

Minutes of the Meeting of the Walking Commission, Elspeet/Holland, September 23, 2005

1. Welcome and President's Remarks

The president of the Walking Commission Marcel Grandjean welcomed all the participants. The suggested agenda of the meeting was approved.

2. Apologies for absence

No apologies have been submitted.

3. Minutes of the last meeting in Brilon, Germany

The minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Eurorando 2006

Two publications have been issued and handed to the participants of the meeting:

- a) ERA catalogue (25 000 copies) containing 33 walking propositions in 14 countries
- b) Czech catalogue of the walking propositions in the final week in September 2006

Both catalogues can be ordered in a written form at the ERA secretariat in Prague. Content of the catalogues will be integrated on the ERA web sites, too. Making corrections in particular offers is possible on the web sites, the changes have to be submitted to ERA secretariat already translated into the official languages.

The member organisations are asked to delegate folklore groups to České Budějovice to take part in the final week, if possible. Food and accommodation for the performers will be paid by organiser, travel costs by themselves.

A special programme with seminar is foreseen for the groups of young walkers.

5. European Walking Day

European Walking Day has been organised under the theme „Walking with families“ on September 10th and 11th, 2005. A list of events which took place in the different countries was handed to the participants of the meeting. Although Eurorando takes place in 2006, the member clubs can organise European Walking Day as well, if they want to.

A short discussion followed. It's necessary to improve communication towards press and secretariat ERA to strengthen promotion and potentials of the ERA secretariat in the process of promotion.

6. WalkOnWeb

M. Grandjean reminded that WalkonWeb is a project with the aim to create an interactive information rambling system. A couple of questionnaires has been distributed and answered within the last year:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| - „normal“ users | 700 answers |
| - „heavy“ users (using GPS) | 25 answers |
| - walking organisations | 15 answers |

Another questionnaire was handed to the participants of the meeting to be answered by the member organisations till the end of September. (Some of them answered right on the spot during the meeting of the Walking Commission).

Bert Paepen, head of the project at the Catholic University in Leuven/Belgium, demonstrated in detail the WalkonWeb project at the common meeting of the Paths and Walking Commissions.

7. Working programme for the next years

The ERA presidium has been defining the strategic objectives – ERA needs to improve its marketing strategy and internet presentation in the next years.

The participants of the meeting presented some interesting ideas in the following „brainstorming“ discussion:

To sell better our E-paths

- we can dedicate every long distance path to certain aim
- we can use names instead of numbers in the marking
- we can accent starting and destination points
- we can accent the direction of the path /north-south/

Only well marked and equiped trails can be promoted. Therefore, all really existing trails must be inventarised and every member organisation must name a person responsible for it.

Other topics for the working programme for the next years:

- to organise a seminar where particular clubs can exchange the information and experience with walking in their countries
- walking with handicapped people
- programme for the young people in cities
- conflicts of walkers and cyclists

8. Internet

Lis Nilsen informed that new ERA web pages linking to the member´s sites are completed since October 2005. She needs 3 language consultants to use correct expressions.

The English consultant will be Daphne Forrest, the French consultant Jean Hirschinger and the German consultant the ERA office in Kassel. Thanks.

Important: As of the next year, all information will only be sent by e-mail.

9. Any other business

I. Hägg asked for corrections for Walking in Europe and informed that ERA has got a good position in the Council of Europe.

9a. Future form of a general assembly

Because of the fact that simultaneous translation makes the conference too expensive, ERA presidium considers some new forms of organising the annual conference.

The participants of the meeting of the Walking Commission don´t recommend to shorten it because they find the social programme to be very important for the human relations.

They welcome that the presidium will be preparing guidelines for the organisers of the annual assembly.

10. Date and place of the next meeting

September 29th 2006, 9,00 hotel AGRO, Budapest, Hungary.

Jarka Sedláčková
Secretary

Marcel J.-P. Grandjean
President