

MINUTES

Ordinary General Assembly 2012

Union Internationale de Futnet

Date and time: Thursday 6 December 2011 at 9.00 am

Place: Sport Centre, Nymburk, Czech Republic

Participants:

Member countries:

Costa Rica (Esteban Santiago Villareal), Czech Republic (Kamil Kleník), Denmark (Pavel Masek), France (Jean Deloffre), Poland (Michal Sieczko, Maciej Adamczyk), Slovakia (Gabriel Viňanský), Ukraine (Denis Vilenkin, Oleg Sizovenko), USA (Ambroz Kruty)

Candidate countries:

Ireland (Emmet Ó Mordha, Liam Hynes), Tunisia (Ahmed Boukraa, Nabil Fekih, Omrane Mohamed)

Observer countries:

Turkey (Fatih Trabzon, Mehmet Zeki Kutlu), Russia (Svetlana Fedorova, Irina Pavlova)

Member countries absent:

Austria, Basque Country, England, Switzerland, Mali, Cameroon

UNIF delegates:

David Solano – President

Kamil Kleník – Vice-President

Zuzana Viňanská – Administrative Secretary

Abdelkrim About – Treasurer

Vlastimil Stehlík – Head of Technical Committee

1. Opening of the Congress

The Congress was opened by UNIF Vice-President and President of the Czech Association hosting the Congress Mr Kamil Kleník. He welcomed the participants in Nymburk and Czech Republic, thanked them for the efforts they made to attend the Congress and wished all the best to their teams in the historically first World Championships under UNIF auspices that was going to start the following day. He then passed the floor to Mr David Solano, UNIF President, for a short introductory message. Mr Solano thanked the Czech Futnet Association for the great efforts that hosting a World Cup requires; he also expressed his gratitude to UNIF Executive Board and to all the members, as most of their labour is done on a voluntary basis, but they had shown professionalism and commitment towards our sport. He also welcomed all the new nations (observers, candidates and recently accepted members), putting a special emphasis on the growth that futnet had experienced both in Europe and outside this continent.

Mr Solano then passed the floor to Ms Zuzana Viňanská, UNIF Administrative Secretary and the chair of the meeting. She also welcomed the participants, wished them a successful meeting and then proceeded to item 2 of the agenda.

2. Determination of the number of votes

The number of the votes was determined: eight (8) countries were present out of eleven (11) Full Members who had complied with their financial obligations and therefore were able to vote. The required quorum was observed. The simple majority necessary to adopt the proposals was determined to be five (5).

3. Approval of the Agenda

Vote: The agenda was unanimously adopted.

4. Approval of the Minutes of Extraordinary General Assembly held on 7 October 2011 in Venaco, France (Annex 1)

Vote: Unanimously adopted

5. Confirmation of the decisions adopted by the members in between the sessions of the General Assembly (from 7 October 2011 to 6 December 2012):

Admission of new Provisional Members – Cameroon and Mali

Vote: Unanimously adopted

6. Activity Report

a) General report

The chair presented main developments in UNIF since the last General Assembly in line with the Activity report (Annex 2) provided to the members in November. She underlined that since most UNIF representatives work also for EFTA and, for the time being, most futnet events take place in Europe, many EFTA and UNIF activities and events overlap. Therefore UNIF and EFTA activity reports should be viewed together to get the whole picture of international futnet efforts in 2012.

b) Futnet in the Americas

Futnet development in the Americas and UNIF relations with the countries in the region were presented by UNIF President in accordance with the special report prepared by the Costa Rican Futnet Association and provided to UNIF member in November (Annex 3).

c) Presentation of observers and candidates for membership

Candidate and observer nations were asked by the chair to briefly present futnet situation in their country. The countries applying for UNIF membership were Tunisia (as an Associate Member), Ireland (as a Full Member), Cameroon (upgrade from Provisional to Full Member)

and Mali (upgrade from Provisional to Full Member). The last two countries could not attend the Congress because of administrative reasons, so their application and the update on their situation was presented by the chair. The countries participating at the Congress as observer countries, with plans to enter UNIF at a later stage, were Turkey and Russia.

The presentations of candidate countries can be found in Annex 4a-d.

7. Admission of members

To follow on the presentation of candidate countries with the vote on their admission, the chair suggested exchanging items 7 and 8 to which no objections were raised. The assembly then proceeded to vote on the membership applications of the candidate countries and they were all unanimously accepted: **Cameroon, Ireland and Mali** became UNIF Full Members and **Tunisia** Associate Member.

8. Suspension or expulsion of a member

In accordance with the proposal of UNIF Executive Board submitted to the members in November, it was suggested:

1. Due to the zero activity and communication and failure to comply with their financial obligations in the last two years, to exclude from UNIF membership the following countries: Argentina, Malaysia
2. Due to inactivity and failure to comply with their financial obligations in the last two years, but taking into account certain communication and the intentions of improvement, to suspend UNIF membership of South Africa until the situation is remedied. If no change occurs by 31 March 2013, the membership will be terminated.

Vote: Unanimously adopted

9. Presentation of Financial report 2012 and approval of Financial statements 2011

The 2011 accounting documents were provided to the members in November, but not all members had enough time to examine them. Therefore it was suggested to postpone their approval until the end of December which was accepted by the delegates. UNIF financial situation and its development in 2012 was briefly presented in the Financial report drafted by

UNIF Treasurer Mr Abdelkrim About and provided to the members in advance (Annex 5). As of 27 November 2012 there was 10 441,46 EUR in UNIF account, out of which 4 094,76 EUR was returnable deposit for World Championships 2012.

