



**THE 14<sup>th</sup> ORDINARY CONGRESS OF THE  
EUROPEAN CANOE ASSOCIATION**

**BELGRADE, SERBIA  
30 MARCH 2019**

**MINUTES**

## ITEM 1

### OPENING OF THE CONGRESS

Before the President Albert Woods opened the Congress he thanked the Serbian Canoe Federation for the organisation of the Congress and invited Mr. Mirko Nišović, the President of the Serbian Canoe Federation, to greet the attending delegates.

Mr. Mirko Nišović welcomed all the attendees of the Congress in behalf of the Serbian Canoe Federation, wished all the guests a pleasant stay in Belgrade and gave word to Darko Udovičić, the Serbian Deputy Minister of Sport.

Mr. Darko Udovičić greeted all the guests and wished them a pleasant stay in Belgrade as well as a productive Congress. Afterwards he gave the word to, Božidar Maljković, the President of the Serbian Olympic Committee.

Mr. Božidar Maljković also welcomed and greeted all the guests, and wished all Federations great sport results and wished for the best candidates to be picked for the ECA Board of directors.

President Albert Woods welcomed the President of the International Canoe Federation, Mr. Jose Perurena Lopez and gave him the word.

Mr. Jose Perurena Lopez highlighted the rapid changes in sports nowadays especially concentrating the Olympic programme and Olympic sports and disciplines, and emphasized that Canoeing has to follow with the changes in sports in modern days. Mr. Jose Perurena Lopez also stressed that the newer marketing, especially social media is key in promotion of sport. The main theme of Mr. Perurenas speech was the current discussions about downsizing or complete omission of some traditional disciplines in some sports due to the overgrowing popularity of the new disciplines in those sports concerning the modern publics' preferences. Mr. Perurena also sees these trends as opportunities to further develop canoeing in a way that follows these trends since there is an unquestionable increase in popularity and authorization to the Olympic programme for some of these new disciplines. The mentioned opportunities, in terms of canoeing, are found in disciplines like Extreme slalom, Ocean Canoeing, Freestyle Canoeing and Dragonboat since those disciplines attract the spectators more, just as the statistics already show.

## ITEM 2

### ROLL-CALL OF DELEGATES AND ESTABLISHING THE QUORUM

The ECA Secretary General did the roll-call of the delegates and reported the presence of

**33 National Federations** as follows:

ALB, AND, AUT, BEL, BIH, BEL, BUL, CRO, CYP, CZE, DEN, ESP, EST, FRA, GBR, GER, GRE, HUN, ITA, LTU, MKD, NED, NOR, POL, POR, ROU, RUS, SRB, SLO, SVK, SWE, TUR, UKR.

The quorum was reached; the count of votes showed a total of 33 valid votes. In addition, he explained that the absolute majority is 17 votes and the 2/3 majority is 22 votes. Therefore, 22 votes would be necessary for the Statute changes. A list of present delegates is attached to these minutes.

### ITEM 3

#### APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS FOR THE PERIOD OF THE CONGRESS

The Congress unanimously accepted the Secretary General's proposal that Mr. Botond Storcz from Hungary, Mrs. Maria Cuevas – Koseska from Poland and Mr. Sérgio Ferreira from Portugal serve as scrutineers during the Congress.

### ITEM 4

#### REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT AND BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON BEHALF OF THE ECA BOARD

The report was supplied to the delegates prior to the Congress. The report states all the Congresses and ECA Board meetings during the 2017 and 2018 as well as the ECA Competitions organised in that period alongside with the development activities, TV and media relations and the future initiatives.

In his oral report President Woods stated the following:

- The ECA Championships are great in both number and standard
- The EYOF event in Győr, Hungary was a very successful event, with great organisation. There were 147 paddlers from 33 European countries. For the first time in history mixed K4 and mixed C2 were organised and the competitors really enjoyed it. Unfortunately, the next EYOF in 2019 will not host canoeing.
- The Development training camp in Skopje was a big success, and they have a fantasizing facility there.
- The visits to Kosovo and Albania in regard to the development programme were also very successful; The Republic of Albania attended the ECA Congress as a full member of ECA. On President Woods question about the boats depicted in the development programme for Albania, Mr. Konietzkos answer was positive, the boats are going to be delivered soon. There were meetings with the president of the Albanian Olympic Committee Viron Bezhani and Secretary General Stavri Bello, as well as with the president of the Albanian Canoe Federation Sokol Topciu along with the visits to the venues and four existing canoeing clubs in Albania. Development plan includes organisation of canoeing activities on the Lake Tiran, development of international training course for coaches as well as support in much needed equipment. The situation with Kosovo is not as good as in Albania since there are no clubs there at the moment, so there is more work in progress.
- The Canoe Sprint event in Minsk 2019, that are a part of the European games, will be regarded as EOC Canoe Sprint European Championships.
- The meetings with EOC representatives will be inspired by the will to continue and increase the participation of canoeing in the European games.

