

24 June 2011, Pontevedra, Spain

## Part I: Morning Session

### President's welcome and opening remarks

Philip Schädler (PS) welcomed everybody present to Pontevedra. He made particular mention of the wonderful opening ceremony the previous evening outlining the effort the organisers appeared to be putting into the event to make it a success, which he was certain it would be.

PS expressed his pleasure at welcoming the European family, to all those delegates some of whom he may see regularly, others only once at Congress. Before commencing PS outlined two things, firstly he requested all delegates take their voting cards, if they had not done so already, introducing new staff member Annie Cooper (AC) from the Sunderland office, who could pass them onto everyone.

The second point was with reference to Secretary General, Jem Lawson (JL). PS confirmed to all present that the Executive Board (EB) had been advised recently of Jem's ill health. The exact diagnosis was unknown but he was lead to believe it was symptomatic of a stroke so he has been advised to take time off all work activity at ETU. PS continued to advise that JL was consulting doctors to find out what it is and to take steps to secure his health. PS confirmed the importance of Jem's role and the main day-to-day running of things in Sunderland, outlining that ETU has to manage it without him for the moment. PS was happy that the office was running well with the addition of AC to existing staff numbers in the office, helping with things although confirming we cannot replace Jem. PS was hoping he would hear from JL soon on whether he can continue or not, but for the moment things were a little unclear. PS requested patience and understanding from delegates as Congress continued, maybe a little differently than in previous years due to Jem's absence.

PS welcomed ITU President Marisol Casado (MC) to her home games and invited her to address Congress.

MC thanked PS and ETU for her invitation and to welcome all delegates on behalf of the Galicia and Spanish Federations. She welcomed all present to her country, expressing what a great honour it was for her and also expressing thanks to the Spanish Federation for their commitment in pushing ahead with international races in Spain. She also gave mention to the local organising committee in Pontevedra, thanking them for investing a lot of effort in having the championships here with the level that everyone expects.

MC continued to advise delegates of ITU changes that were being discussed in time for next Congress to change the constitution. She mentioned she would be available at the end of Congress for further explanation and clarification if delegates had any specific questions, but she outlined a brief update in ITU matters.

Competition and events – MC expressed her pride at the world championship series and the World Series especially the high performance of the athletes. It is a big Olympic qualifying period for athletes with strong starting line-ups in all the races. She pointed out the calibre of athletes was a success, as well as successful TV coverage. She expressed her delight at the growth of Winter Triathlon and in particular the participation of the Nordic countries, outlining the importance of their participation for Winter Triathlon which shows a difference between three, four years ago and now. She outlined the need for more national federations to be involved in order to start the process of requesting the possibility of inclusion in the winter games. She saw good signs with the Nordic countries being there and hosting good races in their countries.

MC continued with ITU administration. The President's office, in Madrid is financed by the Spanish council through the Spanish Federation, which is playing a very good role in the representation. MC had already met important people in the Madrid office in order to bring new biddings, new cities for the races. She confirmed ITU are in the process of opening the Lausanne office, which will mainly house ITU sport department, which she felt was the best base for them, close to IOC and getting Triathlon developed into the Olympic programme.

MC expressed her thanks to Dr. Sarah Springman (SS) and the Paratriathlon committee for the good work they are doing. She confirmed she had been told in many forums about how triathlon is such an inclusive sport which she felt was a great honour. It's important the sporting world invite ITU to be role models as an inclusive federation, but also that women's leadership is seen as a very important point. ITU are working very hard for the inclusion of a new medal in the Olympic programme. Unclear what may happen, but things are looking positive.

MC confirmed she was part of the Youth Olympic Coordination Commission and during their Congress elected as part of the Association of International Federations (ASOIF) council, which is important for the promotion of Triathlon.

MC continued to outline the main thing ITU have been doing in development was to sign the agreement with the Confederations in order to allocate money to use in development projects. MC confirmed it was a big step and hoped everyone agreed with it and the importance of it for bringing all the family together. She confirmed the appointment of Development coordinators in each confederation, five of them who are already working with their confederations and doing a very good job in educating. They have a number of courses already in place and continually investing in more. Further investment has gone into the All Africa Games with Triathlon going to be part of the All Africa Games for the first time in Maputo at the end of August and the beginning of September. This is important for building relations, not only in Africa but in other areas where we want to introduce Triathlon and build future relationships. MC continued to outline a recent meeting with colleagues in the Commission of the World Championship series, where representatives of the National Federations, a representative of the athletes, the Technical Committee, organisers, coaches, sponsors and the local organising committees were involved. Discussion took place on the future of the World Championship series, which isn't easy to make quick decisions on but working together on this will be better.

