



Minutes of the 2022 FEPA Congress
Liberec, Babylon Hotel, 15th October 2022, 2.00 p.m.
The meeting was also streamlined by Zoom

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Roll Call and choice of tellers
3. Presentation of the FEPA Gold Pin to Presidents of National Federations, Associations or Unions present, members of FEPA, who had not previously received it.
4. Approval of FEPA Congress Regulations
5. Minutes of the 2021 FEPA Congress
6. Presentation by the President on FEPA activities
7. Receipt of reports of Board Members
8. Receipt of Financial Statements for 2021 and update on the financial position in 2022
9. Receipt of Auditor's report
10. Approval of draft budget for 2023
11. Consideration of application for FEPA membership from the Lebanese Association of Philatelists
12. Consideration of forthcoming FEPA Events
13. Consideration of motions from Members.
14. Address by the FIP President
15. Approval of date and venue of the 2023 FEPA Congress
16. Presentation of FEPA Medals

1. Welcome

The FEPA President, Bill Hedley, warmly welcomed all Members present and thanked the Organising Committee of LIBEREC 2022 for their generous invitation to hold the Congress in Liberec and for their considerable help in making excellent arrangements for it. He extended a special greeting to the guests of honour: FEPA Honorary Presidents Pedro Vaz Pereira and José Ramón Moreno; FIP President Prakob Chirakiti and former FIP President Jos Wolff; and representatives of the Lebanese Association of Philatelists Messrs. Billy Karam and Abdo Ayoub.

2. Roll Call and appointment of Tellers

The Secretary made a roll call. Of 44 Members 30 were represented (27 by delegates and 3 by proxies). Accordingly, all decisions of the Congress were valid. Julije Maras and Bojan Bračić were appointed as tellers.

Delegates present or represented at the FEPA Congress in Liberec were:

	<i>Country</i>	<i>Delegate</i>
1.	ALBANIA	Proxy to Portugal
2.	AUSTRIA	Helmut Kogler

3.	BELGIUM	Koenraad Bracke
4.	BULGARIA	Orlin Todorov
5.	CROATIA	Julije Maras
6.	CYPRUS	Akis Christou
7.	CZECH Rep.	Julius Cacka
8.	DENMARK	Lars Peter Svendsen
9.	FINLAND	Ari Muhonen
10.	FRANCE	Bernard Jimenez
11.	GERMANY	Frank Blechschmied
12.	GREECE	Christos Gikas
13.	HUNGARY	György Lóvei
14.	ISRAEL	Menachem Lador
15.	ITALY	Claudio Manzati
16.	LIECHTENSTEIN	Dr. Jan Huys-Berlingen
17.	LUXEMBOURG	Andrée Trommer
18.	N. MACEDONIA	Branislav Svetožarević
19.	MONACO	Jean Voruz
20.	MONTENEGRO	Proxy to Slovenia
21.	NORWAY	Frank Gilberg
22.	POLAND	Przemyslaw Drzewiecki
23.	PORTUGAL	Pedro Vaz Pereira
24.	ROMANIA	Ion Chirescu
25.	SLOVAKIA	Dr. Pavol Lazar
26.	SLOVENIA	Bojan Bračič
27.	SPAIN	José Antonio Aruego Sanz
28.	SWEDEN	Rikard Azelius
29.	TURKEY	Proxy to Greece
30.	UK	Simon Richards

3. Presentation of FEPA Gold Pin

The President presented FEPA gold pins to recently elected Presidents of Member Federations who were present: Julius Cacka (Czech Republic), Lars Peter Svendsen (Denmark), Siniša Pavleski (North Macedonia), Ion Chirescu (Romania), and Rikard Azelius (Sweden).

4. Approval of FEPA Congress Regulations

The President introduced the draft FEPA Congress Regulations, circulated in advance to all Members. He indicated that, if approved, the Regulations would take effect immediately. The Regulations were approved unanimously.

5. Minutes of the FEPA 2021 Congress

The Minutes of the 2021 FEPA Congress, held in Athens on 23rd November 2021, were approved unanimously.

6. Presentation by the President on FEPA activities

The President introduced his presentation by reiterating the priorities for FEPA in 2022-23 that he had outlined at the Athens Congress. These were:

1. Maintaining and enhancing existing programmes, including:
 - Sharing information.
 - Supporting exhibitions.
 - Rewarding achievements.
2. Promote innovation and best practices.
3. Look for new opportunities for cooperation between Members.
4. Build FEPA NEWS as the Newsdesk on European philately.

