



**THE 15th ORDINARY CONGRESS OF THE
EUROPEAN CANOE ASSOCIATION**

**BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA
2nd OCTOBER 2021**

MINUTES

ITEM 1

OPENING OF THE CONGRESS

Before the President Albert Woods opened the Congress he thanked the Slovak Canoeing for the organisation of the Congress and to all delegates present to the Congress in such a difficult Pandemic situation.

With minute of silence Congress expressed their respect to all canoeing friends passed away between two Congresses.

President Albert Woods welcomed than the Vice President of the International Canoe Federation, Mr. Thomas Konietzko and gave him the word.

Mr. Konietzko excused ICF President for not be present to the ECA Congress because of the other important meetings. He saluted representatives of all National Federations thanking for their efforts to save the canoeing sport in the last two years and encourage athletes and coaches to continue the training despite cancellation of the most main World and European events. He complimented the Federations for excellent results in the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. He stated that Europe is driving force of the canoeing in the World, but that it is very important to develop canoeing in the other Continents what will guarantee staying of canoeing in the future programme of the OG. Mr Konietzko expressed satisfaction with the number of viewers on TV and livestream that watched canoeing during the OG Tokyo 2022, what makes our position stronger within the Olympic family. He noted and significant loss of the Olympic quotas from OG Sydney 2000 what continues also for the OG Paris 2024. He stated and that new sports are replacing traditional sports in the programme of the Olympic Games, and that we all have to be aware of that fact. It is necessary to be more innovative and to mark America and Asia as target for development of canoeing, because these markets are important for the Olympic movement. Evolution of our disciplines is necessary to attract young people, make our sport more popular with higher number of viewers and interest of big markets.

At the end he thanked the ECA for work on development of canoeing in Europe and wished to all successful work at the Congress.

Mr. Woods thanked Mr. Konietzko for his kind words and help in reaching the goal to enter in the programme of the EMC Munich 2022, so as his contribution to the work of the ECA as the ECA Board member before been elected to the position of the ICF Vice President. Then he comes back to the Agenda of the Congress.

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

23 National Federations at the beginning of the Congress as follows:

AND, BEL, CRO, CZE, DEN, ESP, EST, FRA, GBR, GER, GRE, HUN, ITA, NED, NOR, POL, POR, ROU, RUS, SRB, SLO, SVK, SWE.

The quorum was reached; the count of votes showed a total of 23 valid votes. In addition, he explained that the simple majority is 12 votes and the 2/3 majority is 16 votes (necessary for the Statute changes). The list of the 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 Ms. Gabriela Christina Racaru from Romania and Mr. Wolfram Goetz from Germany to serve as scrutineers during the Congress.

ITEM 4

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

Written report with all other official documents for the Congress was sent to the Federations in the early beginning of the year. The report states all activities of the ECA and the ECA Board in the last 2 years including the meetings, competitions, development and media activities.

In his oral report President Woods stated that in the year 2019 all the competitions were organised on the high standards with TV and livestream coverage, but in 2020 the pandemic had caused huge problems in sport in general and canoeing was not an exemption. Even in the situation when all World Championships in 2020 and most in 2021 were cancelled, ECA has organised 2 European Championships in 2020 (Senior Slalom in Prague, and Junior&U23 Slalom in Krakow) and all in 2021 with high participation of the athletes from European Countries. President thanked all of the organisers for their effort to organise Championships in such a complicated situation and for saving the motivation of the athletes for continuing the training and will for competition.

ITEM 5

ECA FINANCIAL REPORT 2019-2020 AND REPORT BY THE AUDITOR

Mr. Branko Lovrić, the Secretary General, presented in writing the accounts of the ECA including the financial report and the report by the ECA auditor, Ms Evelina Petrova.

As there were no questions from the floor, Financial report and report by the Auditor have been put to vote and were unanimously accepted.

