



49th FIRAC CONGRESS 2010
----Boussens, France----

Minutes of the working session of the General Meeting held on 18/09/2010

1. Opening

This time the opening started by illuminating the candles on a special way by the secretary. A warm welcome is given to the 10 countries and all participating members.

During a commemoration minute the meeting honours the deceased members;

OK1UDN - Milan Masanec	DL6LAW – Rolf Wichmann
I0WCM - Molinari Costantino	DO3YAF – Adolf Fromm
DF1TB – Arthur Adam	SWL 022 – Peter Krusch
DF9HF – Dr. H. J. Knüter	SWL 055 - Hannelore Schwamm
DH0FAG – Rudolf Steih SWL***	SWL *** - Anton Zahn
DK5PI – Toni Schäfer	

2. Agenda of this working

The agenda is accepted unanimously, except point 21 what can be found back in art 8 :

Article 8 - Official Languages

The official languages of FISAIC – French and German – are also those of FIRAC. English, the international language of radio is also an official language of FIRAC. Correspondence must be made in one of these languages. In the case of any differences in the texts, the Rules and Regulations must be interpreted in a spirit of goodwill. During the Congress, other supplementary languages can be used, bearing in mind the time factor. The organisation of these translation and their costs are to be done by the national group who require them.

3. Minutes of meeting Novy Smokovec, Slovakia, September 2009

The minutes of meeting of the working session are accepted unanimously.

4. Yearly report of the president

. Ladies and Gentlemen,
My dear friends.

I would like to start by thanking our fellow friends, the Czechs, for organizing the previous FIRAC Congress with such incredible care and devotement and for offering us such amazing memories. Italy is officially represented by Adriano Ruzzene IK3RBQ.

Furthermore, I would like to thank our current hosts, the very warm and kind French people, for the efforts they have put into organizing the 49th FIRAC Congress and for the appealing program they have prepared for us all.

The time has past since the previous congress and we happily witness that the FIRAC agenda was a busy one, fact proven by the activity reports sent by the national associations.

These reports brings us reason to believe that FIRAC is a powerful group of European friends, all having a common passion: radio amateurism. Another reason to believe that are the numerous national and international contests in which we can see the passion invested by the railways radio amateurs.

During the last year a lot of changes have happened in the steering committee of FIRAC according to the 48th Congress' resolutions. We have chosen a new board of FIRAC at Movy Smokovec, a new board that has managed to ensure a good functioning of FIRAC.

Also, thanks to the efforts invested by Mr Ludwig Till, FIRAC's homepage has been transferred along with the entire database, becoming FIRAC.fr, FIRAC.de. I would like to kindly thank Mr Ludwig Till for his devotement in the name of all radioamateurs.

During the previous twelve months there have been a number of changes within the Firac organization and I must thank Emile LX1LE for maintaining the FIRAC Homepage and keeping our membership database up to date over the past few years. Hopefully we will find an excellent replacement for this vital work.

Also my thanks go to our treasurer Mario who has taken on this work as is vital for the continuation of FIRAC. The treasurer holds the purse strings and without this position Firac would effectively cease legally.

President of the FIRAC, YO6HAY Gheorghe Zaharie

5. Report of the PR manager by Geoff Sims. G4GNQ

This year I have been able to make progress with the formation of one new group and maybe it can be possible to expand into the Baltic States. Latvia and Lithuania do offer some possibilities and I will be writing to their national societies to promote amateur radio amongst railway employees.

For the time being China has been ruled out for a FIRAC group due to the uncertain political situation. I am hoping to make some progress in Australasia and Canada during 2011.

One of my main concerns relates to the FIRAC homepage. I am fully aware of the time involvement when I update the M/C webpage FIRAC.ORG.UK, but to have received several complaints since the last congress implies to me that nothing is being done.

Last year at Congress I informed members present that I would carry a limited amount of essential FIRAC information on the M/C homepage. I am still doing this because each time I have checked firac.de except for a name change and the addition of the rapid callbook, little has changed to the layout of the page since Emile LX1LE made his final alteration.

I will be making significant alterations to the M/C homepage when I return home as I am changing service provider to reduce the costs. I am hopeful to improve the layout generally and allow forms to be downloaded off the site. Possibly add pictures if space is made available to me.

Incidentally I have never used a WEB page editor and I am not that well versed in HTML code, but I still manage to maintain regular updates.

Just before I left home I checked the statistics on the number of visitors and this has dramatically increased during the year averaging 50 -100 per day.

I can only conclude that this indicates somewhere along the way I am making a reasonable job of my efforts.

That concludes my report.

G. Sims

Glossop

Sept 10.

6. Cash report

588,08 (income) – 699,57 (software, books) – 47,35 (other) = -158,84 €
Mario Vandervelde, ON4KV

7. Cash audit

Unfortunately Milan Mazanec OK1UDN passed away shortly after the congress in Novy Smokovec 2009. Emile Lutgen LX1LE will replace him for this year. Adriano Ruzzene IK3RBQ confirms the treasurer's correct bookkeeping and proposes the discharge of the treasurer. This proposal is unanimously agreed.

