

Date: 07 November 2017
Time: 10:00 – 12:30 [meeting finished at 16:15]
Location: Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique, Avenue de la Gare 12 A, Case Postale 630, CH- 1001 Lausanne, Switzerland

Agenda: The mutually agreed agenda items were as follows (agenda items were proposed by both FIG & PKE prior to the meeting);

1. Welcome by President Morinari Watanabe (*FIG Agenda item*)
2. Introductions - FIG and PKE (*PKE Agenda Item*)
3. Presentation of FIG and its vision for Parkour (*FIG Agenda item*)
4. Presentation of Parkour Earth and its vision for Parkour/Freerunning/Art Du Déplacement, its members & its community (*PKE Agenda Item*)
5. Formalise the clarification, understanding & recognition of the sovereignty of Parkour/Freerunning/Art Du Déplacement as a sport (*PKE Agenda Item*)
6. Formalise the understanding and acknowledgement of Parkour Earth as the International Federation for the sovereign sport of Parkour/Freerunning/Art Du Déplacement (*PKE Agenda Item*)
7. Possible cooperation of the two organisations (*FIG Agenda item*)
8. Any Other Business (AOB) (*PKE Agenda item*)

Attendees: Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique (FIG);

- President, Morinari Watanabe
- Secretary General, André Gueisbuhler
- Vice President Parkour Commission, Charles Perrière
- Sports Manager – Parkour, Florian Busi
- Sports Manager – Events, Céline Cachemaille

Apologies;

- President Parkour Commission, David Belle

Parkour Earth (PKE);

- Sacha Lemaire, Elected Director & Président, [Fédération de Parkour](#) (FRA)
- Eugene Minogue, (Transitional) Chief Executive & Chief Executive of [Parkour UK](#) (UK)
- Stephen Sampson, Honorary General Counsel for Parkour Earth

Apologies;

- Stuart McInnes MBE, Independent Chair of Parkour Earth

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome by President Morinari Watanabe

Morinari Watanabe;

A hearty welcome to you all. What I want you to understand first is that I totally respect you all so that I am waiting outside in the cold. I respect what you have been engaged in with all my heart. The first time I saw Parkour was in Yokohama in Japan I have fallen in love with Parkour at first sight. It is you who developed it to such a wonderful sport. That is why I respect you so it is a great honour and happy moment to meet you here today. I would think that our shared goal is the development of Parkour. I am truly hoping that today's meeting will allow us to have further development. Thank you very much for coming.

2. Introductions - FIG and PKE

Eugene Minogue;

Thank you President Morinari Watanabe for the welcome and the opportunity to discuss our legitimate, fundamental and substantiated concerns and to articulate the concerns of the international Parkour/Freerunning/Art Du Déplacement community. Please accept the apologies of Independent Chair, Stuart McInnes who is unable to be with us in person today due to recent health reasons. I am Eugene Minogue, currently transitional CEO of Parkour Earth in addition to CEO of Parkour UK a founding member of Parkour Earth. With me is - Sacha Lemaire, Elected Director of Parkour Earth and Président of Fédération de Parkour, a founding member of Parkour Earth and Stephen Sampson is the Honorary General Counsel for Parkour Earth and will be taking notes throughout the meeting for our records.

André Gueisbuhler;

Introduced Morinari Watanabe, President of FIG. Céline Cachemaille, FIG Sports Manager – Events. Florian Busi, recently employed by FIG as the Sports Manager for Parkour. Charles Perriere, Vice President of the Parkour Commission at FIG. David Belle is the President of the Parkour Commission at FIG. David is on his way, however he has had huge problems joining the train in Paris. Currently we have no idea whether he will be able to make it to the meeting or not. Therefore, if he is not able to reach it in time, please accept his apologies.

Concerning the minutes of the meeting you have requested that we have an independent observer attend the meeting. Therefore, we contact [Denis Oswald, International Olympic Committee \(IOC\) Member](#), but unfortunately he was unable to make the meeting for this Tuesday morning. So we don't have an independent observer. Also, we suggested that we record this meeting but you declined so we respected that. Both Céline and Stephen are taking minutes/notes. After each point on the agenda we summarise what we agree or not agreed and we can sign them at the end.

Eugene Minogue;

Parkour Earth did ask [Emmanuel Mediros, Co-ordinator at the Sport Integrity Global Alliance \(SIGA\)](#) to come as an independent observer, but unfortunately he could not attend due to prior commitments. As per our correspondence prior to the meeting, concerning the minutes and your proposal that the meeting be recorded - we have taken due counsel on this request and we feel that it would be prudent for the meeting not to be recorded either overtly and/or covertly. Additionally, as we are here meeting the FIG's HQ we do not have any independent way to record the meeting as the technology to do so is embedded into the physical room and this controlled solely by FIG. However, we thank you for the offer and also for respecting our request. We also agree that we should aim to summarise and we agree and/or not agree so we can have draft minutes of the meeting that should be mutually agreed by both PKE & FIG prior to confirmation.

3. Presentation of FIG and its vision for Parkour

André Gueisbuhler:

President Morinari Watanabe prepared the presentation [Appendix 1] but he does not speak good English so that he has asked me to present.

Welcome to Lausanne and our new building. This building allows us to work under perfect conditions. Is the FIG's aim to spread David Belle's Parkour vision and philosophy worldwide - making human activities more prosperous to touch students, athletes, elderly people and children. Through education and competition and practice.

Why is FIG useful for the development of Parkour? FIG was established in 1881. FIG is recognised by the various organisations, such as the IOC, Gymnastics affiliated National Federations, National Olympic Committees, Sports Ministries, Education Ministries, ACNO, WADA, FISE, ASOIF, GAIFS, IWGA, CGF, and FISU. FIG has a unique network we feel is key to the development of Parkour. Our strategy, has defined four areas;

- **Organisational strategy**

FIG has 145 member federations, across 7 sports. Our Parkour Commission will also oversee 5 confederation Parkour commissions as part of our continental unions – Europe, pan-America, Asia, Africa & Oceania. The Parkour Commission consists of: President is David Belle, Vice President is Charles Perrière with members - Michel Boutard, Ahmad Albreihi, Estelle Piget in addition to 1 person from each continent. Athletes Representatives are Kamil Tobiasz and Alexandra Shevchenko. Kamil will also sit on FIG's Athletes Commission. The staff/sport manager in charge is Florian Busi. The commission and confederation commissions will undertake worldwide development activities for Parkour. The Parkour Commission is creating the whole necessary background and rules that we need.