After the Presidents report, Nina Jelenc gave her report on the ECA Media and stated the following:

- The new logo was confirmed by the congress in 2017 and is in use since the confirmation. In the first transitional year both logos were in use. The new logo is friendlier to the social media platforms.
- The new website contains important information, documents, news, previews of the championships with links, calendar, reports of the championships and other news. The

website is modern, more dynamic with a clean look. It is easy to navigate and has social media plugins (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter). All bulletins of the upcoming ECA European Championships and all ECA logos are uploaded on the website.

- ECA Facebook page is open to public. Anyone can access it and see the content, without having a Facebook account. On the Facebook page, posts with links to live results and streaming are pinned to top during the ECA Championships and you can also find links to official websites of the championships and links to Facebook pages of the championships.
- The ECA Instagram page (#CanoeEurope) is ECAs most popular social media channel with over 17.300 followers and has almost 4000 posts so far. On the Instagram page one can find ECAs own photos, photos sent by the organisational teams of the European Championships, reports of photos published on Instagram by athletes, clubs, federations, canoeing fans, as well as short videos and Instagram stories.
- The ECA Twitter account is the weakest social network so far, because in some countries people use Twitter and in some do not at all.
- Canoe Europe Youtube Channel was established in 2017. It has approximately 4600 subscribers. Every senior Championship is covered by livestream but the final races cannot be showed live because of the TV rights. They can be shown no sooner than 24 hours after the race.

## ITEM 5

### ECA FINANCIAL REPORT 2017-2018 AND REPORT BY THE AUDITOR

Mr. Branko Lovrić, the Secretary General, presented the accounts of the ECA including the financial report and the report by the ECA auditor, Mr Jean Claude Dethise. Nelo will help with the equipment, not with the money, which is convenient for ECA since there are federations that need boats. The European Olympic Committee gave ECA 50.000€ for the participation in the European Games, and there will be another payment of the same amount of after the European Games. After a question from a delegate it was determined that there is a years worth of operations already in the bank.

## ITEM 6

### ECA BOARD AND AUDITOR ELECTIONS

President Woods gave word to Mr. Miroslav Haviar, the ECA Vice President, so he can start the first elections for the members of the board.

#### List 1:

Election for the ECA President

There was only 1 candidacy for the position of the ECA President received from Mr. Albert Woods (GBR).

Voting results:

| YES | NO | ABS |
|-----|----|-----|
| 29  | 0  | 0   |

Therefore, **Mr. Woods** will continue to work on the position of the ECA President for the next 4 years.

**List 2:**

- Election for the ECA Vice President
- Election for the Auditor

Two applications were received, with 1 place available. The applicants were Mr. Jaroslav Pollert (CZE) and Mr. Geir Kvillum (NOR).

Mr. Haviar invited the candidates to introduce themselves and give their presentation. Mr. Geir Kvillum was up first.

Mr. Geir Kvillum stated that he started as an athlete in canoeing and come to official positions. He has been the President of the Norwegian Kayak Federation for 6 years and he was the Vice President of the Norwegian Olympic Committee and Confederation of sport for 2 years and 6 years as a Board Member, all together showing his experience in the sport. Key points of his application was to contribute and develop the sport both in Olympic and non-Olympic disciplines, to expand its product on all types of broadcast and social media with good strategic decisions to keep Europe strong. The ways he sees for strengthening the sport is by attractiveness. Challenges he would concentrate on if he was to be elected would be to make the sport more interesting for the youth with some new disciplines which appeal to the youth, strengthening the paracanoe disciplines, gender equity, and organisation of „City competitions“ which are closer of the people. Another point he made was the consolidation of Competition Ownership so the competitions organised by ECA would be owned by ECA in every way.

