Committee, which is observing us as a sport candidate to become Olympic. The World Games will be held this year in Kaoshiung: all nations will send qualified skaters and, in this regard, I ask you to consider March 23rd as deadline for the confirmation of who will participate and in which specialty. So if any of you here has skaters or has some questions, we can talk later, but if you know the names of athletes who will not attend, please inform us so that we can arrange for replacement. The next World Championships will be in Freiburg in Germany, November 9th - 21st. We plan to have one of the greatest World Championships. There are good prospects for future Figure Championships: I do not use the word "artistic" because for the Olympic movement, we are "Figure" and not "Artistic." Gradually we will see that when we say "artistic" we mean "Figure". In 2010 we will be in Portugal, in 2011 in Brazil, in 2012 in Australia and New Zealand, for 2013 we have a request from France and for 2014 from Spain. We are looking for someone who is interested for 2015. As you can see, federations are ready to organize championships and we are ready to work with all these Federations. If you need any information on artistic skating, what you need to do, is to go to the Website of FIRS, click on CIPA and download in Spanish or English all the information you need relating to rules and regulations and registration for the World Championships. I have the pleasure to report to you, that this year we had the elections and I have been re-elected: this was a great honour for me and it will be the twenty-sixth year that I work for the Artistic Skating. It is hard to believe, I have a wonderful

committee that I want to thank, because they all work together, I am very lucky to have in the Committee people, who know their job perfectly. Congratulations to our President, I wish you all a pleasant trip and I hope to meet you in the future in some Championship. Thank you.

PORTEIR: This is the first time that I have the opportunity to greet the Federation. I would like to have a message and explain what is Roller Hockey. Suppose you divide the Inline Roller Hockey in three parts: the first part is like a speed track, we have the same skates, they have five wheels, because they run for the Olympic Games, we have only four because we are not yet ready to compete. The second part, the most important, is that it is like the traditional hockey. It is true, we do not have the same skates, we do not have the same sticks, but we are like cousins and we could be like brothers. And the last part, the smallest one, is like the artistic. You do not believe me, because you do not ever see in hockey players the elegance of the Artistic. My message is very simple: the Inline Hockey is part of roller family and we are proud of it. If you want to know more of our sport, I encourage you to read the excellent report of the former President, our friend George Pickard and I will explain everything of the past year because he was in charge. I look now into the future: I can say that in 2009 all the Championships, Junior, Women and Men will take place in Italy and that six teams will take part at the World Games, as for the rest we look to the future. We would like to be like the artistic and plan several years before the next Championship. Thanks for listening and remember that we are part of the Roller family.

MAROTTA: Thank you Gilbert. I change my jacket and I put on that of President of the International Speed Committee. Last September, during the World Championships in Gijon in Spain, I was re-elected for 4 years for the presidency of the CIC. Our discipline has experienced in recent years an exponential growth, we have millions of skaters on all roads in the world, we have marathons in which take part, from a minimum of three thousand to a maximum of 8.500 skaters, as in the last marathon in Berlin. We held the last World Championships in Gijon in Spain with the participation of 570 athletes representing 57 countries and also all five continents. 14 countries won medals representing 4 continents. This means, that our sport has spread throughout the world, on all continents, and it is our duty to help the developing countries, so that they can increase their participation in our Championships. For 5 years CIC asks the organizers of the World Championships to help, paying board and lodging for athletes who have no economic resources. Thanks to all the countries that have made this great economic effort. The quality of our World Championships is considerably high. Thanks to the Korean Federation, which organized a World Championship as in the Olympics, thanks to the Colombian Federation, which organized the Worlds of Cali with a daily audience of over 25.000 spectators. Thanks to the Spanish Federation, which organized a great World Championship in 2008. Today there are 52 federations here. It is an extraordinary amount for our sport, you can imagine how extraordinary was the number of 57 countries participating in the World Championships of speed. Do not forget, that many Olympic sports do not reach the number of 57 countries during their World Championships. We should be proud of what we did, but even more of what we will do. Ours is a large family, we must help each other, but above all we must demonstrate to all countries, that want to

