

Minutes of the ERA Footpath Commission's meeting, 14 September 2007,
**on the occasion of 38th ERA Member's Meeting
in Laulasmaa, Estonia**

Present: **29 participants from 17 European countries**
(**B, CH, CZ, D, DK, E, EST, F, FIN, H, I, NL, P, PL, RS, SK, SLO**).
Guests: ERA Honorary Vice-president Hubert Yseboodt
Beginning: 9.00 a.m.

Agenda:

1. The Chairman of the Commission Frank Schlinzig welcomed all the participants and gave a short review of his activities during the past year. His travels as Chairman of the Footpath Commission had been very limited: participation in the ERA event "Walking with neighbours" on the D/DK border; the celebration of the FIE's anniversary in Genoa (I); the E3 footpath in Hřensko, Bohemian Switzerland (CZ) and the Presidium meeting in Blansko (CZ).

2. There were no comments on the Minutes of last year's meeting in Budapest, Hungary, which were approved.

3. F. Schlinzig had announced that he was resigning his chairmanship of the Footpath Commission in spring this year so a new chairman had to be elected. There were two candidates. A third candidate for the vice-chairmanship was willing to support the chairman, whoever he was not applying for the position himself.

Frank Schlinzig then gave a short review of the current situation and pointed out that apart from demands made on the chairman's time, there were some financial charges which had to be taken into account. He referred to the financial situation of the ERA which allows only a small allocation for the chairman's activities.

The candidates were asked to introduce themselves. Then it was decided that the chairman and the 1st vice-chairman would be elected secretly.

The result of the election was as follows:

1. Chairman: **Uroš Vidovič**, Slovenia
Planinska Zveza Slovenije, Dvoržakova 9, 1001 Ljubljana
2. 1st Vice-chairman: **Pedro Cuiça**, Portugal
Federação de Campismo e Montanhismo de Portugal,
Av. Coronel Eduardo Galhardo 24 D, 1199-007 Lisboa
3. 2nd Vice-chairman: **Rob Franssen**, Netherlands
Stichting Wandelplatform – LAW,
Pastoor Jutenlaan 62, 4624 GT Bergen op Zoom

The first President got 17 votes, the second one 6 votes.

All candidates accepted the results of the election.

4. The current Chairman, Frank Schlinzig, again referred to the current situation and asked the new Presidium to devote attention not only to general topics regarding specific footpaths and walking matters but also to topics on the international scale.

The European Long-Distance Paths still needed the attention of all organizations which take care of them. He wished the new Presidium good and successful cooperation and asked for the support of all the Commission's members. He demanded this support also for other ERA activities, e.g. for the annual "Walking with neighbours" events and future gatherings, such as EURORANDO.

5. Notice of the international seminar in Spain (**Malaga, 5 - 7 June 2008**) on the topic of free access to countryside and footpaths care (**walking and walking areas in Europe**, access of the tourists into the natural areas in Europe), had been received. All organizations had been asked to submit their contributions to this topic. As one of the organizers, Juan Mari Feliu gave a presentation.

6. Juan Mari Feliu also reported on the support which his organization had given to the possibility of extending walking on the E7 outside Spain in Morocco, and asked about the possibility of including this information about European Long-Distance Paths in publications and on the internet.

There followed comments concerning other international connections of footpaths and pilgrimage paths. It is crucial to agree with other organizations and initiators of these paths as this does not always happen because building the network of footpaths often proceeds without the intervention of organizations whose main concern was walking.

In conclusion, Frank Schlinzig gave thanks for the support he had received as Chairman.

This was followed by an announcement that the next Members' Meeting and the meetings of the ERA Commissions would be held in **Blansko, Czech Republic**, on **25 – 28 September 2008**,

the host organization would be KČT, CZ.

This concluded the meeting of the Footpath Commission.

For the minutes:

Frank Schlinzig
7 October 2007