The Athletes Commission is at the heart of everything that we do [1]. Each of these representatives are sitting within the technical committee of their sport. Each has a voting right. The Athletes Commission will meet for the very first time in this new cycle in January [four-year cycle 2017 – 2020]. Who is President of Athletes Commission being key, as they sit in the ExCo [Executive Committee] with a voting right.

- **Education Strategy**

To show you what we already have in place for all our sports. The key is that Olympic Solidarity, FIG Academy, Age Group Programme and e-learning. They support the national federations and confederations commissions. Whatever we do in education will come from the Parkour commission. Maybe 10% of courses are generic lectures, 90% is sport specific. These are coming from the Parkour Commission; we want the Parkour experts teaching the educational programme. This programme will be launched as soon as possible, in early 2018. We will immediately begin as with Parkour coaches level 1, 2 and higher. Why do we want to do this? We want to stop our national federations developing their own educational system [2].

- **Competition Strategy**

The aim is to have Parkour at the Olympic Games in 2024 in Paris. We have organised two events, test competitions – the World Cup in Montpellier and then in Chengdu [3]. 2018/9 World Cup with four events per year, with FISE. Agreed to showcase event at 2018 Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires. 2020 plan first World

Championships. Then showcase at 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. 2021-23 World Cup series of 4 per year. Fig will also aim to include Parkour at the World Games in 2021, with second world championships in 2022.

You see that World Cups are planned every second year in the even years. Our other sports have their own World Cups and education programmes. Olympic sports run their World Cups in odd years. Non-Olympic sports in even years. We want to keep Parkour World Cups in even years, even when it is an Olympic sport.

- **Promotion Strategy**

Primarily via social platforms and internet. President Morinari Watanabe has personally created the first event in Hiroshima with FISE. Why working with FISE? Parkour is defined as an urban sport. IOC is creating an urban cluster within the Olympic Games in Tokyo 2020. We are working with FISE and have Parkour in their events. One in Hiroshima, then Montpellier, then Budapest, then Chengdu. Why FISE? It is obvious that you can see the masses of spectators looking at the urban sport disciplines [4]. They are showcasing and having competitions. Some of these sports are recognised by GAISF and the IOC.

Hiroshima benefits; They think that in Japan it will lead to FISE being able to organise the urban cluster for the Tokyo 2020 events. The main thing is to have this urban cluster or action sports to take place around the same time and attract thousands of spectators. We can use the FISE exposure through their existing channels.

Morinari Watanabe;

Parkour will be at the centre of the site – the FISE festival takes place in Hiroshima.

André Gueisbuhler;

This finishes the presentation that the President Morinari Watanabe wanted to show to you.

4. Presentation of Parkour Earth and its vision for Parkour/Freerunning/Art Du Déplacement, its members & its community

Eugene Minogue;

I will give a view of where we are as Parkour Earth and then discuss the detail because the legitimate and fundamental concerns have in no way been addressed. This presentation only re-asserts the concerns. Additionally, Parkour Earth is not seeking ‘fans’ or to build a ‘fan’ community, this is not a popularity contest. Maybe this is a fundamental issue here. It’s also clear in our founding document that we recognise and value the ‘non standardisation’ of practice and coaching in Parkour.

Morinari Watanabe;

We have showed you our vision.

Eugene Minogue;

I am not here to present an alternative vision. I am here to articulate the fundamental, legitimate and substantiated concerns that have been wilfully ignored by FIG.

For clarification, Parkour Earth has chosen to utilise the globally recognised term ‘Parkour’ as a collective term for the sport, art and discipline of Parkour/Freerunning/Art Du Déplacement. There is a very clear distinction between this and what you have in your presentation referring to “David’s philosophy and vision” of Parkour.

As outlined in the various correspondence, any International Federation protecting the sovereignty of the sport, art and/or discipline of Parkour/Freerunning/Art Du Déplacement should and must be established only by consensus of the international community, via a process of federating National Federations, as per entrenched and recognised international norms, on the established right of self-determination. By virtue of that right we, as an international community determine our sporting, social and cultural development, in accordance with the freely expressed will and desire of the international community.

As a result of a clear and demonstrable common unity and purpose within the international community, a number of National Federations reached an accord on the 4th July 2017 to establish Parkour Earth as the International Federation for Parkour/Freerunning/Art Du Déplacement - our sport, our community, our culture, our identity. The six founding National Federations are; Parkour UK (GBR), Fédération de Parkour (FRA), New Zealand Parkour - Tauhōkai Aotearoa (NZL), Australian Parkour Association (AUS), Parkour South Africa (RSA) & Polska Federacja Parkour i Freerun (POL).

The accord by the founding member National Federations has had approval of their Boards, members and/or communities. Following the transparent and democratic approval of the accord, Parkour Earth was incorporated on the 12th July 2017 and registered at Companies House in the UK. The founding member National Federations, have elected and appointed a transitional Board of Directors on phased initial terms of office. The Transitional Board consists of four Elected Directors - Damien Puddle of New Zealand Parkour, Eliot Duffy of Australian Parkour Association, Paul Gray of Parkour South Africa & Sacha Lemaire of Fédération de Parkour. In addition to two Independent Directors - Stuart McInnes MBE as Independent Chair & Dr Belinda Wheaton. Additionally, I have been nominated and appointed as transitional CEO on an ex-officio basis. The transitional arrangements are fully detailed Parkour Earth's Memorandum & Articles of Association.

As the International Federation for Parkour/Freerunning/Art Du Déplacement, Parkour Earth will be the custodians of the philosophy, integrity and sovereignty of the Sport internationally for and on behalf of the international community and be the sole governing and administering body for the sport internationally to protect the rights, freedoms and promote the interests of Traceurs/Traceuses, Freerunners, practitioners, members & the international community.