participate, that they have the opportunity to do so. They will find in the CIC, in FIRS, but above all, they will find in you all an help in order to participate. Special thanks to the Chinese Federation to which we asked, after only 11 months, to organize a World Championship in 2009. The Federation will hold in the Chinese city of Haining the World Championships 2009 from the 16th to the 27th September. You are all invited: you know that the involvement of a single athlete gives us the opportunity to demonstrate to the IOC to have one more country in our Championships. It is therefore important that you all will take part. Speed skating is now the jewel in the crown in the Olympic project, but we know that the whole great family of roller skating is close to us. We want to open the door to other disciplines, but at the same time we urge the Presidents of the Federations, where speed skating is not yet developed, to develop this sector. We can easily reach 80 participating countries. Please, when you return home, work in this direction. Next July the World Games will be held in Kaoshiung, Chinese Taipei. As you know, it is the most important multi-sport event after the Olympics; in these World Games speed skating has obtained the admission of thirty men and thirty women. All the concerned Federations are requested to send their athletes: board and lodging are free, athletes should only worry about travel expenses. The CIC is available to help you with that problem. Under the umbrella of CIC other disciplines are developing: freestyle, downhill, which has already made eight editions of World Championships, skateboarding, alpine, aggressive. These are all disciplines, which are developing in different countries, we need to put all these countries under our umbrella, under our control. Do not let that kids, who practice these disciplines, organize themselves outside of your Federation. Welcome them with open arms, as all of us of the family of the world speed skating welcome with open arms all athletes, who want to be close to us. Thank you.

Going back to my role as Secretary General I will illustrate FIRS in a very short step. We have 106 affiliated countries, 52 countries are present here today, 57 in the last World Championship. FIRS has organized two CC, one in Murcia in 2006 and one in Gold Coast in 2007. The work, that the CC is doing, involves all disciplines, in particular we have to develop more and more In Line Hockey and to recover with the traditional hockey the role that it has always had in our International Federation. FIRS has taken part at all meetings sponsored by the International Olympic Committee, from the GAISF meeting in Singapore in 2005, when for the first time all IOC members were asked to vote to admit the countries at the Olympic program, and no one got the two-thirds majority that was required. This year we took part at the GAISF meeting in June in Athens, last November we presented at the IOC our program, next March FIRS will be present at the GAISF conference of Denver in Colorado, in June the EB of the IOC will select two sports to recommend to the IOC session which, finally, in October 2009 in Copenhagen will vote. None of us can know if roller skating will be able to enter, but one thing is certain: to be included among the seven sports, that may have left the hope to enter the Olympic program, has already been enough for us to find opened the door of many Olympic committees. Many National Olympic Committees are aware that, to welcome our athletes and our Federations can provide an excellent roadmap for a future Olympic participation. In the next days we are going to complete the questionnaire, that the IOC has sent to FIRS with all the details of the characteristics of our sport, its presence on the territory as number of participants and in economic terms:

what our sport means in terms of athletes, but also in terms of economy. That means: how many industries, how many millions of skates are sold in the world. It is clear that this growth comes not only through the activities of the World Championships, but also and especially through the activities of the Continental Championships. It should therefore be placed by all of us and all of you a special emphasis on the participation in the Pan American Games, representing the largest continental event, the Asian Games, which for the first time in 2010 will allow the participation of the speed skating and figure skating in the program. About this I wish to thank two people, who have worked a lot for this goal: Yoshiro Niguchi, the past President of the Asian Confederation, who dedicated his life to our sport and Mr. Guo Min, who has gone on working for our sport to be included in Asian Games. We will take part at the Mediterranean Games, all the countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea are asked to participate: we will run one marathon a rather easy event. Finally special thanks to the Italian Federation, to the President Sabatino Aracu and to the secretariat staff, Laura, Alessandra, Cecilia, Francesco, Simona, Lorena, Raffaella. They worked for you, are gaining new experience and will continue to work for you. Do not be afraid to contact us. We are all united in the growth of our beloved sport. Thank you

I wish to close with two other points: the ratification of the budget, approved yesterday by the CC. You find in the folder the FIRS budget with the consolidated financial statements and the report of our Auditor Luis Alfonso Muñoz. Our consolidated financial statements of the 4 disciplines and the incomes of FIRS amount to \$ 642,661 on the 31st December 2007. The costs of all the committees and the FIRS amount to \$ 479,747. The surplus available in all the committees on the 31/12/2007, also taking into account the surplus coming from 2006, amount to \$ 162,914. As you can see these are not large sums, because the four committees and the FIRS must cultivate their sectors, but, year after year, the number of participants, of Federations and the volume of sponsors becomes higher. The last page is also the premise of the 2009 budget for FIRS, in which we also expose the hope to have sponsors for an amount of \$ 290,000, to allocate in the specialities and \$ 215,000 to the Olympic program. It is clear that we can proportionate our expenses in light of what we collect.

