



PROCEEDINGS OF THE EXTRAORDINARY FIAP CONGRESS

Paris : 23 November 2013

1) OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE CONGRESS:

M. Riccardo Busi, President of FIAP, warmly welcomed the delegates, and explained to them the purpose of the Extraordinary Congress which was to discuss a unique subject which could lead to the eventual transfer of FIAP's headquarters from Paris, France to Luxembourg.

2) ROLL CALL OF THE DELEGATES:

At the roll call of the delegates, voting cards were distributed. Those present or represented were:

ANDORRA, AUSTRIA, BAHREIN, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, CHILE, CYPRUS, DENMARK, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, FRANCE, GERMANY, GREECE, GREAT BRITAIN, JAPAN, LUXEMBOURG, NORWAY, NEW ZEALAND, OMAN, POLAND, PAKISTAN, PANAMA, RUSSIA, SINGAPORE, SWEDEN, SLOVENIA, SPAIN, TURKEY.

Adding the Directorate Members the total number of votes was 30. Apparently, according to the Statutes, there was insufficient quorum to make any decision on the subject tabled at the Congress. The matter would be re-presented at the next FIAP Congress in September 2014 in Turkey, where there would be sufficient delegates to form the required quorum.

3) PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The President reiterated the reasons of the meeting which involved an important decision to be taken regarding the future of FIAP, particularly about the location of its headquarters. Mr Busi reminded the choice made at the FIAP Congress in Budapest in 2014 when France was selected from among several European countries because of some favourable conditions it offered at that time, such as no duty of an annual assembly on its territory. Hence, Statutes (Art.1 Name and Seat) has established that FIAP's headquarters is located in Paris and that FIAP is subject to the French legislation. However, since 2004, there were changes in the French legislation and, ever since 2012 and at the Congress in Singapore, the Directorate has been working to understand these changes and how to react to them.

He thanked all the members of the Directorate, especially Mr Jacky Martin, Mr Romain Nero, Mr Herbert Gmeiner and Mr Ioannis Lykouris for their advice, before giving the floor to Mr Ioannis Lykouris who explained the problem in detail.

4) GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The Secretary General, I. LYKOURIS, explained that the FIAP Directorate and the member countries would have to choose among the following options:

- a) maintaining FIAP's headquarters in France;
- b) closing FIAP's headquarters in France and opening a new headquarters in Luxembourg; and
- c) opening a new FIAP headquarters in Luxembourg and concurrently maintaining the existing office in France.

He concluded by presenting the option of the Directorate which found that the 2nd possibility as the best one for the time being.

5) TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr Herbert GMEINER, FIAP Treasurer, reiterated that during the 2004 Congress in Budapest, France was selected among other countries, because of some favourable conditions it presented at that time. He emphasized that all members of the Directorate worked for FIAP in their free time and in their countries, and that the office in Paris cost 60.000 € per year to maintain it. He noted that the cost would rise in the following years.

6) GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Since no official vote could be taken due to inadequate quorum, delegates present discussed the issues on the eventual transfer of FIAP's headquarters with the Directorate. In response to the questions raised, in case of a transfer FIAP's office to Luxembourg, all documents should be given to the Luxembourgish administration. As the rental contract for the Paris office would expire in April 2014, the Directorate would try to ask for an extension until December 2014. If the landlord would not accept, a new 9-year contract will not be signed. A referendum to decide for the future of FIAP's headquarter is not possible, firstly because the question to dissolve FIAP and create a new one was not on the current Agenda. Secondly, because such an important decision should be taken directly by the General Assembly.

7) A.O.B.:

The President of FIAP gave some information concerning the Program of the Congress in Turkey, the FIAP Website, the "Friendship and Solidarity" Competition, the Permanent Exhibition Centre in Montevarchi (Arezzo, Italy) and the special exhibition dedicated to women photographers which will be inaugurated on May 3rd, 2014 at the above Centre. He also presented the Number Zero issue of the new FIAP electronic magazine – FIAP NEWS before declaring the close of the Extraordinary Congress. He thanked all the delegates for their attendance and for contributing constructively to the discussion, although no decision could be taken.

Athens, 3 December 2013

Ioannis LYKOURIS