Parkour Earth has been established on two fundamental principles;

- 1) National Federations federating – to comprise of national Parkour/Freerunning/Art Du Déplacement communities, as represented by their National Federations and/or organisations governing and/or administering the development of the sport, art and/or discipline nationally, as well as embracing and supporting those communities trying to form a National Federation in territory where there is no National Federation and/or organisation.
- 2) Established on the recognised principles of 'Good Governance' – this starts with the Memorandum & Articles of Association defining and creating a clear, practical and proportionate system which sets out what the International Federation can do, who the members are and can be, how decisions are made and who is responsible for making it happen. By implementing Good Governance practices, Parkour Earth will ensure that it is being managed effectively, in a way that helps it to achieve its objects, values and principles whilst also safeguarding the integrity of the Federation and the best interests of all its members and the international community.

Parkour Earth is now beginning the process of on-boarding other National Federations and communities from around the world. The first AGM (Congress) will be held within 210 days of incorporation, therefore in early 2018. At the AGM the members/community will be asked to nominate, elect and/or appoint the Board of Directors (by electing and/or appointing up to 6 additional directors). The full Board will then comprise a maximum of 12 members - 4 Independent directors and 8 Elected directors - at least one of whom must be an Athletes representative. Additionally, as part of the founding fundamental principle of Good Governance, there are additional requirements surrounding the composition of the Board, as set out in the Memorandum & Articles of Association.

The Objects include:

- To be the custodians of the philosophy, integrity and sovereignty of the Sport internationally for and on behalf of the international community.
- To protect the rights, freedoms and promote the interests of Traceurs/Traceuses, Freerunners, practitioners, members & the international community.
- To be the sole governing and administering body for the sport internationally.
- To comprise of national federations and/or organisations governing and/or administering the sport at national level.
- To encourage, support and promote national federations in individual countries, nations or territories not yet members of the Federation, where the sport is not yet nationally recognised to increase membership internationally and to encourage, support and promote the formation of national federations in individual countries, nations or territories where the Sport is not yet nationally organised.

The Values include:

- To ensure that the practice of the Sport in all its branches is a human right such that every human can have the possibility of freely practicing the Sport, without discrimination of any kind, within the spirit of friendship, solidarity, equality and fair play regardless of age,
- ethnicity, gender, physical and mental ability, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.
- Where relevant, to develop the Sport beyond the sporting context including the promotion of sport for social change, sport for development and the arts.
- To be responsible for the development of non-competitive and/or competitive programmes at international level and where relevant to co-ordinate events nationally and/or internationally.

The Principles include:

- Good Governance - to encourage and support the promotion of and ensuring that principles of good governance be applied within and throughout the Sport.
- Autonomy - The autonomy of international sport is recognised as a fundamental principle and the Federation will take all appropriate measures to promote, preserve and protect the autonomy of the Sport internationally and The Federation shall provide Members complete autonomy in their own territory. It will have no part nor interfere in purely national issues unless such issues affect or undermine the objects, values and principles the international image and/or the international status of the Sport and/or the Federation in any way.

The official languages of the Federation are English and French. As and when appropriate, other working languages may be introduced and simultaneous translations may be provided at meetings.

In short, Parkour Earth are here to protect to the sovereignty and integrity of our sport. We are not here to present an alternative vision. This is why we don't have a strategy yet, because our member national federations and international community have to decide them at the base of the sport.

André Gueisbuhler summarises for Morinari Watanabe;

They don't have a strategy yet because it has to be decided by their national federations and community. They are not here to give a strategy; they are here to protect the sovereignty of Parkour. They are claiming to be the sole international governing body for Parkour.

Eugene Minogue;

In short Parkour as a collective is not gymnastics. FIG's current statutes do not provide you the authority or powers to develop this. As I understand it FIG would have amend your constitution to take this to your own member national federations and they vote on it.

Charles Perrière;

I respect all you have done for the Parkour and what you have done. But there are many things that I can't understand. You talk about Parkour but where does the name come from. You must respect our story. David Belle is the creator of the name and he is not involved in anything that you are doing?

Eugene Minogue;

Parkour is a very widely adopted and common used term. It is how the world now commonly refers to our sport. Parkour Earth fully acknowledge all of the founders of our sport within our founding document and our Mem & arts (constitution). We and Parkour UK fully acknowledge where all the names for our sport came from and who 'created' those names.

Charles Perrière;

We created it for that. At the beginning we didn't want to go into traditional sport so we created it for the people.

Eugene Minogue;

and now you are in with the traditional sport – Gymnastics. FIG, here in Lausanne the 'home' of Olympic sports.

Florian Busi;

This is a small part. It is a discipline. It is a way for us to reach people during events. The sport is not the main goal, we are working for the whole community, we rely on continental unions that rely on national federations. So we ask everybody within the community to come together. We don't want to elect 6 people to run Parkour [5]. We just want some people to.

Eugene Minogue;

On national federations within FIG, none of this has any legitimacy. They are by definition Gymnastics federations and not Parkour federations.

Florian Busi;

Do six federations represent Parkour?

Eugene Minogue;

All Parkour Earth's national federations are all legitimate Parkour federations. More so than gymnastics federations you are referring to as your legitimacy base.

Parkour Earth is very clear of the history and lineage of our sport and community. We have enshrined that in our constitution, detailing the nine founders and where the sport was created. The community is very respectful of that. Parkour is now a truly global sport; we would not be here in Lausanne meeting today otherwise. We respect all the work you have done.

André Gueisbuhler;

I refer to the other organisations involved, such as IPF others that exist and yes Parkour is a sport.

Morinari Watanabe;

The athletes chose which is the best way?

André Gueisbuhler;

Why would you get the rights, with only six members, saying that we have the right to present the community? What are you saying about the others?

Eugene Minogue;

Again, so we are clear. Both Parkour Earth & Parkour UK have fully addressed the “other” international federations you refer to in previous correspondence. This addressed IPF, FIADD & The Mouvement. In our opinion, they don’t/didn’t have legitimacy so many of those have failed. Yes, we have six federations now. You don’t have any Parkour federations and by definition you cannot. We are following established norms. We are federating National Federations for Parkour across the world.

Again, as detailed in previous correspondence, please look at the report commissioned by the IOC by Dr Belinda Wheaton – an Independent Director of Parkour Earth and Dr Holly Thorpe from the University of Waikato in New Zealand, titled: [Youth Perceptions of the Olympic Games: Attitudes Towards Action Sports at the YOG and Olympic Games](#) June 2016, it boiled down to 3 recommendations.