Mr. Jaroslav Pollert stated he is active in canoeing since 1957. He was the President of the Czechoslovak Canoe Federation for 2 years, President of the Czech Canoe Union for 12 years and he is the Vice president of the Union for the last 5 years, a Board member of the ICF for 4 years, the Chairman of the ICF Slalom Committee for 4 years and another 4 years as a member. He is a member of the ExCo Czech Olympic Committee since 1990 and the Vice President of ECA for the last 4 years. He also noted that he has experience as a „canoe scientist“ since he has made design and physical model investigations of artificial slalom courses. He stated he has a long experience as an organiser of top events specifying his most prominent organisational experiences, the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games where he was the ICF Technical delegate and the 2 World Slalom Championships in Prague where he was the President of the Organising Committee and most recently the ECA Championship in Prague as well. For the reasons to vote for him he noted the following: practical and theoretical experiences with canoeing, his canoe knowledge is based on long term tradition and popularity of canoeing in Czech republic, his experience as an official in ICF and ECA was formed by great names from the world of canoeing.

Voting results:

- Mr. Kvillum received 13 votes
- Mr. Pollert received 19 votes

Therefore, **Mr. Pollert** will continue to work on the position of the ECA Vice President for the next 4 years.

There was only 1 candidacy for the position of the Auditor received from Mrs. Evelina Petrova from Bulgaria.

Mrs. Petrova stated that she worked in the Bulgarian Canoe Federation for the last 10 years, and most of her work is in accounting.

Voting results:

| YES | NO | ABS |
|-----|----|-----|
| 31  | 0  | 0   |

Therefore, **Mrs. Petrova** will be working as the ECA Auditor for the next 2 years.

### List 3:

- Elections of the ECA Board members

Next were the elections for the ECA Board members. Mr. Lovrić explained the rules of the voting process. There were 5 applications received from: Mrs. Marta Felpeto Lamas from Spain, Mrs. Manuela Gawehn from Germany, Mrs. Elena Ishakova from Russia, Mr. Andrej Jelenc from Slovenia and Mrs. Jovana Stanojević from Serbia.

Mrs. Marta Felpeto Lamas introduced herself to the delegates and stated she has a Degree in education and she has been involved in Canoeing for over 20 years in various ways: in her club, in the Organising Committee of International Congress, as a member of the Board of Spanish Canoe Federation and ECA Board. In the last years she has taken part in different events in Spain: European Canoeing Championships, European Ocean race, World Cup in slalom in Spain. She is a part of the team organising the Ocean race Cup and Ocean race Championships in Spain and invited all to participate in the events. The sport is changing so quickly and it is necessary for Europe to work together and she would like to participate in this process.

Mrs. Manuela Gawehn greeted all delegates. She stated that it has been a great pleasure for her to try to find solutions and work on matters with the Board of directors. Her focus for the last 2 years was the evaluation of the new competition venues and helps the organisers to provide some professional competitions. She has established and managed the European Junior Cup in Wildwater Canoeing. She was paddling since she was very young and she competed on national level in slalom and wildwater competitions in all three categories, K1, C1 and C2. After she stopped her athlete career she started her career as a coach, first in her club and afterwards in the German national team. She has more than 25 years experience in different canoe competitions with different roles like: team leader, coach, media management etc. She was the Chair of the Wildwater section in the German Canoe Federation. For more than 12 years she tried helping the organisers provide high professional canoeing in wildwater events and for the last 7 years she has been a member of the ICF Wildwater Committee. She is currently working in a small company as sales and marketing manager and she is an engineer of environment technology.

Mrs. Elena Ishakova started canoeing in a young age first as a kayaker and then in dragonboat. She works as Secretary General in the Russian Canoe Federation, she is a member of the ICF Dragonboat Committee and she is a Technical delegate for Dragonboat in Europe. She thanked Mrs. Elly Müller for all her guidance and she stated that we should learn from elder members of ECA. She thinks that

ECA has improved a lot over the years. She stated that ECA should keep going in the direction it is now.

