



**INTERNATIONAL  
FEDERATION OF  
PEDESTRIANS**

## **General Assembly, Barcelona 2008**

The IFP meeting was held during the Walk21 Conference in Barcelona

**Thursday, Oct. 9, 2008 5pm to 6:30pm**

in the Room 00 in the MACBA building - adjacent to the CCCB where the conference takes place.  
C/ Montalegre 5, 08001 Barcelona

### **Participation:**

Voting Member, Country (Name of person representing the organisation):

America Walks, USA (Wendy Landman, WalkBoston)

Association for the rights of the pedestrians - Enosi Pezon, Greece (Grigoris Mavrakis)

Catalunya Camina, Spain (Ole Thorson)

Fotgängarnas Förening FOT, Sweden (Sonja Forward)

Fussverkehr Schweiz, Switzerland (Christian Thomas)

Fuss e.V., Germany (Manfred Bernard)

Living Streets Aoteaora, New Zealand (Daphne Bell)

Living Streets, United Kingdom (Tony Armstrong)

Walk21, International (Jim Walker)

walk-space.at, Austria (Dieter Schwab)

Yaya Yasam Derneği, Turkey (Kevser Ustundag)

Other members:

FEPA (Terence Bendixson)

Johanna.be, Belgium (Geert van Waeg)

Daniel Sauter, Switzerland

**Excused:** Bulgaria (Jordan Philipov), Brazil (Eduardo Daros)

### **1. Welcome by the President Ole Thorson**

### **2. Minutes of Assembly in Toronto 2007 and Activities 2007**

The minutes were written by Thomas Schweizer (Switzerland) replacing the Secretary (Christian Thomas, Switzerland). The minutes are accepted.

### **3. Rules for admission as a voting member of IFP**

**Thomas:** There has been a debate if organisations may be admitted as voting members if they receive Government money.

**Bendixson:** We should admit as many organisations as reasonably possible. It is unlikely that we would get unwanted ones. There should be strength by numbers.

**Bell:** This is the case in period of transition.

Decision: Voting members may accept Government funding, but they have to be able to take positions that don't necessarily comply with Government policies.

**Thomas:** We have countries that have several small organisations, others have one umbrella organisation. Who should be able to vote?

**Landman:** Local organisations are often stronger than national ones.

**Thorson:** In the future we may want to introduce membership fees. It could be a problem if we have too many organisations. What is important is that all are active.

Decision: National as well as regional and local organisations may become voting members, even in the same country. The condition is that such groups should include a person interested in international communication.

**Ustundag:** We could ask for an activity report from the members.

**Mavrakis:** Organisations should publish their work on their websites.

**van Waeg:** We should avoid inactive voting member because otherwise a quorum for decisions might not be reached.

*Remark by the Secretary: The quorum according to the by-laws is not a percentage of members but: "The quorum to hold a valid General Assembly with physical presence is five voting members from three continents." Therefore the more voting members, the more likely it is that this conditions would be reached.*

**Thomas** mentions the case of Australia where there is a walking Foundation run by one person. However the problem is solved if we can admit more than one member per country.

**Walker:** It is difficult to judge an organisation by its size. An organisation may be effective, even if it has only one active person.

**Bernard:** Associations should be open to members. Organisations consisting out of 1 person only should try to involve more people.

Decision: Small organisations (also Foundations) may be admitted as voting members, but it would be preferable if other organisations with more members were formed in the same country.

**Thomas:** How should we handle the admission of organisations that have many goals (eg. walking and cycling)?

**Bendixson:** Accept all active organisations.

**Thomas:** Our experience is that mixed organisations usually work 90% for cycling, and 5% for walking.

**Bell:** The main focus should be walking.

**van Waeg:** Mixed purpose organisations should be invited to become associated members.

Decision: Voting members are organisations whose main purpose is the improvement of walking. A new description of the conditions to become a voting member is an appendix to these minutes. Ecuador (small association in Quito) and Italy (Federation of local associations) are accepted as voting members.

#### **4. Project for IFP**

**Thomas** proposes to do project work. A booklet "toolbox for pedestrian safety" should be developed and disseminated.

**Forward:** we would need a literature review.

**Thorson:** There is a working group within the OECD that will produce this as a result.

**Thomas:** There is the Literature review elaborated by TRL Limited (see on our website: [http://www.pedestrians-int.org/content/18/222006\\_p.pdf](http://www.pedestrians-int.org/content/18/222006_p.pdf)), in addition, we could use the recommendations by the UN-ECE WP1. <http://www.pedestrians-int.org/content/18/13un-ece.pdf>

**Sauter:** These recommendations should be translated into every-day-language, and they should be amended.

**Thorson:** There should be a sheet with 5 to 10 measures as an outline of the project.

**Landman:** We have to consider the great differences between the different countries.

## 5. News on the Charter

**Walker:** It is important to increase the visibility of those who have signed. Countries, organisations, communities and individuals should be listed. We want to tell where the Charter has been used and publish the stories of its impacts.

**Sauter:** There should be a document (downloadable certificate) that may signed and become a commitment that should be posted in a public place, for instance in the local library.

## 6. Elections

The Board, the President and the Secretary have been elected in 2007 for 2 years. Elections will be held next year again.

## 7. Delegates

**Americawalks** (Ellen Vanderslice) proposes Michelle Ernst who is particularly qualified to speak up for the pedestrians as delegate to the UN Headquarters in New York. The proposal is welcome.

## 8. Forum for members on the Website?

Members have asked for an Internet-forum to exchange information.

**Thomas:** We should assure the quality of the contributions, otherwise it is a nuisance to get mails that announce the new contributions.

**Thorson:** The forum should be protected and managed. We need a member who takes responsibility in this field.

**Landman:** An intern could handle such a function.

**Ustundag** will see if there is an engineering student at their university who would run the forum.

**van Waeg:** There are different possibilities: Google groups, yahoo, LinkedIn, Jiglu.

**Mavrakis** and Stefan van der Spek (NL) will make a proposal along these lines.

The list of all members will be sent to all voting members. An IFP-family should be created.

## 9. Information from the members and varia

Information on the foundation of new organisations:

**Walker:** For the use of the Charter to commit communities to our goals we need a better presence in as many places as possible. We should publish a motivating document on how to create a new association for pedestrians, and have it ready as a download on our website. We should support the creation of new organisations. Livingstreets shows what is possible: 1000 members, 30 staff.

**Bell:** We have a toolkit for advocacy groups.

The toolkit will be adapted for international use, and put on the website.

**Bendixson:** Communicators of policies point out the importance of having a narrative (good story) to be understood easily. He will write up a short version of the success story of Livingstreets. Others volunteer to write their story as well.

**Ustundag:** There should be more time to discuss not just procedures and formalities, but content of pedestrian policies as well. For instance, what is to do in a specific situation such as the admission of cars on a car-free island.

*After the session the possibility to organise a pre-conference day for NGOs before the Walk21 in New York was discussed. The Secretary will check the demand for such an event.*

Minutes: Christian M. Thomas, Secretary, October 15, 2008