



**Minutes**  
**Assembly of Delegates**  
**Terrestrial Rescue Commission**

Place: Borovets (Bulgaria), Samakov Hotel  
Date: October 20, 2016  
Time: 8 a.m.  
Participants: Delegates of the Terrestrial Rescue Commission  
Chairmen: Gebhard Barbisch and Kirk Mauthner  
Minutes: Fabienne Jelk

**1. Welcome**

Gebhard Barbisch welcomes all participants, especially the new members and interpreters.

**2. Distribution of Ballots**

The ballots are distributed. The delegates of the organizations are asked to come forward and pick up two ballots for A member or one ballot for B members. Markus Hölzl and Raphaël Gingins are appointed to count the votes.

**3. Distribution of International Activities List**

The list for international activities is being circulated. Organizations that participated in activities in another country are asked to enter it in the list.

#### **4. Distribution of Point of Contact List**

It is important for the commission to have a contact person in each organization. The current list is being circulated and the members are being asked to check the contact person and update the information if necessary.

#### **5. Commemorating Fallen Members**

Bernd Zehetleitner gives a eulogy for Bene (Karl Peter Götzfried) who passed away on January 31, 2016.

Catriona Lucas of the Search and Rescue Dog Association Ireland died during a rescue mission. Her life is commemorated in a short eulogy.

Another accident occurred in the Pyrenees mountains; a helicopter crashed and two French rescuers died.

*Files: 20161020-TER-002-Abschied-Bene.pdf*

*20161020-TER-003-Picture-Bene.pdf*

*20161020-TER-004-Picture-Catriona.pdf*

#### **6. Minutes of Killarney, Ireland**

The minutes had been published on the website. The minutes are approved without comments.

#### **7. ICAR Information**

There was an avalanche danger publication in the past year.

The committee was reorganized, a technical commission was founded.

Multiple membership applications have been received.

The avalanche commission issued two new recommendations; "Accident Prevention" and "Probing Strategies". The recommendation "Probing Strategies" will be further discussed during this congress.

Discussions were also held with regards to the congresses in Andorra in 2017 and Chamonix in 2018.

## 8. New Members – Short Presentation

Several new members were admitted in the past year. If any delegates of these new members are present, they were asked to introduce themselves.

UIAA – International Climbing and Mountaineering Foundation Federation – Member C

AC – Avalanche Canada – Member C

ACNA – Associacio per al Coneixement de la Neu i les Allaus – Member C

ASV – Alpine SAR Victoria – Member C

BExMed – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Berg- und Expeditionsmedizin – Member B

CHUV – Emergency Service of the University Hospital of Lausanne – Member B

FIPS – Federation International des Patrouilles de Ski – Member B

NF – Norsk Folkehjelp – Member B

NFS – Norwegian Society for Mountain Medicine – Member B

BMRS – Bulgarian Mountain Rescue Service – Member A

CMA – Chinese Mountaineering Association – Member A

GSSuBIH – Savez gorskih sluzbi sparavanja u Bosni i Hercegovini – Member A

JMGA – Japan Mountain Guides Association – Member A

## 9. How to Develop Recommendations – New Method

There has been a discussion about how a recommendation should be developed. A work group including Rick Head, Franz Lindenberg, Alistair Read, Kirk Mauthner, Dan Hourihan, Dominique Letang and the executive committee was formed. It is important to note that these recommendations come from the executive committee and not from the Terrestrial Rescue Commission. A recommendation needs to be applicable to all of ICAR, which is why the executive committee was integrated into the process.

The process is as follows:

The members have the right to decide whether or not to approve a recommendation during the Assembly of Delegates.

In the first phase a recommendation starts as a project. Goal and purpose of the recommendation need to be outlined. One commission is the lead. Other commissions as well as external authorities can be involved if necessary. Legal aspects have to be considered and a timeline needs to be set. This information will be communicated to all ICAR members. Afterwards a scientifically-based process starts. ICAR recommendations cannot be in conflict with already established recommendations. The delegates and assembly of delegates are kept informed continually by the leading commission. The final version will be sent to all members at least 3 months ahead of the next assembly of delegates. Once the recommendation is approved a publication on the official ICAR homepage follows and potentially in different magazines. After 5 years the assembly of delegates needs to decide whether a recommendation needs to be revised or deleted.

By next year all recommendations will be proofed and revised according to this process.

There are no questions regarding this new process.

## 10. Recommendations Terrestrial Rescue Commission

Gebhard Barbisch presents the recommendations that were discussed. The participants are asked to comment or suggest changes.

- **TER-REC 0001: Use of Carabiner with Self-Lock-Systems in Mountain Rescue Organizations**

*The ICAR Terrestrial Rescue Committee recommends for organized mountain rescue operations main- and central carabiners and for air rescue*

*operations only the use of push/pull and twist carabiners, which conforms to EN 12275Q.*

Gebhard Barbisch: This recommendation states that screw-lock carabiners cannot be used as main or central carabiner or in air rescue altogether. This recommendation is outdated. Both carabiners need to be allowed; screw- and self-lock carabiners. This recommendation was made at a time when screw-lock carabiners were breaking. However, today there is new and better material being used that has a higher tensile strength.

The following changes should be made:

*The ICAR Terrestrial Rescue Committee recommends the use of triple-action locking carabiners (push/pull, twist, open) that conform to EN 12275Q be used for air rescue operations as well as for non-redundant rope systems at the central attachment point. Other applications may use either screw-lock carabiners or triple-action self-locking carabiners.*

The text will be revised in more detail. The recommendation will be labeled “in revision”.

