



Press release April 7th 2015

The International Trail Running Association's first general assembly. An important stage towards more exchange with the aim of gathering together all the trail-running players.

The ITRA's General Assembly took place on March 22nd 2015 with the participation of the committee members who are standing down and the 44 newly elected representatives of national organisations and runners.

Around forty people came from diverse horizons (the United States of America, Korea, Turkey, the Isle of Reunion and numerous european countries...) were give a rendezvous in Paris. The other participants and observers were able to follow the GA via video-conference with live participation.

The first part dealt with its development, the Treasurer's financial report, the reports from the commissions (Security/Health/Safety, Race evaluations, Ranking), its international development and relationship with the IAAF, time for diverse subjects such as the ITRA's finances, consideration of environmental problems, the relationship with the various authorities or even the evaluations of race routes... Before the election of the committee.

Election of the new Executive Committee.

According to the statutes, the election of the 20 members of the Executive Committee was held in two rounds. 14 people, having obtained an absolute majority, were elected in the 1st round. The 6 remaining positions were filled by a simple majority in the 2nd round. Comprising of 20 people, the new Steering Committee confirms the presence of the major players in the field of trail-running and has a high international representation (**13 countries** represented coming from the **5 continents**). The committee will meet at the end of April to elect the new president and officers.

List of members of the executive Committee (**20 people**): [Link](#)

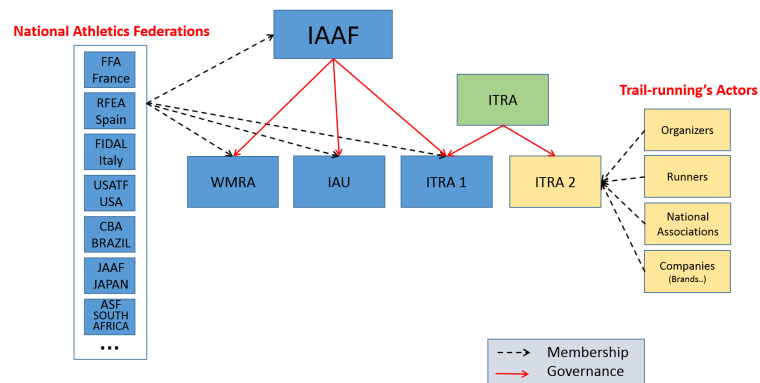
List of national representatives (**29 organisers and 15 runners**): [Link](#)

Video showing the GA : [link](#) (waiting for the Minutes of the GA)

The ITRA's position at the level of the international organisation of Trail-running and the desire to gather together all the players of the field

The general assembly was the opportunity for explaining the ITRA's decision to approach the federal world which, though its organisation (clubs, leagues, federations), its model of training, its relations with the authorities, its societal role or even its security supervision is an important and necessary player.

Trail-running will officially become a discipline in international athletics during the IAAF (International Association of Athletics Federations) conference to be held in Pekin in August 2015. This global recognition is going to lead to a clarification of its international organisation. Within this perspective, in collaboration with the IAAF, the **ITRA is going to revise its statutes** so that it can be recognised by the IAAF, on one hand, and gather together all the Trail-running players in a better way (organisers, runners, equipment manufacturers...) on the other hand.



The future place for the ITRA in the heart of the organisation of international athletics

The creation of two separate entities (ITRA1 and ITRA2) joined by a Governance Board (ITRA) would allow "ITRA1" to get the patronage of the IAAF alongside the WMRA (mountain racing) and IAU (ultra-running) and "ITRA2" to gather in a balanced way all the trail-running players.

This revision of the ITRA's statutes will allow for **a more balanced governance** between the different players, in particular the top athletes who are only represented by one person on the present ITRA Executive Committee.

The controversy started in France following, Bernard Amsalem's, President of the FFA, words in the press shows the absolute necessity to organise trail-running within the framework of a real dialogue with all the players on the ground.

This begins with a more elaborate collaboration with top athletes. Since December exchanges began between the ITRA, the FFA and a group of top athletes (François d'Haene, Thomas Lorblanchet, Martin Gaffuri, Sébastien Chaigneau, Julien Chorier, Virginie Govignon).

Newly elected to the heart of the ITRA, Nathalie Mauclair, representative for the athletes on the Executive Committee, is going to reinforce the work already carried out within a working group of athletes from worldwide. Following the candidacy of François d'Haene for the Steering Committee, the ITRA counts, in particular, on the input of the group from the aforementioned athlete.

The current subjects like the organisation of the discipline while respecting its original values of the method of the organisation of the world championships show the diversity of the points of view, and the necessity of discussing them.

The World Trail-running Championships IAU 2015

Organised by the IAU and the FFA under the umbrella of the Tecnica MaXi-Race, (86km and 5300m ascent) they will take place on May 30th 2015. After the 2013 World Championships in Wales, which was the object of several controversies (late announcement, event run in laps...), the early choice of this authentic and popular trail race strengthens the credibility of the event and favours the meeting of international athletes selected by their national federations who will carry the colours of their country. They will compete for the official titles of World Trail-running Champion in the categories male, female or team.

To date, **301 runners** (182 men and 119 women) from 40 different countries are registered.

These figures, which one should compare with the 118 runners from 18 countries who participated in the 2013 World Championships in Wales, shows that the choice of organising the World Trail-running Championships within a popular Trail-running event, where more than 7000 runners have the pleasure of running beside the best runners in the world, is a very important step for the organisation of official international Trail-running competitions within the frame which **respects the authentic values** of the discipline.

Controversies live on however, in particular concerning the start of the World Championships which will be given 1hr 30 before that of the 2000 runners in the Tecnica-MaXi-Race du Lac d'Annecy which takes place over the original route. This proves, if we need to, that Trail-running is a young sport whose exponential development requires dialogue between all players.

Information on the web-site : <http://i-tra.org>

CONTACTS

International Trail-Running-Association Tel : +41 (0)2 15 19 02 08
Michel Poletti : Mobile : +33 6 08 02 94 68 Email : contact@i-tra.org

PRESS RELATIONS

INFOCÎMES Tel : +33 (0) 4 50 47 24 61
Anne Gery : Mob : +33 (0) 6 12 03 68 95 : annegery@infocimes.com