



WACS European Presidents Conference

Split, Croatia
20 March 2009

Minutes taken by Ragnar Fridriksson, WACS Office Manager

Europe North

England - Finland - Iceland - Norway - Scotland - Sweden - Wales - Ireland

Europe Central

Austria - Czech Republic - Germany - Hungary - Luxembourg - Slovakia - South Tirol

Europe South

Cyprus - Italy - Montenegro - Portugal - Romania - Slovenia
Bosnia and Herzegovina - Macedonia

Countries not participating

Excused :

Malta - Turkey - France - Bulgaria - Russia - Estonia - Netherland - Switzerland
Chefs Club of Carinthian

Not Excused :

Greece - Denmark - Lithuania - Latvia - Spain - Belarus - Moldova
Uzbekistan - Serbia - Poland

European Presidents Conference in Split
Minutes 20 March 2009

9:00 Congress start

1. Welcome by President of the Croatian Chefs Association Damir Crleni and Chairman of the Conference Srečko Koklič Continental Director Central Europe

2. Welcome by president of WACS Gissur Gudmundsson

3. Chairman Information about the meeting procedure, Presentation of Delegates and Apologies for Absence

4. Approval of the Minutes last meeting in Prague.

- The minutes of previous meeting in Prague were approved unanimously by all present presidents.

5. Report from WACS President

- a. Information of WACS office in Paris
- b. Train the Trainer
- c. WACS Partners
- d. Juniors in WACS
- e. Congress 2010
- f. Continental Directors up for election 2010
- g. International Chefs Day 2009

-WACS explains what has been done and where we are going. (attached powerpoint presentation)

- The president stresses the importance of going through with the certification program and that it will be done professionally. Therefore an external person will be paid to carry this through.

- The president praises the culinary committee and announces the new rules for WACS approved shows. Robert Oppeneder, Chairman of the culinary committee will speak about this later. New judge list will be announced on internet soon. The approval of judges will be based on qualifications and not country politics. The «bio-data» of each judge will be accessible from WACS website. It is the responsibility of judges to keep this data updated.

- The office in Paris is open and will be located at the Icelandic embassy for 4 years free of charge. The address will be sent out soon. This is a good step forward but a long term solution must be found possibly by seeking to work closer with the French Chefs Association for office space. Ragnar Fridriksson, who has been living in France for the last 10 years, will be appointed as Office Manager on part time bases as from april 2. The

objective is to have the office self funded within 18 months and if we are smart, we could have 2-3 full time employees.

- *The president announces that WACS brochures are now available in English and French and can be downloaded from the website. A new website will put be online in June.*
- *The president reminds that the International Chefs day is 20 Oct 2009. He stresses the importance to have focus on an issue on that day. This year the focus will be on food safety and food waste.*
- *The president informed of a new sponsorship deal with Dick Knives.*
- *Congress 2010 in Chile will happen despite roomers. We will think about social things. We will have big T.V. names present to help us get media attention. Also important to get your ideas and views on humanitarian issues and actions WACS can take. Opinions can be put online on the new website.*
- *Reminder off important dates:*
 - *Chile Congress agenda will be out on 1 nov.*
 - *All continental directors are up for election. Application must be in for 20 Sep 2009*
 - *Final By-laws will be presented on 1 Nov. 2009*
 - *Congress applications for 2014 should be in by 20 sept. Delivered to WACS + your Continental director.*
- *WACS president made a statement concerning bad relationship within the german associations at IKA and stressed that WACS has no issues with anyone. Those were personal conflicts within the different organisations.*

10. New By-Laws Changes

- *Scottish and Irish presidents informed they had not received By-laws proposal.*
- *The president explained point by point the board's proposals for changes in By-laws. (see attachement)*

Discussion: By-laws 2.3.8.

Membership can only be granted with support of the respective national member society.

EXPLANATION from the Board : Recommend removal of this provision, as some global companies may not always support the national member society.

England : President explained that having more than one association from the same country using same logo was causing confusion among sponsors. Approval should be given by the country association first. And their should be a different logo for them.

Gissur Gudmundsson : Explained that WACS would like to be able to take in companies, schools... without them being approved by the association. He insist it is not only about money, it is about bringing in other chefs or companies around the world.

Italy : President summed up the points of divergence admitted that sometimes there are regional conflicts to who is the member. a. Some regional independence must be given

but always under the same flag, in order not to cause confusion. b. There is a problem with the number of votes for each country having many associations from the same country. c. Official members should be Chefs associations, friends, politicians or professionals. This Brings bad image to WACS.

Applause in the room.

CD Europe Central : Points out that it is already stated in the By-laws that association presidents must be chefs, not businessmen, and that they do not have voting rights.

Portugal : President admits both are right. WACS needs to go global and represent all the chefs. But extraordinary members using WACS logo is problematic. Also, It is better if they are first approved by the country association so they can filter the bad sheep.

Open discussion...

MOTION	PROPOSED BY	SECONDED BY
Propose not to take out article 2.3.8.	Ireland	England
Motion carried out with majority		
Comments from Ireland : The problem is not with companies but other associations Comments from CD North Europe : The word extraordinary member is misleading and should be changes to affiliated.		

Discussion : *By-law 3.3.2. Two Nations should be able to bid for the a joint Presidium.*

Question from Wales : why only two nations?

Question from England : Dos this mean that presidium can be shared?