Mr. Andrej Jelenc started when he was 13 years old as an athlete with a rich competitive career. He was the head coach of the Slovenian Nation Kayak/Canoe Slalom Team, also with great success in terms of results. He was the Team Leader of Slovenia Slalom and Sprint Team for 6 times. He works with all ranges of athletes from beginners to professional athletes; therefore he has a lot experience in the sport. He was involved in organisation of high level competitions in Slovenia and also as ECA Technical delegate for slalom. He is an ITO for slalom, wildwater and sprint. For his future tasks he mentioned: additional work in ECA promotion, presence in all European Multi-sport games, establishing a clear Bidding process and requirements for the organisers of the upcoming European Championships, closer cooperation with the ICF on TIP (development programmes), development of educational programmes for coaches, organisation of educational courses, acquire funds from the Olympic Solidarity and ICF for these educational programmes, Continental Canoe Slalom Race Series, establishing cooperation between kayaking tourism companies and organisers of major canoeing competitions, preparation of marketing programme together with National Federations, organisers of major canoeing competitions and athletes as ambassadors of our sport.

Mrs. Jovana Stanojević introduced herself to the delegates. For over 10 years she has been an employee of Serbian Canoe Federation and since recently she is the project manager. This allowed her to be involved in organisation of important international events, European Championships, World Cups, World University Championships and eventually this ECA Congress. She has participated in many international events as Canoe Sprint ITO since 2011. Since 2017 she is a member of the ECA Canoe Sprint Committee. All of that gave her different experiences and different perspectives to the canoe sport.

Mr. Lovrić explained one needs 15 votes to be elected. All three members of the Board were elected in the first round with over 50 percent votes.

Voting results:

- **Mrs. Manuela Gawehn (GER)** received 19 votes and therefore was elected for a 4 year term.
- **Mr. Andrej Jelenc (SLO)** received 31 votes and therefore was elected for a 4 year term.
- **Mrs. Jovana Stanojević (SRB)** received 23 votes and therefore was elected for a 4 year term.

| <b>The new structure of the ECA Board of Directors</b> |                              |                          |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| President  | Mr. Albert Woods (GBR)       | Mandate valid until 2023 |
| Vice President   | Mr. Jaroslav Pollert (CZE)   | Mandate valid until 2023 |
| Vice President   | Mr. Miroslav Haviar (SVK)    | Mandate valid until 2021 |
| Auditor  | Mrs. Evelina Petrova (BUL)   | Mandate valid until 2021 |
| General Secretary                                      | Mr. Branko Lovrić (CRO)      | Mandate valid until 2021 |
| Member   | Mrs. Manuela Gawehn (GER)    | Mandate valid until 2023 |
| Member   | Mrs. Elly Müller (NED)       | Mandate valid until 2021 |
| Member   | Mr. Andrej Jelenc (SLO)      | Mandate valid until 2023 |
| Member   | Mrs. Jovana Stanojević (SRB) | Mandate valid until 2023 |
| Member   | Mr. Péter Kárai (HUN)        | Mandate valid until 2021 |

|         |                            |                          |
|---------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Auditor | Mrs. Evelina Petrova (BUL) | Mandate valid until 2021 |
|---------|----------------------------|--------------------------|

## ITEM 7

### ELECTIONS OF THE CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVES TO THE ICF BOARD

As Mr. Lovrić announced the start of the elections of the Continental Representatives to the ICF Board, Mrs. Manuela Gawehn reminded the delegates that she is in the ICF Wildwater Committee and the Statutes of the ICF forbid her to have to positions, therefore Mrs. Gawehn withdrew her application for the Continental Representatives.

After such turn of events, there were 2 applications left, for 2 available positions, therefore the 2 remaining candidates that were elected to the ECA Board will also be ECA Continental Representatives in the ICF Board: **Mr. Andrej Jelenc (SLO)** and **Mrs. Jovana Stanojević (SRB)**.

## ITEM 8

### PROPOSALS FOR THE ECA STATUTES CHANGES – RECEIVED FROM NF

Mr. Lovrić gave word to Mr. David Joy as he is the Chief Executive of the British Canoeing and Great Britain submitted the Proposals for changes to the ECA Statutes.

Mr. Joy greeted all the delegates. Mr. Joy stated that the proposals submitted are the way that British Canoeing has been contemplating about the Statutes and the ways how to modernize the Statutes and make it in line with the ICF Statutes.

