



25th November 2021

Minutes of the 2021 FEPA Congress
Athens, Zappeion Megaron, November 23rd, 2021, 9.00
(The meeting was also accessible via Zoom)

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Presentation of FEPA Medals
3. Roll Call and choice of tellers
4. Presentation of FEPA Gold Pins
5. Minutes of the FEPA Congress in Monte Carlo, 29th November 2019
6. Reports of the FEPA Board members
7. Financial Statement
8. Proposed budget for the current year
9. Report of the Auditor
10. Appointment of Auditor
11. Adoption of revised FEPA Statutes
12. Election of Vice-President, Treasurer and two Directors
13. Forthcoming Events
14. FEPA's priorities for 2022-23
15. Motions from FEPA members
16. Venue for next FEPA Congress
17. Any other business

Welcome

The FEPA President, Bill Hedley, welcomed all participants and thanked the Hellenic Philatelic Federation and the Organizing Committee of NOTOS 2021 for their generous invitation to hold the Congress in Athens.

Apologies had been received from Bernie Beston, FIP President, who was unable to attend due to Australian restrictions on travel.

The President invited those present to observe a minute of silence in memory of the late Presidents of Member Federations Hans Kraaibeek, Alexander Ilyushin and Leonard Pascanu as well as many other friends who had died during the previous two years.

Presentation of FEPA Medals

The President presented the FEPA Medal for exceptional service to organised philately for 2020 to Jonas Hällström of Sweden with warmest congratulations.

The Francis Kiddle medal for the best philatelic website, awarded to the EXPONET website, was presented to Dr. Bedrich Helm, the delegate from the Czech Republic, representing the website committee.

The President also announced that the FEPA Medal for exceptional philatelic study and research for 2020 had been awarded to Miroslav Bachraty of Slovakia. Regrettably Mr Bachraty was unable to be present so the award is being sent to him after the Congress.

Certificates for Study and Research were also presented to Mehmet Akan and Timo Kuran (Turkey) and a Certificate of Appreciation for the Philatelic Society of Tenerife (Spain) was presented to José Pedro Gómez-Agüero to forward to the society.

Roll Call and appointment of Tellers

The Secretary made a roll call. Of 44 members 30 were represented (24 by delegates and 6 by proxies). All decisions of the Congress were, therefore, valid. Julije Maras and Bojan Bračič were appointed as tellers.

Delegates to the FEPA Congress, 23rd November 2021, Athens were:

	<i>Country</i>	<i>Delegate</i>
1	ALBANIA	Julian Demeti
2	ARMENIA	Not present
3	AUSTRIA	Proxy to Germany
4	BELARUS	Not present
5	BELGIUM	Koenraad Bracke
6	BULGARIA	Proxy to Albania
7	CROATIA	Julije Maras
8	CYPRUS	Akis Christou
9	CZECH Rep.	Dr. Bedrich Helm
10	DENMARK	Lars Engelbrecht
11	EGYPT	Hany Salam
12	ESTONIA	Not present
13	FINLAND	Ari Muhonen
14	FRANCE	Bernard Jimenez
15	GERMANY	Dr. Wolfgang Leupold
16	GREECE	Christos Gikas
17	HUNGARY	Géza Homonnay
18	ICELAND	Not present
19	IRELAND	Proxy to UK
20	ISRAEL	Dr. Eddie Leibu
21	ITALY	Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi
22	LATVIA	Not present
23	LIECHTENSTEIN	Not present
24	LITHUANIA	Not present
25	LUXEMBOURG	Proxy to Belgium
26	N. MACEDONIA	Not present
27	MOLDOVA	Not present
28	MONACO	Jean Voruz
29	MONTENEGRO.	Proxy to Slovenia
30	NETHERLANDS	Not present

31	NORWAY	Not present
32	POLAND	Dr. Ludwik Malendowicz
33	PORTUGAL	Not present
34	ROMANIA	Ion Chirescu
35	RUSSIA	Aleksei Borodin
36	SERBIA	Not present
37	SLOVAKIA	Proxy to Czech Federation
38	SLOVENIA	Bojan Bračič (observer Peter Suhadolc)
39	SPAIN	José Pedro Gómez-Agüero
40	SWEDEN	Peter Nordin
41	SWITZERLAND	Hans Schwarz
42	TURKEY	M. Edip Ağaoğulları
43	UK	Simon Richards (observer Jon Aitchison)
44	UKRAINE	Not present

The President presented FEPA gold pins to recently elected Presidents of Member Federations who were present: Bojan Bračič (Slovenia), Akis Christou (Cyprus) and Jean Voruz (Monaco).