If you have questions about it, otherwise know that in the offices of the Federation are available all documents relating to this brief summary prepared by our Auditor, whom I give the floor to, for a short comment.

MUNOZ: The financial statements explained by Marotta reflect the FIRS situation, including entries and exits of the Technical Committees in the consolidation. As already said in the meeting of the Central Committee, FIRS hopes that each Technical Committee prepare its own consolidated financial statements with equal entries and increase income not only through increased participation of nations, but also with advertising and television. Thank you Mr. President for giving me the opportunity to work for FIRS

MAROTTA: Thank you Louis Alfonso. And now the ratification of the budget.

The budget is approved unanimously

Yesterday the CC has seen the documentation submitted by the countries, that have applied for recognition to the FIRS. An examination of these records showed that only two countries had complete documentation; for this reason we can ratify two countries, for 5 countries the CC has decided to grant 120 days for them to complete the documentation. Therefore the countries of Nicaragua, Algeria, Latvia, Malaysia and Puerto Rico have 120 days to arrange their documentation, while the Central Committee proposes to ratify the membership of Bosnia and Peru, which have fully met their obligations.

The ratification of membership of Peru and Bosnia is approved unanimously

About point M on the agenda concerning the amendments of the Statute the CC, after two days discussion, considered to ask all the Federations, that had submitted amendments, to withdraw their proposals, since the amendments to the statute are necessary not only in the parts, which were proposed to change, but in their entirety. Then the CC has appointed a committee made up of Valerie Leftwich, 1 Vice-President, Fernando Claro Vice President, Carlos Orlando Ferreira Vice President and Roberto Marotta Secretary General, which will meet and propose a comprehensive revision of the Statute. We then asked the Spanish Federation, the President of the European Commission Fernando Claro, the Federation of the United States for their agreement to withdraw their proposed changes. The floor to the President of the Spanish Federation

PANIAGUA: Mr. Secretary, Mr President, the Spanish Confederation hopes that this committee will study the implementation of the amendments to the statute, as discussed by the Central Committee. I believe that the statute should be studied in details and therefore I ask the Central Committee, which has created this special board, to be accepted as a person, who studied this statute, which has great political experience in sports law and has submitted the proposals. So I ask to add one more person. Thank you

MAROTTA: I think that the help and support of all the affiliated Federations is welcome. Even the committee members are willing to accept your guidance and your suggestions, but be aware that the process of amending the statute is a critical process, because our sport has to change "its speed" and to change speed it needs to change its rules. Our statute must be more streamlined, easy to use and must understand the new realities, that are pointing in the world of sport: so the Commission will begin its work and will send to all the affiliated federations the proposals as they will develop in such a way that each of you can participate in this evolution of our statute. I thank the President of the Spanish Federation and ask you to vote for the adoption of the Anti-Doping Policy. In your folder you will find a very important document: one of the requests of the IOC is to have adopted the anti-doping policy in the context of a congress of the International Federation. The CC has already approved this document, it is a key document to meet all the demands of the IOC, it is similar to that, which is adopted in all other sports Federations. I ask you, according to what already decided by the Central Committee to approve this regulation of

the antidoping policy. We have an amendment which has been modified and I ask Valerie to explain it.

LEFTWICH: This is a document that can not be too much changed, but there are some things with which our disciplines are not in agreement and that we have changed in the hope that the WADA, the world organization of anti-doping rules, accepts them. They can accept it or not, but we intend to put in the minute what is happening. It is a text which deals with antidoping, please do not confuse this with the statute, because they are similar. In section 5.7 in the second paragraph is written: *the following athletes should be tested ...* after this erase the words *to every competition* and then the paragraph should be read: *the following athletes should be tested after international FIRS events ..* Then point 5.7.1.1. Inline speed and the paragraph to be inserted, that will be the same for all disciplines, is Project and Conduct: *the actual number of tests with a minimum of twelve.* This must be included for each discipline: artistic, inline hockey and rink hockey: The discipline has to decide the number of days to continue the test. There are some discipline like speed that have many competitions and many tests. The Inline hockey has not many because it is a team sport and testing three people in a team you can already outline the situation. About artistic Jim knows what is being done and will continue to do. Thank you.