No comments.

- **TER-REC 0003: Canyoning – Training for commercial groups/ Canyoning training for commercial guides**

*The IKAR Terrestrial Rescue Commission considers canyoning to be a potentially highly dangerous mountain sport. Guiding groups in canyons requires highest mountaineering and aquatic competency. Only very comprehensive training curricula can guarantee that such requirements are met.*

*People, who are guiding others on canyoning trips on a commercial, i.e. paid basis must therefore hold a nationally recognized training certification.*

No comments.

- **TER - REC 0004:** *Static rope knots for rope extension*

*Only a figure eight follow through, a flat figure eight or a double fisherman's knot are allowed for joining and extending conventional kernmantle nylon and/or polyester rescue ropes conforming to EN 1891 or CI 1809 – 98 for the purpose of mountain rescue operations.*

Comment: Herbert Streibel: In Germany the figure eight and double fisherman's knot are not being used due to the risk of damaging the rope. Additionally, the rope can stop through the knot when going over edges. The overhand follow-through or two loop figure eight are being used instead.

Gebhard Barbisch: The recommendation will be discussed this afternoon.

Comment: The revision has not been completed. There will be the note "in revision" posted on the recommendation.

- **TER - REC 0005:** *Redundancy by lowering or raising people with fiber ropes*

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*The ICAR Terrestrial Rescue Committee recommends for lowering or raising people with fiber ropes fundamentally two anchors, three dimensional apart as practical, have to be used. One anchor is for the load rope or winch, the other is for the belay (rope).*

*If fiber rope winches are used the load rope runs over the winch. Using the winch the load is lowered or raised. The three dimensional separated belay line runs through a braking device.*

*If the course of the rope on the winch must be changed the belay line has to be fixed to hold the rope. A practical three dimensional separation of the load rope and the belay line is necessary to prevent damage and shearing of both ropes at the same time.*

*The belay line always must be kept tight over the whole rope length. For no reasons loose rope slings are allowed to develop.*

Comment Kirk Mauthner: There is also a risk in the three dimensional separation of the tension rope.

Herbert Streibel: Tension and belay rope over an edge causes problems. In Germany only double tension ropes are used.

This recommendation will also be discussed later.

- **TER – REC 0006:** *Static rope brakes - Advisable brake systems for static ropes enable the rope sliding through twist free.*

No comments.

- **TER - REC 0007:** *Static rope differentiation UIAA Standard 107*

*2.2 For the award of the UIAA Label, the following additional requirements shall be met:*

*2.2.1 Marking: Low-stretch ropes shall be marked as follows:*

*(a) The sheath shall have one main colour, which shall be at least 80 % of the visible surface (any colour is possible).*

*(b) Contrasting spiral threads are allowed, spiralling in one direction only, having a maximum of two colours.*

Comment: Part (b): Contrasting spiral. There are manufacturers who use crossed spirals. The UIAA recommendation will be checked in this regard.

Gebhard Barbisch: This recommendation will also be discussed. However, this cannot be done this afternoon since the UIAA label needs to be verified. This will be discussed next year.

- **TER - REC 0008:** *Winter Rescue Equipment*

*Toboggans and akjas should be built both for one or two rescuers' use. Skiholders at the akjas are convenient.*

No comments.

- **TER - REC 0009:** *Systems in Mountain Rescue / Systeme in der Bergrettung*

*Systems are assemblies from individual components that have been developed for clearly defined purposes.*

*These systems provide functional solutions for practical use in mountain rescue.*

*If a system contains components that are relevant to safety, but are not covered by technical standards nor legal guidelines, or if those standards and rules are not followed, then an analysis of the entire system must be done.*

*The system documentation (system data, rules and regulations, user manual, interface definitions, risk analysis, test setups etc.) are to be examined by an independent testing agency. The examination may also comprise practical tests.*

*The testing agency should preferably be contracted by the manufacturer or by the entity bringing the product to the market. If so, the product liability remains with the manufacturer, and they are responsible for the integration of the test results*

*Later modifications to the system require a reexamination by the testing agency.*

*The rescue organizations, being the users of the system, are responsible for correct implementation of the instructions and for correct use of the systems.*

No comments.

#### **11. Petitions to the Commission**

None.

#### **12. Petitions to the Executive Committee**

None.

#### **13. Goals 2017**

Ideas can be submitted to Kirk Mauthner and Gebhard Barbisch during the congress. This will be discussed on Saturday.

#### **14. Election 2016 – Commission President and Vice-President**

Gebhard Barbisch and Kirk Mauthner are up for re-election. Dan Hourihan is in charge of the elections. No other nominations are brought forward. Gebhard Barbisch and Kirk Mauthner are re-elected.

#### **15. Miscellaneous**

Raphael Gingins comments that classification Q in recommendation 1 is a mistake. This will be discussed with Kirk Mauthner.

The participants are asked to stroll through the exhibits and talk to sponsors during the break.



End of Meeting: 9:45 a.m.

The President  
Gebhard Barbisch

The Vice-President  
Kirk Mauthner

For the English Translation: Olivia A. Cashner

**Important information:**

If to this minutes belonging files are not available on our homepage, please send a mail to me ([terrestrial.rescue@alpine-rescue.org](mailto:terrestrial.rescue@alpine-rescue.org)). I can send you a link where a download of all this files are possible.

Rankweil, 14.12.2016  
Gebhard Barbisch