Minutes of the FEPA Congress in Monte Carlo, 29th November 2019

The minutes of the 2019 FEPA Congress were accepted unanimously without any comments.

Reports of the FEPA Board members

All reports were accepted unanimously.

Financial Statement

In the absence of Fredi Kunz, the President introduced the Financial Statement, noting that the outturn reflected the circumstances of the pandemic which meant there had been almost no travel expenses as regular Board meetings were held via Zoom. Overall FEPA's financial position remained solid.

Changes had been required to FEPA's banking arrangements as our previous banker had informed us at short notice that our account would be closed since FEPA was not registered in Austria. This was not possible without major changes to the Statutes. To fill the gap a company (FEPA Limited) was created in the UK with three Directors: Bill Hedley, Fredi Kunz and Igor Pirc. This had enabled FEPA to open a business account with Transferwise, an international banking and money transfer company, into which FEPA's funds had been transferred.

The report was accepted unanimously. The President added that there had been a problem with unpaid FEPA Membership fees for 2020 and 2021. Most outstanding subscriptions had now been paid but one Federation still owed membership fees for three years from 2019. The Board will keep the position under review and will, if necessary, take action to suspend membership in accordance with the stipulations of the Statutes. The President congratulated Fredi Kunz for his extremely good work as Treasurer during his mandate which had been of great benefit to FEPA and its Members.

Proposed budget of the current year

The plan for 2021 did not deviate significantly from previous years although some activities had been postponed due to COVID restrictions. It was noted that the proposed budget related to the current calendar year which was nearly complete. Thus, approval was being sought largely in retrospect. Looking ahead, therefore, with the prospect of Congress being

held regularly in the second part of the year, the system of forward planning would be adjusted to enable Congress to consider future plans before they were well advanced.

Report of the Auditor

The auditor's report confirmed that he had found the accounts to be correct and in good order. He congratulated the Treasurer for his good work. As he had been nominated to become FEPA Treasurer he was now stepping down from the function of the Auditor.

Appointment of Auditor

Fredi Kunz (Austria) had been nominated to take on the position of auditor. This was agreed.

Adoption of revised FEPA Statutes

The President introduced the revised Statutes, commenting that changes in organised philately since 2002 and the completely different environment in which we now worked had necessitated a general rewriting of the Statutes to support the future development of the FEPA organisation. Among other things the revised Statutes would allow FEPA to hold a virtual Congress if necessary, and to admit new members from the near-European territory (an application from Lebanon had been open since 2018 but could not be entertained under the previous Statutes).

The proposals that had been tabled had been the subject of communication with Member Federations on several occasions during the previous year and half. Two proposals from Member Federations had been considered carefully by the Board but had not been adopted as they were not thought by the Board to be in FEPA's best interests. No motions had been tabled for consideration by Congress.

Ari Muhonen (Finland) questioned the proposed number of mandates that Board Members could hold under the revised Statutes – two in one position and a maximum of four terms. He suggested that the maximum should be reduced to two terms to allow the participation of more Members on the Board. The Vice President pointed out that the revised Statutes introduced for the first time a limit to the overall number of terms a Board Member could serve. The Board wished to promote a healthy turnaround of Board Members, but it also required a combination of experience and new blood. There was a risk that, if restrictions were too tight, the Board's efficiency might be reduced. Taking both requirements into account, Hans Schwarz (Switzerland) proposed that the number of full terms for Board Members should be reduced from four to three. With this change Article 6.2 of the revised Statutes would read as follows: 'All members of the Board shall serve for a term of four years and may serve up to two full terms in the same position and three full terms in total. In this respect, the positions of Vice President, Secretary General, Treasurer and Director are equivalent.' This proposal was accepted, and the revised Statutes were adopted unanimously. The President noted that this was a moment of great importance in the history of FEPA and thanked delegates warmly for their support. He also thanked the Vice President who had led the work on revising the Statutes.