MC confirmed the bidding process for the World Championship series and other events is in place on the website and for the first time ITU have received more candidate cities than places available. It will be difficult to make a decision, but it's good for the sport to have this

dilemma. Another point of consideration is the coaches (Technical Directors) commission, which MC proposes to apply for the committee in the future. She emphasises the importance of it going through the National Federations as technical directors if they become a committee must be presented by the National Federations, must be bought by the National Federations and must be represented by the National Federations, as we have learnt that they play a very important role because they are quite connected with the athletes and quite connected with the management of the ITU. MC thanked everyone and outlined she would be available for questions over the course of the day.

PS thanked MC for being here and letting everyone know what's happening in ITU.

**a. Admission/Resignation of the National Federation.**

PS reported there were no new admission and no resignation over the course of the year. He advised that ETU are in contact with National Federations San Marino, Andorra and Montenegro. They have no Triathlon federations there, but there are Triathletes there in contact with swimming federations, so San Marino swimming federation could possibly join ETU next year. There is also a contact at Andorra as well as a swimming federation.

**b. Confirmation of register of voters and appointment of scrutineers.**

PS invited EB member Kathleen Smet (KS) to read the names of the affiliated members present and able to vote, they were:

1. Austria
2. Belgium
3. Bulgaria
4. Croatia
5. Cyprus
6. Czech Republic
7. Denmark
8. Finland
9. France
10. Germany
11. Great Britain
12. Greece
13. Hungary
14. Ireland
15. Israel
16. Italy
17. Lichtenstein
18. Lithuania
19. Luxembourg
20. Netherlands
21. Norway
22. Poland
23. Portugal
24. Serbia
25. Slovakia
26. Slovenia

27. Spain
28. Sweden
29. Switzerland
30. Turkey
31. Ukraine.

It was unanimously agreed Aldo Lucarini (ITA) and Zeljko Bijuk (CRO) would act as scrutineers.

**c. Confirmation of the minutes of the preceding Congress (Athlone 2010)**

PS opened it up to the floor about any remark to the previous Congress minutes sent out.

Anna Klaerke (AK) from Denmark remarked on page 12, outlining a small mistake in the years. It said repeat of the confirmation previously giving that Pontevedra and Eilat would host the European Triathlon Championship respectively in 2010 & 2011, should that be 2011 & 2012?

PS confirmed that was right and ETU will make note of that.

There were no further comments and all Federations voted and accepted the minutes as a true record.

**d. Presidents report.**

PS confirmed he had sent out a report recently, so hoped all Federations had received it. He outlined that he will make some remarks on a few of the points outlined.

**i) Finance and administration**

Strengthened the staff at the office in Sunderland in the last year with David Peddie (DP) on board who is the Media Officer. He is responsible for populating the website with details of the events and offering immediate support to the events, as well as Annie Cooper (AC) who joined us recently to support DP and Jo Costello (JC) who are in the office.

Concerning finances PS confirmed Renato Bertrandi (RB) would discuss finances further during Congress, and pointed out all Federations should have received the Treasurer report. PS wanted to make a general remark, concerning building up the offices and trying to maintain professional communication to all Federations, aiming to be supportive when organising the events of which there are many and outlining that it all costs money. He reiterated that to be professional you have to pay people to do the job, there are a lot of volunteers but you can't do everything required with volunteers. He pointed out that with the current income base ETU have there are limits because at the moment only event fees and affiliation fees are the major incomes. PS reiterated the earlier point made by MC about the support for development projects from ITU, which is very important with the number of projects running this year. However, the point made was that the secretariat, the office, the engine needs more support and ETU are working with Wassermann Media Group (WMG), a sponsorship agency in London but it is proving difficult at the moment. PS confirmed RB would elaborate further during Treasurer's report, but as it stands we have no confirmed sponsorship which means if that continues that ETU can only continue with the income we know we have. PS felt it was important for Federations to know that status, but outlined RB would give further details later.

