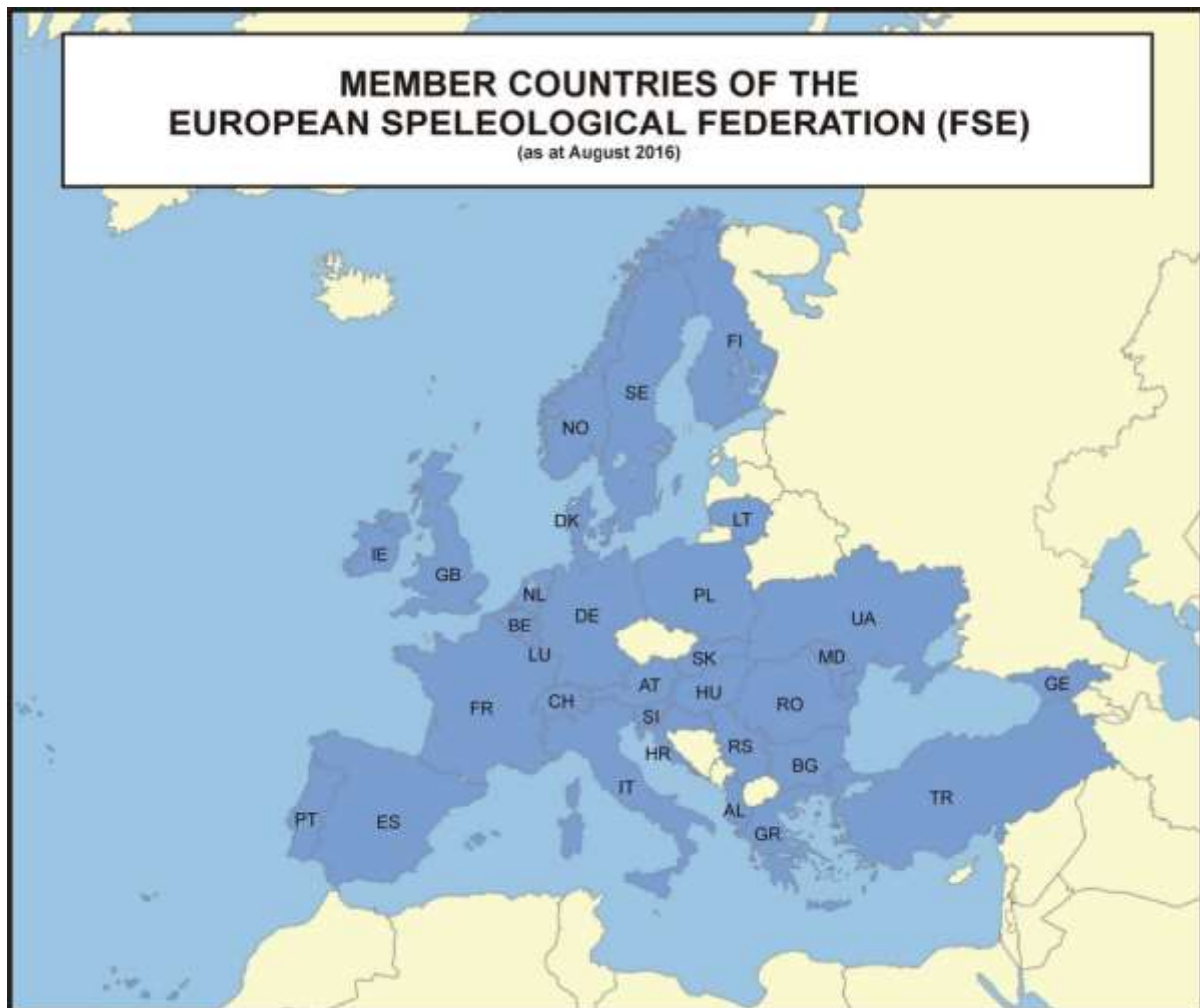


## FSE Report BCA AGM June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018

### **FSE Membership**

The FSE comprised a membership of 31 countries in June 2017. However, at the end of last year Monaco, dropped out, due to non-payment but Georgia joined. This year Turkey withdrew, due to non-payment, so we are currently at 30 members for this year's General Assembly Meeting (GAM). Albania have promised to send an overdue payment, but this now looks unlikely.



Disputes between internal organisations in member countries continues to take up a considerable amount of the bureaus time, with two organisations claiming to be the only one who can represent that country in the FSE. Only after time-consuming e-mailing exchanges, internal coordination within the FSE Bureau and repeated checks in the FSE archive can a resolution be achieved. We are currently in this position with Serbia.

### **Information & Publicity.**

The FSE Facebook page, updated regularly by Henk Goutier (Netherlands), is continuously visited by thousands of cavers and non-cavers thus representing an excellent outreach for European speleology. URL: <https://www.facebook.com/eurospeleo>. Also, with the help of our partners of the WikiCaves organisation keep the FSE website updated on a regular basis.