There were a total of 4 proposals from British Canoeing:

- **Proposal 1** – A review of the ECA Statutes for approval in 2021 (That the ECA undertakes a comprehensive review of its Statutes for consideration by the ECA Congress in 2021. That the ECA establishes a small working party to undertake this work and that progress is reported to each meeting of the Executive Committee and the Board)

Before voting Mr. Lovrić stated that Proposal 1 was already agreed upon by the Board, to establish the working group at its meeting after the ECA Congress including David Joy, thanking their kind offer of clerical assistance, so there was no need for voting.

**The proposal was carried.**

While British Canoeing is proposing the amendments to the Statues may be developed over the next two years and presented for consideration in 2021, they also wish to make three specific proposals for changes to the ECA Statutes from 2019, and those are listed below:

- **Proposal 2** – An amendment to Statute 6.3  
**6.3. All Board Members shall be elected for a 4-year term, a re-election of former member is allowed.**  
To be replaced with;  
**All elected Members of the ECA Board of Directors shall be elected for a 4 year term and shall be eligible for re-election. All members of the ECA Board of Directors can serve a maximum of 3 consecutive terms of office.**



Mr. Joy stated that this is already in the ICF Statutes and in many National Federations as well. He also noted that this proposal is in no way a critique of the Board of Directors, but a thought of improvement and modernization.

Mr. Lovrić stated that the Board thinks that this proposal shouldn't be carried since it takes some time for the members of the Board in any sport to build relations with other continental representatives in their respective sport organisations and furthermore, that the elections are democratic so there is no need for such limitations since every delegate can vote for the best person for the position.

Mr. Joy responded along with the comments from Mr. Christian Jacobsen (DEN) and Mr. Jean Zoungrana (FRA), who noted that they already made these type of changes in their National Federations, that the argument about taking long to build relations is invalid since all the organisations have the same Statute regulations so there will be no people representing their organisations, who have been elected to their Boards more than three times to build relations with.

**With 23 votes in favour of the proposal, making it enough for absolute majority needed for statute changes, the proposal was carried.**

- **Proposal 3** – An amendment to Statute 5.2  
**5.2. Only one person from a National Federation may be a member of the Board of Directors**  
To be replaced with;  
**Only one person from a Nation Federation may be a member of the Board of Directors, except in the case of the National Federation of the President of ECA, who may have up to one other member of the Board, if duly elected according to these Statutes.**

Before speaking about this proposal, Mr. Joy announced that British Canoeing is withdrawing this proposal. The reasoning behind the decision is, as Mr. Joy states, the fact that their motivation for this proposal was to make sure that the Members of the ECA Board are elected based on their skills and knowledge, not based on geography. Therefore, the proposal as it isn't complete, Mr. Joy then noted that they will take some time to reevaluating the proposal in a way to remove any geographical limitations from that statute, making it possible for a country to have more than one Board member, but that is still under consideration.

**The proposal was withdrawn.**

- **Proposal 4** – A further amendment to Statute 5.2.  
A further bullet point is added to confirm an additional power of the Congress:  
**To consider matters risen appropriately by National Federations in accordance with the requirements of the Statutes**

Mr. Joy explained that this proposal addresses the problems of National Federations not being able to formally promote notions to the Congress and the Statutes should provide a feature like this.

Mr. Lovrić responded, ECA wanted to find the better wording for this proposal and the Board would like to postpone this decision for the 2021 ECA Congress, however he noted that if the Federations wanted they could vote for this proposal now. The proposal was put to a vote.

**With 16 votes in favour of the proposal, which is not enough for absolute majority need for statute changes, the proposal was not carried.**

## ITEM 9

### FIXING THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEE FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS

Mr. Woods announced that the Board agreed upon the Annual Subscription Fee for the next two years is to stay the same, 250,00€, and after a quick vote, the motion was carried with 32 votes.

## ITEM 10

### ESTABLISHING THE WORKING (DEVELOPMENT) PROGRAMME FOR 2019/2020

Regarding the ECA Working and Development Programme 2019/2020, Mr. Christian Jacobsen from Denmark stated that „bullet e“ (To ensure that European Games are one of the qualification events for the Olympic Games) is not something that they agree upon because it limits opportunities for athletes to qualify for the Olympic Games.

Mr. Woods responded, The European Olympic Committee wants the European Games to have a part of Olympic selection in them, and if ECA would decide not to agree on those terms, canoeing could be out of the European Games in the future, resulting in a void of income.