## **ii) Development**

PS confirmed projects are currently running and EB received an update report from Zeljko Bijuk (ZB), ITU Development coordinator for Europe on projects that are running using not only the budget of 2011 but also using money rolled over that wasn't used in 2010 for use in 2011. PS thanked MC and the ITU for enabling this to happen, so ETU could finish the agreement with a bigger budget.

## **iii) TV & Media**

PS confirmed, as most people were already aware, that ETU stopped the contract with Gabor Hajas (360 Productionz) who had been hired for TV production. It was stopped due to increased costs and the quality of the TV production not being of the standard ETU wanted. As a result of cutting costs the contract was stopped and the intention for this year is that hopefully, ETU can use good TV production from events, organise an English voiceover and distribute it internationally, which will hopefully be the case in Pontevedra and also an intention is to do this for the Cremona race that took place in early June. If ETU can use other TV productions, PS pointed out that it will hopefully be low cost media coverage of the events, as we don't have money to invest more in media hopefully this will be reasonable

PS confirmed that there is no statement regarding how we progress for next year, but may have to look at adopting the same strategy to use the coverage taken from events that have excellent TV production.

PS concluded his remarks by thanking everyone that has supported him in the last 12 months, outlining the motivation and enthusiasm of volunteers at events he has been lucky enough to attend. He also wanted to thank colleagues on the Executive Board for supporting him in these difficult times, losing a President in 2009 and now facing a period of time where the Secretary General is on leave from work. So he thanked everyone for support through these difficult times.

There were no questions or comments.

## **e. Secretary General's report**

PS confirmed that as the Secretary General was not present, the report as handed out in the Congress papers sent to Federations should be read, so no further details were discussed.

PS outlined that if everyone was in agreement, the meeting would proceed directly to the Treasurer's report.

Henk van Lint (NED) asked if a message can be sent to Jem on behalf of all of Congress to pass on their very best wishes to him.

Sarah Springman (SS) (GBR) thanked Henk on behalf of the British Federation of whom Jem is a representative, outlining they have been in very close contact with him and are trying to be as supportive as they can at this difficult time. They also realise that there is the office in Sunderland which is very important to ETU, so wanted to say they will do their best to support ETU as they go through this process and this time of uncertainty and coming to a decision about what happens when everyone knows a little bit more about whether Jem can come back and join ETU or not. SS reiterated their assurance of being behind ETU as they always are and will do their best to support ETU and support Jem as well.

## **f. Treasurer's Report**

Renato Bertrandi (RB) introduces the Treasurer's Report stating that the report had already been distributed with the Congress papers and explained that he intended to expand on certain points raised within the report.

RB presented an actual budget as at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011 and expanded on discussions which took place as part of the ETU Executive Board Meeting on the previous day, describing how ETU intends to include and secure costs in the building of future assets and ensuring ongoing and potential costs are kept under control.

Brief mention was made that in 2010, ETU had 39 National Federations affiliated to ETU and commented that along with affiliation fees, event fees supplemented the majority income of ETU. RB went on to say that an issue arose in 2010 of an outstanding event fee of €10,000 which is a significant amount considering ETU's turnover and is currently still due, however, counter measures have been put in place in order to prevent similar situations.

In terms of TV and media coverage, 2010 expenditure almost doubled to almost €50,000 after an original figure was budget of €24,000. In terms of income from sponsorship, no income was gained. Furthermore, ITU will no longer provide a grant of \$6,000 towards the office administration of ETU which was also assisted with a cash injection from UK Sport. As a consequence ETU's net assets decreased by €20,000 from €165,000 to €141,000.

RB comments that significant cost increases were incurred as a result of the locating and staffing of the ETU Sunderland office. Due to the poor nature, quality and take up distribution of ETU media coverage, the decision made was not to engage a production company for 2011 allowing LOC's to engage their own TV production should they wish to. RB reiterates that ETU are still working closely with Wasserman Media Group (WMG) to attract both European and international sponsorship which will hopefully positively impact on the projected budgets for the upcoming years.

There were questions, comments and observations.

- Dr. Sarah Springman (SS), (GBR) questions RB on trade debtors namely why monies owe on events and what is being done to collect these. Dr. Springman's second question concerns the increased costs which have arisen due to the funding of assistant technical delegates and asks if this can be broken down into real costs.
- RB responds stating that Alicia Garcia (AG) of the Spanish Federation has informed the ETU EB that the outstanding event fee of €10,000 from the 2010 Vitoria event will be paid after the Pontevedra race. In response to the second question, RB reports that it was an IT sports department decision to allocate an assistant technical delegate to events which is a positive step forward in improving the technicalities of events however, the travel and time must also be funded which were costs that were not allocated by ETU but that this has an impact of 40-50% on costs and ETU would be happy to receive further financial support from ITU to ease the financial pressure of this motion.

