

Update Nr. 44

July 2021

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) June 19th 2021 in Diegem/ Zaventem (Belgium).

Preparation and results.

PREPARATION.

The AGM is the formal moment the members can agree or disagree with prospective policy and can vote for the election of new board members and new auditors. It is also the moment that the members can accept new colleagues as FEDECRAIL member or ending a FEDECRAIL membership.

To inform the members the board produces an annual report. The 2021 board report was send by our secretary Kees Wijnnobel to the members in the weeks before the AGM together with the financial accounts over 2020 with the report of the auditors and the budget for the year 2021.

Last year, the 2020 AGM was allowed to be hold 10 weeks later, because of Covid 19, and the agenda foresaw only those subjects that were necessary because of the Belgian law. This year we were hold to the constitution to organize our AGM inside the first six months after closing the books of the former financial year. So this AGM consisted for a part of the second half of the 2020 AGM and for the full 2021 content.

For organizing the 2021 AGM Covid 19 played still an important role again like in 2020, because of existing the travel restriction in many countries through the whole of Europe. The solution was two possibilities to attend physically for those who could manage to do so 5 persons (3 FEDECRAIL members and two board members), or attending by WEBEX (9 board and team members and 10 FEDECRAIL members). Voting was possible for the 3 members attending and voting by Proxy with voting instructions was used by 9 members. Together representing 75% of all the voting rights.

RESULTS.

1. The agenda was set without changes.
2. Minutes of AGM 27 held in Rotterdam on September 5th 2020 were adopted.
3. The following 7 proposed candidate members were accepted by the AGM as full voting members of FEDECRAIL:
 - a. Ferrocarril de Soller, S.A. (Spain)
 - b. Seaton Tramway (United Kingdom)
 - c. Scottish Railway Preservation Society (United Kingdom)
 - d. Siitingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway Ltd. (United Kingdom)
 - e. UK Tram (United Kingdom)
 - f. Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway Co. Ltd. (United Kingdom)
 - g. Belarus Narrow Gauge Railway Foundation (Belarus)
4. The annual report of the board over 2020 was adopted by the AGM.



5. The financial accounts over the year 2020 were presented by the Treasurer, Mr. Heimo Echensperger. Because of Covid the membership fee had been reduced to ca. 50% of the 2019 level. All other expenses are as usual, except for the significantly lower meeting costs compared to previous years, since there has been made a shift from physical to web-meetings. This resulted in a very small loss of ca. only € 650. There were no questions or observations from members. The President thanked the Treasurer for the excellent work done.

All members present and represented voted in favor to adopt the accounts for 2020.

6. Report of the Auditors.

The treasurer had send all information relevant for the annual accounts to Jean-Paul Lescat and Guido Rossi. On their request a few pdf-copies of payments were added and finally the auditors had found the annual accounts over the year 2020 correct. Both Jean-Paul Lescat and Guido Rossi were unable to attend in person. The signed auditors report recommended discharge of the Board from financial and criminal liability over the year 2020. The President extends his appreciation for the work carried out by the auditors.

All members present and represented voted in favor to adopt the auditor's report.

7. The President thanked the Board members who would not return to the Board at the end of their term: vice-President and Treasurer Heimo Echensperger, vice-President Peter Ovenstone and member Jonas Svartlok, for the services they have rendered to Fedecrail during their term(s) in office. He further mentioned that with the cooperation of Pierluigi Scoizzato, a gift has been arranged with a personal message.

He further expressed the hope that Jonas Svartlok would remain available to support the HOG team, that Peter Ovenstone would continue to liaise with Europa Nostra and other European Heritage Organizations.

A special word of appreciation was addressed to Heimo Echensperger, who had been part of the Morgan Commission from 1989 and subsequently been a Board member of Fedecrail since 1994. He hopes that Heimo can look back at a productive and interesting time for the heritage rail sector.

8. Conform the revised constitution the process of proposing by the members of FEDECRAIL by nominating candidates for election as board member of FEDECRAIL did its work for the first time. Fedecrail members have now nominated candidates for election to the Board, as follows:

- a. Frédéric Riehl, nominated by CF Blonay – Chambey

Following election, Frédéric Riehl has been appointed by the AGM as Treasurer of Fedecrail

- b. Jaap Nieweg, nominated by HRN

Following election, Jaap Nieweg has been appointed President of Fedecrail and will take care of the development and lobbying for the working industrial and mobile heritage.

