
Minutes of DSE Annual General Assembly Online Format 12.06.2021.

1. Call to Order

Robert Wota (DSE President), called to order the annual meeting at 11:10 am. In his opening speech he welcomed the delegates and guests of the DSE AGA on his and on behalf of the DSE Managing Committee.

The members of DSE Managing Committee present: Robert Wota (DSE President), Davide Cacciari (DSE Vice President), Sergey Belyaev (DSE Treasurer), Frederic Mosa (DSE MC Member), Guy Rosen (DSE MC Member), Alberto Rodrigues (DSE MC Member) and Dragana Majcen (DSE Secretary General).

2. Report on Convocation of the Meeting and Submission of Motions

DSE Secretary General, Dragana Majcen informed delegates about Convocation of the Meeting and Submission of motions.

The 2021 AGM was scheduled on June 12th 2021. The Meeting has been convened according to the DSE Statutes noting that the venue and format of the meeting was not immediately determined due to the uncertain epidemiological situation in Europe.

The procedure to convene DSE Annual General Assembly official started on January 12, 2021 when the first invitation was sent. Information about submission of motions was sent to the members on February 9, 2021. Within the allotted time the DSE office did not receive any motion from the members.

The final agenda and the motions of the Managing Committee for the meeting of the general assembly were sent to the members on April 12th 2021 notifying all members of an internet web site where the agenda and motions have been posted. The DSE Managing Committee in April has approved the online format of the meeting. This decision was made taking into account situation caused by coronavirus unfolding in different European countries, in connection with which it is not possible to plan a physical meeting.

3. Roll Call and Ascertainment of Votes

D. Majcen informed that 21 voting delegates and 1 delegate without the right to vote have entered at the beginning of the meeting. Given that more than ¼ of the voting members in terms of number of votes represented by the delegates (30 votes), the General Meeting can be convened as duly constituted as stated in article 9. of Statutes.

4. Electing a Chairperson for the Meeting

R.Wota on behalf of the DSE Managing Committee suggested Sergey Belyaev as Chairman of the Meeting.

The proposal was unanimously accepted and Sergey Belyaev was elected as a Chairperson of the Meeting.

S. Belyaev informed delegates about voting method, eligible time for voting (60 seconds) and how to register for discussion.

Duarte Vieira (Portugal) entered the meeting (22 voting delegates present).

5. Election of Secretary of the Meeting

S. Belyaev on behalf of the Managing Committee suggested D. Majcen (DSE Secretary General) to act as Meeting Secretary.

The proposal was unanimously accepted and Dragana Majcen was elected to act as Secretary of the Meeting.

6. Appointment of Scrutineers

S. Belyaev on behalf of the Managing Committee suggested Mr. Kresimir Bosnar (Croatia) to act as Scrutineer of the Meeting. Mr. Bosnar provides, and is responsible for technical support of the meeting and is the main host of the Meeting through Zoom platform.

The proposal was unanimously accepted and Mr. Kresimir Bosnar was elected to act as Scrutineer of the Meeting.

7. Recognitions and Special Welcomes

R. Wota informed that since the last Assembly, the DSE has not received new members.

R. Wota welcomed the WDSF President: Shawn Tay, President of WDSF, and other members of the Presidium and officials of the WDSF as guests of DSE AGA.

Shawn Tay (President of WDSF) welcomed the AGA delegates in a few words, pointing out the difficulties in 2020 caused by the pandemic. He emphasized that DanceSport Europe is the biggest WDSF continental association and therefore DSE play an important role in terms of promotion DanceSport. S. Tay stated that, due to Covid-19 restriction, it is need to find alternative ways to conduct competitions and ensure progression, so WDSF is determined to work together with DSE to achieve these goals.

8. Allocation of Time

To ensure effectiveness of meeting and to guarantee equal conditions for to all who wish to speak, S. Belyaev on behalf of Managing Committee proposed allocation of time of 3 minutes for speech per topic, and added 1 minute for additional comment per topic.

The proposal was unanimously approved.

9. Approval of the Agenda

S. Belyaev presented Agenda, and as there were no amendments, he proposed a vote.

The proposed Agenda was unanimously approved.

10. Approval of the Minutes of the 2020 DSE AGA

D. Majcen informed that the minutes were circulated to the members on January 14th 2021, and moved to approve the Minutes of the 2019 DSE AGA.