- A proposal is suggested by an unidentified Congress representative that Technical delegates (TDs) should be supported by a team of national officials from the country hosting the event to assist including an assistant Technical Delegate (aTD) in order to control and lower associated costs to which Philip Schädler (PS) thanks the delegate for the suggestion.
- Jose Hidalgo (JH), (ESP), explains that they are happy with the redirection of the media coverage as these are substantial costs implicated in producing elite events, however, they ask if there is a possibility to reach an agreement and work together with ITU and ETU on the broadcasting of these events.
  - PS responds that this is an ongoing discussion with ITU and invites ITU President, Marisol Casado (MC) to respond. MC explains that communications strategy now has to be developed and improved due to the international spread of both ITU and Continental Confederation offices across the world and that this is an ongoing process.
  - SS emphasises that the challenges for Continental Confederations lie in attracting and managing sponsors and identifying what are the rights and responsibilities.
- George Yerolimpos (GY), (GRE) addresses his concerns on the lack of a 3-5 year financial plan which may have implications with continuing forward at the same rate of expense.

Finally, PS asks for approval of the Treasurer's report to which the majority of green cards are raised confirming approval.

#### **g. Audit Committee Report**

Werner Taveirne (WT) explains that according to the constitution of ETU, the role of the audit committee is advisory and is responsible for reviewing the financial statements prepared by the Treasurer for reporting to the Executive Board and to the Congress so that the financial interests of the National Federations are protected. When taking up these responsibilities the Audit Committee had free access to all individual documents underlying these financial statements and WT confirms that the committee did not come across any irregularity or major discrepancy but would like to offer some comments and suggestions.

First of all expense as a control matter, expense statements in general are approved by the Treasurer, however expense statements of the Treasurer himself are not approved by another person. Secondly, in some instances ETU pays prize money for European cups and championship races. At least in some European countries the party that pays the prize money becomes involved and responsible for the fiscal treatment in that country of these amounts paid i.e. there has been some withholding of fiscal taxes to be paid. It might be worth therefore to explore the possibility that ETU is no longer involved in the payment process.

As to the balance sheet and profit loss accounts, general accounting principles specify in their rule of prudence that revenue should be recorded only when it is certain and a

provision should be entered for an expense which is probable. On the balance sheet though are mentioned 3 debtors for €15,450, €5,450 of which is overdue since 2008. ETU's accountants have suggested it would be wise to set up a reserve for this amount which would have increased the loss for 2010 from about €20K to €25.5K euro which is a 20% increase a difference which is important. The 2011 budget includes a bad debt loss of €2,500 which is only half this amount so if the amount in the profit and loss account of 20K is maintained we recommend increasing the budget amount from €2,500 to €5,500 euro.

At the liability site the amount for creditors includes some amounts for competitions that took place back in 2007 and 2009 and in those cases ETU was responsible for paying prize money therefore it might be worthwhile to consider the inclusion of a cross that prize money earned needs to be collected within a limited period of time. One other point the committee wishes to draw the attention to is the legislation of Luxembourg which is governing the non profit organisations. ETU is in debt and ASBL non profit organisation established in Luxembourg and according to Luxembourg legislation. This law specifies in article 3 that all changes in the composition of the Executive Board must be reported to the Register of Commerce and according to the website of the Register of Commerce the last changes for ETU have been deposited in 2006. This would mean that the accountability of the new members of the Executive Board that have been elected in Holten in 2009 is not covered by the shell of the non profit organisation. It should be noted also that in article 10 of the same law it specifies that all changes to the list of members should be deposited annually with the civil court. The committee recommends that a member of the Executive Board be appointed to follow up the rules and obligations of the Luxembourg Law.

