

MINUTES OF MEETING WKF CONGRESS HELD AT BREMEN, GERMANY NOVEMBER 4th 2014

1. Roll Call

- 1.1 The roll call showed 112 countries present, of which 107 had voting rights. In addition to the national representatives the 8 members of the WKF Executive Bureau and the WKF President was present with voting rights. In total, taking into account the 107 members of the WKF with voting rights, the 8 Executive Bureau members and the WKF President, there were 116 possible votes.
- The WKF President, Mr. Antonio Espinos, also requested the Congress' permission for the presence of the WKF legal counsel, Mr. Jorge Ibarrola, which was accepted with only one objection.
- 1.3 At the end of the roll call, the WKF EC Member, Mr. George Yerolimpos, filed two written protests, claiming that the Karate Federations of Curacao and of Bosnia-Herzegovina could not be considered as WKF members because allegedly, they are not recognised as countries by the International Community. However such protest did not submit any evidence about the fact that those two federations would no longer be WKF members, respectively that they would have been disaffiliated from the WKF. As a matter of fact, the Karate Federations of Curacao and of Bosnia-Herzegovina are duly affiliated with the WKF and enjoy all rights accordingly.
- Besides, the WKF EC Member, Mr. George Yerolimpos filed an appeal to the WKF Disciplinary and Legal Commission against the decision of the WKF General Secretary, Mr. Tony Mendez, validating the candidature of Mr. William Millerson, from the Karate Federation of Curação, to the WKF Executive Committee. Such appeal was referred to the WKF Disciplinary and Legal Commission for resolution.

2. Opening of the Congress

- The WKF President, Mr. Antonio Espinos, pronounced a moment of silence in honouring the memory of President of the Portugal Karate Federation, Mr. Joao Salgado, who passed away since the last WKF Congress.
- The WKF President, Mr. Antonio Espinos, formally declared the Congress open at the scheduled time (16:00) wishing the participants welcome and extending his appreciation





of gratitude to the German Federation for their great efforts in again taking on a major WKF event.

- The President then introduced the President of the German Karate Federation, Mr. Wolfgang Weigert, who introduced the key members of the local organizing committee and welcomed all to the championships and the city of Bremen. Mr. Weigert could proudly announce that these world championships would be the first ones with separate categories for athletes with disabilities.
- The address of Mr. Weigert was followed by a video recorded message of the IOC President, Mr. Thomas Bach, expressing his compliments of the progress and achievements of the WKF under the auspice of President Espinos.
- The WKF President, Mr. Antonio Espinos, proposed the 4th Vice President, Mr. Gunnar Nordahl, as secretary of the congress which was adopted without objection.

3. Adoption of the agenda

3.1 The WKF EC Member, Mr. George Yerolimpos, voiced his objection to the sequence of the agenda expressing his desire to move the elections after the reports were given to the Congress. A short debate followed on this issue, whereafter the issue was put to vote, and the originally proposed agenda was adopted at a vast majority with only three votes in favour of changing the agenda. Mr. Yerolimpos had requested vote by secret ballot but only 3 delegates, less than the half, had supported such proposal.

4. Adoption of minutes of the 2012 Congress

4.1 The minutes having been prior distributed without comments forthcoming, the minutes were unanimously adopted.

5. Election of the sixteen members of the WKF Executive Committee

- 5.1 The WKF President, Mr. Antonio Espinos, introduced all the candidates to the WKF Executive committee.
- Thereafter, 107 voting ballots were distributed to the 107 WKF members entitled to vote and 9 voting ballots were distributed to the WKF Executive Bureau members and to the WKF President. Each voting ballot mentioned all the candidates to the Executive Committee. 116 ballots were deposited the in ballot box. The scrutineers nominated by the WKF Executive Committee, proceeded with the counting of the votes and





communicated the breakdown of the votes to the WKF Secretary General, who proclaimed such results to the assembly.

5.3 The following members were elected:

Al Gannas, Ibrahim (KSA)
Al Razooqi, Nasser (UAE)
Chang, Kuang-Huei (TPE)
Nagura, Toshihisa (JPN)
Didier, Francis, (FRA)
Dinsdale, Mike (GBR)
Lindqvist, Yrsa (FIN)
Nordahl, Gunnar, (NOR)

Weigert, Wolfgang (GER)
Garcia Maañon, Jose (ARG)
Mendez, Tony (PUR)
Millerson, William (CUR)
Cherif, Bechir (TUN)
Gaye, Souleymane (SEN)
Okombi, Dieudonne (CGO)
Lenoa, Makarita (FIJ)

6. Ratification of amendments to the WKF Statutes approved by the EC

- The amendments of the WKF Statutes put forward by the WKF EC were debated by the congress. One delegate requested the vote by secret ballot on this issue. The assembly was asked whether they supported such proposal and there were only 3 votes in support. Accordingly, pursuant to art. 12.18 of the WKF Statues, the request failed and was disregarded.
- 6.2 Thereafter, the Congress voted on the proposed amendments of the WKF Statutes and adopted them by a vast majority with only 5 votes against the proposal.

7. President's report

7.1 The WKF President, Mr. Antonio Espinos, gave his report especially outlining the great progress achieved in the communication and marketing efforts of WKF online.