8/9. Relieve of the old and election of a new presidium :

There are 11 votes cast, presidents and representatives (10 countries and the MC groupe). Resulting in the next outcome :

President of the FIRAC	YO6HAY	Gheorghe Zaharie	08/11 votes
Vice-president	G4GNQ	Geoff Sims	11/11 votes
Secretary	ON4CIR	Karel Praet	09/11 votes
Treasurer	ON4KV	Mario Vandervelde	11/11 votes
Public relations	G4GNQ	Geoff Sims	11/11 votes

10. Appoint the commissioners, art 7 FIRAC rules :

Geoff Sims G4GNQ will continue with the MC group, P.R. and the function of award manager. Ludwig Till DL5MHQ will continue with the homepage and with the update of the rapid call book assisted by Detlef Rämisch DL8DWL for the homepage. Imrich Koracs OM5GU@gmail.com becomes the new contest manager,.

11. Cash auditors :

Emile Lutgen LX1LE (Milan Mazanec OK1UDN) has to be replaced. Hermann Fleischanderl OE5HFM candidates for 2 years. Together with Adriano Ruzzene IK3RBQ, they will be the cash auditors for the next congress in 2010 Brasov, Romania;

12. Subscription of membership fee :

We have no reason to increase the fee, and will stay on a single Euro per member for the year 2011 which is accepted unanimously;

13. Radio Traffic (by Geoff Sims G4GNQ) :

Radio Report.

There were some minor changes in band conditions over the year but although the sunspot minima was around the end of 2008 the improvement in the H.F band conditions has been less than expected.

Our Sunday morning 09.30 20 Metre net participation is down to two or three regular participants and this is resulting in our preferred frequencies being encroached on due to this inactivity, some members still use 14.335 MHz despite the commercial QRM radiating from central Europe. I had hoped to resume my activity on Tuesday evenings at 18.30 but due to other work commitments this was not possible.

Participation in the F9ZX coupe contest was slightly better than last year but I only worked a few stations.

Regular participation on Wednesday mornings has not been possible due to very poor propagation into G.B. On the overseas Wednesday afternoon net the odd H.F contact was made mainly due to the short skip. I used Echolink to maintain contact with members in the USA.

Improvement in the coming year should become more noticeable and hopefully all the nets should benefit from the increase in the number of sunspots, but more members really do need to participate. Sadly the Internet with all the various chat rooms etc. has reduced the desire for real radio amateur communications.

I can only restate last year's message in that we as railway radio amateurs are unique, combining the fascination of radio communication combined with interest in railways. Sadly since the formation of Firac by the very few dedicated railway radio amateurs, the way amateurs communicate has changed. We need to face the challenges with renewed vigour and determination and restore the fortunes of Firac and amateur radio in general.

That is the end of my report.
Geoff Sims G4GNQ
Sept 2010.

14. : The 50th Firac congres 2011 :

The congress will take place in Braşov Romania from 22 – 26 September. Hotel Capitol, Bd. Eroilor 18. It is located in the central part of the country, about 166 km north from Bucharest. It is surrounded by the Southern Carpathians, and is part of the Transylvania region. The town is famous for being right at foot of the Tâmpa mountain, which is declared a natural reservation. Braşov is the only city in the world that includes in his administrative teritory a natural reservation and a mountain peek: Postăvarul.

15. The 51th Firac congres 2012 :

This congress will be organised by the British Rail Amateur Radio Society (BRARS) No information at present as decisions are be taken on meeting later on 2010. All information will be presented at the next congress in Brasov, Romania. Geoff Sims, G4GNQ President of BRARS.

The Hungarian group invites FIRAC for the congress in 2013 in Budapest.

16. Nomination of an Honory President of FIRAC :

The board received a proposal from the head of the OE-group to give our former president Willy Heyvaert, ON4CKC the status of "Honoury President" accepted unanimously.

17. Organising a congress together wit other FISAIC groups :

As interests not always going together and the difficulty of finding accommodation for more than 100 participants, it is no use to discuss this matter.

18. Ukraine becomes a new FIRAC group :

The FIRAC P.R. manager/vice president received all formalities from Ukraine to accept them as a new group. Unfortualy all detailed information stayed in U.K. It will send to all presidents soon.

19. Hamradio 2010 in Friedrichshafen :

Also this year 2010 we have taken part with a communal state FIRAC/EFA in the HAMRADIO. The rent of about 320€ was taken over from the DL of land group. An international occupation of the exhibition stand was given.

20. Report about the issued FIRAC awards (by G4GNQ) :

Hannu Korpimäki DM1TT HF-CW
Roman Vrba OK1DEU HF

21. FIRAC languages : Article 8 of the Statute FIRAC is still in use.

22. FIRAC-Homepage

No proposals so far.

20. Sundries

Again the board ask the addresses of the national groups and there members and keep de webmaster Ludwig Till DL5MHQ (dl5mhq@t-online.de dl5mhq@t-online.de) and Detlef Rämsch DL8DWL (Detlef.DL8DWL@t-online.de) informed.

Gheorghe YO6HAY thanks all participants, blows out the candles and closes the working session of this 49th congress.

FIRAC President
YO6HAY, Gheorghe Zaharie

Secretary
ON4CIR - Karel Praet