WT summarises these recommendations: first the audit committee recommend to establish invalidation rules for the amount as from which expenditures for equipment and materials are capitalised rather than expensed since they are used over several years and also that the evaluation rules define as from which amount debt reserves are set up, as from which moment rather debt reserves are set up for receivables that are overdue and also increase the debt reserves in the budget for 2011 from €2 and a half to €5.5K. Secondly, for international competitions, ETU should make the LOC the solely responsible for paying prize money to athletes. Three, appoint a member of the Executive Board to follow up the Luxembourg legislation re the ASBL and four as a control item cover the approval of all expense accounts of team members of the Executive Board, in summary as a final recommendation we would advise the Congress to approve the balance sheet of the December 2010 and the profit and loss account over 2010 but to adapt the 2011 budget by increasing the bad debt loss to €5.5k.

There were questions, comments and observations.

- Conal Heatley (CH) from Ireland suggests that the audit committee report should have been made available prior to Congress as it has raised issues which would have been prudent to discuss with our own national boards at home. They also question the validity of the projected budget figure for Congress as it looks set to decrease this year but questions if this is a realistic figure.
  - WT responds that Congress expenses are often approximate but should not be more than 5000 Euros in any event and agrees that the report should have been made available earlier.

- SS supports the Irish suggestion and goes on to note with disappointment that ETU is currently not legal effectively but now has the opportunity to correct this and also encourages further strategic discussions on the paying out of prize monies.
  - PS comments that ETU will take advice from their advocate in Luxembourg on the tax issue and implications in various countries with the intention of providing further information on this matter at the next Congress.
- JH also requests to be provided with the ETU Budget prior to Congress and mentions that the Spanish Federation made an agreement with the ETU Secretary General that ETU should be responsible for the payment to athletes.
- PS explains there was difficulty in producing the budget from Congress due to the unfortunate situation at this current time.

PS continues by remarking that in his previous ETU role as Treasurer, ETU are well aware of the monies that are put on the debt account and these countries or National Federations that have not paid the event fees. PS explains that it is important that National Federations are delivering and fulfilling contracts, because ETU's asset base is marginal. Trust has to be placed in the National Federations in electing LOC's that are capable to deliver as, for example, ETU could not absorb the 60,000 Euro event fee stake of the European Championships as this would potentially bankrupt the organisation. PS reiterates that the Executive Board will follow up on the updating of the composition of the Executive Board under Luxembourg law.

- CH enquires about the situation with bad debt i.e. write-offs/sanctions/awarding of future events?
- PS responds by saying that expelling National Federations ultimately affects the athletes and that all bad debt cases must be considered on an individual basis.
  - CH asks for a more transparent presentation of the bad debt and resolutions so that the wider membership of Congress has an awareness of what has occurred and if an event has been subsidised. Bernard Saint-Jean (BSJ) goes on to propose that a reserve be set up rather than writing off any bad debt claims: ETU therefore maintains the claim towards the other party and it is formally presented on the balance, then at the same time ETU respond to the accounting rule that says if some loss is probable they should take that loss which is done by setting up a reserve.

Renato Bertrandi (RB) summarises that due to the increased 2010 expenditure, it was decided to produce an actual budget as accounts stand at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011 in order to verify and plan for future cash flow and to also prepare another reliable half year budget from May 2011 onwards. RB is also supportive of ETU building up a reserve to counteract potential issues with payment of event fees and agrees ETU should be much more pro active in trying to secure monies from the LOCs with the National Federations.

When discussing sponsorship, RB informs Congress that ETU has been informed by WMG that the agency are committed to finding sponsorship by the end of 2011 of €50,000 and by the end of 2012 for €200,000 and that ETU representatives will be meeting again with agency at the end of September to understand what progress and actions are being taken. RB agrees that solutions must be found to decrease expenditure such as travel and meeting costs, shipping of brand materials and that WMG will work to potentially find sponsors who can support these costs.

In terms of committee costs, there figures of €3,000 each are built into the budget, however, it is uncommon for expenditure to actually occur within these items. RB agrees that a priority for ETU is to establish a credible and valid method of controlling the budget overall.

There were questions, comments and observations.

