

Highlights from the ESDRA Congress in Helsinki 2009

Fifteen National Federations were present or represented at the Congress in a sunny Helsinki, warmly hosted by the Finnish Federation VUL.

The Annual Reports from the Board were presented and the finances were examined and approved with full exoneration of the Board.

The ESDRA has adopted the new IFSS race rules, thus continuing its work towards full collaboration. These rules will replace the ESDRA race Regulations Part II, and will be available on the ESDRA Web site for download by the Members and drivers.

There was one motion from Germany requesting mandatory minimum weights for rigs with the objective of greater safety. The motion was turned down but the Sports Director started a working group to conduct deeper investigation to provide proposals on minimum construction requirements for rigs in order to ensure the maximum safety possible for the driver and dogs.

The Board motions were all passed. An extremely important decision was the acceptance of the 2009 Human and Dog Anti-Doping regulations, which are now in full harmony with the 2009 IFSS regulations and in conformity with the 2009 WADA Code. Another extremely important decision was to reduce the Board to four members and five positions. The new Board therefore consists of President Lars Svanfeldt, Treasurer Christian Haerberli, Sports Director Nils Finsrud and Secretary Michelle Menger who was also designated to the Vice President's position for the coming year. The Sports Director will set up an appropriate Sports Committee to assist him in his work, with the former Director-at-large Olle Rosén already a member.

The Congress also decided on future Goals and approved the Budget.

Poland made a presentation of the coming EC on snow February 5th -7th 2010 in Kubalonka. The EC off-snow 2010 is still open for bids until the 1st of September 2009. Complete applications with full organisational details should be sent to the Sports Director as soon as possible.

Candidates for the 2012 on and off-snow championships are also requested to send complete applications to the Sports director.

The diplomas for the Europacups were delivered to the National Federations. Candidates for 2009-2010 Europacup events are asked to send their applications to the Sports director as soon as possible.

As some Board members experienced computer problems last year with resulting loss of documents and emails, the Members are requested to please use the ESDRA email addresses to allow for full backup of incoming messages and subsequent retrieval:

- president@esdra.net
- secretary@esdra.net
- treasurer@esdra.net
- sports@esdra.net

The Board and Members also showed their appreciation to Ms. Valery Braun, who after many years of service in the ESDRA administration, decided to retire from the Board at this Congress. The ESDRA wishes Ms. Braun all the very best in her future activities and continues to look forward to meeting her at forthcoming sled dog events.