

Minutes of meeting:	BAVA EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS (EC) - BUCHAREST	
Held At:	Council Room, Romanian Athletics Federation 2nd floor, 2, Primo Nebiolo Str. Sector 1	Date: 12 March 2016 19:30 hours

BAVA Members in attendance:

No	Country	Association	Representative	Position
1	Bosnia- Herzegovina	AAVuF BiH	Dr Zlatan Hrelja (ZH)	President
			Denis Kadič (DK)	Secretary
2	Bulgaria	BMF	Zdravka Yordanova (ZY)	President *BAVA Interim President
3	Croatia	HAVU	Ana Mrcič (AM)	Delegate
4	Rep Moldova	FARM	Olga Cogalniceanu (OC)	Delegate
5	Montenegro	AAVCG	Vladimir Corović (VC)	Delegate
6	Romania	FRA-CAV	Gheorghe Rugină (GR)	President
			Valeriu Rosetnic (VR)	Secretary Intn'l Relations *BAVA Int Gen Secretary
7	Serbia	SAVS	Zoran Milaković (ZM)	President
8	Slovenia	ZAVS	Marko Božiček (MB)	President
9	Turkey	TAF	Ercan Ozkan (EO)	Delegate

Guests:

Selma Turkkal	WMA Representative
Odysseas Agros	Leader of the largest group of Greek athletes in BAVACI
Robertino Tanase	Romanian CAV secretary
Daniel Marinescu	Romanian CAV member
Ştefania Badea	Romanian CAV member

Apologies for absence: Zvonka Blatnik – secretary ZAVS

Distribution: All

The Congress is chaired by the BAVA interim General Secretary –Valeriu Rosetnic- on behalf of the President of the host federation Gheorghe Rugină – Romania.

1.	<u>INTRODUCTORY MATTERS</u>
1.1	VR distributes in printed form to those present the final agenda of the EC and the final draft of the Agreement to set up the Balkan Association of Masters Athletics (BAMA) and the corresponding Statutes.
1.2	In the beginning of the Congress VR invites the attendance to keep a minute's silence in memory of the Honorary President of the Romanian Athletics Federation – Iolanda Balaş – who sadly passed away the previous day after a long illness.
1.3	VR informs those present that the invitation to attend the EC was duly sent to all BAVA members and calls the names of the attending representatives and guests. The Balkan federations -members of the BAVA- are represented in the EC by their presidents or by appointed delegates duly empowered to vote on their behalf. VR reminds the attendance that the Greek federation OEVAS announced in an earlier circular letter their boycott of the Congress – on account of being, in their view, invalid. VR also informs that no answer whatsoever to the call has been received from the masters' associations in Albania and FYRO Macedonia.
1.4	<p>GR welcomes in host capacity the representatives of the Balkan federations and the guests, particularly Selma Turkkal as the special representative of the World Masters Association to the Bucharest BAVACi and Extraordinary Congress.</p> <p>In BAVA President capacity ZY thanks the Romanian Federation for the initiative to organize the 2nd edition of the Balkan Masters Indoor Championships and for the preparation of this Extraordinary Congress which she believes is to remain a milestone in the history of masters' athletics in the Balkan region. She expresses the view that the management of the Balkan Association devoted to the <i>Queen of Sports –athletics-</i> needs a change towards openness, transparency in decision making, and greater effectiveness in meeting athletes' expectations.</p> <p>ST delivers a greetings message to the Balkan Association on behalf of the WMA and emphasises the special praise of the WMA President Stan Perkins to the tradition and development of the masters' movement in this region of the world. ST expresses her great pleasure to share again the company of old athletics friends she has known for many years.</p>
1.5	<p>VR presents the agenda of the EC which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the presentation and approval on the BAMA Agreement drafted by the interim leadership of BAVA; - BAMA Statutes approval – depending on progress with the BAMA Agreement; - hosting the Balkan 2016 outdoor championships; - appointments of the General Secretary and Technical Director till elections in 2016; - any other matter raised during the meeting <p>The agenda is approved unanimously.</p>