ITEM 6

ECA BOARD AND AUDITOR ELECTIONS

President Woods opened the votes with election of the ECA Vice President,

List 6.1: Election of the ECA Vice President

There was only 1 candidacy for the position of the ECA Vice President received from Slovakia for Mr. Miroslav Haviar.

Voting results:

YES	NO	ABS
21	0	2

Therefore, Mr. Miroslav Haviar will continue to work in the position of the ECA Vice President for the next 4 years.

List 6.2: Election of the ECA Secretary General

There was only 1 candidate for the position of the ECA Vice President received from Croatia for Mr. Branko Lovric.

Voting results:

YES	NO	ABS
21	0	2

Mr. Branko Lovric is elected for the position of the ECA Secretary General for the next mandate period 2021-2025.

List 6.3: Election for the ECA Board member

There was only 1 candidate for the position of the ECA Board member received from Hungary for Mr. Peter Karai.

Voting results:

YES	NO	ABS
20	0	3

Mr. Peter Karai is elected as the ECA Board member for the next period 2021-2025.

List 6.4: Election of the ECA Auditor

There was only 1 candidate for the position of the ECA Auditor received from Bulgaria for Ms Evelina Petrova.

Voting results:

YES	NO	ABS
22	0	1

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

As representatives of Austria joined the Congress, Secretary General announced new quorum:

Present 24 countries. New simple majority is 13 votes; the 2/3 majority is 16 votes.

List 6.5:

Elections of the ECA Board members (vacant position)

As there were no applications received on time for the second position of the ECA Board member, according to the Article 6.2 of the ECA Statutes it was opened new invitation for the vacant position presented and approved by the Congress. Three candidates for one vacant position were proposed by the National Federations:

Voting results:

- **Mr. Ruud Heijseelaar (NED) received 14 votes and was elected for a 4 year term.**
- **Ms. Elena Iskhakova (RUS) received 2 votes**
- **Ms. Eva Lindmark (SWE) received 8 votes.**

The new structure of the ECA Board of Directors		
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 2025
General Secretary	Mr. Branko Lovrić (CRO)	Mandate valid until 2025
Member	Mrs. Manuela Gawehn (GER)	Mandate valid until 2023
Member	Mr. Ruud Heijselaar (NED)	Mandate valid until 2025
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 2025

Auditor	Mrs. Evelina Petrova (BUL)	Mandate valid until 2023
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ITEM 7

ELECTIONS OF THE CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVES TO THE ICF BOARD

List 7: Election of the ECA representative to the ICF Board

There was only 1 candidate for the position of the ECA representative to the ICF Board received from Croatia for Mr. Branko Lovric.

Voting results:

YES	NO	ABS
22	0	2

Therefore, **Mr. Branko Lovric is elected** for the position of the ECA representative to the ICF Board for the next mandate period 2021-2025.

List of the ECA representatives to the ICF Board of Directors		
President	Mr. Albert Woods (GBR)	Mandate valid until 2023
General Secretary	Mr. Branko Lovrić (CRO)	Mandate valid until 2025
Member	Mr. Andrej Jelenc (SLO)	Mandate valid until 2023
Member	Mrs. Jovana Stanojević (SRB)	Mandate valid until 2023

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 to give explanation of the submitted Proposals for changes of 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 comprehensive review of its Statutes for consideration by the ECA Congress in 2023.

As in favour was received 11 votes, so the proposal was not carried.

- Proposal 2 – That Statutes are presented as Gender neutral

This proposal is withdrawn in favour of the ECA Board proposal

- Proposal 3 – Recognising the Technical Committees within the structure of the ECA

This proposal is also withdrawn in favour of the ECA Board proposal

- Proposal 4.1 – Is included in the proposal of changes from the ECA Board, so it was withdrawn

- Proposal 4.2 – To consider matters raised appropriately by National Federations in accordance with the requirements of the Statutes was putted to the vote

As in favour was received 8 votes, the proposal was not carried.