- c. Mimmi Mickelsen, nominated by MRO and JHRF

Following election, Mimmi Mickelsen has been appointed Vice-President of Fedecrail and will take care of the Tram Group and Human Resource Management..

- d. Gottfried Aldrian, nominated by ÖMT and VDMT has been appointed as board member and will take care of operations (HOG and a new organization for non mainline

related heritage rail-organizations)

The board members that didn't end their term this year and stayed aboard are:

- e. Pierluigi Scoizzato has been appointed Vice-President of Fedecrail.as such he will take care of the development of the new strategic plan (2023-2028), the new communication policy structure and the youth group.
- f. Bruno Fleury, has been vice president of FEDECRAIL since 2019. He informed the board earlier that he will step down at the end of his term in 2022, because of his personal responsibilities after being elected as Mayor of his village and being political active in the region of his village, at least for the coming 5 years.
- g. Kees Wijnnobel, our secretary for already 5 years and who has informed us, that he will not be available for a third term when his term is ending in 2022.
- h. Josef van der Perre, is for years our legal advisor and representing the constitutional condition of a Belgian member in the board of FEDECRAIL. He is doing wonderful work for us, very often far out of the direct attention of the members, but of great importance to act in the right way as a Belgian organization.

9. The AGM adopted the Fedecrail Business Plan for the period 2021-2022 .

10. The AGM also adopted annual plan for 2021, that after the 2019 wish of the members to become a more member orientated organization, and as a first result of that wish the renewal of the constitution in the January 2020 shows the further signals of this change of our attitude in behaving, like the start of consultations with the national umbrella members that started in May 2021 to exchange ideas that will be very helpful in developing the strategic plan for the period 2023 - 2028. But we see this as a start of rebuilding FEDECRAIL from a meeting table into an activity platform for members and stakeholders to tackle actual but also more long-term foreseen problems. For some of our policy areas we will look for strengthening in the sense of international co-operation on European scale, per example in the field of working industrial and mobile heritage in relation with the European (Cultural) Green Deal.
11. All members present and represented, voted in favor of the 2021 budget, that based on the same way of acting as 2020, via web-meetings and some expectation of foreseen costs the level of expenses will be € 15.000, which means a rate per voting point of € 5,91. The membership fee will be low like 2020 (= ca. 50 % of 2019).
12. The AGM elected Jean-Paul Lescat and Guido Rossi as the two auditors for the year 2021.
13. The working groups had been incorporated in the annual report of the board, by written reports of progress made in 2020 and where possible foresee developments in the coming years.

Like the youth group who was of course very disappointed because of the cancellation of the youth exchanges in 2020 as well in 2021. As far the organizers concern, they

hope and trust that the youth exchange will be for 2022 in Great Britain in which the at least the Seaton Tramway will be involved.

The disappointment was transformed in new chances for web-meetings with members of the youth group . A first web-meeting was already quite successful and more will

follow, also as part of building up a structure of addresses of interested youngsters.

Jaap Nieweg, President of FEDECRAIL



**European Co-Operation, Initiative by FEDECRAIL and the FEDERATION
INTERNATIONAL VEHICULES ANCIENS (FIVA), First web-meeting July 7th 2021.**

European co-operation was stimulated in 2020 by attending web-meetings of Europa Nostra, TICCYH, ERIH and ICOMOS and getting started to execute Plan Paris, as accepted by the AGM in 2017. In the meantime we found more organizations to co-operate with us on European level, FIVA (historic Road Transport), EMH(European Maritime Heritage) and EFHA (European Federation of Historic Aviation). We experienced first feelings of acting in a united way, during the autumn period of 2020, when the Dutch Ministry of Culture organized a web-meeting on Dutch level about European co-operation. So a good start was made on July the 7th 2021 when a first web-meeting about European co-operation in the field of Working Industrial and Mobile Heritage took place. Initiated by FIVA and FEDECRAIL, all parties meant above attended and in which a general feeling of agreement was experienced about in what way we should react to get a right place for our working industrial and mobile heritage in the European Green Deal with retaining the conceptual authenticity as a central point of believe in the cultural value. The decision was taken to organize a wider scope (in the sense of attending of Members of the European Commission as well as the European Parliament and attending organizations in the field of working industrial and Mobile heritage) webinar in the last week of October of the first week in November 2021. Follow the news in the coming Update (beginning of September) and the FEDECRAIL website newspapers. (www.FEDECRAIL.org)

Closing date for texts/news for the September Update: August 31st 2021 sent to:
Schuette@FEDECRAIL.org

Update Editor
Josef Sabor
sabor@fedecrail.org