2.	<u>THE BAMA AGREEMENT and STATUTES</u>
2.1	<p>Presentation</p> <p>The presentation is made by VR in his capacity as BAVA General Secretary and initiator of these documents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) VR mentions that the mandate given in Thessaloniki to the interim BAVA leadership was to draft revised Statutes of the association and to organize elections in keeping with the approved Statutes. (ii) The repeated claims thereafter by the Greek federation that the removal of their representatives from the positions they held had been undemocratic and as such invalid invited the conclusion that a formal reform of the BAVA set up under the Athens 2000 Statutes cannot be put in practice. (iii) In the given circumstances the BAMA Agreement as forwarded to the BAVA Members before the EC provides for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The termination of any commitment the Members have under the Athens 2000 Statutes -subsequently amended in 2014. b. The setting up of the Balkan Association of Masters Athletics (BAMA) in keeping with the newly drafted Statutes <p>VR invites discussion on the approval of the proposed documents.</p>
2.2	Discussion
2.2.1	<p>The SAVS President Zoran Milakovič makes a short account of the BAVA history to date. He mentions that he participated for the first time in the Balkan veterans' championships back in 1995.</p> <p>ZM recalls that the present BAVA was formally set up only in the year 2000 although the Balkan outdoor championships had gone on since 1991 without interruption. Personally he's gone on to be a BAVA Council member on behalf of the former Yugoslavia then Serbia federations.</p> <p>ZM further states that back in time statutory BAVA elections were carried out only in the years 2000 and, respectively, 2004. He reiterates that the Athens 2013 elections at the end of which the President and the General Secretary were re-appointed were void as the quorum was not met.</p> <p>ZM praises the work done by the interim General Secretary to restart the Balkan Association management and says that he is totally in favour of signing the Agreement.</p> <p>ZM also mentions that he would have some alternative proposals for the Statutes regarding articles 8.11 (on voting units assigned to Members in the GA) and, respectively, 18.2 (on the basic registration fee in the championships) but such local items could be further discussed and voted for in the future.</p> <p>As a final remark ZM mentions that the Greek athletes have always been at the heart of the veterans' movement in the Balkans and every effort should be made to see their federation joining the new association.</p>
2.2.2	<p>AM from Croatia suggests to hear in turn the opinion of each federation representative at this crucial point in the life of Balkan association. For convenience the floor is subsequently given in alphabetical order to the other Members.</p>
2.2.3	<p>The Bosnian President dr Zlatan Hrelja underlines in his speech the validity and legality of the EC and declares his support for the BAMA Agreement.</p> <p>ZH pays particular attention to the stated position of the Greek OEVAS leadership, strongly criticizing their rigidity in the belief that they are right and democratic whereas the others are not.</p>