- A Congress representative asks whether the figures regarding sponsorship are net value or if a commission fee will be paid out of the figures. RB answers that a commission fee will be paid out of the figures but only once deals have been secured.
  - CH asks why sponsorship and ITU income is not included in the budget for 2012 to which RB replies that the budget is still in a draft state and accounting procedures are currently under review.
  - Marisol Casado (MC) queries the budget figures relating to grants from ITU to which Philip Schaedler confirms the projected forecast figures.
  - Jose Hidalgo (JH) discusses the difficulties LOCs face in attracting sponsors to which PS responds that ETU also face the same issues and can sympathise with the LOCs and must work together to identify available rights for all parties.
- George Yerolimpos (GY), (GRC) cites the importance of reconsidering the budget and expenses as he describes that ETU could face a substantial debt crisis and warns that if ETU are unable to increase income the only way to balance is to cut expenses suggesting the ETU office should be closed and work done on a voluntary basis with more effort put into working in cooperation with ITU.
- David Vaz (DV), (POR) suggests that sponsorship for events is a priority as some events attract very small fields of athletes impacting on the overall income for all organisations and proposes that the strategy for the future should be reviewed. PS describes the 2011 Limerick Duathlon Championships as a great event which received the support of the City and Shannon Development, which was affected by both the early date and the small number of competitors in the field. PS goes on to comment that ETU media communication is an issue, however, it is apparent by the budget that ETU cannot offer more than 5 hours per week to the media officer which therefore affects ETU's promotional capacity as a result.

## Part II: Afternoon Session

Gergely Markus (GM), ITU Sport Director, offered words of support and encouragement for ETU going through a difficult financial period. GM discussed that there are now new sustainable to use technology to hold meetings which ETU should explore to decrease costs and that the logistics of branding should always be done using the most cost-effective method. Although sceptical on the promises of the marketing agency, GM also commented that RB should have greater control in monitoring the expenses and incomes, finally commenting that if ETU can take a more proactive sustainable approach then it should have a bright future.

PS agrees that the method of holding meetings will be reviewed and that the President's Conference held in January will also be dependent on costs. Rising travel costs are attributed to using Nirvana Europe opposed to booking individual flights directly online and PS comments that this will also be reviewed along with the per diem rate for Technical Delegates.

Dr. Sarah Springman (SS), (GBR), also suggests that regarding sponsorship that it is not expected income but rather hoped for income so the decision of what ETU would do if it did not come in is as important to this Congress as what ETU would do if it does. SS raises the second point of the way in which sponsorship is spent, remarking from experience that the activation and delivery on sponsor expectations can be significant just in terms of branding and promotion and ETU is proposing a low budget figure in 2012 for these items. Finally, SS asks if ETU understands the costs and how they will proceed in ensuring control of the budget. PS reacts by commenting that many measures with increased costs were implemented by Jem Lawson (JL), Secretary General, who is unable to make further comment due to the current situation and confirms that ETU have now appointed professionals to analyse and advise on the budget situation. PS asks if the budget can be voted on and approved.

There were questions, comments and observations.

- An unknown Congress representative voices concerns with approving the budget when there is the possibility that the bottom line may change due to the budget not being fully formed.
  - PS states that ETU have made proposals to Congress on how the organisation will proceed and asks that if there is no majority for the budget, then they are willing to accept proposals from the floor. PS asks for the red card to be raised by those who oppose the budget, only 8 red cards are raised and the budget is therefore recorded as approved with 15 in favour, 8 opposing and 5 abstentions with 28 National Federations present.

### **h. Executive Board Report**

The report was given by Eugene Kraus (EK), (LUX). The report had been circulated previously as an addendum to the Congress papers. EK is happy to report that the Executive Board works extremely well as a team and discussions are well-balanced in all collaborative meetings with common solutions being agreed on when issues are presented. The main

goal is to strengthen the contact and information exchange with ETU's member Federations and this is hoped to be achieved with new strategies such as the annual Presidents meeting in January.

EK is content to report that ETU is continuing to promote the communications between the Executive Board and the major stake holders, having improved the ETU website and the ETU monthly newsletters by the office in Sunderland. With the support of the ITU and with the nominated ITU sports development co-ordinator for Europe, Zeljko Bijuk (ZB), EK remarks that ETU has made significant progress in terms of technical training and development areas. Finally, EK summarises ETU's main goals for the future are to develop para-triathlon and winter triathlon, to develop sprint distance and team relay triathlon, to improve the European race calendar, to improve the media and TV interest to attract more sponsorship for ETU.

### **i. Reports of the Standing Committees**

#### **i. Development Committee**

This report had been circulated with the Congress papers and was taken as read. Bernard Saint-Jean (BSJ) summarised the work of the Development Committee over the last twelve months – ETU has appointed a Sports Development Co-ordinator, Zeljko Bijuk (ZB) and is happy to report an agreement has been signed between ETU and ITU which provides ETU with \$100,000 in this year 2011, commenting that the programme of planned use of the funds can be found on pages 2 and 3 of the Development Committee report.