Mr. Perurena also commented that the rules of IOC is clear, all the athletes have 2 possibilities to go to the Olympic Games the first method of qualifying is quality (results, rankings) and the second is universality. The IOC rules dictate the ways of qualifications to the Olympic Games are made by the IOC and there is no way around it.

Mr. Joy asked for more clarity of what the delegates are voting as he wants to vote for forming a working group for establishing the ECA Strategy for the period 2020-2028 (bullet a), however he thinks that the bullets from „b-g“ (b – To create education programme for the slalom coaches and issuing the ECA licences; Level 1 and Level 2, c – To create new series of the competition: European Open Slalom Cup, d – To stay in the programme of the European Games, e – To ensure that European Games are one of the qualification events for the Olympic Games, f – To finish negotiation with the European Dragonboat Federation about actual problems in this discipline, g – To continue work on gender equity in canoe sport) are not to be decided upon without long time consideration and proper debates.

Mr. Woods responded on Mr. Joys comment, the Olympic selection policy is very complicated and a lot of people here are dissatisfied with the policy that was produced by the ICF. The ICF agreed that when their policy runs out, they will do consulting with the National Federations about future policies. Therefore, it is hard for Europe to slot in with the ICF policy until ECA knows what it is. However, Mr. Woods stated his opinion that if the Congress voted today that European Games have no role in qualifications to the Olympic Games nor in the rankings in the sport, there would be a high possibility for EOC to omit canoeing from future European Games. As a compromise, Mr. Woods

suggested to add „subject to consultation with the Federations“ at the end ( e - To ensure that European Games are one of the qualification events for the Olympic Games, subject to consultation with the Federations) which doesn't tie ECA to definitely have it and the Board will consult with the Federations regarding the Olympic selection policy.

The working programme was then put to a vote.

**The programme was carried with 29 votes in favour.**

#### ITEM 11

##### ESTABLISHING THE BUDGE FOR 2019/2020

Mr. Lovrić explained the proposed budget, and adds a remark that the income for TV rights is lower due to obligatory tax. There were no questions or comments. President Woods put the budget to the vote.

**The budget was carried with 29 votes in favour.**

#### ITEM 12

##### CLOSING THE CONGRESS /

Before Open discussion, President Woods used the opportunity to thank the organisers and the translators and officially closed the Congress.

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#### OPEN DISCUSSION

##### **Presentation of the European Games Minsk 2019**

The members of the European Games Minsk 2019 Organising Committee introduced themselves. Mr. Sjarhei Shabylyka, with Mrs. Natasha Belkevich first showed the European Games Minsk 2019 promotional video. Mr. Shabylyka also handed gifts to Mr. Jose Perurena and Mr. Albert Woods. After another promotional video for the European Games, Mr. Shabylyka started their presentation. The European Games will have over 18,000 accredited participants, more than 4,000 competitors, 50 European NOCs, 23 disciplines, 15 sports, 199 Medal events, 91 Men's events, 89 Women's events, 19 Mixed events. The events will be held in the following sports: archery, athletics, badminton, 3 by 3 basketball, beach soccer, boxing, canoe sprint, cycling, gymnastics, judo, karate, sambo, shooting, table tennis and wrestling. 8 sports are a part of Road to Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games and 2 sports are the European Championships (boxing and judo). The Opening Ceremony will be held on 21 June 2019 and the Closing Ceremony on the 30 June 2019. All accredited persons will be entitled to multi visa free entering to Belarus from 20 May to 10 July 2019 at all international Border Crossing Points. All accredited person will have the right of visa free transit through Russian territory (aerial, rail and car Border Crossing Points) from 20 May to 10 July 2019. Mr. Shabylyka then asked Mrs. Belkevich to give information about the programme of the Canoe sprint in the European Games.

Mrs. Belkevich greeted all the attendees. 350 competitors from all over Europe will compete in a total of 16 Medal events. Mrs. Belkevich then gave some general information about the Venue (Regatta Course Zaslavl). Regarding the competition programme, she informed the delegates that Official Training from 23 June to 24 June 2019. ITOs meeting will be on the 24 June 2019. Mrs.

