

## WDSF DELEGATES REPORT

14 and 15 June 2014 at Romania Parliament Building, Bucharest, Romania

### **Friday 13 June 2014 - 2pm**

#### **EUROPEAN COMMISSION OPEN FORUM**

We attended this meeting as it became apparent at other informal meetings that the remit for Continental Associations was going to be one of the most controversial remits of the weekend and the remit had been strongly supported by the European Commission.

The meeting was attended by approximately 57 people which was indicative of the concern of many countries.

There have been a number of European countries who felt so strongly about the need for a European federation that an independent Union (European DanceSport Union – EDSU) was formed by some WDSF Russian and Eastern European countries early this year without the knowledge and outside of the WDSF. As a result the CA remit was seen to be very necessary to create a formal framework for CAs. It is not mandatory and must contain the majority of the countries in the continent.

There did not appear to have been a lot of support prior to the meeting for CAs but it became apparent that if CAs were not provided for the EDSU could divide Europe to the detriment of dancing.

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### **Friday 13 June 2014 - 5.30pm**

#### **GENERAL MEETING**

We were invited to a meeting with Sports Director, Marco Sietas along with other countries who are part of the development initiative which was brought in last year to assist with financial costs of running WDSF events. At this meeting each country gave a report on its current situation and prospects for the next two years.

We presented a brief report on the current situation in New Zealand and the proposed DanceSport Games incorporating the other styles of salsa and hip hop to try to build numbers. This is already occurring to some degree in USA and Canada.

Australia spoke about the growth in its membership from the new Recreational division which is working really well. Its focus is on increasing numbers. SD questioned the Aus delegates about the issue of WDSF member body licences for DSA events. He made it very clear that any event held under DSA rules is deemed to be held under the WDSF umbrella and all athletes must hold a licence from their WDSF national member body. This was disputed by the Aus delegates who considered this only applied for WDSF International events but it was again reiterated by SD the correct position.

USA and Canada also referred to ongoing issues in their respective countries regarding the ability for their athletes to compete in both WDC and WDSF events. Both countries were very concerned about the Presidium remit B2.2.3 which requires athletes who wish to compete in specific WDSF events to only compete in the WDSF system for the previous 12 months.

In USA and Canada this would preclude many of their athletes as due to the smaller number of WDSF events they hold most athletes compete in both systems. However they did say that they have been able to hold more WDSF International events due to the development initiative and their memberships are slowly increasing.

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### ***Saturday 14 June 2014 - 9am***

#### **WDSF PD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

This meeting was attended by a large number of members.

Presidium motions were passed unanimously subject to a couple of remits which had to be confirmed at the WDSF AGM.

All member countries should now have their professional members as part of their PDd as the transition phase of the last 4 years is now complete.

The new initiative is to work towards the inclusion of coaches and teachers under the PD and will include scrutineers. This has been requested by a number of countries and has been well received, There will be more information on this as the process is undertaken.

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### ***Saturday 14 June - 1.30pm***

#### **WDSF OPEN FORUM**

- A very interesting presentation on Vision 2020 was given by the IOC representative Jean Laurent Bourquin 'Road Map for the Future'. Best practice among IOC bodies, to ensure that corruption and 'match fixing' are not present in IOC sports. It is a goal to see more women in positions amongst the WDSF bodies and more women adjudicators. Dancesport could be included as demonstration sport in the future. WDSF is the only body with IOC recognition but it must be the peak body for each country. WDC does not comply with Olympic principles.
  - Report and video presentation from the IPC wheelchair dancesport was well received.
  - The WRRRC also gave a video presentation which was stimulating with foottapping music from the rock and roll era.
  - UDO (formerly baton twirling) presented a brief report
  - A fantastic 1 hour video was shown on the Kaoshuing games covering all styles of dance with interviews with athletes giving their impressions. Everyone could not speak highly enough of how amazing the Games were. They have been an incredible success for the WDSF. A short version will be available soon but the full video is to be released internationally to as many countries' media as possible.
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**Sunday 15 June 2014**

**WDSF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**10am was the call to order**

Reports from the President, Officers and divisions had been circulated prior to the meeting and were taken as read. All were passed unanimously apart from the President's which draw 2 abstentions.

The Presidium motions were then presented,

**Motion #1** amending the competition rules was presented as one motion which caused some concern as there were various sections which were considered controversial by some countries. The Sports Director considered it would take too long to go through each change separately. There were questions from delegates regarding sections of the remit which created some controversy in particular relating to B2.2.3 and D2.5. There had been considerable lobbying and discussion between countries prior to the AGM about these two sections and the implications for certain member countries.

B2.2.3 restricted athletes to only competing in WDSF events for 12 months prior to specified WDSF World and other events. This was not acceptable to some countries as in order for their athletes to have enough competition they were attending WSC events on a regular basis as well as WDSF run competitions. These athletes are of course registered with both bodies and it was felt that if this restriction was imposed those athletes would go over to 'the other side' solely. There was some heated debate from the floor around this matter.

At a number of private meetings held prior to the AGM there had been some suggested changes to the remit that might overcome the problem and be acceptable to all countries concerned. The final change (*suggested by our NZ delegates*) which was accepted by the concerned countries and was also acceptable to the SD was presented to the meeting. This added the words "at the discretion of the member body athletes may" which puts the responsibility back to the member body.

D2.2.5 generated similar heated debate as the remit restricts athletes from representing their country in WDSF World Championships and Cups for a specific period of time if they have previously represented a country in any other system outside the WDSF. Discussion was centred about the stand down period.

Both of these remits were supported by the Athletes Commission because many of them are funded by their respective governments and/or bodies. They consider it unfair to then compete against athletes who may have earned substantial prize money outside the WDSF system who are then selected as national representatives to compete against them.

There were also questions about the split of WDSF Adjudicators to A & B and about adjudicators returning to competition, some dress regulations etc.

SD moved that the sections of the remit that had been changed be passed individually and the rest of the changes be passed en bloc. This was accepted by the meeting and all changes were passed accordingly. Changes to the rules will be posted on the website immediately after the meeting and take effect from 1 July.

**Motion #2** was to amend the financial regulations to re classify some competition fees and included a change to the Athlete ID card fee which will now be in Euro E10 for 4 years with E7 to the WDSF and E3

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retained by the member body. NB we will need to put a fee in place in future to cover this increased cost. We can no longer afford to cover the cost.

**Motion #3** was for the formation of continental associations.

Following the European commission and other unofficial meetings the consensus was agreement to the remit. This is an agreement to form CAs in principle and is not mandatory for members. There is to be a meeting in August by the European commission to start working on the structure etc for the first CA, Europe.

The first country motion was from Romania – the remit we were asked to submit and discussed at our February meeting.

It was considered to be a restriction on which bodies countries were able to belong to. A number of European countries said that this would contravene their national laws and they would not be able to support the motion. They belong to various independent organisations within their country and this motion would make those memberships impossible.

After further discussion Romania withdrew the motion.

The remaining country motions were also withdrawn as they were relating to the formation of CAs which had already been dealt with.

Our contribution to the meeting was greatly appreciated by both the Presidium and the members and it was enlightening to see just how many countries are having or have had similar problems. Many delegates were very surprised to hear just how long our journey to the meeting is and that our expenses are covered personally.

We have formed good relationships with many delegates particularly from the Americas and Nordic countries and have been welcomed back for the next meeting.

**Jenny Lamb and Sandra Maxfield**  
**WDSF Delegates 2014**