

Minutes of the Euro Meetings General Assembly

Thursday 14 October 2004
Sokos Hotel Viru, Tallin, Estonia

The meeting opened at 4 p.m.

1. Welcome by the President

On behalf of Euro Meetings, the President, Svein Arne Hansen, welcomed everyone to the beautiful city of Tallin and took the opportunity to thank Aivar Karotamm for organising the dinner. He also welcomed Pierre Weiss and Hansjürg Wirz.

2. Roll call

The list of attendance was circulated for signature at the beginning of the meeting (see annex 1).

3. Minutes of the spring meeting in Budapest

There were no comments on the minutes of the Spring Meeting, which had taken place on 6 March 2004 in Budapest, Hungary (see annex 2).

4. Report by the Board of Euro Meetings

The President read out the report by the Euro Meetings Board (see annex 3). There were no comments on his report.

5. Report by the treasurer

The profits and losses as well as the balance sheets were distributed to all members (see annex 4) and commented on by the treasurer, Rajne Soderberg. During the fiscal year, some of the outstanding debts - a total of 4,100 euros - from earlier membership fees meets that no longer existed, had been written off. There were no questions or remarks on the report.

6. Report by the auditor

The auditor, Fedde Zwanenburg read out his report (see annex 5). A question was raised as to what should be done with the amount of 100,987,35 euros. This point will be raised during the next Spring meeting.

7. Calendar 2005/2006

The calendars had been reviewed with all meeting directors present (see annex 6). Two problems had arisen: the 2006 FIFA World Cup, which would be held in Germany between 9 June and 9 July 2006; and the decision of the IAAF not to go to Los Angeles for the World Cup. This meant that the place, as well as the date, would have to be changed. At this stage, the IAAF did not know

where the World Cup would take place and on what day. This might lead to reconsideration of the structure of the current formula. In this regard, Pierre Weiss suggested that all members defended their interests and put dates on the table, in order to work together to find a solution for every meeting.

8. Internet

Due to the problem that had occurred the previous year - i.e. no updates to the Euro Meetings website - Alfons Juck had sent to everyone a new concept regarding the website. The aim was to provide updated information about meeting members, the Euro Meetings organisation and its activities, news from the world of athletics, and basic athletics statistics.

The financial part would be discussed between Alfons Juck and the Board. It was also suggested going back to the booklet, which had been used until a few years previously. After some discussion, the Turkish member, Salih Müni Yaras, proposed sponsoring the booklet for the next three years, as the costs would be lower and the booklet more practical to use for many of the members. It would also allow Euro Meetings to have its own identity. Most of the members agreed to go back to the booklet, but to retain the website as well. All members were requested to send all information about their meeting to daniela.stettler@olympic.org by 15 December 2004. The Board thanked Salih Müni Yaras for his generous proposal.

9. Athletes' contracts / anti-doping work

After several meetings with Pierre Weiss and the IAAF, the situation had improved a lot since the previous year. The process had been speeded up and the meeting directors were being informed in due course. To Ian Stewart's knowledge, only two athletes who were on the circuit that year still had a question mark remaining about them: Tory Edwards and Christy Gaines. The organisers of meetings featuring these two athletes were requested to contact the IAAF to find out about the decision, which should be taken in November. The other issue concerned athletes bringing sport into disrepute. A new category had been included in some of the contracts to prevent the negative publicity this could bring to the meeting organisers. Furthermore, Ian Stewart reminded all the meeting directors that they should be aware of the fact that any athlete tested positive in the A sample was suspended from competing, pending the outcome of the B sample. Pierre Weiss would be able to clarify this issue should meeting directors request more information in this respect. On the other hand, Pierre Weiss also requested that any comments or suggestions be forwarded to him.

Wilfried Meert raised a question regarding the Budapest minutes "Anti-doping/athlete's contracts", about an athlete being under investigation and still participating in a meeting. This was an essential point and work still had to be done in this respect, to prevent this kind of matter from reoccurring in the future.

10. Applications / resignations

There were no applications or resignations for this year.

11. New concept – Managers’ association, by Jos Hermens

As Jos Hermens was absent, Daniel Wessfeldt represented him. The aim of the newly founded group called AAM (Association of Athletics Managers) in Rome was to discuss concerns on how the sport of athletics would be in the future and how to bring the sport forward. A meeting had been scheduled with the IAAF, represented by Lamine Diack and Sandro Giovannelli. There had also been a meeting with some members of the Euro Meetings board. Another meeting was to take place on 8 November in Miami. More information would be given during the next meeting in Madrid.

12. Results information system, by Mr Jacques Dutron

Mr Jacques Dutron, Managing Director of TV Data, presented his company to the Euro Meetings members. TV Data worked in close cooperation with timing companies for database access, timing and results. During events (e.g. cycling, tennis, athletics), TV Data also gave additional information such as starting lists, individual presentations, and winner presentations. For those interested, Mr Dutron can be contacted at the address jdutron@tvdata.be, rue Edouard Dekosterstraat 27, 1140 Brussels, Belgium, phone + 32 2 243 17 70, fax +32 2 215 54 44.

13. Any other business

Outdoor permit meetings

The President gave the floor to Mr José Luis de Carlos from the EAA, Secretary General of the Spanish Federation. A draft document about principles for the selection and management of EAA outdoor permit meetings was given out to all participants (see annex 7). The aim of this working group was to maintain an official system of cooperation and liaison between the EAA, the IAAF, the IAAF’s member federations and the meeting organisers. Hansjörg Wirz added that there should be closer cooperation between the EAA and the meeting organisers as already mentioned, in the way that experiences were exchanged and how to come up with different steps of competition possibilities in Europe. Some clearance would have to be given as regards to the level and status the IAAF would give to the meetings. The financial involvement was also raised during this discussion. All members were asked to give their feedback on this draft document in order to have it approved and submitted to the IAAF.

2007 Season

Wilfried Meert informed the meeting directors that some of them might have problems due to the World Championships, which would take place in Osaka in 2007 from 27 August until 10 September. This would disrupt the whole planning made by the meeting directors, as well as the athletes. Pierre Weiss informed the participants that this decision had already been taken two years previously by the IAAF and that the date of the World Championships would not change. It was important that those who worked at the same time as the IAAF and EAA/EM informed all athletics organisations involved to avoid this kind of problem.

Helsinki 2005 meeting

Jukka Kunnas gave a summary of the work that had been done at that time on the Helsinki meeting, which would take place in 2005. Some leaflets were distributed to the Euro Meetings directors. Due to the capacity of the stadium, Pierre Weiss informed the participants that the IAAF would give out accreditation on a restricted basis only.

14. Date of spring meeting 2005

The next meeting will take place in Madrid on Sunday 6 March 2005, at 10:00 a.m. The agenda and necessary information will be sent out in the coming weeks.

The President thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished all the participants a pleasant stay in Tallin.
The meeting ended at 6:45 p.m.

Lausanne, 3 November 2004

i.o. Jacky Delapierre
Honorary Secretary

Encl.