



Congress in Aosta, 1995



Congress in Bad Reichenhall, 1996

11th Congress: Bad Reichenhall, Germany, 1996

Participants were Germany, France, Switzerland, Austria, Italy and USA. Observer was Slovenia. Poland, Spain and Norway did not attend the congress. Changes and amendments to the IFMS Statute were approved allowing the membership of junior soldiers. Following the proposal of the Italian delegation, talks commenced on the admission of the Argentinean organization of military soldiers to IFMS, while the US delegation launched the initiative on the possible admission of military soldiers from the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Romania. All members expressed their interest in the admission of new IFMS members, particularly from Southeast Europe. Endeavours for the development of new programmes targeted at younger generations of mountain soldiers were presented. Slovenia was to be granted the status of a permanent member at the next congress in 1997 in Aosta.

12th Congress: Aosta, Italy, 1997

The congress was once again organised in Italy by the National Alpini Association (ANA) through its Aosta Division in collaboration with Scuola Militare Alpina (Alpine Military School). The Assembly approved amendments to the Charter and appointed Sergio Bottinelli, member of the ANA Board, Secretary General. At the end of his report made on behalf of ANA, Giuseppe Parazzini proposed enhancing mutual knowledge and friendship by means of international meetings among mountain soldiers from all over the world. This proved a good omen for the IFMS Days. Something unusual also happened in Aosta: the IFMS trophy, created for the purpose of increasing knowledge and awareness about the Federation, was given to a French patrol winning the world military ski championship organised in Canada by CISM, the International Military Sports Council. Russia, which had won the trophy in 1996, was not present in Canada and therefore could not hand the trophy over to the winners. On May 10, the first IFMS Division Commission met in Bergamo. The first IFMS exhibition, displaying pictures and explanation panels, was organised by Giudici, assisted by young people from Azzano San Paolo. Today the exhibition is constantly updated and displayed at IFMS meetings and major events both in Italy and abroad.

13th Congress: Stans, Switzerland, 1998

Participants were Germany, France, Switzerland, Italy, USA and Poland. Observer countries were Slovenia and Spain. Austria did not attend the congress. The Swiss Army Mountain School in Andermatt hosted joint training of mountain squads. Slovenian delegation was requested to submit the statute indicating that active duty and reserve structures of the Slovenian Armed Forces are also eligible for membership in the mountain soldiers' section.

14th Congress: Polanica-Zdrój, Poland, 1999

Participants were Germany, France, Switzerland, Italy, USA and Poland. Observer countries were Slovenia and Spain. Austria did not attend the congress. Slovenian and Spanish national organizations of mountain soldiers became full-fledged members. As a result of inactivity, Austria lost its member status and was granted the status of an observer. Joint training of mountain squads was to become an essential and constituent element of the annual congress events.

Congress in Stans, 1998



Congress in Polanica Zdrój, 1999



IFMS



Congress in Grenoble, 2000



Congress in Grenoble, 2000

15th Congress: Grenoble, France, 2000

Participants were Germany, France, Switzerland, Italy, USA, Slovenia and Spain. Austria did not attend the congress. The issue was raised about the official language of the congress (English), but the decision was taken to keep the rule of four official languages as determined by the IFMS Statute. The new IFMS Secretary General Hans Peter Walker from Switzerland was elected for a three-year mandate.

16th Congress: Jaca, Spain, 2001

In Jaca (Spain), the 2001 congress opened with a moment of silence in memory of the victims of the Twin Towers tragedy in New York. Slovenia was not present. The topics discussed included the precarious situation of Austria, relations with Argentina, Chile, Croatia and Morocco (the latter was present with two observers), and the difficulties met by the newly-elected Secretary General in participating in various events owing to distances and a lack of funds. Secretary General Walker proposed publishing an online newsletter. The IFMS Days were organised in Villa Minozzo by the Reggio Emilia Division.

17th Congress: Bled, Slovenia, 2002

Participants were Germany, France, Switzerland, Italy, USA, Poland, Slovenia and Spain. Austria did not attend the congress. The debate about introducing a single official language for congress events was reopened. The Secretary General proposed English as the only language of official communication at the sessions of the Executive Board and the General Assembly. The proposal was not approved by all delegations, therefore the rule of four languages: German, Italian, English and French remained in force.

18th Congress: Füssen, Germany, 2003

Participants were Germany, France, Switzerland, Italy, USA, Slovenia and Spain. Austria and Poland did not attend the congress. The mandate of Secretary General was prolonged by one year up to the Congress in Luino in 2004, all congress events were carried out under the motto »The Future Needs Us«. The Executive Committee therefore prepared a special IFMS Congress Resolution on the further development of mountain units aimed at general staffs of IFMS members;

The General Assembly was also attended by General Dr. Reinhardt, the former Commander of NATO Forces in Central Europe and NATO Forces in Kosovo, who presented trends in the development of EU rapid reaction forces and their cooperation within NATO response forces. The mountain area around Füssen hosted a field training exercise involving mountain soldiers from Slovenia, France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy and Spain.

