

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE INF-FNI CENTRAL COMMITTEE

### Held via Microsoft Teams videoconference

12 November 2023

0700 Mexico City, 0800 Toronto; 1300 London, Lisbon; 1400 Paris, Vienna, Rome; 1500 Cape Town.

### Participants

Stéphane Deschênes (SD) (chair), Sieglinde Ivo (SI), Dominique Dufour (DD), Laurent Luft (LL), Gustavo de la Garza (GG), Christo Bothma (CB), and Edwin Kilby (EdK) (minutes).

Apologies: Rosita dal Soglio (RS); Filipa Esteves (FE).

### Matters arising from the meeting on 11 September

- a Travel/subsistence claims by federations – to be considered at a future meeting
- b Sound/interpretation equipment. At the previous meeting at Montalivet it had been decided to abandon some of the old equipment but Wilfried Blaschke (WB), then EuNat secretary, had been asked to arrange for the remainder to be delivered to the office at Hörschung. This had not yet happened, and WB was no longer EuNat secretary. The equipment included the sound booths, which were of a certain size. SI will seek confirmation of the size of the equipment and obtain a price for moving it using a courier. Action SI.
- c Accession of New Zealand Naturist Federation – this had been reported in *Focus* and on the website. It was not known whether there had been any press coverage in the wider NZ press. CB will enquire. Action CB.
- d Working plan – SD has an idea for a new format for the working plan which he will discuss with EdK. Meanwhile this item should be carried over to the next meeting. Action SD, EdK.
- e Role descriptions – during discussion it was noted that the 2024 Congress would present an opportunity to re-define roles on the central committee if it seemed useful to do so; consideration should be given to this in the coming months.

### Main agenda

#### 01 Finances

During discussion on this item it was noted that

- NZNF had not yet ordered any stamps, although it had been expected this would follow soon from their accession. CB to follow up. Action: CB

- No stamps had been ordered by Malaysia or the Dominican Republic
- The federations from Thailand and Slovenia had not yet paid for their stamps and had now incurred a 2% late payment surcharge
- Two federations had not yet paid their promised contributions towards the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake; but this was not considered urgent
- EuNat had now committed €71,134 against a budget of €77,100. Some outstanding liabilities were discussed but it was foreseen that EuNat spending would be within its budget.

The meeting went on to discuss official travel to EuNat events, including when such travel was needed or expected, and when prior authorisation was required. It was agreed that an extra paragraph should be added to the expenses rules concerning prior authorisation, and that these rules should be made more readily available. Action: SD to draft a suitable paragraph.

The meeting also considered the situation regarding individual membership, noting that direct memberships accounted for some €14,500 of income for the INF-FNI. However, it was still the case that a significant proportion of direct members were from countries where member federations were established. This had been discussed at the Central Committee meeting in Bonn in March, and it had been decided that when such memberships lapsed they should not be renewed. During discussion it was noted

- There was no choice about the course of action: the statutes were clear that direct membership should be available only where there was no member federation
- However, the CC had previously decided to continue memberships that pre-existed the decision by the federations not to allow them; these amounted to some 30% of direct memberships
- The web site was clear that membership was only for people in whose countries there was no federation; however nothing prevented people buying and paying for memberships on the website and checks could only be made afterwards. It should be technically possible to prevent this.

It was agreed that SD and EdK would discuss creating a suitable “gateway” on the website that only admitted people from countries where there was no member federation. Action SD, EdK.

## **02 Statutes working group – update and next steps**

It was reported that some minor changes had been made to the draft revised statutes since the meeting at Montalivet, but the main update now would follow from the report of the membership and financing working group. Any potentially contentious proposals could be managed by presenting alternative texts to the Congress next year.

### **03 Membership and financing working group**

This working group was due to meet by videoconference the following day. CB and EdK had discussed what should be included on the meeting agenda. It was foreseen that after the meeting there should be sufficient material to report to EdK, for transmission to the Statutes working group, by the end of the week.

During discussion it was argued

- The working group needed to look in particular at financing, that is to say, how the money comes in and how stamps were sold as regards both federations and individual members
- The group should not be afraid to put forward good ideas on the basis that they might not be adopted
- The working group should consider the points raised at the 2022 Congress that were withdrawn on the basis the group would be created
- The website would need to be updated to conform with the statutes and the policies of the organisation if these were changed.

### **04 Europe update**

LL reminded the meeting that he had promised to contact European federations that had been non-communicative. As a result of contacts so far he reported:

- The Polish federation spoke about their size; LL had assured them that all federations were important.
- The Norwegian federation had been very active this year, with a naturist cinema outing and an active youth movement.
- The Swedish federation had a dynamic new president. They shared a magazine and a website with Norway.
- The Danish member federation, alongside Norway and Sweden, had run a stand promoting naturism at the trade fair in Utrecht. LL had had a good exchange with representatives of the Danish Naturist Union.

Fenait (Italy) still had no elected president after the previous office holder's resignation for health reasons; however Gabriele is now acting president until the next election.

FFN (France) had a new date for the volleyball tournament – 20 April. This needed to be publicised.

NOS (Serbia) had just run a very successful swimming gala.