8. General Secretary's report

- 8.1 The WKF General Secretary, Mr. Tony Mendez, gave his report, expressing his gratitude for all support experienced during the last year's tenure in this position.
- 8.2 He further explained the new work arrangement within the WKF administration where the General Manger in the Madrid office now handles the administrative issues.





9. Report of the Chairman of the Sports Commission

9.1 Mr. Roland Lowinger, Chairman of the Sports Commission, gave his report which showed spectacular results in the development of WKF Referees and progress in methodology in selection of officials by computer assisted random selection. The current examination had 307 participants of which 203 were examined for kumite while 104 were examined for kata.

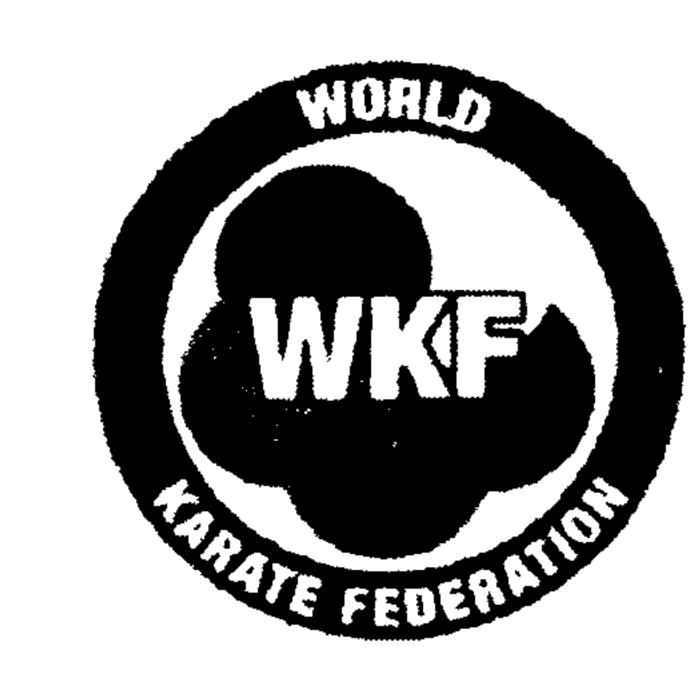
10. Treasurer's and Auditors' reports

- The WKF Treasurer, Mr. Mike Dinsdale, presented the 2012 and 2013 accounts and budgets for 2015 and 2016, as well as the signed Independent Auditors reports for these 2 years.
- 10.2 The 2012 and 2013 accounts and budgets for 2015 and 2016 were adopted with one vote opposed.

11. Membership issues

- The WKF President, Mr. Antonio Espinos, gave an introduction explaining that, for the past years, several persons were claiming to represent the Indian national karate association. The association headed by Mr Thiagarajan was the only one recognised by WKF and Indian sporting authorities, under the name of All India Karate Do Association (AIKF). In July 2013, WKF received a letter from AIKF informing it that the members of AIKF had decided to adopt a new name and form in order to stabilise the situation in India and to change the Indian federation from AIKF to Karate Association of India (KAI). Later, KAI was recognised by WKF and, subsequently, Indian Sporting Authorities.
- The Congress is invited to decide on the issue of the national governing body for karate in India. WKF wrote to all organizations and individuals claiming to represent karate in India in order to invite them to the WKF Congress to present their case, but only our current member, Karate Association of India (KAI) had made use of the opportunity.
- The President gave the floor to Mr. Karate Thiagarajan, President of the KAI, and after the end of Mr. Thiagarajan's intervention, he submitted to the vote of the Congress the following question:
 - Do you agree to confirm the affiliation of Karate Association of India "KAI" as full member of WKF and accept the disaffiliation of All India Karate-Do Federation "AIKF"?





The WKF membership of the Karate Association of India was unanimously adopted by the Congress.

12. Future World Championships

- 12.1 The Congress was given presentations of the 2015 WKF Junior and Cadet Championships to take place in Jakarta, Indonesia and the 2016 WKF Senior Championships to take place in Linz, Austria.
- The congress was presented with the EC proposal for the 2017 WKF Junior and Cadet Championships to take place in Cairo. The proposal was unanimously adopted.
- 12.3 The congress was presented with the EC proposal for the 2018 WKF Senior Championships to take place in Lima, Peru. The proposal was unanimously adopted.
- 12.4 Hungary expressed their intent to apply for the 2020 WKF Senior Championships.

13. Any other competent business

- 13.1 The President of the Serbian Karate Federation, Mr. Slavoljub Piper, took the floor to express his opinion of the importance for the WKF to clearly express the unity of the organization, while strongly opposing those who worked with the intention of splitting the unity for personal gain. In view of the later periods disloyal actions by the former WKF General Secretary, Mr. George Yerolimpos, Mr. Piper requested the Congress to declare Mr. George Yerolimpos persona non grata in the WKF.
- 13.2 With exception of one vote, the Congress unanimously declared Mr. Yerolimpos *persona* non grata of the WKF.

14. Next congress

14.1 The next WKF Congress will take place during the 2016 WKF Senior Championships in Linz.

Closing

The President concluded and closed the Congress at 22h30.

Antonio Espinós WKF President