He reported that there had been useful progress on these objectives during the last year, including:

- News postings on the fepanews website had increased substantially.
- Distribution of FEPA NEWS magazine had increased to 1,500 (including a large number of individual recipients).
- Three seminars had been held at exhibitions in London and Budapest.
- Patronage and support had been given to the Liberec exhibition.
- The awards programme for 2021 had been carried through successfully.
- The experimental introduction of two and three-frame exhibits, first tested at NOTOS, was being tested again at Liberec.
- Plans were being developed to enhance international cooperation on digital strategies.
- FEPA had organised a round table discussion in Monte Carlo next month on the future of organised philately and how its image in the wider world could be improved.

For 2023 he proposed to continue to pursue the key aims of promoting innovation, best practice and sharing of information, maintaining an exhibition programme and recognising achievements, and promoting cooperation between Members in formulating responses to key issues.

He then turned to the broad question of philately and its place in the world, noting first that there were many encouraging trends, including:

- A strong philatelic market.
- Expanding use of digital technology.
- Thriving philatelic research and publication.
- A steady improvement in philatelic exhibiting.
- Expansion of philately to embrace new disciplines.
- Recognition of philately as part of cultural heritage.

On the other hand, there were also negative trends, including:

- Philately's poor public image in the wider world.
- Falling membership of societies.
- Increasing average age of club members and difficulty in finding volunteers to carry out essential tasks.
- Fewer new exhibitors coming forward.
- Attendances at events are down.
- Dealers are retiring.
- Organisations are disappearing.

Overall his conclusion was that, while in many respects philately in Europe is in good shape, we have not succeeded in presenting an attractive image of philately to the wider public. Many philatelic organisations face a difficult future and could disappear with serious consequences for organised philately. There was a risk that they could be replaced by new organisations less dedicated to maintaining the high standards attained over many years.

To address this he proposed that we should work together to improve the image of philately. He suggested that a focus should be placed on appealing themes in philately, including:

- Conservation.
- Research.
- Personal Development.
- Local and Cultural History.

He also proposed that, in formulating a more attractive image, emphasis should be placed on the benefits philately brings for the individual, including:

- A route to lifelong learning.
- A social network with people of similar interests.
- A beneficial activity for mental health.
- The ‘thrill of the chase’.

To complement this initiative, it was essential to develop digital strategies that would help philatelic organisations adapt to a rapidly changing world. He added that the FEPA Board will work with Members to help Federations formulate their digital plans, including:

- An exhibition data-processing tool.
- Guides on organising digital meetings and virtual exhibitions.
- Information about digital activities in Europe and on-line philatelic resources.
- Video-based on-line resources for research, and guidance on mounting exhibits.

Since this work will require effective cooperation between FEPA and its Members the President asked the MFs to give it their full support.

The Portuguese delegate Pedro Vaz Pereira commented that, as postage stamps were no longer available on Post Office counters for postage purposes, young people were no longer aware of the purpose that stamps were primarily designed to serve.

The President’s presentation will be available to view at www.fepanews.com.

7. Receipt of reports of FEPA Board members

All reports were accepted unanimously.

8. and 10. Financial Statement and Auditor’s report

In the absence of the Treasurer due to illness the President introduced the Statement on FEPA’s financial position as at 31.12.2021 which was supported by the Auditor’s report. The Statement showed a marginal surplus of income over expenditure. The Financial Statement for 2021 and the Auditor’s report were approved unanimously.

The President also introduced the Forecast of Outturn for the current year. The current expectation was that income and expenditure would be in balance.

The President noted that annual company accounts for FEPA Ltd (the company in whose name FEPA’s financial resources are held) would have to be submitted by the end of 2022.

9. Draft Budget for 2023

The President proceeded to introduce the budget for 2023, noting that this was a convenient moment to ask for Congress’s approval for it. On current forecasts, expenditure would be a little higher than income because of planned activities in the field of digital strategies.