ITEM 9

PROPOSAL OF THE ECA STATUTE CHANGES FROM THE ECA BOARD

As all proposed Statute Changes have been sent to the National Federations, so Mr. Woods proposed to vote on the all proposals together if there is no other opinion.

After discussion and acceptance of the proposals from the floor, Congress accepted the ECA Board proposals of the ECA Statute changes with 19 votes in favour.

ITEM 10

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 will stay the same, 250 €, and after a quick vote, the motion was carried with 22 votes for the motion.

ITEM 11

ESTABLISHING THE WORKING (DEVELOPMENT) PROGRAMME FOR 2021/2022

Secretary General stated that in the last years ECA has reached target to be a part of the multisport events, so canoeing will be included in the European Multisport Championship in Munich 2022, so as in the programme of the European Games Krakow 2023. Now our wish is to stay in the programme of those events in the future and both Olympic disciplines to be presented in the programme. At the last ECA Congress Albania was accepted as the new ECA member, and now we are working on new countries to be affiliates as Island where exists canoeing activities, so ECA kindly asks Danish Canoe Federation for help in contacting the Iceland. Kosovo is also one of the target Countries. Considering strategic tasks ECA Board is asking Federations for help in targeting the candidates for ICF/ECA Talent Identification Programme, as there are some funds that can be used for this programme. Entering to

the multisport events are opening and bigger TV audience and rising financial income, what is opening a possibility for new projects and tasks.

ECA will continue to work on the project that European Games become one of the qualification events for the Olympic Games.

From the floor was proposed that ECA organise a SUP European Championships, Mr. Woods stated that first ICF SUP Championships in Hungary was big success with participation of more than 50 countries and the ECA is fully supporting the proposal. ECA will discuss it within the ICF Board work.

The working programme was then put to a vote.

The programme was carried with 22 votes in favour.

ITEM 12

ESTABLISHING THE BUDGET FOR 2021/2022

Mr. Lovrić gave written explanation of the proposed budget, and as there were no questions from the floor, President Woods put the budget to the vote.

The budget was carried with 23 votes in favour.

ITEM 13

ECA AWARDS

Mr Albert Woods has proposed to the Congress Mrs Elly Muller, long year member of the ECA Boars and ECA Technical delegate for sprint canoeing, to be awarded as the ECA Honorary member what was anonymously accepted by acclamation.

President Woods thanked Mrs Muller for her contribution in development of canoeing in the Europe and the World and awarded her a special plaque from the ECA.

ITEM 13

CLOSING THE CONGRESS

Mr. Luciano Buonfiglio asked for word where he thanked the ECA for excellent work and contribution to the development of canoeing and expressed his opinion that ECA can give more inputs to the work of the ICF.

President Woods thanked for the nice words, thanked again the Slovak Canoeing as organisers of the Congress, so as to the translators for correct translations and officially closed the Congress.

OPEN DISCUSSION

In the open discussion, President Woods reminded delegates that European Multisport Championships Munich will be a qualification event for the European Games Krakow 2023.

In the programme of the European Games Krakow 2023 both Olympic disciplines will be included; slalom and sprint, but because of the course limitations in sprint there will be only 200, 500 and 5000 m races.

Mr. Lovric invited again all affiliated Federations for new ideas to the ECA Board of Directors, smaller Federations for proposal of talented athletes that can be included in the ICF/ECA TIP programme.

He mentioned success of the slalom training camp in Solkan-Slovenia in 2021 with 12 participant athletes. During the training camp also ICF level 1 coaching seminar was organised where 6 coaches successfully passed the exam.

Mr Haviar opened discussion about needs of translation at the Congress in four languages, what is making non necessary costs to the organisers.

He stated that almost no one is using translation in the other languages than English and that all delegations have minimum one English speaking person in the delegation.

After discussion, it was agreed that ECA will investigate needs of translation before the next Congress and take the appropriate decision.

As there were no other proposals President Woods closed the open discussion wishing to all participants safe journey and healthy rest of the year.