The Minutes of the 2020 DSE AGA were unanimously approved.

11. President's report

R. Wota informed that the President's report was circulated together with the agenda. He informed that the work of the DSE office has improved much with the new Secretary General, D. Majcen. Due to the situation caused by a pandemic, the main focus was to ensure the best possible financial and organizational conditions in order to restart the competition as soon as possible. For that reason, the DSE competition fee wasn't charged for the competition held in the first half of the 2021, and half the amount will be charged by the end of the year. Also, for 2021 the restriction on the number of DSE competitions that a country can register has been removed. He pointed out the work of the Managing Committee on new projects that will be presented in an action plan, and has presented an idea for organizing open forum with key stakeholders.

The President's report was unanimously approved.

12. General Secretary's Report

D. Majcen informed that the General Secretary's reported was circulated. She underlined good cooperation with DSE members and the Managing Committee which has significantly contributed to the faster realization of the activities of the DSE office.

Duarte Vieira (Portugal) thanked for the complete report, and asked about total number of countries that could be in DSE membership.

R. Wota answered that in membership of the WDSF there are 50 members from Europe which means that DSE potentially can have 15-16 members more.

The General Secretary's report was unanimously approved.

13. Treasurer's Report

S. Belyaev informed that the Treasurer's reported was circulated. He opened the discussion.

D. Vieira stated that the report is very well done, and that Portugal fully supports the recommendation to conduct online meetings. Regarding the Annual General Meetings, he stated that they should be done online, in exceptional circumstances, and that online AGM shouldn't become the habit.

He asked what explanation has WDSF provided to DSE for not delivering the financial support to DSE for several years.

S. Belyaev confirmed that he proposed online meetings in order to save funds and redirect them to development projects, and also there were no need for physical meetings of the DSE MC. He informed that the Managing Committee supports initiative to conduct physical AGM but unfortunately this year this wasn't possible due to traveling restriction which could have prevented some of the delegates from participating in AGM. Also, it was impossible to find venue that could guarantee conducting the meeting.

R. Wota stated that is always better to spend money on the projects rather than on meetings, and that the AGM would certainly have been held physically jointly with WDSF AGM if that would be a case. The DSE Managing Committee meetings are held online and are very productive.

S. Belyaev informed that DSE has received information that WDSF has launch mechanisms of savings due to the situation with COVID-19. This measure was affecting also the other divisions and associations, not only DSE.

Frederic Mosa (DSE Managing Committee) suggested that it would be better if the WDSF Vicepresident for finance, Toni Tilleni, could address the delegates on this matter.

Tony Tilleni (WDSF Vice-president for finance) stated that there is no doubt that WDSF would like to deliver the contribution to DSE, but WDSF made some drastic measure to preserve resources and cash as the competition system has been stopped. He informed that, except for one year, the DSE Treasurer did not submit to WDSF an invoice to pay the contribution. Since there wasn't invoice, payment couldn't be made.

T. Tilleni stated that through the mechanics of saving WDSF has saved 3,5 - 5 million CHF. As soon as WDSF finance improves, WDSF will contribute to DanceSport Europe and to other continental associations.

S. Belyaev thanked T. Tilleni for his answer and suggested that all issues related to the WDSF financial plan should be referred to the WDSF Assembly.

D. Viera agreed with S. Belyaev but also has stated that in the Treasure's report is mentioned that WDSF didn't grant contribution for 2019. He understands that in 2020 and 2021, due to COVID-19 situation savings were needed, but his question is why WDSF didn't delivered contribution for 2019. He asked was it because DSE didn't sent an invoice or for some any other reason.

S. Belyaev respond that DSE has received WDSF decision not to grant contribution for 2019. He informed that the takeover of the new DSE Managing Committee had some difficulties in the 2019, about which he reported last year. Mr. Tilleni has informed S. Belyaev that in past years WDSF was paying contributions to DSE for certain projects. Since there wasn't any project presented from DSE in 2019, the contribution wasn't delivered.

R. Wota informed that he didn't have access to documents related to DSE finance. He confirmed that DSE has received decision from WDSF, in the second part of the 2019, that contribution can't be paid in 2019. He stated that, maybe the contribution could be paid, if the DSE had asked for it in the beginning of the 2019. As this wasn't the case, contribution wasn't paid.