- **[As] the IOC [continues to consider new activities for inclusion (e.g., parkour, BMX freestyle) in the Olympic Games and YOG, it] needs to recognize that the governance structures of these sports differ from most traditional sports, and those with the most insights and knowledge may not be housed within the expected sporting infrastructure.**
- **We encourage the IOC to continue to work with action-sport specific federations (in contrast to fitting within existing IFs that may not understand and respect the unique cultural value systems and be aware of the important issues within these sports). [While this will involve considerable effort (and mentoring and support) to help them learn the rules and regulations required of Olympic sports], we feel this approach has the best chance of getting ‘buy in’ from the core of the cultures, and thus longer-term sustainability of these activities within the Olympic Games.**
- **[We recommend that there will be important research following the announcement in Rio 2016 to Tokyo 2020. As signalled in this report, as this news is received the International Federations will take on new roles and responsibilities working with national federations, athletes and coaches] We anticipate that these processes will be complex and political, and much can be learned from this process for future action sport inclusion into and success at the Olympic Games.**

Sacha Lemaire;

In response to Florian’s point about there being six National Federations of Parkour Earth. Yes, we are young, we are trying to make good work, trying to build a shell in which practitioners feel represented and in which they can work together. Once communities federate nationally they can join PKE. **If** we remain only six then we are representative of ourselves only, that is true. But we believe that we are representative of the international community beyond the six member national federations. We don’t want to rule, we want to gather the communities who are already involved and allow them to build things together.

In response to the word of “Parkour”. We, PKE and Fédération de Parkour (FPK) respect, entirely what you [Charles] and David did. FPK has made lots of events all over France where we try to have all types of practitioners meet and what we have discovered is that the name parkour has spread and evolved a lot and each country, each group or network of practitioners has developed its own way of living and teaching the practise. The word describes different ways in different countries; it has become

a global word. We know that David was the first one using it but it has now become a generic term that describes a cultural phenomenon and that belongs to the community.

Charles Perrière;

But that is why we don't want people to come and tell us what we can do with our sport. For us there is not only one way to develop Parkour. There are many ways. Not every time but we try to develop it. I know, also the problem in the community. For me we need help to develop it with education, showcase that is why we also join the FIG. That allows us to show the world. We need money too show we can educate. So for me the job you are doing and the job we are doing are complementary.

Eugene Minogue;

We have six founding members. However, there were over fifteen other letters of support issued from national communities / national federations of Parkour, in addition to a letter from Athletes and Malik Diouf.

Florian Busi;

But also we had support from the national federations. For me it is easy to be seen as a leader when you put the bad hat on FIG and say we will protect Parkour. Do you think that we do not want to protect Parkour? Just want to make business? Absolutely we want to protect it.

Eugene Minogue;

Florian, we must be very clear that FIG is the international sport for gymnastics, not Parkour. Additionally, that we and the international community have fundamental and legitimate concerns, and the FIG have not addressed these. There, is absolutely nothing in there [the presentation about FIGs vision for Parkour] about sovereignty or autonomy for Parkour. None.

Charles Perrière;

You use some words for me that are too much. Parkour is free. It does not need to be protected. If I want to train I don't need FIG, PKE or David Belle. My job here is to help Parkour to grow up. That is, it.

Morinari Watanabe;

We want to support Parkour and to grow Parkour. What is the best way?

Eugene Minogue;

The best way to develop Parkour is for the communities to develop it. The international community, does not want an unconnected third party to dictate how Parkour grows or develops. Look at the lessons from Snowboarding – taken over by FIS, BMX – taken over by the UCI and most recently Skateboarding – [merging under the auspices of FIRS, now rebranding to World Skate](#). This runs the risk of alienating others within the community, as set out in the report to the IOC by Belinda and Holly. Additionally, Gymnastics has issues within its own sport. You are [currently alienating some of your own disciplines](#) such as DMT, Acrobatic gymnastics etc. Those disciplines were made the same promises by the FIG that you are now making to Parkour.

André Gueisbuhler, summarises for Morinari Watanabe;

Basically he [Eugene] is saying that there are big problems within our own sport.

Look at how we have developed aerobics, acrobatics, trampoline [6] – if they were doing it themselves then they would not have been where they are here. We have taken them forward 20 years.

Eugene Minogue:

But this is the fundamental point, self-determination is and should be our choice not the pre-determined choice of the FIG. This is not your sport.

Charles Perrière:

But this is no way to communicate. The open letters. Do you know the consequences of these open letters?

Sacha Lemaire:

We have discussed a lot with the community following FIG's announcement of incorporating Parkour. At the beginning we did not even know that you [David, Chalres, Florian] were involved in it. We informed our community and made a large survey to know their opinion. The vast majority was against the project and did not understand why people like you are involved in it. This is the reason why the FPK issued the open letter in support of Parkour UK's position. We are here to reflect that concern.

Charles Perrière:

The way it has been done is not good [referring the open letters / the negative reaction on social media].

Sacha Lemaire:

We don't control what happens on social media.

Florian Busi:

But you do control the first open letter

Eugene Minogue:

Charles, Florian to clarify all the open letters issued by Parkour Earth & Parkour UK contain only factual information based on the legitimate, fundamental and substantiated concerns of the community. How the community receives and responds to them is not controlled by PKE or our members.

Sacha Lemaire:

You say the way we did it was wrong. How can we do it better?

Charles Perrière:

We ask ourselves the same question. We met several times with the President of FIG and we speak to the community. He is the only person I have met who is really interested in Parkour. So it is not that we join the FIG with no thought?

Eugene Minogue:

Charles, are you aware of and acknowledge the significant legitimate discourse within the community?

Charles Perrière:

We did respond. We spent four-weeks full time to respond to all the comments [on social media].

Eugene Minogue:

Do you agree with the lineage and history that is being presented by FIG, relating to Parkour? You understand that this completely white-washes the true lineage and history of Parkour, it does not acknowledge David, you nor the other founders?

Charles Perrière:

I didn't read everything. There will be misunderstandings.

Eugene Minogue:

We have requested a meeting for seven months. This request has been wilfully ignored by FIG.