In Greece, Anastasios had indicated interest in creating a federation, but it was unclear that he had the resources or local support to do so. Interest had been rekindled by the fact that

the INF-FNI's vice-president was the author of the Captain Barefoot website. LL had discussed with him the weight that a federation might add in promoting the true values of naturism.

Romania and not responded but had ordered 70 stamps for 2023.

## **05 EuNat**

The meeting held by Zoom on 5 7 October had been chaired by SD and from a technical perspective had generally worked well. However, most of the federations asking for subsidies had not provided the necessary supporting information. The only federation that had done so was British Naturism (BN). Accordingly, they had been granted subsidies. So far as the others are concerned, LL had now obtained most of the necessary information. He would be discussing it with the account checkers in November and had proposed a short online meeting with the federations on the afternoon of 20 January.

During further discussion it was noted that

- Following a decision taken at the recent meeting, EuNat was now a sub-committee under the authority of the Central Committee. Accordingly it would be possible to combine the post of EuNat Chair and Europe assessor, if it were thought appropriate, and a motion could be put to the 2024 Congress to that effect
- The INF-FNI office might be asked to support EuNat, although the office staff were not familiar with the EuNat forms for subsidies etc
- Microsoft Forms could be used for some purposes as an alternative to Excel spreadsheets
- It would be useful to include a specific EuNat page on the INF-FNI website, alongside new pages concerning sports and youth; EdK could upload such pages but would need to be provided with the content for them.

The Alpe-Adria event was discussed. It was noted that

- Over time attendance at the event had reduced from around 1000 to (last time) 80
- When originally conceived it had been "mobile" – moving to different venues in different years – however it had now been based at Solaris for some 15 years, and arguably not moving to different venues made it less attractive
- Goran from Serbia had proposed hosting the event at Ada Bojana in Montenegro in 2024. Goran had demonstrated himself capable of organising excellent events and there was every reason to expect he would do so again
- On the other hand, the proposal to travel by air to Belgrade and then by train overnight (a journey thought to be 10 hours) might not be thought attractive by some possible participants. Ada Bojana was a long way for those who might consider travelling by car

from, say, Germany; however it's possible that travel from airports nearer to the venue might be more convenient

- One possibility would be to ask the federations by email how many would be interested
- If the event were to be held at Ada Bojana it would be essential that all federations helped to publicise it.

## **06 Americas update**

Events within Colombia had been reported as being international in nature; however in fact they were not really so, having just a few visitors from other countries. There was a new leadership team who were not yet ready to apply to join INF-FNI.

CLANAT had a new campaign to recruit new countries to join. However, Argentina and Ecuador had different ideas from the current leadership of CLANAT and had decided to leave.

There was no news from North America; however SD intended to invite the AANR to be represented at the Congress in October 2024.

## **07 Preparations for the World Congress in Mexico**

SD reminded the meeting that he intended to visit Zipolite at the time of the Nudist Festival in February, and together with GG would visit the hotels and venues foreseen for the congress.

Invitations for the Congress must be distributed no later than 6 months before the event, which meant April; however it would be better to send them out by March, given the number of delegations who would be travelling from Europe.

The inability of the hotels to provide prices less than a year ahead was strange; however Zipolite was a small town some distance away from major cities, and the prices were expected to be available in January or February. Although it was clear that some hotels inflated their prices during the festival, the congress was due to take place in the off-season. GG would be calling the hotel managers.

It was agreed to include a feature about the Congress in the February edition of *Focus*. The deadline for the text would be mid-January.

## **08 Africa, Asia-Pacific update**

ANF (Australia) had recently had their AGM and had a dynamic new committee. Mick remained the president, alongside a new vice-president.

## **09 Secretariat**

It was noted that the Microsoft 365 system used by the organisation included Sharepoint, but this was currently only available to members of the executive committee. There seemed to be clear merit in extending access to the wider central committee; however this would be best handled after the end of the current Hupra contract. Meanwhile all members were encouraged to make full use of OneDrive, which made it very easy to share documents and large files, and Teams, which also included a sharing facility. These were considerably less messy than emails. Training videos were available.

SD and EdK had discussed website hosting and resolved to follow the recommendation of the current web administrators to move to Siteground. SD will open an account and ask the current administrators to oversee the migration. Action SD

The deadline for contributions to the December edition of Focus was approaching. It was thought sufficient material was available. Microsoft Teams could be used to collect material for future editions.

## **10 Social media**

SD had (at his expense) invited Samantha, who oversees social media at Bare Oaks, to the swimming gala at Belgrade. Social media entries about the event had been shared with some success. Samantha is interested in helping with INF-FNI social media and could perhaps work with Rosita.

## **11 Protection of Naturism**

Manfred Maier from Austria was interested in helping in this area.

## **12 Next meeting**

It was decided to put two meetings in the calendar: one routine meeting, and one shorter meeting, which would take place after the planned visit to Zipolite, dedicated to organisation of the congress.

The dates are Saturday 13 January and Sunday 18 February. The times for both meetings would be the same as for the current meeting; that is: 0700 Mexico City, 0800 Toronto; 1300 London, Lisbon; 1400 Paris, Vienna, Rome; 1500 Cape Town.