S. Belyaev informed that DSE in the budget for 2022 has expectation towards WDSF for contribution.

Davide Cacciari (DSE Vice president) stated that he is also member of WDSF PD Managing Board, and that this situation with WDSF none granting the contribution to PD and DSE exists even before this pandemic situation. He confirmed that WDSF has announced by the e-mail to PD and DSE that WDSF has no money to allocate contribution. From his opinion, this is far enough acceptable. He informed that DSE cannot go against the decision of the WDSF, but the future WDSF Presidium should take care to allocate money equally to all WDSF divisions, commissions or association in order to ensure some progress. If not than every commission and division should depend on his own money, including the Breaking division within WDSF. Concerning this matter, he hopes that the new WDSF Presidium will look in another perspective, different that how it was handle in the past years.

Jan Tore Jacobsen (Norway) congratulated to the DSE Managing Committee for his work in the past months. Following a presentation by WDSF President S. Tay from the begging, he stated that Europe is the largest continental association that contributes most significantly to the development of DanceSport in terms of the number of athletes as well as the number of competitions. He expressed his concern about the way WDSF treats DSE, ie the decision not to grant contribution for development to DSE for the third year in a row, especially because most WDSF revenue comes from Europe.

Sergey Belyaev thanked for the congratulations and stated that the DSE MC, based on the decisions of the Assembly, managed to collect most of the debts from previous years and accumulate funds that put DSE in a very positive financial situation.

The Treasurer's report was unanimously approved.

14. Approval of the Financial Statement

S. Belyaev asked delegates to comment on the Financial Statement which includes Profit and Lost Statement, Balance Sheet, Report of financial controllers and Approval of annual financial statement. He informed that from last assembly DSE has accumulated good finances, which allow investing in DSE projects.

Guy Simon (DSE Financial Controller) informed that this year's Financial Statement looks much better than the previous one due the fact that S. Belyaev had to collect all the work from the past DSE Treasurer in very difficult circumstances. He stated that that this year's statement has more transparency and he recommends to the DSE AGM to approve the Financial Statement.

The Financial Statement was unanimously approved.

15. Approval of Managing Committee's work from the last General Assembly

S. Belyaev informed delegates that last AGM was held in December 2021, so the approval of the work if for last 6 months, but nevertheless the MC would like to ask for approval.

R. Wota informed that DSE has collected some money, which the DSE MC would like to direct to projects that are going to be presented later. He stated that DSE MC has just started work in 2021, and hopes that there will be more to present by the end of the year.

V. Ivanov asked how the new image of Dancesport Europe has been implemented, and what the DSE want to present with the new image.

R. Wota explained that at the start of the work of the DanceSport Europe, DSE used WDSF logo. Since other continental associations have their own logo design, DSE MC decided to start the rebranding process by choosing a new logo design.

D. Majcen explained that several versions of the new DSE logo design had been collected. The proposals were presented to the DSE MC members who decided to include the public in the decision-making process. Polls were set up via social media through which followers could choose the design they liked best. Upon completion, the opinion of DSE MC members and the public was identical and a decision on the new look was made.

D. Caccari informed that new look of DSE logo is directed towards the ST and LA disciplines, as well as other DSE activities as was previously reported by the MC. He informed that the new logo is an artistic design of dance couple. Upon the proposal of DSE President, all members of DSE MC agreed that it would be good to have new dimension that will represent federation dedicated to ST and LA discipline.

The Managing Committee work from the last Annual General Assembly has been unanimously approved.

16. Annual membership fee 2021.

On behalf of the Managing Committee, S. Belayev purposed Annual membership fee for 2022 in amount 400, 00 euros. He stated that the DSE MC through projects from action plan would provide added value for the membership fee.

R. Wota stated that he hopes that the financial situation in national federation will improve so that our members will be able to collect revenue and get benefit from membership in DSE through different projects. He informed that collected money will be redirected to projects and he hopes that the situation with organizing competition will be better because in this way the revenues from the competition will also contribute to financial stabilization.