Congress in Bled, 2002



Congress in Füssen, 2003



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Congress in Luino, 2004

19th Congress: Luino, Italy, 2004

Participants were Germany, France, Switzerland, Italy, USA, Slovenia, Poland and Spain. Austria did not attend the congress. Approval of the official IFMS anthem »Forever Friends« proposed by the ANA Section President Mr. Sergio Bottinelli from Luino, also the author of lyrics, and arranged by Mr. Carlo Sartorio. The mandate of Secretary General Mr. Peter Walker was prolonged by another two years, up to the year 2006. A Civil Protection field training exercise was conducted for units operating under ANA. The exercise included the deployment of a field hospital and logistic shelter unit, and a practical demonstration of rescue operations from earthquake debris by special units.

20th Congress: Stowe, Vermont (USA), 2005

Participants were Germany, France, Switzerland, Italy, USA, Slovenia, Poland and Spain. Austria did not attend the congress. The Army Mountain Warfare School of the Army National Guard in Jericho organized a joint field training exercise of mountain soldiers from five IFMS member countries: Germany, France, Spain, Switzerland and USA. Slovenia was entrusted the organization of IFMS Days in July 2007.

21st Congress: Spiez, Switzerland, 2006

Participants were Germany, France, Switzerland, Italy, USA, Slovenia, Poland and Spain. Austria did not attend the congress. On proposal of the Spanish national organization of mountain soldiers, the new Secretary General Brigadier Jamie Coll, Commander of the Mountain Brigade Aragon, was elected for a three-year mandate. The association of Austrian Mountain Soldiers, newly organized under the leadership of Brigadier General Ernst Konzett, regained the status of IFMS permanent member. The central topic of the General Assembly was »Application of Lessons Learned by Military Units in NATO Peace Support Operations in the Education and Training System of Mountain Units of IFMS Members«. A field training exercise of mountain squads in rescuing the crew from a crashed helicopter was carried out. A yearly financial contribution of permanent members in the amount of 50 EUR to cover IFMS running expenses was introduced.

Congress in Spiez, 2006



Congress in Spiez, 2006



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Congress in Zakopane, 2007



Congress in Zakopane, 2007



Congress in Jaca, 2008

22nd Congress: Skawina - Zakopane, Poland, 2007

The 2007 congress was organised in Skawina-Zakopane (Carpathia) and saw Austria attend. The possibility of inviting active troops to congresses was reiterated. The use of the standard at official events-escorted by the Secretary General or one of his delegates was recommended. Esteban Calzada Charles from Spain was appointed the first Deputy Secretary General. Alessio Granelli (Italy), Miha Rauter (Slovenia), Tadeus Kurczyk and Maria Szczepaniec (Poland) were given the merit awards. The 50th anniversary of the war memorial in Hohen Brendten was celebrated with an official ceremony in Mittenwald. The IFMS Days were held on Triglav in Slovenia.

23rd Congress: Jaca, Spain, 2008

In 2008, the local IFMS Commission of the Marche Division was set up. The IFMS Days were organised in Torino in Italy. At the congress in Jaca, Spain, it was decided to create a medal to be given with the merit awards. The 1993 standard, last displayed at the gathering of the 2nd ANA group in Vigevano, was replaced by a new standard offered by the Spanish army. It was given to the ANA to be kept in the museum of Azzano San Paolo (Bergamo Division).

24th Congress: Chamonix, France, 2009

The 24th Congress of the International Federation of Mountain Soldiers included a series of content-related activities which, in addition to the IFMS operation, focused on the presentations of participation in Crisis Response Operations and the historical overview of World War I battles. The emphasis in considering modern Crisis Response Operations was on the ISAF operation. IFMS thus continues to place great importance on the professional content of mountain warfare.

The main event at the congress was the election of the new IFMS Secretary General. The function was awarded to Brigadier Bojan Pograjc from the Slovenian Armed Forces. The handover of duties was carried out between him and the former Secretary General, Spanish General Jamie Coll. In his remarkable address Brigadier Bojan Pograjc expressed his gratitude for being entrusted to lead the organization for the next three years. Alongside the election of the new Secretary General, a symbolic handover of the IFMS presidential duties was also carried out in accordance with the IFMS statute. For the duration of one year, presidential duties are assumed by the president of the IFMS national organization of the country hosting the next congress.

Congress in Chamonix 2009.
Present is Brigadier Bojan Pograjc,
Secretary General of IFMS, 2009 -



Congress in Chamonix, 2009



IFMS

IFMS Days

The purpose of the IFMS Days is to unite different bases of associations and to keep acquaintanceships and friendships.

- I. – XI. 1987-1997 – Azzano San Paolo - Italy
- XII. 1998 – Alzano Lombardo – Italy
- XIII. 1999 – Luino – Italy
- XIV. 2000 – Mittenwald – Germany
- XV. 2001 – Villa Minozzo – Italy
- XVI. 2002 – Andermatt – Switzerland
- XVII. 2003 – Bessans – France
- XVIII. 2004 – Azzano San Paolo – Italy
- XIX. 2005 – Huesca – Spain
- XX. 2006 – Chamonix – France
- XXI. 2007 – Triglav – Slovenia
- XXII. 2008 – Torino – Italy
- XXIII. 2009 – Sion - Switzerland

IFMS Days 1999 – Luino



IFMS Days 2000 – Mittenwald



IFMS Days 2006 – Chamonix



IFMS Days 2007 – Triglav



IFMS Days 2007 – Triglav



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