MAROTTA. Thanks Valerie, I think that many of the delegates are not fully aware of this subject, but one thing is certain: we considered, in the proposed amendment, to keep down the expenses of the organizers of the championships and we have imposed a very low limit to the minimum number of controls to be made and for each discipline has been established that it should be a minimum of 12 controls. It is clear that, as far as I am concerned, as far as the speed championship is concerned, we have always done more than 80 controls. Then each President of the 4 Technical Committees will adjust accordingly. Therefore on the basis of the amendment communicated by Valerie I ask you who is in favour of the approval of the antidoping policy.

The anti-doping policy is approved unanimously

Regarding the ratification of the Auditor the CC considered that during the election it was not appropriate to carry out an immediate replacement of the Auditor or his confirmation, so the next CC will communicate to the Congress the confirmation or the appointment of a new auditor. Therefore, at this moment our Auditor remains Luis Alfonso Munoz.

The motion is approved unanimously

We have then the last two agenda items. We have no particular elements to be reported to this Congress, but obviously we want to give the floor to those who have needs or problems to explain. Please, those who have special needs, please take the floor.

Ms Wendy Gila, representative of South Africa, takes the floor.

WENDY: Thanks for the opportunity. I wish to inform all members, that we had a meeting in South Africa with six different Federations of the African

continent. I think most of you know, that there is no African Confederation. It is a big problem in Africa because we have 50 countries and 20 are recognized by FIRS. Today we have present here only 4 nations from Africa and to go to the Olympics is important that a so big continent as Africa, has its own Confederation. We selected a committee that in four months will organize the meeting for the future African Confederation. I believe , it is very important to create legally a new African Confederation.

ARACU: Thanks Wendy, I answer to this problem that is politically very important. We are working and observing well the situation in Africa, which is not easy, we note that there are some countries which work as South Africa, Mozambique, Angola, now Kenya and also Nigeria, Egypt, and probably new countries will attend the Mediterranean Games. Thanks also for the meeting that has been organised, but be sure we will work for this goal. We gave, a year ago, the mandate to analyse the situation to the Angolan Federation. We felt that the image of a non-white man was a very good thing, because we must be open, have more women , be from all continents, have all the different races with us, to show that our sport is healthy. Therefore, we will check this problem . Wendy be sure, like all African countries, in a short time we will organise a Congress and determine whether there will be a new President or a new executive.

The delegate of Uruguay takes the floor

MAROTTA: Thanks to the President of the Federation of Uruguay, the Central Committee has deepened yesterday and discussed the problem. We decided to send a circular letter to all countries that participated in that event, by reporting that, if such situation will repeat, all the participating countries will be excluded from all competitions in any discipline of FIRS. For this reason I think it is important to invite all the affiliated Federations to prevent, the CC adoptes such a disciplinary measure. I believe that we live in a family , in which we must maintain the activity of our athletes. We should not involve it in other external elements that might create problems and troubles.

The delegate of Peru takes the floor

MAROTTA: Many thanks to the delegate of Peru and welcome in our family. Before giving the floor to President Sabatino Aracu to close the Congress, I want to make an announcement: about the rules of the WADA anti-doping control, know that your athletes can be monitored during trainings at any time of year, then know that the agency WADA may provide for unannounced doping controls. It is important that you communicate with your coaches and your athletes. This is in conformity with what the IOC will require. The floor to the President.

ARACU: Dear friends, I will be very short, now we will go to have a lunch together, to stay together in a real family. I repeat closing, and I believe to be even more credible now: I reaffirm the words that I told you, I believe that we must organise a great team. If each of us will build a part of a street, all together we will build an highway. Call the International Federation, look for help, we must not look down. We have a right / duty to dream, to consider our

Federation as an important Federation. If we do not believe in us, other people, out of this room, cannot believe in us .In this way we will achieve success. I embrace you all and many dear greetings to you and your families.

The Congress ends at 15.00 ca.