Election of the Vice President, Treasurer and two Directors

The President said that four nominations had been received from Member Federations for the vacant positions:

For Vice President:	Giancarlo Morolli (Italy)
For Treasurer:	Hans Schwarz (Switzerland)
For Director:	Thomas Höpfner (Germany)

Lars Engelbrecht (Denmark)

Ari Muhonen (Finland) queried the eligibility of Giancarlo Morolli in the election of Vice President. He noted that Article 17.4 of the previous FEPA Statutes said that “All other members may serve up to three full terms” and that he had already served three full terms. He added this was not personal but concerned compatibility with the Statutes. In response Giancarlo Morolli pointed out that the limitations set out in Art. 17.4 of the previous Statutes had always been interpreted as applying to the number of terms that any Board member might serve in one position (two for the President, three for other Board Members) not on the total number of terms they could serve on the Board. That being the case, his nomination was compliant with the Statutes. With that clarification all four candidates were elected unanimously to serve for a four-year period in the positions for which they had been nominated.

Concluding the discussion, the President expressed gratitude on behalf of Congress to the members of the previous Board who had stood down (Fredri Kunz, Nicos Rangos and Ari Muhonen) for their contributions to the FEPA Board over many years.

Forthcoming Events

Liberec 2022. The Organising Committee gave a short presentation and asked for FEPA patronage for the exhibition. They also requested all FEPA Members to nominate national commissioners. Patronage was confirmed unanimously and the contract was subsequently signed.

Postal History Championship Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi (Italy) reiterated his plan to organise a Postal History Championship similar to the Thematic Championship. The first PH Championship will be in Italy in 2022, with the expectation that it will occur every second year after that. FEPA will be asked for Patronage.

FEPA seminars Thomas Höpfner reminded Congress that two seminars will be held at LONDON 2022, on Youth Philately and on Digitalisation and social media. A seminar on Open philately will be held at HUNFILEX 2022.

FEPA's priorities for 2022-2023

The President gave a presentation on FEPA's priorities for 2022 and 2023, based on its mission to support Members in promoting philately in Europe and its main functions of:

- Sharing information
- Rewarding achievements
- Supporting exhibitions
- Promoting innovation and best practice
- Promoting cooperation between Members

Against this background the following priorities had been set:

- Maintain existing programmes for sharing information, supporting exhibitions and rewarding achievements.
- Extend our activities in promoting innovation and best practice
- Look for new opportunities for cooperation between Members.

Two particular needs had been identified:

- Setting common standards for on-line activities
- Improving the flow of information from Members to FEPA.

The presentation will be made available on the FEPA website (www.fepanews.com)

Motions from FEPA Members

No motions had been received.

Agreement on venue for next FEPA Congress

The President said that the Board had received two generous offers to host the 2022 Congress – from the Club de Monte Carlo and from the organisers of the LIBEREC Exhibition.

The delegates decided unanimously to hold the 2022 Congress in Liberec.

Any other business

Data Hany Salam (Egypt) wanted to know whether FEPA has a statistical breakdown on Federation members by age. Detailed data are not available it was likely that the average age would be high and rising. Accumulation of data on societies and their members might be an important contribution to the further work of FEPA and National Federations.

Apprentices The President informed Congress that four apprentice FEPA jurors had participated in NOTOS and received a positive assessment from the jury. Consequently, he would recommend to the Board that they should be added to the list of FEPA jurors. Another juror had cross-accredited successfully. Congress took note with approval.

FIP Commissions The Vice-President noted that the FIP had requested nominations for the Commissions in advance of its planned Congress in 2022. Coordination was needed at FEPA level to ensure that European candidates were nominated for as many of the available positions as possible.

FEPA Awards 2021 The Vice President informed Congress that the call for nominations will be made in mid-January 2022, with the deadline 15 April. He invited the Member Federations to increase their attention to Certificates of Appreciation, as they are very well received by the awarded societies. The address for sending publications supporting nominations for the medal for outstanding philatelic Study and Research will be circulated at a later stage.

The President thanked the delegates for their contributions to the Congress and, there being no other business, concluded the 2021 Congress at 12.15pm.

Igor Pirc
Secretary General