### **The work of the ECPC commission**

The FSE, through the European Cave Protection Commission (ECPC) is now a member of the Board of the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) in Brussels and thus directly involved in the EEB decision making working with EU commissioners and the different directorates within the EU. The ECPC has direct input into two working groups, 'Bio-diversity' and 'Water'. FSE will be actively supporting the International year of Caves & Karst 2021 an initiative led by the UIS.

### **The European Cave Rescue Commission**

The post of chairperson for the ECRC is now held by Ms. Antonia Vlaykova from the Bulgarian Federation of Speleology (BFS) this is for a 4-years term. UK cavers are actively involved in this commission.

### **The International Caving Expeditions database (ICE db)**

Treasurer Henk Goutier maintains the contact with WikiCaves. The ICE db is steadily growing. The idea is to provide all speleologists with data and contact information about caving areas world-wide. This is done in collaboration with the UIS. All reports of EuroSpeleo Projects are now also available on the WikiCaves website. WikiCaves currently provides major translation assistance e.g. for the FSE Newsletter

### **Change of role on the FSE bureau**

We now have a new General Secretary in the FSE bureau, Alena Gessert from Slovakia. Although new to the bureau she is an active caver committed to the busy post of secretary. Michael Laumans has moved to post of ESP projects and Mladen Garasic from Croatia was elected into the role of FSE Vice President.

### **General Assembly Meeting for 2018**

The GAM for this year will be held in Austria on 25<sup>th</sup> August. The Speleological Society of Ebensee together with the Austrian Speleological Association and their partners for organising the event in the picturesque region of Salzkammergut of Upper Austria. This will be the 12<sup>th</sup> Eurospeleo Forum organised in Europe. The theme of the congress is 'Connecting science and crossing borders'. The congress has already drawn interest from over thirty countries across five continents. Further information can be found at [www.Eurospeleo.at](http://www.Eurospeleo.at)

### **Eurospeleo Projects**

Considerable work is invested in maintaining the system of sponsoring European projects, such as the EuroSpeleo Projects (ESP), the EuroSpeleo Forums (ESF), as well as the EuroSpeleo Protection Label (ESPL). This year one long standing official partners of the FSE, Beal Ropes, withdrew their sponsorship but fortunately, the FSE projects officer acted quickly and managed to secure a contract with Sacid-Korda's from Barcelona who are now the FSE's new rope sponsor. Also, Aventure Verticale (AV) have reduced their contract which has resulted in substantial changes to our

guidelines and the applications for ESPs, ESFs and the ESPLs. The new guidelines can be found on the FSE website.

Further afield, the new working agreement between FSE and the Asian Union of Speleology was successfully demonstrated with two joint EuroSpeleo Projects in Cambodia and Vietnam.

Work continues to encourage more applications from the UK.

The table below shows EuroSpeleo Projects (ESP) and EuroSpeleo Forums/Congresses supported by FSE between June 2016 to present.

<b>New applications approved since August 2016</b>	
<b>Project name, date and location</b>	<b>Organizing country</b>
<b>ESP 2017-08: Myanmar 2018, Cave Together</b> Date: 27 January - 18 February 2018, Mandalay, Shan, and Kayah States,	<b>DE</b>
<b>ESP 2017-09: Expedition to Sampov Lun, Cambodia</b> Date: 20 January - 9 February 2018, Sampov Lun, Battambang province, Cambodia	<b>DE</b>
<b>ESP 2017-10: Expedition to Krong No Volcanic Geopark, Vietnam</b> Date: 21 March - 9 April 2018, Krong No district, Dak Nong province, Vietnam	<b>DE</b>
<b>ESP 2017-11: International Expedition "Mt. Sedom"</b> Date: 11 - 22 January 2018, Mount Sedom, Israel	<b>BG</b>
<b>ESP 2017-12: Gouffre Berger (Deep Cleaning)</b> Date: 29 July - 20 August 2018, Gouffre Berger, Vercors, France	<b>FR</b>
<b>ESP 2018-01: German Youth Camp</b> Date: 28 July - 11 August 2018, Blaubeuren, Swabian Alb, Germany	<b>DE</b>
<b>ESP 2018-02: Expedition Sternes</b> Date: 5 - 15 July 2018, South side of the Sternes peak of Lefka Ori, Crete	<b>GR</b>
<b>ESP 2018-03 : Colloque Karst</b> Date: 27 June - 1 July 2018, Chambéry, Savoie, France	<b>FR</b>

#### **Timetable of Eurospeleo events & General Assembly Meetings over next 3 years that involve the FSE.**

ES Forum 2019 will be in Dryanovo, Bulgaria September.

ES Forum 2020 will hopefully be hosted in Spain, but this is still to be confirmed

ES Forum 2021 will take place at the UIS Congress in Lyon, France.

#### **Ged Campion**

**FSE Delegate for the BCA.**