André Gueisbuhler:

We can only deal with International Federations.

Eugene Minogue:

As discussed earlier, we – both Parkour Earth & Parkour UK fully addressed your position of only dealing with 'international federations' for our sport. We have provided independently verifiable information that set out that those you invited and proposed to deal with aren't international federations and had no legitimacy based in our opinion. Additionally, FIG purposefully and actively sought to interfere with Parkour UK by speaking to UK Sport and attempt to undermine the recognition of Parkour UK. The legitimacy of PKE is very public and independently verifiable.

Where we have the issue is encroachment. You have bypassed established and international norms in your continued attempts to misappropriate our sport. It doesn't seem that there are answers forthcoming.

We have done open letters for transparency. But, importantly we also need to hold the FIG to account – if letters are ignored and rebuffed, we are duty bound to address that. This is not a small issue, there are serious ramifications and consequences. It would be a fundamental dereliction of duty of any national federation or International Federation for Parkour not to respond to this. Imagine if the IAAF [Athletics] tried to take over FIG? Would your national federations not respond? We want to the fundamental, legitimate and substantiated concerns face to face. We have sent correspondence and what has come back is, frankly - condescending and patronising. We would expect an acknowledgment of legitimacy.

Sacha Lemaire:

I think we can agree that both teams want Parkour to develop. We want it so people can train how they want. Our position, is that the vision should be democratically decided with transparency. Your [the FIG's] vision is very ambitious and we see that the FIG are experienced. But our problem is that there has been no democratic discussion. We feel that this whole plan is ready to be rolled out with or without agreement of the existing international community. Our community expressed to us these concerns: they were no prior meetings; no one ever came to us to ask what about we collaborate with gymnastics to promote Parkour through competition? So this is the reason why we want clarification and answers to the concerns. We understand the FIG's vision and see why it is important for you. But we have a lot of people behind us who are saying that they never asked for this, didn't know it was happening in the first place and are not ready to accept it without discussion.

Morinari Watanabe;

Maybe that is a mistake from me. I have been taught, since a boy, that it is not what you say that matters but what you do. I come from a country of samurai's where we show our vision through our actions.

Eugene Minogue;

There is a bigger issue than this. The irony is that Parkour is not part of gymnastics.

Morinari Watanabe;

I respect the philosophy Use that Parkour with the FIG power. Some want to go to Olympic games

Charles Perrière;

I know some people that don't want FIG help. Maybe in Europe people can buy kit. I went to Benin they don't have shoes, no money. They need support. Can you help me?

Eugene Minogue;

Charles, I deeply respect what you are saying about Benin, but there is no reason or rationale for FIG to encroach on our sport and community.

Charles Perrière;

Even before people training Parkour, 25 years ago, we were saying it is an evolution of gymnastics. I was saying that it is an evolution. He told me that the first.

Eugene Minogue;

I respect you and David as founders. As I do equally all the founders. We hold no prejudice against those practitioners involved with FIG. However, what makes a sport, a sport is the culture, community, governance, rules etc around them.

Charles Perrière;

When I heard you, I had the impression that you interpret Parkour the way you want. You are wrong. Parkour is wrong. We did not create it, we just did it. Competition is only a part of the Parkour. For me you have passion, but we can all work together.

Eugene Minogue;

We are not here to work with FIG. We were very clear on that.

Sacha Lemaire;

There may be some people within the community who agree with your project but, we represent the voice of those that don't.

Eugene Minogue;

Some but not most.

Florian Busi;

You are right. Not yet. This is a problem of communication. When you see things happening without communication.

Charles Perrière:

We make lots of mistakes re communication.

Eugene Minogue:

However, it is much deeper than just miscommunication. This is about involvement of FIG. If the community are saying that FIG should not be involved, this should be heard.

Charles Perrière:

As soon as people know that we speak with FIG problems start, attacks from everywhere. So we take a step back.

Sacha Lemaire:

Are you talking about the open letters?

Charles Perrière:

I was very sad. My kids read the reactions.

Eugene Minogue:

As discussed, what we put out is neutral and independent verifiable. None of the open letters made direct reference to you, David or Florian, only FIG. We cannot control social media.

André Gueisbuhler:

At the end of the day, all these organisations or federations are seeking to represent Parkour, but they will be judged by their actions. We are convinced that by showing the community how we are developing the sport they will accept us.

Stephen Sampson:

I have a question about FIGs statutes – can the current process regarding FIGs proposed development of Parkour be ultra vires the FIG constitution?

André Gueisbuhler:

We are amending the wording of our constitution, which will go to council then to congress for ratification. We need a two-thirds majority. Our auditors are in and are looking at the budgets. We believe we are definitely acting within our constitution.

Eugene Minogue:

André that is not correct. It is clear that FIG do not have the constitutional authority, nor power to do this. Therefore, clear that you are ultra vires of your constitution. This was outlined in the Parkour UK open letter in May of this year. Our constitution [PKE] has been approved by the founding members.

André Gueisbuhler:

We have the mandate of our ExCo and Council. We are certainly able to take the necessary decisions. The provisional mandate we have at the moment, and it will go to congress.

Stephen Sampson;

This is a constitutional issue. A clear factual and legal issue to add another sport.

André Gueisbuhler;

The way we do this is by decision of ExCo and Council. As said that we have worldwide, the council is nothing but a smaller general assembly. More than confident that no risk whatsoever. On expenditure we are not at risk. The council will have to ratify with the technical regulations and the congress will have to ratify with the constitution. What Eugene mentioned, this whole launch of Parkour came from our member federations who do practice Parkour. Second thing to say is that within policy of President. We have been contacted by IOC. Then we contacted by David and Charles.

We had all the negotiations and talks with the existing International Federations. The only federation that came was that represented by Charles Perrière and David Belle [The Mouvement]. So it is not that we came and encroached. We believe that we have legitimacy. We respect everyone within it. We do it in a democratic way. Invited all the existing International Federations [for Parkour].

Eugene Minogue;

We requested a meeting, many times. We are not here to collaborate. We don't have a mandate to collaborate.

Sacha Lemaire;

What do you think about the fact that FIG will ask the gymnastics community if they want Parkour, but will not ask Parkour community if they want to be in FIG?

Florian Busi;

Is this like the yes or no competition issue?