There were no comments or questions.

#### **ii. Medical & Research Committee**

This report had been circulated with the Congress papers and was taken as read. Veronica Vleck (VV) drew attention to the holding of the first ITU World Congress on Science in Triathlon in Alicante and highlights the work of Dr Migliorini, Chair of the ITU Medical Committee, Roberto Siquela – Alicante University and the support of the ITU President Marisol Casado in making the event possible. VV explains the importance of research in preparing successful grant proposals and producing relevant research applicable to the progression of the sport. VV is working together to launch an injury tracking system enabling the collection of data on the clinical effects of Triathlon which can then be used to help improve the health and the safety of athletes and asks for the support and feedback of the federations.

There were no comments or questions.

#### **iii. Technical Committee**

This report had been circulated with the Congress papers and was taken as read. Paul Groves (PG) reports that significant work took place over Christmas to revise, renew, review and recommend changes to the competition rules to the benefit of the athletes, to the technical officials, to the spectators, to the sponsors and by and large to the sport. PG goes on to describe the work which has taken place with the ITU Sport Development team in the

allocation of technical officials to identify suitable candidates for specific locations, use more local technical officials and to attempt to reduce costs. A pre-race system of TD's communicating with LOCs has also been established to ensure smooth communications and identify what is taking place in the lead up to the events. PG also reports that the input from the Development and Committee enabled progress to be made in the provision of a facilitator's course giving continuity between ITU and ETU. The issue of athletes from federations such as Russia and the Ukraine are experiencing difficulty in obtaining travel visas is commented on, however, there is also note made that they can now visit Israel and Turkey without one has enabled greater participation for the athletes. Finally, PG states that the Technical Committee are able to keep expenses low as most work is done by Skype conference and email.

- Comment is made by Enrique Quesada (EQ), Chairman of the ITU Technical Committee that the rule review/changes PG described in his report were achieved by people working together collaboratively and invites rule change proposals from the national federations to improve the overall rules system and documents.

### **Part III: Afternoon Session**

#### **k. Proposals of resolution to Congress**

PS confirmed there was only one resolution from France and invited EB member Denis Jaeger (DJ) to read the resolution.

DJ outlined that the ETU congress 2003 at Carlsbad voted resolution no.4 proposed by the Executive Board to declare persona non grata the following people:

'Didier Lehenaff, President; Erika König-Zenz, Secretary General; Robert Maasdijk, Treasurer; Henning Mueller, Vice President, considering the time past, that the values of friendship and tolerance are essential in the sport and that a condemnation for life is not compatible with these values, be it resolved that resolution no.4 of the Carlsbad Congress in 2003 is cancelled and that these 4 persons are not considered as "Persona non grata" '.

DJ continued to speak in support of the resolution.

Sarah Springman (SS) (GBR) recognised an entente cordiale between France and Great Britain and confirmed Great Britain would like to very strongly support the motion.

SS confirmed she would absolutely 100% support this resolution and hoped that the voting will be unanimous.

#### **Second: Great Britain**

ITU President Marisol Casado (MC) knew that legally she was unable to second this resolution but she asked the ETU President to allow that this be put in the minutes that she also seconded the resolution.

**Resolution passed unanimously.**

## **I. Elections**

### **Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee consists of 3 members who are elected annually.

Only 2 nominations had been received on time, Stefano Mondello (ITA) and Maria Teresa Alvaraz Rodriguez (POR).

**Stefano Mondello (ITA) and Maria Teresa Alvaraz Rodriguez (POR) were elected unopposed.**

The Executive Board will co-opt a third member of the committee at the next EB meeting in October.

### **Treasurer**

Two nominations had been received for the position of Treasurer, Renato Bertrandi (ITA) the current co opted treasurer and Antoon (Ton) Beumer (NED).

A secret ballot took place involving all National Federations attending Congress.

Of 28 National Federations represented in the afternoon Congress session:

Renato Bertrandi polled 22 votes; Antoon (Ton) Beumer polled six votes.

**Renato Bertrandi was duly elected Treasurer.**

RB addressed the Congress. He thanked everybody that voted for him, he stated how honoured he was to be in this position. He pointed out that budget outlined in the Congress morning session showed difficult data, but he assured everyone that ETU will be working hard on those numbers and are positive about the final result.