Both points were noted by the board

Discussion :

Comment from Cyprus : Avoid vague statements, such as : etc. , ...on going bases.

Other proposed changes to By-laws were not critisized.

6. Reports of the Continental Directors:

a. Brendan O" Neill WACS Continental Director Europe North (attachement)

- *Brendan O'Neill urged the importance for associations to update contact details*
- *He informed that from now on, all web site changes must go through Ragnar at WACS Head Office.*
- *Important to give feedback to CD of what you want from him.*

b. Reinhold Metz WACS Continental Director Europe Central (attachement)

- *Announced he will not run again for CD in 2010*
- *Will propose a new split of areas for European Countries(north, central, south)*
- *Urged members to inform CD about all competitions in his area. CD can give tips, help and follow up.*

c. Srecko Koklic WACS Continental Director Europe Southern (attachement)

7. Reports from Robert Oppeneder, Chairmen of Culinary Competition Committee

a. Official observer report WACS an IKA Erfurt 2008

- *Robert Oppeneder added comments to answer to Gissur Gudmundsson concerning conflict in Germany. He explained these were personal issues between himself and Mr. Wohlfeil. Wohlfeil will step down in coming elections so the conflict ends their.*
- *He added there were several non acceptable issues at IKA that caused the conflict. Those were : a. No WACS logo at IKA, b. WACS president was snubbed, c. judges were not announced. He apologized to the board and said this would not happen again.*

b. WACS endorsement

c. WACS Approved Judges List

d. Judging seminars

- R.O. explained that overall it was necessary to have standard rules between countries concerning competitions and judges. Those will be available on website for download.

Discussions :

- *Suggestion that the 80/20 rule must be clarified.*
- *Also if it was fair to take judges of the list after 3 years if they are not being invited to competitions.*
- *R.O. insisted that something must be done even if their was this risk.*

8. WACS Global Chefs Challenge:

a. Report of GCC Nord Europe 08.-11. February 2009 Brendan O" Neill WACS Continental Director Europe North

Discussion :

- *Need to clear out whether GCC is a group or individual competition*
- *The competition takes a long time making it difficult to maintain interest for public and media.*
- *Need to make a booklet about the GCC : Listing of what should be in the kitchen.*
- *Important that everyone reads the rules. They are available on website.*

Action: *Reply to complaints from Estonia. - R.O.*

b. Presentation of Program GCC Lisbon, April 19. – 22 2009 Fausto Airoidi, president of Chef Association of Portugal

- *It is necessary to prolong the competition to 3 days instead of 2*
- *This will have no extra cost for competitors*

Discussion

- Romania made complaints about late information of change in dates.
- Other complaints were made that the date was set close to regional religious holidays.
- Fausto Airoidi explained that the competition was linked up to other major events happening in Lisbon at that time and they were not the lone masters of the schedule.

c. Presentation of Program GCC Central Europe

9. Presentation of Program 4 th One World Culinary Competition,

May 21. – 23.2009 Together with 1 st regional competition Balkan Culinary Cup - Beograd Serbia.

- Serbia is not present today.

Action : Srecko Koklic CD Europe South will contact them to find out more.

11. Examination the European Country members of WACS (proposal for the new arrange of area)

- Reinhold Metz CD Europe Central explains the benefit to have same amount of countries in each sector and same amount of participators at the GCC competitions.

Discussion

- Different proposals for country split were made, such as: Moving UK countries to Central Europe, Romania to Central Europe, France to South Europe.
- Proposal from Brian Cotterhill, President of English Chef Association : Any country can apply to the board to be transfered to another region of Europe if they wish.
- No motions or actions were taken.
- The audience has given it back to the board to make a decision.

12. Extraordinary member s of WACS

13. WACS World Congress to Norway 2014 Hakon Reigstad, president the Norwegian Chefs Association

- Hakon Reigstad informs the congress that he is stepping down as president of the Norwegian association. The First woman president in WACS is bidding for next world congress.
- Powerpoint presentation from Sigve Skretting

MOTION	PROPOSED BY	SECONDED BY
Propose to support Norway's bid for 2014 congress	Brendon O'Neill	Reinhold Metz
Motion carried out unanimously		

MOTION	PROPOSED BY	SECONDED BY

14. European strategy for the next congress 2010 Santiago Chile

15. Reports by present Association Presidents (attachements)

17. Next Meeting / Date and Place

- Serbian Chef Association should make presentation for Belgrade, but they are not here.
- Presentation of Insbruck to hold next congress in september 2010

MOTION	PROPOSED BY	SECONDED BY
Next WACS European Congress to be held in Insbruck Sept. 2010		
Motion carried out unanimously		

16. New European Countries

Welcome to Bosnia Hersegovina, Macedonia and Albania

18. New Business / Open Floor

Discussion :

- Srecko Koklic spoke of problems in Slovenia to attract young candidates to become chefs and as a result, difficulties for multinational hotels and professionals to recruit qualified staff. Have other countries similar problems? How to deal with this?
- England reminds the board that national associations must approve new regional association as has been decided by motion.
- Portugal stresses the importance of having a WACS head office and that national association must support this even if the economic conditions are tough for everyone and fund raising is difficult. The office allows WACS to become more efficient and professional.

Question to CD about who is re-running for CD.

- Reinhold Metz has already told he is not re running.
- Srecko Koklic must see if his association will support his candidacy.
- Brendon O'Neill will be re-running for CD.

19. Thanks to Host Country

17:00 End of Conference