Eugene Minogue;

Do you not acknowledge that it is ironic that gymnastics federations/communities can vote on whether to accept Parkour, but the same courtesy/respect will not be extended to Parkour communities? In simple terms they will not even be asked!

Florian Busi;

The question was never put to us in this way.

Eugene Minogue;

This is the fundamental issue and why we are here today. It is for Parkour, our community to decide, not gymnastics! The Parkour community must have the right to self-determination.

Sacha Lemaire;

If tomorrow the practitioners in the various national parkour federations vote to say "we like the FIG's project, let's do this" then we see no problem in doing so.

Charles Perrière;

You are also aware that many people in the Parkour community they tell me that we disagree. I understand what you say Eugene, about asking the community. But I also have the right to do what I want to do and make my choices, without asking anybody!

Sacha Lemaire;

That is the main problem here: If Florian doesn't ask anybody, then he cannot claim to be representative, which again brings us to the point that this is unilateral decision by the FIG.

Eugene Minogue;

Charles, I respect that – but that this is a bad decision.

Charles Perrière;

I think that the people that you represent will in the future see the project.

Florian Busi;

What are you afraid about? What is the problem with co-operation with the FIG.

Eugene Minogue;

We are not afraid. This is about basic democratic right to self-determination. This is being forced upon the community. Where do they get to decide this? We are not traditional sport. We have seen where other action sports have been through this – Snowboarding, BMX etc. There are significant splits in those communities [sports]. That is what they have concerns about.

Charles Perrière;

What is your project for Parkour?

Eugene Minogue;

Would like the right to self-determination to protect the sovereignty, integrity and cultural identity of our sport and community. We have nothing beyond that. Our goal is to create place where the different federations can gather to create their own future.

Charles Perrière;

To choose what?

Eugene Minogue;

To be debate, discuss and decide – self-determination. There are elements that want to compete. If there are competitions for and by the community. We do not need a third party to hold our hand.

Morinari Watanabe;

You say “we” but is you. Charles & Florian are part of the Parkour people. So you cannot say “we”, I have more right as FIG to say we.

André Gueisbuhler;

Similar situation with aerobics. You have no greater legitimacy than IPF.

Eugene Minogue;

We have a greater legitimacy base than any other organisation claiming to be an International federation for our sport. Our legitimacy base is indepently verifiable. Due the basic due diligence.

5. Formalise the clarification, understanding & recognition of the sovereignty of Parkour/Freerunning/Art Du Déplacement as a sport

André Gueisbuhler;

We recognise that Parkour it as a sport.

Eugene Minogue;

Parkour is a sport in its own right.

André Gueisbuhler;

Like athletics, gymnastics, etc

Sacha Lemaire;

What is the difference between a sport and sovereign sport?

André Gueisbuhler;

Eugene claims that Parkour is sovereign.

Eugene Minogue;

So back to your statutes. You recognise your other ‘sports’ as disciplines of gymnastics. So you cannot under your own constitution accept a new sport. It is not a discipline. It [Parkour] is a recognised separate and sovereign sport.

André Gueisbuhler;

We think it is a sport within Gymnastics.

Eugene Minogue;

You [FIG] have whitewashed the history our sport, of our community, of the founders. The letter [detailing FIGs history/lineage of Parkour] did not refer to the founders.

Florian Busi;

You [Eugene] know who wrote the letter?

Eugene Minogue;

Yes, both you and I know. However, it is on FIG letter headed paper confirming that this is the history / lineage that FIG want to present. When, I heard this do you know who I felt for this most? The nine founders. It began for you nine in Évry. And then when the community sees it [FIGs presentation of the history / lineage of Parkour], it distorts their views. Look in twenty-years' time, this is the doctrine that they [FIG] will teach. We are here to protect the legitimate Parkour communities in each country. British Gymnastics have encroached into Parkour in UK via 'Freestyle Gymnastics / FreeG' and they have now sold that model into Australia and have tried in Ireland, as well as other countries.

I have worked in sport all of my career. I am one of the few people that can communicate this thoroughly. The fundamental concern is that the FIG start with white-washing. I can only request that you speak to people from their other disciplines within the FIG that were promised the same things as they are now promising you! As discussed earlier, speak with those communities in Snowboarding, Skateboarding and BMX.

Florian Busi;

We did speak to them.

Eugene Minogue;

I am lost that I sit here and this is being presented as the history of our sport!

Charles Perrière;

FIG is not perfect; we all make mistakes. They are still learning about Parkour. The FIG are still learning and we can grow up and work together. We can go faster and better. I understand you very well but, now I talk to not just Parkour community and broader people.

Eugene Minogue;

I agree that we should speak to people more widely. Parkour does things that most sports cannot do. In simple terms, you just need a pair of trainers for Parkour – even that is debatable. This is the deep attraction of our sport. This is something that this Federation [FIG] cannot create nor understand.

Charles Perrière;

If you want to do Parkour, you just go out, don't need FIG, PKE, anyone! So for me it won't change, it will have more visibility [via FIG].

Eugene Minogue;

It will change - national gymnastics federations, not Parkour federations will be mandated to govern, deliver and train it. They have no authenticity or legitimacy base.

Charles Perrière;

But when I started we had a style, now there is a new style.

Eugene Minogue;

But the heart and soul of the sport has to be maintained.

Florian Busi;

You are right.

Charles Perrière;

The same situation in those sports. What we do. Everybody has to be happy and do what you want to do. If you want to compete, then do so, if you want to train then do so.

Florian Busi;

This is the Olympic way. You know me. I am not passionate about competition. But it is not what I want that is important, it is giving the choice for people to do.

Eugene Minogue;

That is illogical, they [FIG] are there to govern.

Charles Perrière;

Let's say FIG doesn't exist. I am sure that in the short time the Parkour community would do the same thing that we do now, because they need to show a competition and think they would do the same thing. Problem is that it is not coming from them.

Eugene Minogue;

Why not protect that right?

Charles Perrière;

Red Bull, they ran all those events and now they are part of the picture.

Eugene Minogue;

No problem if people want to compete. Up to them to make that choice. But, to say that we are going to just run competitions? Not correct. They [FIG] are a separate sport. They [FIG] are institutionalised. We recognise that some will compete

Sacha Lemaire;

Do you think there could be more than one governing body?

