

Minutes of the Meeting of the Walking Commission 2 October, 2009 in La Palma, Spain

1. *Opening and comments of the Commission Chairman*

Chairman of the Walking Commission Marcel Grandjean welcomed all participants. The proposed Agenda was approved.

2. *Apologies*

Anja van Kooten Niekerk from the Stichting Wandelplatform-LAW, who takes the Minutes, apologized from the meeting. The Minutes will thus be taken by the Commission Chairman.

3. *Minutes of the last meeting in Blansko, Czech Republic*

The Minutes were approved unanimously.

4. *European Walking Day*

Our member organizations' enthusiasm for organizing such an event is very poor. Even despite perpetual calls for organizing a march on topic "Walking with the neighbours" once a year, the Secretariat keeps receiving less and less responses. The Commission Chairman again calls upon the member organizations to organize such an annual march on the occasion of the European Walking Day each autumn.

5. *Training of the walking leaders within the ERA*

Marcel Grandjean informed those presents about bad return rate of the questionnaires on this topic, which were sent out in spring. We have so far received only 9 responses, namely:

- from Germany: - Deutscher Wanderverband
- Frankenwaldverein
- Heimat- und Wanderakademie Baden-Württemberg
 (Schwäb. Albverein/Schwarzwaldverein)
- from Italy: - FIE
- from Austria: - OeAV
- from Spain: - FEDME
- Catalonia
- from France: - FFRandonnée
- from Morocco: - Moroccan walking club

To continue its work, or to finish its work, the working group has to get the other responses as well. Therefore, it has been decided that the questionnaire will be sent

to the member organizations once again, while expecting more responses to return this time.

6. *Walking with the handicapped*

Jean Hirschinger, chairman of the working group, dealt with this topic intensively. He collected more than 100 standpoints from different organizations. He summarized the results in a summary report, which was distributed to the participants in German, French and English.

After a detailed discussion, it was decided that

- a) work on this topic will continue and
- b) provided financing is ensured, a seminar on this topic will be organized in a suitable period of time, where also the handicapped will be invited.

7. *Map of the European long-distance footpaths*

Just in time, on the occasion of the 40th ERA Anniversary, the Spanish walking club FEDME, under direction of Juan Mari Feliu Dord, published a map of the European long-distance footpaths. This work replaces the current map, in which some parts of the footpaths are depicted incorrectly.

Those following helped J. M. Feliu with preparation of the map:

- a) Pedro Cuiça/Portugal, in the field of cartography
- b) Marcel Grandjean and Jana Harnochová with preparation of the information on the back side in English, German, French and Spanish.

Thanks to financial support from the GdF/Suez, the map with 5,000 pieces printed, can be distributed free of charge. The new issue is planned for 2011, for the occasion of the EURORANDO 2011.

The member organizations can collect the map by J. M. Feliu. The postal costs are covered by the member organizations. 10 pieces of the map weigh approx. 1 kg.

8. *40th ERA Anniversary*

The ERA was founded on 19 October, 1969 in Nägelehaus in the Swabian Alb. The Presidium decided on its spring meeting in 2009, Genoa that a small publication on the ERA history would be published. As a result of this idea, an 18-page brochure was prepared by the Presidium members, under direction of Jean Hirschinger. It will be offered on a CD to the member organizations here in La Palma. For time reasons, it is only available in German and French at the moment, the English version is under preparation. Several brochures have been distributed amongst the selected VIPs.

9. *Eurorando 2011*

A description of this project, together with a detailed handbook on organizing events and a questionnaire were sent to the member organizations in June 2009. The questionnaire should be filled in and returned by 30 November, 2009. We urgently ask the member organizations to fill in this questionnaire. It is not necessary to answer all questions in detail at the moment. It is crucial to get an idea now, to which

extent the member organizations will participate. This is particularly important for the organizers in Andalusia.

Marcel Grandjean introduced the project in detail. His presentation, as well as all the other documents, are available on the ERA homepage: www.era-ewv-ferp.com, in the section "Events, Eurorando 2011".

The representatives from Andalusia thereafter shortly introduced events planned in Almeria and Granada. The member organizations await specific offers for groups so they can start preparations for offering trips to Andalusia.

10. Any Other Business

Right for free access to countryside in Europe

Based on the results of the seminar in Malaga, Ingemund Hägg/STF created a working document on the topic "Work of the ERA in connection with the right for free access to countryside in Europe 2010". It will be further developed by the working group led by Alison Mitchell, and introduced at the next meeting in Foligno/Italy.

Alex Vella/Ramblers' Association of Malta, expressed interest in organizing a seminar on this topic. It could be organized already in November 2010 in Malta, if fundraising is successful.

Working with the youth

The Czech Tourist Club prepared a questionnaire on "Working with the youth/working with the families" for the purpose of the Walking Commission, which is available on the ERA website.

The Commission Chairman asked the member organizations to fill in this questionnaire and send it back to Prague. At the same time, he again emphasised that the Walking Commission would not deal with the topic of working with the youth. This topic should be discussed in the Youth Commission. With regards to the fact that the Youth Commission has not been active over the past several years, interested member organizations should submit a proposal for renewal of its activities to the Presidium.

E4 on Cyprus

Maro Kazepi from the Cyprus Tourism Organization presented the way how the CTO commercially used the E4 within an advertisement.

11. Date and venue of the next meeting

8 October, 2010 at 8.30 a.m. in the Express Holiday Inn Hotel, in Foligno, Italy.

The next meeting will be relatively short because its second part will be made in the form of workshops; different groups, led by the Presidium members, will discuss issues related to the ERA (future, structures, finances, etc.). The results will be processed on a common meeting. The Presidium will use the gained information for

getting to know the needs of the member organizations, and thus for defining the future tasks of the ERA.

Marcel J.-P. Grandjean
Commission Chairman