11. Application for FEPA membership from the Lebanese Association of Philatelists

The President invited Billy Karam, President of the Lebanese Association of Philatelists, to present the LAP’s application for FEPA membership. Mr Karam said that Lebanon had always had strong ties with Europe, and especially with France. The official languages of the country were Arabic and French and English is also widely spoken. The country is geographically, historically and culturally oriented towards Europe and the LAP thought this should be reflected in Lebanon’s philatelic life through membership of FEPA. He added that the LAP is an active association that had already issued ten works of philatelic literature (on stamps, postal history) and taken part in eleven European events. He confirmed that they would respect all values and regulations of FEPA.

The President informed the delegates that according to the Statutes a decision on the application could be made by a majority vote. A vote was then held: out of the 29 votes cast, 26 were in favour, 1 against, and 2 delegates abstained.

The President then welcomed the Lebanese Association of Philatelists as the 45th member of FEPA.

12. Forthcoming FEPA events

The President introduced this item by saying that the FEPA Board had received three requests for patronage of European exhibitions. As patronage requires the approval of Congress he invited the organisers to present their proposals.

1. **EFIRO 2024** Ion Chirescu presented the Romanian Federation's proposals for an exhibition to be held in Bucharest in April 2024 in the days between the Catholic and Orthodox Easter. The exhibition is expected to have 2000 frames and to include all exhibition classes.
2. **HAFNIA 24** Lars Peter Svendsen said that the Danish Federation wished to hold a traditional European exhibition to mark the 400th anniversary of the Danish Post. It would have 1300+ frames on 5000 sq. metres. The venue and official hotel are in the centre of Copenhagen, close to transport connections by car, bus, train, or air. Newsletters would be published at www.hafnia24.com
3. **EuroPhilEx Birmingham 2025** Jon Aitchison, Chairman of the Exhibition, said that the exhibition would be held from 8th – 11th May 2025 at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham where up to 10000 sq. metres were available. Most classes would be included and the intention was to have a large number of dealers present. He added that the Centre is close to Birmingham airport with excellent air connections.

The Congress confirmed FEPA Patronage for EFIRO 2024, HAFNIA 24 and EuroPhilEx Birmingham 2025 unanimously.

NORDIA 2024 The Norwegian delegate Frank Gilberg informed the Congress that NORDIA 2024 will be held from 2nd – 4th June 2024 in Norway. FEPA Recognition will be requested.

13. Motions from FEPA Members

No motions had been received or were raised from the floor.

14. Address by the FIP President

Prakob Chirakiti thanked the President for the invitation to attend the Congress along with two members of the FIP Board – Yigal Nataniel and Peter Suhadolc. He was delighted to be present and expressed his desire that the FIP and FEPA would work even more closely together in future in pursuit of their joint goal to promote philately.

The FEPA President then presented the FIP President with a FEPA gold pin.

15. Approval of date and venue for next FEPA Congress

The President reported that the Board had received a generous offer to host the 2023 Congress in Tarvisio, Italy from the Italian Philatelic Federation and the Tarvisio Philatelic Society during the Alps Adria Philatelic Exhibition to be held in Tarvisio from 21st – 24th September 2023.

A brief presentation was given by Italian Delegate Claudio Manzati on the exhibition venue, the place itself and accessibility by various means of transport, including the nearest airports.

The delegates decided unanimously to hold the 2023 Congress in Tarvisio, Italy.

16. Presentation of FEPA Medals and Certificates

The President expressed his pleasure that he was able to present 3 medals and 3 certificates at the Congress, and he congratulated the winners.

The medal for exceptional service to organised philately for 2021 was presented to:
Bernard Jimenez.

The medal for outstanding philatelic study and research for 2021 was presented jointly to:

1. **Pedro Vaz Pereira** for Os Correios Portugueses 1853-1900 (2 volumes).
2. **Lars Engelbrecht** for Postal Stationery of Denmark – The Bi-Coloured Issue 1871-1905 (2 volumes).

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to:

1. **Unione Filatelica Subalpina**, Torino, Italy (Prof. Mori present)
2. **Verein für Briefmarkenkunde Frankfurt am Main 1878 e.v.**, Germany
3. **Odborná společnost KOSMOS**, Prague, Czech Republic

The Vice President informed Congress that the call for nominations for 2022 will be made in mid-January 2023. He invited the Member Federations to give more attention to Certificates of Appreciation as they are very well received by the awarded societies.

The President thanked the delegates for their contributions to the Congress and, there being no other business, concluded the 2022 Congress at 3.55 p.m.

Igor Pirc
Secretary General
27th October 2022