Florian Busi;

I am not competent to comment on that. Don't think that is important for our sport.

Eugene Minogue;

The risk is that you lose our core value. Focus is unnecessarily, on the Olympics. This is an institutionalised problem. We talk about being an art and discipline.

Charles Perrière;

You speak about the culture . . .

Eugene Minogue;

Yes! these are very important things.

Florian Busi;

You are right but, this is not the sports manager speaking. But as a practitioner culture is the business of people.

Charles Perrière;

I don't think it is for the International Federation to protect the culture of the Parkour.

Sacha Lemaire;

Did I understand this right? So you say it is not the job of an International Federation to protect the culture and you want to make Parkour accessible to countries where they have no access to it.

Florian Busi;

. . . and we are not saying this is the right way to do it. Is just a way to do it. Does the FIG have to evolve, yes! But it is not its job to protect the culture.

Eugene Minogue;

I don't think that you can divorce the two [culture and sport]

Charles Perrière;

But I am still here. It is a question for Morinari Watanabe – do you want to dilute Parkour?

Morinari Watanabe;

What Charles is saying is that we must respect the philosophy but, every sport evolves so every sport changes. Philosophy we must respect and why I love the sport [Parkour] is because of the philosophy. But how they evolve, basketball go to 3 v 3 etc.

Eugene Minogue;

I understand what you are saying. There is a big difference between evolution and changes and the adaption of wholesale adoption of a new sport. This is what has happened with Snowboarding, BMX etc.

Morinari Watanabe;

If we do, sports we cannot stop in one place. We have to move on and move on.

Eugene Minogue;

You only need to look at the screens out there [in reception in the building]. See the changes in your sport [gymnastics].

Charles Perrière;

You [Eugene] go too far. Like you say people can't evolve. People have the right to evolve. If the gymnastics evolve, that is good thing.

Eugene Minogue;

What we are saying is that this is not an evolution of gymnastics. Parkour is not gymnastics!

Charles Perrière;

It is an evolution of people; I want people to be inspired by what we have done.

Eugene Minogue;

We are here because gymnastics [national federations] will be asked to vote on inclusion [of Parkour within FIG] but, not Parkour communities/national federations.

Charles Perrière;

We are just here fighting. You have to trust us.

Eugene Minogue;

We are here to get answers and clarifications. If you think what you are doing is right, then you should communicate that.

Charles Perrière;

For me the thing is simple. You want information, then you call me.

Eugene Minogue;

Poor history {on Parkour}, the research on getting action sports into the Olympics [as set out earlier in the meeting], others sports being usurped by unrelated International Federations. We should have the right to make that choice.

André Gueisbuhler;

It is not your sport! We acknowledge [Parkour] as a sport.

Sacha Lemaire;

What do you think about showing the FIG's plan to the community and asking them about it?

Charles Perrière;

We should do that. But I know that they are not the only persons to decide.

Sacha Lemaire;

Do you think the FIG's plan should be understood and agreed by the community prior to any other action or do you plan on carrying on with it anyway?

Florian Busi;

We must ask the community; it is in our plans for the way we will work. There is no agenda for tomorrow to speak to the National Federations but it is our plan to do that every month at different levels. The picture we show is not complete and not perfect, but we have to start somewhere.

Sacha Lemaire:

Do you already know who you will plan to consult with?

Florian Busi:

The National Federations even if not fully recognised [the ones that FIG cannot and do not recognise] **and** the gymnastics federations. In certain countries it works to have gymnastics federations involved e.g. Sweden. Ahmad Albreihi [on the Parkour Commission] we have a meeting together this afternoon, but he is representing a gymnastics federation.

Eugene Minogue:

So we try to protect the sport, its cultural community. Ultimately if you think what you are doing is right then communicate that.

Florian Busi:

The vision is wider than vision of David or Charles. Charles doesn't need anyone to defend his vision.

Eugene Minogue:

Not claiming that. We are here to protect our cultural identity and philosophy of our sport and community.

Charles Perrière:

Every day I am working for Parkour, with or without the FIG.

Florian Busi:

I will give workshops about the plans.

Sacha Lemaire:

Do you think there are two visions? The FIG vision, the PKE vision?

Florian Busi:

This is what André says, we cannot force anyone to follow the FIGs vision. I know it is not obvious for you as the picture is not clear. We are human and they trust us to do it.

Charles Perrière:

We doing it for you and people like you.

Florian Busi:

In France for 10 years we tried to do what you do. The response was always, go to a 'real federation' and develop it within a 'recognised federation' because you cannot develop outside of it. If you do not have a proper organised federation then cannot develop.

Eugene Minogue;

These are two separate things - recognition of the sport and the recognition of the federation. Most National Olympic Committees (NOCs) have the power to recognise a federation but **cannot** recognise a sport. In some countries there is a separate recognition process.

6. Formalise the understanding and acknowledgement of Parkour Earth as the International Federation for the sovereign sport of Parkour/Freerunning/Art Du Déplacement

André Gueisbuhler;

We acknowledge Parkour Earth just like all the others who 'claim' to represent. In a few years you might represent 20 who knows? Just as we recognise IPF or FIADD. Not up to us to recognise you.

Eugene Minogue;

Again, we have addressed this point several times throughout this meeting - for us there is significant differences between us and the others out there who stake a 'claim'. We are an International Federation; this is factual an independently verifiable. Again, I would suggest that you carry out due diligence on the other federations that you acknowledge and/or 'claim' to be. A polite request, very simply would be to look at the difference in governance. It is quite clear that FIADD doesn't exist, The Mouvement has dissolved, IPF has a number of governance issues.

André Gueisbuhler;

They are the others. We invited them and continue to do so in order to co-operate in whatever way they need to.

7. Possible cooperation of the two organisations

Eugene Minogue;

This [directed at André] is your agenda point . . .

André Gueisbuhler;

You have no mandate and no desire to cooperate – correct?

Eugene Minogue;

Correct.

Sacha Lemaire;

We are here to listen and take back what you say to us to our national federations and community

Eugene Minogue;

Like Sacha says, if you have something to say then we can note it and take it back.