D. Caccari informed that the DSE MC last year decided to decrease the annual membership fee due to inactivity. During this period the DSE MC had possibility to think and create plan how to restart and develop the system after pandemic. The part of this plan was the reduction of the annual membership fee for 2021 and also competition fee. He repeated that DSE financial situation is even better that previous, which shows good work during the pandemic situation and puts DSE in a very positive situation for restart. In good faith that the situation will normalize, the MC's proposal is to return the full annual membership fee.

The proposal of 400, 00 Euro for annual membership fee was unanimously accepted.

17. Motion of the Managing Committee to amend DSE Statutes

S. Belyaev represented motion of the MC to amend DSE Statutes. He informed that the proposed changes were mostly technical. According to the Statute, an approval of the proposed amendments was provided by the WDSF.

D. Vieira (Portugal) referred to the part of the changes in Chapter 3, article 4. of Statutes, asking an explanation for adding new sentences, given the provisions set out in the sentence before.

S. Belyaev explained that this change is proposed in order to align with DSE Statute with the WDSF Statute. This paragraph is part of WDSF Statutes referring to continental association, and DSE Statute should be aligning with it.

Marc-Frederic Schafer (WDSF Vice-president for Legal Affairs) informed that this paragraph refers to countries which, due to their geographical position, may be members of several continental associations, for example Russia which may be part of Asia and Europe.

S. Belyaev commented that the motivation was to give authority to WDSF to define geography between its WDSF continental associations to make sure that there is no overlapping.

Juris Arais (Latvia) asked what was meant with “past practice” and “other relevant factors”.

S. Belyaev stated that this is part of the WDSF Statutes with which DSE Statutes should be aligned. He isn't in a position to clarify the WDSF Statutes, so he forwarded the question to Marc-Frederic Schafer.

Marc-Frederic Schafer (WDSF Vice-president for Legal Affairs) referred that this part is to apply if this is needed, in case when some countries geographically are part of one continent but are considered as members of the other continental association, for example Israel.

S. Belyaev asked if there is any objection to accept the proposed amendments as a package, and as there was no objection, he proposed a vote.

The motion to amend DSE Statutes was accepted with 21 votes in favor and 1 empty vote.

Petr Horacek (Slovakia) left the meeting (21 voting delegates present).

18. Approval of the action plan 2022

S. Belyaev informed delegates that proposal of the action plan was circulated and he asked members of the MC to present it.

R. Wota presented main objectives of the action plan; upgrading competition system, development of educational programs and raising brand awareness. He presented steps for establishing and delivering competitions that have not been organized in Europe, and which could be of significant interest to our members and athletes; Children European Grand Prix, Syllabus competition and DSE DanceSport Contest.

D. Cacciari stated that ST and LA system in Europe isn't in a good position for few years because the number of competitors is going down. He stated that the reason why is decreasing is because in the past, through various attempts to adapt ST and LA to the audience, a lot of the mistake was made.

He presented the new project for establishment of DSE system for syllabus competitions to put focus on beginner level. The project will also deliver educational programs for teachers, athletes, judges in order to encourage people to teach, dance and judge syllabus. With organizing different level of the competition and championships, which will connect new teachers, former top athletes as judges and syllabus competitors, ST and LA discipline in Europe could restart again.

D. Cacciari informed delegates about the DSE European Forum that was held in May. The participants were extremely grateful for the organization of a forum where they could personally share their opinion and expectation as they have never had the opportunity to do so.

Alberto Rodrigues (DSE Managing Committee) presented an Open Forum as a tool to reinforce strong and amicable relationships not only with DSE member bodies, but also with other experts in DanceSport, top professionals who develop our sports on a daily basis.

He informed that the first forum was attended by 65 participants representing the elite of not only European but also International DanceSport society, champions, prize-winners and finalists of the world championships, leading trainers who brought up outstanding athletes and champions. The forum was intended for open discussion on several topics: involvement of top stakeholders, current competition system and rules, and future development of DanceSport. He informed that the detail report from the Forum will be shared with DSE members and WDSF as well.

Jan Tore Jacobsen (Norway) welcomed the initiative to organize open forum, but expressed concern that the forum had not been made public, so that as many key stakeholders as possible, could be involved in the discussion as well as representatives of national members. He questioned the suggestion to add additional levels in international competition format, suggesting adding different levels to the Professional Division.

