

## **Minutes of the ERA Footpath Commission's meeting, the 2 October 2009, on the occasion of 40<sup>th</sup> ERA Conference in La Palma, Spain**

### **Present:**

21 participants of 16 organizations from 11 European countries (Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland).

### **Agenda:**

(Beginning of the meeting: 09.00 a.m.)

#### **1. Welcome and retrospection to 2008/2009**

Chairman Uroš Vidovič of the Footpath Commission welcomed all the participants and apology because of the delayed beginning.

The using language will be English and German; Jean-Marc Parment from France will translate into French.

There are no replacements of the agenda.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-chairman Pedro Cuiça was prevented, however.

#### **2. Approval of the report of the last session**

Uroš Vidovič:

The minutes of last year's meeting in Blansko, Czech: no real comments; minutes were approved unanimously.

#### **3. Information from the presidiums' meeting in Genova and summary of the International Mediterranean Rambler's meeting in Murcia**

Uroš Vidovič:

Uroš gave a short review of his activities during the last year:

- development of the new European way-marks
- development of E-paths in Eastern Europe
- new walking organizations in the ERA
- new map of E-paths (thanks to the Spain organization)
- next meeting will be Foligno, Italy.

Jan Havelka:

Also Jan has given a short review of certain activities:

- Meeting of the European sports federation.
- National rambling organization of Austria will not be a member of the ERA anymore and this is a big problem for the E-paths in that country. However, an Austrian section wants to continue the membership.
- There had been the walking-activity 'From South Bohemia to the edge of the world'.
- International Mediterranean Rambler's meeting in Murcia (about realization of a new E12 around the Mediterranean Sea):

Juan Mari Feliu-Dord (3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-president of the ERA):

- o First phase: Morocco – Spain – France - Italy till Genoa.
- o Second Phase: extension to the east.
- o In Morocco: along the E4 to the Atlas-mountains
- o From Tanger a new route eastwards to the direction of Tunisia, till the border of Algiers.
- o In Spain: GR92 will be used for that; the same in France; In Italy some nature areas will be crossed.

Uroš wants to discuss an important point first: do we really want a new E-path (E12), or do we keep 11 paths and no more? Besides: first, it is necessary to complete all the 11 E-paths and after that extension of the numbers. And more: new 'wishes' need to be realistic and Africa cannot get an E-path, because Africa (Morocco) is not Europe.

After discuss the conclusion: the first phase is realistic and in Africa (Morocco) cannot be an E-path. Voting of realizing a new E-path E12 (Spain, France and Italy till Genova): 16 for, 1 against, 4 abstentions.

About completing E-paths 1 / 11: we need to make criteria about quality for designing, renewing and maintenance of E-paths first. Purpose of the ERA is not only designing of paths, but also protection and maintenance.

#### **4. New way-marking of the E-paths.**

Uroš Vidovič and Rob Franssen were proud to show the final design: a blue field of about 7 x 9 cm with yellow 'European' stars and a big yellow 'E' with number, with small yellow bookmarks [www.era-ewv-ferp.com](http://www.era-ewv-ferp.com) .

Unanimous approval!!

Rob Franssen will deliver this design digital for using by all national organizations, including a direction for use.

#### **5. Map of the European long-distance footpaths.**

Juan Mari Feliu-Dord was able to show us the new map, a product realized by the Spanish organization with the financial support of Gaz de France SUEZ. The product is more than only a map: on the back-side interesting facts of the ERA can be found, also national used way-marks.

In 2011 a revision will be made in the same way.

#### **6. Actual problems of the E-paths E1 to E11.**

Uroš Vidovič:

Looking to the Questionnaire about E-paths last year there are some problems on local level, but no really big problems.

#### **7. E-paths: Extension of E-paths' network and strategic plan of E4**

A part of this point has been discussed in point 3.

About extension E4:

Boris M. Mičić (Serbia) showed us a folder of two new routes of E4 and E7 in Serbia, both from Hungary to Bulgaria (E4 on the eastside and E7 on the Westside). He told about capacity to realize these paths: 60% have a mark already because of existing national paths, Serbian organization has 170 clubs and 17.000 members, also 60 mountain-huts. On date 11 December the plan will be showed on a national Serbian meeting and it will be supported by the Ministry of Sport and Tourism.

Unanimous approval.

#### **8. Date and place of the next meeting.**

8<sup>th</sup> October 2010 in Foligno, Italy.

#### **9. Any other business.**

Arthur Howcroft (GB): In November this year a new handbook of UK trail-walkers on E9 will be published.

(End of the meeting: 11.30 a.m.)

For the minutes: Rob Franssen, Bergen op Zoom, 26<sup>th</sup> of October 2009.