André Gueisbuhler;

Basically the same thing as The Mouvement, but as a co-operation we would invite someone from the organisation to be part of the Parkour Commission at FIG. That is the way we reach out to everyone?

Morinari Watanabe;

To be a member of the commission and involvement is by way of negotiation.

Florian Busi;

I as Sports Manager will report to the National Federations [gymnastics] and can have someone to discuss with. For sure the first is the national federations that are established, then those that are developing.

André Gueisbuhler;

You will come back to us to let us know if you want to delegate someone to communicate with FIG for the development of the sport

Sacha Lemaire;

Yes, your offer has been noted we will take it back

8. Any Other Business (AOB)

1) Open Letters

André Gueisbuhler;

We don't think we do a good thing for the cause of Parkour if we communicate with open letters.

Florian Busi;

You are an International Federation and now it is different.

Eugene Minogue;

Dialogue must be mutually reciprocal in order to work. Many questions that have been raised that haven't been addressed and wilfully ignored. We have raised the questions but, also with transparency of process.

André Gueisbuhler;

The letters are problematic and spread information which is not correct.

Eugene Minogue;

As outlined earlier, everything in our letters is independently verifiable and factual.

André Gueisbuhler;

We have made mistakes in communications and we can do that better.

Eugene Minogue;

So the history that has been presented is that an accurate history?

André Gueisbuhler;

That is what we [FIG] believe.

Eugene Minogue;

This is at odds with what we discussed earlier. The vice president of the FIG's Parkour commission has acknowledged that this is not correct. Therefore, the Parkour community know this to be inaccurate and grossly misrepresentative.

Sacha Lemaire;

Is there anything we have written in our open letter or anywhere else that FIG believe is incorrect?

André Gueisbuhler;

Sure, there are many things in the letters, but given we are not responding to open letters then I will not address them. Many discussions where we fundamentally did not agree. We don't believe that these things should not be taken to the public at large as they don't benefit the development of Parkour. If you think that we have to communicate by open letters, then there will be a problem in our relationship.

Eugene Minogue;

It is an expectation in our community for transparency. If the FIG would like to communicate on a different basis, then we can consider that. However, some of the correspondence to date has been patronising, condescending and misrepresented the position etc, we have to and must be transparent.

2) Joint statement to summarise the meeting

Eugene Minogue;

Consideration should be given to whether a joint statement relating to the main agenda points and headline outcomes of the meeting could be released by PKE & FIG following the meeting. I would be happy to draft some initial wording to bring back for consideration.

[Eugene, Sacha & Stephen leave the meeting room to consider and draft the wording for a possible joint statement]

[Eugene, Sacha & Stephen return the meeting room with a proposed draft wording for a joint statement – appendix 2]

Eugene Minogue;

We have drafted the proposed following wording for a proposed joint statement [appendix 2], which we would propose is jointly issued following the meeting.

André Gueisbuhler;

We would like to consider the draft wording and request we have some time do to this.

[Eugene, Sacha & Stephen leave the meeting so FIG can consider the proposed wording]

André Gueisbuhler;

We have considered the proposed draft wording and we have made the following changes [appendix 3].

Eugene Minogue;

Unfortunately, the proposed changes by FIG aren't consist with our view of the meeting and headline outcomes. Therefore, it would seem that we are unable to reach consensus on a proposed statement.

Stephen Sampson;

As discussed at the beginning of the meeting we agreed to aim to summarise and we agree and/or not agree so we can have draft minutes of the meeting that should be mutually agreed by both PKE & FIG prior to confirmation. Unfortunately, it is apparent that this is not going to be possible today, due to the length of the meeting and the significant detail of the discussion. Therefore, can I suggest that FIG review the minutes and send them to Parkour Earth within the next 48 hours so we can review these on Friday.

André Gueisbuhler;

Yes, Céline has been taking minutes throughout the meeting and we will review these and send these to you for review.

Eugene Minogue;

Unfortunately, I have to leave the meeting now due to media commitments with Al Jazeera English & Inside The Games.

[Meeting concludes 16:15]

Additional Footnotes for context;

[1] Sacha Lemaire :

Elite Athletes are at the centre of all FIG's Parkour activities and development plan : It is important to understand, that elite athletes represent a very visible but also very small minority in the practice. The vast majority of practitioners are training because they like the non-competitive philosophy, and live the practice as a lifestyle.

[2] Sacha Lemaire;

So FIG's vision is to build their own international teaching program and prevent local educational initiatives. This means building their program from the top and impose it to the bottom. On the other hand, Parkour Earth wants to embrace the variety of teaching methods by recognising good work from existing local federations or communities. Sharing and learning from each other is an important part of Parkour/Freerunning/Art du Deplacement culture and identity.

[3] Sacha Lemaire;

It is inappropriate to call the 2 past FISE Parkour events "competition". There was no selection, no rules known in advance, athletes were paid to be there. It would be more appropriate to label it as "showcases". This makes the Parkour part of the FISE Event not different from any other Parkour Show.

[4] Sacha Lemaire;

FISE is a famous international multisport festival. It gathers a massive crowd who is there for the festival that contains lots of other extreme sports and various performances. It would be an over simplification to say that the thousands of spectators came on purpose for the parkour part. The FISE Parkour demo gathered a dozen athletes. On the other hand, the worldwide parkour community likes to gather around Parkour Jams. These events are non-competitive and emphasize on sharing, learning together, and teaching the practice to curious people of all ages. Aimed to practitioners and friends, these events attract several hundreds of practitioners several times a year in different countries.

[5] Sacha Lemaire;

For clarification, it is good to know that FPK (French Parkour Federation) has offered since its creation many years ago to work, among other founders, with David Belle on common projects. His message to us was "do what you want, parkour belongs to the people, I trust you" and we appreciate that trust. Also, Florian Busi (the newly hired Sport Manager in FIG's Parkour Commission) used to be a member of the FPK Board until last year. Since the very beginning of FIG-Gate, FPK contacted Florian, Charles and David to express concerns towards the project of FIG, even before it was known that they were involved. Some representatives of FPK also met David Belle (the actual president of the Parkour Commission within FIG) in April to express the same concerns and the disapproval of the community. This did not lead to any slowing down of FIG's project.

[6] In France, trampoline has not seen any major evolution in its membership since its incorporation by Gymnastics 10 years ago.