

THE 9<sup>th</sup> ORDINARY CONGRESS OF THE  
EUROPEAN CANOE ASSOCIATION

BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA  
4 APRIL 2009

**MINUTES**

## ITEM 1

### OPENING OF THE SESSION

Mrs. Elena Malíková, the representative of the Slovak Ministry of Education and Sport, welcomed everyone to the 2009 European Canoe Association Congress. Mrs. Malíková highlighted that the Sport of canoeing is one of the most popular sports in Slovakia and went on to highlight some of the best results of Slovakian canoeists.

In her speech, Mrs. Malíková expressed great pleasure that the ECA Congress was being held in the City of Bratislava, and wished the delegates a productive Congress and enjoyable stay in Bratislava.

## ITEM 2

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

Mr. Branko Lovric, the ECA General Secretary, did the roll-call of the delegates and reported the presence of

**31 National Federations** as follows:

AUT, BEL, BLR, BUL, CRO, CYP, CZE, DEN, ESP, FIN, FRA, GBR, GER, GRE, HUN, IRL, ITA, LAT, LTU, NED, NOR, POL, POR, ROU, RUS, SRB, SLO, SVK, SWE, TUR, and UKR.

In addition, he explained that the absolute majority is 16 votes and the 2/3 majority is 21.

## ITEM 3

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

The President proposed Mr. David Gent from Great Britain, Mr. Wolfgang Over from Germany and Mr. Mauro Betti from Italy to be the scrutineers during the Congress.

*The proposal was accepted.*

Albert Woods then asked the Congress to pay their respects to some former ECA members who had recently passed away. A minute's silence was taken for Sergio Orsi (ITA) who had various functions in the ICF: a Chairman of the Sprint Racing Committee, the former ICF Secretary General and the President of the ICF until 1998; Corneliu Barsanescu (ROU) – the former Vice President of the ECA; Časlav Veljić (SRB) – the former Secretary General of the ICF; and Kolonics György (HUN), two-times Olympic gold medal champion sprint canoeist who passed away last July.

## ITEM 4

### ACCEPTANCE OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESS

The President gave a brief history of Mr Otto Bonn from Hungary to the delegates; Mr Bonn was elected to the ICF Board in 1954 and for many years was Vice President. In 1990 he was elected as ICF Secretary General and is an honorary member of the ICF.

The President then proposed Mr Bonn as the Chairman of the Congress; *this was accepted unanimously.*

Mr Bonn then thanked the delegates, stating that this was a great honour for him and that he has been involved with the sport for 46 years and still follows it with great interest. He thanked the Congress for their confidence in him. From this point on, Mr Bonn will Chair the Congress.

#### ITEM 5

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

The report was supplied to the delegates prior to the Congress. Questions regarding the report were invited, however, none were forthcoming. *The report was then unanimously accepted.*

#### ITEM 6

#### ECA BALANCE SHEET 2007/2008

The Congress unanimously accepted the 2007-2008 Balance Sheet which was presented to the Delegates prior to the Congress. Branko Lovrić then stated that the previous two years had been successful financially, and that a substantial amount of money had been made from television rights.

#### ITEM 7

#### REPORT BY THE AUDITOR

Mr. Andre Vandeput, the ECA Auditor, addressed the Congress with a brief speech. He delivered a report on the work of the ECA and in particular, the work of the Secretary General, Mr. Branko Lovrić. He then made the following observations:

- FY 2007 – two Federations did not pay the Annual subscription fee
- FY 2008 – three Federations did not pay the Annual subscription fee
- FY 2007 – 7 Federations did not pay the full amount
- FY 2008 – 11 Federations did not pay the full amount
- FY 2007 – 14 Federations did not inform their bank that they were liable for charges
- FY 2008 - 16 Federations did not inform their bank that they were liable for charges.

*The Report was unanimously accepted by the Congress.*

## ITEM 8

### ACCEPTANCE OF THE NEW MEMBER FEDERATIONS

The Congress was informed that two new federations have requested affiliation to the ECA: Montenegro and Malta. *These were accepted unanimously.*

Mr. Vladimir Šoć, the President of the Montenegrin Kayak Aliance, addressed the Congress giving his personal thanks to the delegates for their acceptance of the Montenegrin Kayak Aliance to the ECA. He also expressed his belief in successful and effective future collaborations.