S. Belyaev explained that the purpose wasn't to exclude but to provide a comfortable atmosphere for a targeted group of people providing possibility for them to speak freely. The main goal is to regularly organize open forums with different stakeholders in order to better understand their opinion and expectations. After the first forum, the conclusion of the DSE MC was to include representatives of national members as observers allowing them also possibility to hear different opinions.

D. Cacciari explained that this was the first forum from the list that the DSE MC would like to organize. He informed that one of the next forums will be organized with representatives of national member bodies. The reason why the DSE MC decided to go with past champions was because they have never before been given the opportunity to international talk about current and future development of DanceSport. The DSE MC felt that it is necessary to involve them and to hear their opinion in few key topics.

Concerning question related to Professional Division, D. Cacciari stated that the system needs to change drastically, meaning that the peak of the competitor's career shouldn't be an amateur but professional career.

V. Ivanov (Spain) welcomed all initiative to move ST and LA discipline forward, but he also stated that he personally represents the Spanish DanceSport Federation which represents more than 10

different dance styles. He expressed his worries how the DanceSport, during this meeting, is defined in DSE (ST and LA) and how it is defined in WDSF (ST, LA and other discipline). He reminded that DSE is a continental association of WDSF and maybe it is needed to find different approach or rename federation in to ST and LA only.

Tommy Shaughnessy (Ireland) welcomed the DSE project for developing grassroots as we are approaching the new restart after pandemic and it is very important to launch this kind of projects. He stated that for this reason, WDSF must grant contribution to DSE because this kind of project can be implemented in different part of the world, and DSE can provide template for it, and hopefully save our sport.

Concerning the statement of V. Ivanov, T. Shaughnessy stated that DSE is federation of different dance style, but it is needed to start projects with ST and LA because they are familiar to us, and hopefully afterwards start developing the other styles.

D. Caccari informed that the one of the next forum will be with the organizers of the competition due to fact that the most of the revenue comes from the competition fees. That's why it is important to ask and listen to their opinion also. He stated that the only group of people that regulary meet are the delegates in assembly, and this should be changed in a way to involve more people connected with our sport.

D. Cacciari continued with presentation of educational programs as an ancillary necessary activity needed for establishment for syllabus competitions, which can be redirected to WDSF Academy.

D. Majcen informed that the development of a new corporate style of DSE began with the selection of a new logo, and will continue with designing a new corporate style for the web site. Through developing DSE social media marketing DSE will interact with members, dancers, and to try to connect with them. The focus on DSE activity will be to increase brand awareness, drive traffic to our website, generate new leads, to build a community around our business, and the increase social listening.

The action plan for 2022 was accepted with 19 votes in favor and 2 abstained.

19. 2020 Budget and Result and Adoption of the 2022 DSE Provisional Budget

S. Belyaev presented Budget and Result and Adoption of the 2022 DSE Provisional Budget.

T. Shaughnessy directed question to WDSF Vice- president for finance, T. Tilleni asking is there any way for WDSF to increase and grant contribution for 2022 for project that was presented today.

T. Tilleni stated that he is in favor of this proposal, and as the budget for 2022 is provisional budget, it can be revised if quality projects will be presented to WDSF.

J. Tore Jacobsen asked for the number of the members for which DSE is budgeting fees in provisional budget for 2022.

S. Belyaev informed that we have 34 members, but DSE is planning to negotiate with some other European members to join membership. He informed that some members resigned due to financial problems caused by a pandemic, but they are willing to rejoin after their financial situation becomes stable. For that reason, in the budget for 2022 the estimated number of members is 35.

The 2021 DSE Provisional Budget was accepted with 19 votes in favor and 2 empty votes.

20. Miscellaneous

S. Belyaev informed that there is nothing to discuss in this topic.

21. Adjournment

R. Wota thanked all members, delegates and WDSF Presidium members for attending the meeting. He thanked the DSE MC members for their work in the past period and to S. Belyaev and D. Majcen for preparing 2021 Annual General Meeting. He invited delegates and members to regular contact DSE office and share their thoughts, opinions and ideas.


S. Belyaev thanked the delegates and guest for the support and adjourned the meeting at 01:40 PM.

Attachments:

Financial Statement incl. Budget for 2020 and Provisional Budget for 2022
President's report, General Secretary's, Treasure's report



Robert Wota
President



Dragana Majcen
General Secretary