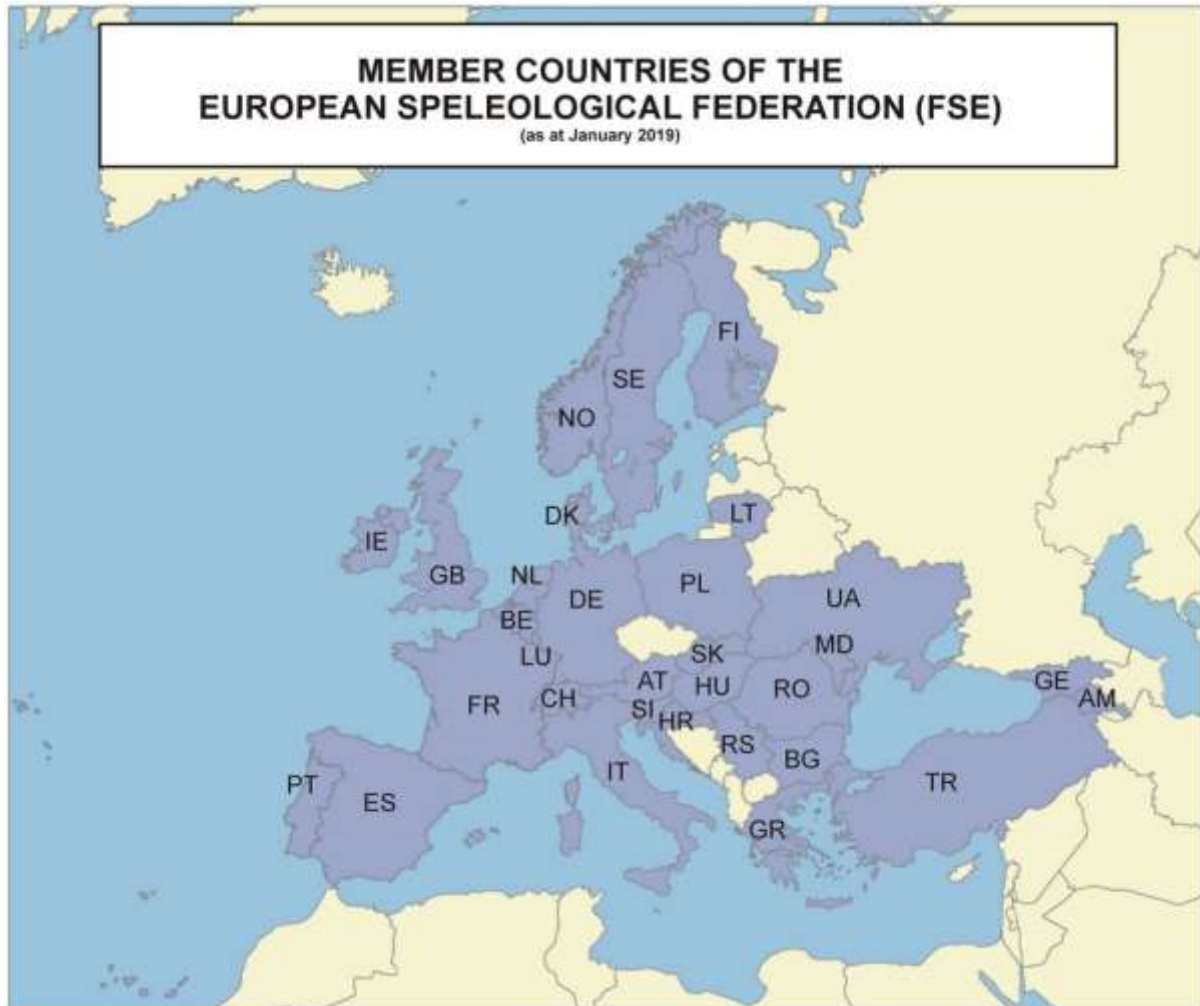


FSE delegate report to BCA AGM 9.6 2019.

FSE Membership

The FSE comprises a membership of 31 countries. Georgia & Armenia have recently joined. Last year Turkey withdrew due to political turmoil and Albania dropped out due to non-payment.



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 FSE newsletter is published on a regular basis thanks to the hard work of Michael Laummans (Germany). The June edition is attached. The FSE has also published a Privacy Policy which was adopted unanimously by the last General Assembly Meeting (GAM).

Last General Assembly Meeting of the FSE(GAM) 2018

The GAM for last year was held on 25th August. The Speleological Society of Ebensee together with the Austrian Speleological Association and their partners hosted the GAM in Salzkammergut, Upper Austria. This was the 12th Eurospeleo Forum organised in Europe. The meeting was attended by 20 countries which represents a good turnout. Full details of the meeting and decisions can be found in the GAM minutes on the FSE web site.

French National Congress

The French national Federation (FFS) will be holding their national congress in La Ciotat, Southern France, this year from 8th -10th June. The FSE has felt it necessary to try and engage with the FFS more robustly to get a representative from France to join the bureau given that they are the largest community of cavers in Europe. Henk Goutier will attend on behalf of the FSE and his spoken French is very good.

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. A current topic receiving much attention and debate internationally has been the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). A technical committee has been established to 'classify' or 're-classify' Karst nomenclature, for details see EuroSpeleo Newsletter from July 2018 (page 4) available in French and English at the FSE website. ECPC has recommended that all FSE member countries contact their national ISO delegate to become involved/influence the work of this Committee. An Action Team of the European Cave Protection Commission (ECPC) has been formed to assist FSE members with all related questions.

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). UK cavers are actively involved in this commission and the Thailand rescue work has helped consolidate work of the ECRC.

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

Role of FSE Vice delegate to the BCA.

I have recently had discussions with Nick Williams (FSE vice delegate to the BCA) and following his resignation from the BCA council he feels this might be the appropriate time for a new vice delegate to be elected if that were appropriate. I have always managed to attend all the 'foreign' meetings, so Nick never had to step in. The agreement was he would attend the council meetings and represent any FSE issues as vice delegate at that forum leaving me to work with partners abroad.

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). Sacid-Korda's from Barcelona are now the FSE's official rope sponsor. Also, Aventure Verticale (AV) have reduced their contract which has resulted in substantial changes to FSE guidelines and the applications for ESPs, ESFs and the ESPLs. The new guidelines can be found on the FSE website.

Work continues to encourage more applications from the UK.

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

ES Forum 2019 will be in Dryanovo, Bulgaria, 26-29th September. Details can be found in FSE newsletter attached. (Unfortunately, this might clash with Hidden Earth. I've spoken to both parties, but neither will budge)!

ES Forum 2020 will be in Burgos, northern Spain, August.

ES Forum 2021 will take place at the UIS Congress in Lyon, France. This will celebrate 'The international year of the cave.'

Ged Campion FSE Delegate for the BCA.