

2001-2005 Cave Rescue Commission Report [ENG]

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Colleagues,

You have reelected me as a president of the Rescue Committee during the 13th Congress in Brazil although I was absent because of my wife's heavy condition.

I would like to thank you for the confidence. Some days after, the terrible disease as cancer is carried her off and I lost my wife but the Committee lost its devoted secretary without whom I was nothing.

The Committee was paralyzed in fact and by now I have succeeded to recover only partially the secretariat. Becoming a widow, I was not as efficient as before and I would like to ask you to be excused.

Fortunately, the other members of the Committee kept on fulfilling their tasks which allows me to give a positive balance. We kept on working and we replied to all demands which were addressed to us. We contacted the speleological federations where there was no speleo rescue organized.

The cave rescue regionalization continued. Now we have a Rescue commission within FEALC which is managed by Efrain Mercado. Our vice-president Trifon Daaliev being also a member of the Balkan Speleological Union directs his efforts to structure the cave rescue in Eastern Europe and Turkey, while our other vice-president Christian Dodelin maintains excellent relations with Western Europe and the others.

In the South hemisphere, our representative Jo Sidney and vice-president Grace Matt assisted for the South hemisphere speleological meeting. The French cave rescue and Christian Dodelin organized international cave rescue internships in 2001 and 2003.

The first cave rescue structure was established in Argentine in February. The last planned course should have been conducted after the congress but was postponed for year 2006 because of insufficient information and resources.

In order to celebrate its 50th anniversary, the Belgium cave rescue commission organized the 10th cave rescue colloquia in November 2002 while Bulgarian cave rescue celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2004.

The members of the committee worked hard and traveled a lot abroad for their own account; they established a lot of useful contacts which should have been much more if the members were financially assisted.

Beyond the activity of the International committee, RESCON 03 was held in 2003, while RESCON 05 will be held in Poland from 19th to 25th of September 2005.

We are very proud also of the Committee's web site which is maintained by Efrain Mercado and which supplies the general public with all information concerning our activity. This mandate terminates my

presidency and I am happy with the results I leave behind. During the meeting which will be held in a few days I will present to your vote the person that I believe is most capable to stand at the head and to ensure the success of the Committee. I would like to thank you for the support which I received from you and which allowed me to fulfill my successful mandate.

A. Slagmolen,
President of the Cave Rescue Commission of the UIS