## **m. ETU Survey of National Federations**

EB member Kathleen Smet (KS) presented the analysis of a survey undertaken a year ago.

KS outlined the survey that was given to every National Federation in Europe. Figures were previously presented at Conference in Brussels, January 2011, following that analysis was done on the data received and KS presented the findings to Congress. PS outlined that future surveys would probably take place again following an Olympic year.

## **n. Dates and Venues of the European Championships 2012-2013**

PS confirmed the 2012 European Championships had already been awarded to Eilat, taking place in April 2012.

He also confirmed that at the Executive Board meeting that had taken place the day previously to Congress, the European Cross Triathlon European Championships had been awarded to the Netherlands taking place on 14 July.

At present no formal bids, but an interest has been shown by Italy for the Winter Triathlon European Championships.

PS pointed out there had been currently no bids for: LD Triathlon Championship and the U23 and Youth Championship;

Aquathlon, an interest had been shown by Cologne, but he confirmed discussions need to take place with the German Federation to confirm their position.

PS pointed out that whilst the proposed 2012 calendar currently appeared quiet, the period for bid submissions was still open and would welcome bids, especially for the European Cup, Premium and other cup races to be in as soon as possible so a decision could be made at the next EB meeting in October.

PS confirmed that a couple of events for 2013 had already been confirmed - the 2013 European Championships in Alanya, Turkey and the Cross Triathlon Championships awarded to Austria.

Matt McKerrow (MM) (IRE) had questions for PS, firstly had there been any bids for the 2012 European Duathlon Championships; and secondly is there a confirmed date for the 2013 European Championships in Alanya? If not, when will a decision be likely to be made?

PS confirmed there had been no official bid for the Duathlon, Powerman was put forward as a potential candidate but as a long distance race that ETU do not usually do, it is still in discussion.

PS outlined the proposed dates from Alanya were the beginning of May so again that is still to be finalised. He confirmed the bid team are flexible and a number of dates are in discussion, aim is to be either first week in June, end of June or September.

MM pointed out the variations between either June or September that could impact on Federations, so wondered when a definite date is likely to be confirmed.

PS confirmed further discussion needs to take place with Turkey, taking into account other cultural activities taking place in the area, as well as the weather during the summer months and the rest of the 2013 calendar.

Turkish Triathlon Federation presented their bid for the 2013 European Triathlon Championships to Congress and confirmed they will respond with a definite date for when the Championships will take place as soon as possible.

Michael Ziv (ISR) gave a presentation to Congress of the 2012 European Triathlon Championships to be held in Eilat, detailing travel, accommodation as well as course details. He extended an invitation to all the Federations to come to the European Cup event October 2011, in order to experience the course and hospitality before 2012.

Henk van Lint (NED) gave a presentation with reference to the Cross Triathlon European Championships, taking place at The Hague on 14 July 2012 and looked forward to welcoming everybody there.

#### **o. Date and Venue of the 2012 ETU Annual Congress**

PS confirmed the 2012 Congress will take place on 20 April in Eilat, Israel.

He also made note of a President's conference in January in Vienna, the date is yet to be confirmed. He pointed out the Austrian Federation is celebrating its 25 years and as a result extended an invitation to go to Vienna, so the date will be confirmed as soon as possible.

#### **p. Any Other Business**

ITU President, Marisol Casado (MC) and Antonio Fernandez (AF), ITU Director of Administration, Finance and Legal presented the main changes of the ITU constitution so Federations were aware of what's proposing to happen and will have the opportunity to send feedback to ITU.

Main points outlined:

- Reduce the number of the Executive Board , in order to have a better management in the organisation and to be sustainable.
- Change in the voting process.

Any comments regarding the revised ITU Constitution were requested by the 30 June, any comments and final text was due to be sent to members on the 15 July.

The revised Constitution will be voted for during the ITU Congress held on 8 September in Beijing and it will be applied by the following years Congress, during which time elections for the Executive Board and all the positions in ITU will take place.

PS thanked MC and AF for the information presented to Federations, giving them further insight into the ITU constitution.

With no other business, the President closed the 2011 ETU Annual Congress, thanking all Federations for their proactive input into the Congress, reiterating the importance of having an open floor for discussion. He wished everybody a good day and a successful competition weekend.