

Minutes of the Meeting of the Walking Commission, Budapest, September 29, 2006

1. Welcome and President's Remarks

The president of the Walking Commission Marcel Grandjean welcomed all the participants and introduced a new organisation system of the meeting: splitting into 3 groups (2 English, 1 French), which follow in turns all three themes.

2. Apologies for absence

No apologies have been submitted.

3. Minutes of the last meeting in Elspeet, Nederland

The minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Strategic goals of ERA

It seems useful to describe exactly every item of defined goals in ERA, to make "a fine tuning" of them and to give a priority to each goal.

Paths - marking and maintaining of european long distance trails

- legal protection of hiking paths
- rights of access and passage

Events - annual conference + pre- and post- tours

- Eurorando in 5 year period
- European Walking Day (every year)

Exchange of experience - protection of the nature, finances, hiking of youth, hiking with disabled, spreading of hiking traditions.

5. Eurorando 2006

However the individual tours of the national clubs were not very successful and many of them had to be cancelled, the final week in South Bohemia must be evaluated positively: 4 192 ramblers from 16 countries and 18 folklore groups took part in the very well prepared event.

The financial sources: 60% European Commission
20% sponsors
17% regional government
3% city government.

6. European Walking Day

Many of the member clubs use to organize some hiking event at the beginning of September. Every event like this can be scheduled in European Walking Day actions. It is only necessary to send a brief information to the ERA secretariat in Prague.

7. Working programme for the next years

The ERA presidium suggested to set up some working groups limited by object and time of existence beyond three established commissions in the Association. They must be self-supporting (because there are not sources in the ERA for their work). Their agenda will not be handled continuously, only results of their work will be presented.

8. European Working Group "Training of Hiking Guides"

This first working group created within the frame of ERA is led by Armand Ducornet (France). The aims of the group are stated in Marcoussis Declaration (Seminar for the training of the guides, Paris, May 2005).

9. European Working Group "Environment"

The point has been drawn off the agenda in 2006.

10. Seminar "Right of passage and access" 2008

The seminar will be organized by the Andalusian government in Spain in September 2008 and all the ERA members will be invited.

11. Date and place of the next meeting

Friday, September 14th, 2007, Laulasmaa Resort, Estonia

12. Work in 3 groups to 3 different themes:

- a) **Internet** - led by Lis Nielsen, presentation of the ERA web sites and possibilities of communication
- b) **Walking with disabled**
- led by Jean Hirschinger. The participants found useful to compile a brochure describing if or how walking with disabled is organized in different countries. The representatives of disabled ramblers may be invited to the ERA conference in the future.
- c) **Walkonweb** - led by Bert Paepen, head of the project - demonstrated how the project advanced since the last meeting.

Jarka Sedlácková
Secretary

Marcel J.-P. Grandjean
President