	ZH deploras the use of “words which ruin our relationship” and considers that all efforts should be made to re-build friendship.
2.2.4	ZY from Bulgaria reiterates her support for the BAMA Agreement and praises the work done by the General Secretary. She mentions that clean sport and fair-play should be amongst the priority targets of the new association
2.2.5	AM pledges the HAVU support for the BAMA Agreement. She adds that the Greek federation should be invited to join the new association.
2.2.6	OC for the Republic of Moldova, VC for Montenegro, MB for Slovenia and express in their statements the support of their federations for the BAMA Agreement.
2.2.7	EO on behalf of the Turkish Athletics Federation mentions that before the Congress he made a number of proposals for local changes in the Statutes which have been inserted into the final draft distributed to the Members. He also mentions reservation as to the existing maximum 12 years service of the Council members (14.10) and considers that 8 years would be better. EO states that the TAF is in favour of the BAMA Agreement.
2.3	Conclusion VR concludes to the general satisfaction that the unanimous opinion of the Balkan federations attending the EC is in favour of the BAMA Agreement and circulates the nine copies –one for each federation- to be signed by everybody. The proposals made regarding some particular clauses in the Statutes will form the object of discussion and voting in the future.
3	PRESENTATION of the GREEK FEDERATION CASE by guest Odysseas Agros
3.1	Given repeated reference of the speakers to the participation of the Greek athletes in the championships and the need to integrate the Greek federation into the BAMA, OA was invited in guest capacity to update the attendance in relation to the OEVAS situation. OA thanks the BAMA president for granting him permission to attend the EC and to speak in front of the attendance.
3.2	OA makes his presentation from the position of the one who <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. discovered and revealed to all the Symeon Symeonidis (SS) age fraud in masters’ championships; b. stood for the presidency of OEVAS against SS in the January elections. <p>As regards the age fraud OA mentions that the case has been opened with the international organizations such as the EMA and WMA and in the Olympic Ethics Committee of Greece. After an ambiguous inconclusive ruling from the EMA a decisive verdict is expected from the WMA. OA hands over a set of documentary proofs on the SS fraud to the BAMA asking for BAMA action in this case.</p> <p>As regards the OEVAS leadership OA mentions that the election process was fraught with irregularities and a dispute on the result in favour of SS has already been started in the Greek law courts. Progress however has been slow because of many strikes taking place in the legal profession.</p>
3.3	An additional case has been opened with the Greek Ministry of Sports regarding the legal nature of the OEVAS and alleged mismanagement of funds received in time. Depending on future developments in this case setting up a new federation of Greek masters may be considered.
	ZM intervned in the end of the presentation to voice pity for the critical situation in the Greek masters’ movement as described by OA. He expressed his hope that OA will explain to everybody at home why the Balkan federations were pushed to act in the manner they did and his belief that Greece will join BAMA in the near future.

4	<p><u>BAMACS 2016</u></p> <p>There being no bids to host the 2016 outdoor championships since Thessaloniki, VR asks ZM to say whether the intention made known by Nebojsa Besara in 2014 – by then in SAVS President capacity- stands.</p> <p>ZM says that currently he's unable to make any commitment for Belgrade because of uncertainty regarding stadia availability for the period 16-18 September. He adds that there would be no problem for the SAVS to organize BAMACS in one of the province towns -such as Kruševac- but he has doubts that such proposal would be attractive for visiting athletes.</p> <p>AM intervenes seconded by MB to say that from her knowledge Kruševac could make a fine venue for BAMACS.</p> <p>ZM finally commits the SAVS to organize the 2016 BAMACS in Serbia and specifies that the final announcement on the venue will be made sometime in April.</p> <p>Zoran Milaković's announcement is greeted with a ripple of applause as under the new BAMA Statutes he becomes <i>ex officio</i> the BAMA President. ZY becomes <i>ex officio</i> the BAMA Vice-President.</p>
5	<p><u>APPOINTMENTS FOR COUNCIL POSITIONS</u></p>
5.1	<p>VR informs that in line with art.14.16 interim appointments would have to be made for the positions of General Secretary and Technical Director as practically there's been no time to organize elections under the new BAMA Statutes. Such appointments would fill the named positions till the autumn elections.</p>
5.2	<p>The existing proposals are Valeriu Rosetnic for General Secretary and Daniel Marinescu for Technical Director on behalf of the Romanian CAV and Ercan Ozcan from the TAF for an unspecified position.</p>
5.3	<p>The assembly is unanimously in favour of appointing VR as General Secretary in recognition of his work in promoting the new Balkan association.</p>
5.4	<p>The assembly decides to refer till September the Technical Director duties to a board of technicians to include EO and the existing Statistics Committee. Clarification regarding intended technical sub-committees and their specific duties is expected from the members of the appointed board.</p>
6	<p><u>FINAL</u></p> <p>There being no other issues raised, the assembly is closed at the end of two hours of debate. Next General Assembly will take place in Serbia during the 2016 BAMACS.</p>