Belkevich also showed the NOCs quota places, overall there are 80 boat quota places and 324 athlete quota places. She thoroughly explained the numbers and organisation of all disciplines in all categories. In the Canoe sprint part of the European Games the confirmed participating NOCs are: Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Spain, Estonia, Finland, France, Great Britain, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Republic of North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Serbia, Slovakia, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine. Until 20 May Nocs will have to make short lists of the athletes competing in the European Games. The MEGOC will provide Open-air boat racks at the Venue during the training and competition period. The MEGOC proposes 3 options for boat transportation: ProWave Company which provides end-to-end solutions for boats transported from Duisburg after the ICF Canoe Sprint World Cup Series Competition, NOC Self-managed boat transportation, Boat rental with full service and support to competing athletes (Nelo, Plastex, VAJDA, BRACA - SPORT). The EOC has the authority to test athletes anytime and anywhere from the date of arrival in AVL and up to the end of the competition. Selection of athletes for doping control may be: targeted, random, and based on (the athletes final position, Efs/Ifs Anti-Doping Rules & recommendations, intelligence. Approximately 1000 samples are to be collected (urine and blood).

Mr. Shablyka continued about some key facts of the Athletes village in form of some important numbers (capacity over 6000 athletes and team officials, 9 residential building with almost 4000 rooms). The village has 28 equipped stopping places with information boards and 15 routes to competition venues.

Mrs. Belkevich added, the distance to the Athletes village to the Venue is around 31 km making it a 30 minute drive. She also showed the examples of medals to be given at the completion. All the participants will receive diplomas or certificates. Mrs. Belkevich thanked everyone for their attention.

The presentation was ended with another promotional video for the Minsk 2019 European Games.

### **European Slalom Cup 2019**

Mr. Pollert further explained the reasoning for the need for a competition like European Slalom Cup. A large number of athletes who do not make it into the World Cup or World Championships often train less than they would since they are not motivated, so the goal is to find motivation for those athletes to compete. For this year there will be 6 events from the beginning of April to the middle of August, existing ICF ranking events were chosen. Its Open series, so it is not only for the European countries. The last race this year will be in Prague. The idea was also to have a good standard for media presentation and this will be a requirement for the organisers, but these standards will be implemented next year.

### **Proposals from the British Canoeing**

Mr. Joy expressed his concerns about ECAs ability to place European Championships, considering the situation with the European Games and the wider Multi-sport European Championships, because the placing of the European Championships is getting more complicated. Considering the European Championships in 2023, there is strong reasons for the ECA to be involved, the financial benefit and the opportunity to strengthen the links with IOC and EOC to ensure the sport continues being a part of the Olympic family. Another positive outcome from participation in the European Games is the funding competitors will receive from their own organizations in their countries, based on their

results. However, in the year of the European Games the European Championships programme would not be complete and some events don't have European Championships. The timing of European Games is later than the European Championships would traditionally be which impacts on preparations for the World Championships. Another big issue is Paracanoe being separated from the European Championship and the careful consideration about the pros and cons of the Multi-sport European Championships.

Mr. Thomas Konietzko added some information about the European Championships in 2022, he was asked to lobby for Canoeing to be part of the 2022 European Championships and he did so. He argued that the income and the promotion of the sport in this way is the most important in these considerations.

President Woods commented on the European Multi-sport Championships, these Events are organised by private companies and national federations, not the EOC or NOCs, therefore it is not clear if it would be right thing to do. President Woods further explained, ECA could try to put Slalom in these Multi-sport Championships since the chance of getting Slalom into the Olympic Games is very small. Considering the issue of Paracanoeing, the Paracanoeing European Championships will be held in Poznan, which was managed with the help of Thomas Konietzko. President Woods added, organisation of separate Paracanoe events is hardly possible, since there are isn't enough people for the organisers to make profit.

Mr. Christian Jacobsen (DEN) contributed with his view of the situation. He said that these opportunities to have European Championships in such Multi-sport events fit Canoeing good since there are numerous possibilities of combining and inventing new or reworked disciplines in the sport making it more attractive to the general public, promoting the sport further in such manner, alongside the organisation of such events which is offered by these Multi-sport events.

Mr. Thomas Konietzko commented further, the adding of other sports has to be authorised by the organisers, be it the EOC organising the European Games or the private companies organising Multi-sport Championships, therefore, since the events are ran on a tight schedule, the chance of getting other disciplines in the programme is small.