Vote: Unanimously adopted

10. Proposals

10.1 Proposals of UNIF Executive Board

a) *Strategic plan* (debate only)

The chair explained briefly the most important aspects of the first draft of UNIF Strategic Plan 2013-2016 (Annex 6) and the three main areas of the plan: Political strategy and international cooperation; Governance and management and Marketing, sponsorship and communication strategy. The Strategic Plan should be, inter alia, the basis for developing relations with the relevant international bodies and new members, for enhancing UNIF's organisational structure and management capacity and for supporting its efforts to promote futnet and its core values in and out of its competitions. One of the main objectives is to meet the conditions for membership in SportAccord and be ready for application process in 2017.

Mr Siczko stressed the need of distribution of workload among members and made a suggestion to introduce an obligation for each member to spend at least one hour per week working for UNIF on a voluntary basis

Mr Siczko and Mr Deloffre spoke about the need to create a sponsorship and marketing strategy and sponsorship packages to attract sponsors and partners for UNIF.

The chair said that work distribution is definitely necessary to be able to implement the Strategic Plan and therefore it was very important to create or strengthen specialised UNIF committees, including a Marketing and sponsorship committee. It was noted that the debate on the Strategic Plan would continue in early 2013 via emails so that a solid and effective Strategic Plan would be adopted as soon as possible.

b) *Anti-Doping Code*

The chair explained that one of the first steps towards SportAccord membership is the adoption of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Code. The implementation of UNIF Anti-Doping Code (Annex 7) will be gradual and will depend on UNIF's technical and financial

resources, but its adoption is a clear signal of UNIF's commitment to condemn and fight doping at all levels.

Vote: Unanimously adopted

c) *List of Fees*

The chair explained that the only two proposed changes in the fees were a slight increase in the deposits for UNIF competitions for member countries and a higher participation fee for UNIF non-members. Exact figures and conditions are available in the List of Fees as provided to the members before the Congress (Annex 8).

Vote: Unanimously adopted

d) Amendments to Laws of Futnet

The main amendments to the Laws of Futnet were presented by the head of Technical Committee Mr Vlastimil Stehlik in line with the document provided to the delegates beforehand (Annex 9a). The final new version of UNIF Laws of Futnet, valid from 1 January 2013, is available in Annex 9b and new Appendix 1 to the Laws in Annex 9c.

Vote: Unanimously adopted

10.2 Proposal of Members

There were no proposals of members.

11. Election of President, Vice-President, Treasurer and General Secretary

As no other Full Member apart from Costa Rica (President), France (Treasurer) and Czech Republic (Vice-President) proposed a candidate for a member of Executive Committee, it was proposed to postpone the election of the remaining two members until suitable candidates are presented. They can be approved by UNIF Full Members in an email voting.

According to French laws, UNIF General Secretary (paid position) cannot form part of Executive Committee.

As approved at last Congress, number of Executive Committee members would be proportionate to the number of UNIF Full Members (up to 19 countries – 5 members).

Nominations:

President – David Solano, Costa Rica

Vice-President – Kamil Kleník, Czech Republic, as the President of UNIF's Continental Association in Europe

Treasurer – Abdelkrim Abour, France

General Secretary – Zuzana Viňanská, Slovakia

Vote: Unanimously approved

12. Appointment of auditors

Denmark represented by Mr Pavel Masek was appointed as auditor for year 2013.

13. Election of host country of UNIF World Championships 2014

Since World Championships are always held indoors, the recommendation of UNIF Executive Board and UNIF Technical Committee is to organise World Championships in the spring – March or April – as the final highlight of the indoor season. As of 6 December 2012, there were no bids yet to host World Championships in 2014.

There was a debate on the structure of the competition. It was noted that the present structure with an ever increasing number of participants (20 countries in Nymburk) is not sustainable since it entails very high costs for the organising association which most members cannot afford at present. It was noted by Mr Sieczko that the current structure does not allow to create „futnet stars“, the national teams being too large and individual players not easily identifiable (too many matches, players and medals) He suggested organising the championships possibly only in the most attractive discipline (in case of Poland, it would be doubles). The idea of organising championships separately for each discipline was supported also by Mr Viňanský. Mr Masek said that in such case it would be possible for Denmark to organise, for example, a singles competition. Mr Trabzon drew the attention to the higher travel costs for the participating nations in case of separate championships and suggested creating a matrix with various scenarios, estimating the costs for the organisers depending

on the number of participants and disciplines. Mr Kleník said that the idea of separate championships is worth examining and that, in any case, the Czech Republic as the largest futnet country, would be happy to host a top international event (World or European Championships) at least once in four years.

It was noted by the chair that the debate on the most suitable structure of the World Championships would continue after the Congress via emails and probably some kind of a questionnaire would be drawn up to see what are the preferences and organisational possibilities of UNIF members.

14. Time and place of next Congress

This item was not discussed in detail, it was suggested it would be dealt with via email communication in 2013.

15. Any other business

Mr Viňanský praised the work of UNIF and its representatives, pointing out that compared to FIFTA's membership fee (more than 1000 EUR), UNIF's and EFTA's fees were significantly lower, but the results of their work much more visible as demonstrated by updated webpages, including a website dedicated specifically to the World Championships, active communication with new countries, successful competitions, courses for referees and coaches etc.

To conclude the meeting, the chair thanked the delegates for their participation, wished them a nice stay in Nymburk and good luck to their teams in the World Championships.

February 2013, Bratislava, Slovakia

Minutes prepared by:

Zuzana Viňanská

General Secretary

Minutes approved by:

Kamil Kleník

Vice-President