The Chairman then announced that ECA now has 45 affiliated member Federations. A new quorum was therefore established:

The presence of **32 National Federations** changed the voting to:

- Absolute majority = 17 votes.
- 2/3 majority = 22 votes.

## ITEM 9

### ECA BOARD AND ECA AUDITOR ELECTIONS

#### 9.1. A – Election of the ECA Vice President

There were 4 candidacies received for the position of the ECA Vice President. The voting system: only one name on the ballot paper can be marked.

- **Miroslav Haviar (SVK)** received **19 votes**. (Elected in the first round)
- Gabor Schmidt (HUN) – 8 votes received
- Bojan Žmavc (SLO) – 3 votes received
- Christian Hunaut (FRA) – 2 votes received

#### 9.1 B - Elections of the ECA Secretary General

There were two candidates for the position of the ECA Secretary General: Mr. Gheorghe Toth from Romania and Mr. Branko Lovrić from Croatia.

- **Branko Lovric (CRO)** received **27 votes**. (Elected in the first round)
- Gheorghe Toth (ROU) – 5 votes received

#### 9.1 C - Election of the ECA Auditor

The only candidate for the position of the ECA Auditor was Mr. Andre Vandeput from Belgium who received **30** votes. (Elected in the first round)

#### 9.2 a) Elections for the members of the Board

Six nominations were received, with 3 places available.

The voting system: up to three names on the ballot paper can be marked.

The election went as follows:

- **Elly Muller (NED)** received **27** votes and therefore was elected for a 4 year term.
- **Irina Siraeva (RUS)** received **23** votes and therefore was elected for a 4 year term.
- **Vanya Gesheva (BUL)** received **20** votes and therefore was elected for a 2 year term.
- Jaroslav Pollert (CZE) – 10 votes received
- Iveta Agleniece (LAT) – 9 votes received
- Themistoklis Nomidis (GRE) – 4 votes received

<b>The new structure of the ECA Board of Directors:</b>		
President	Mr. Albert Woods (GBR)	Mandate valid 2011
Vice President	Mr. Mario Santos (POR)	Mandate valid 2011
Vice President	Mr. Miroslav Haviar (SVK)	Mandate valid 2013
General Secretary	Mr. Branko Lovrić (CRO)	Mandate valid 2013
Member	Mr. Geir Kvillum (NOR)	Mandate valid 2011
Member	Mrs. Elly Müller (NED)	Mandate valid 2013
Member	Mrs. Vanya Gesheva (BUL)	Mandate valid 2011
Member	Mrs. Irina Siraeva (RUS)	Mandate valid 2013
Member	Mr. Olaf Heukrodt (GER)	Mandate valid 2011

## ITEM 10

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

There were 8 nominations received from National Federations, but after the elections for the ECA Board positions, there were five candidates left for the ECA Representatives to the ICF Board, with three places available (two for the four year term and one for the two year term).

The voting system: up to three names on the ballot paper can be marked.

The election went as follows:

- **Branko Lovric (CRO)** received **24** votes and therefore was elected for a 4 year term.
  - **Irina Siraeva (RUS)** received **22** votes and therefore was elected for a 4 year term.
  - **Mario Santos (POR)** received **21** votes and therefore was elected for a 2 year term.
  - Miroslav Haviar (SVK) – 15 votes received
  - Geir Kvillum (NOR) – 8 votes received
- NOTE: 2 ballots not valid.

**COFFE BREAK**

• ROLL – CALL OF DELEGATES AND ESTABLISHING OF THE QUORUM

After the lunch break, Mr. Branko Lovric, the ECA General Secretary, again did the roll-call of the delegates. It was noted that with the presence of delegates from **32 National Federations**, that the absolute majority vote is 17 and the 2/3 vote is 22.

**ITEM 11**  
**PROPOSALS FOR THE ECA STATUTES CHANGES**

The ECA Statute Changes for the 2009 Congress were then considered:

<b>ECA STATUTES CHANGE OF EXISTING WORDING</b>				
<b>Proposal From</b>	<b>Article</b>	<b>EXISTING WORDING</b>	<b>NEW WORDING</b>	<b>ECA STAND</b>
ECA	<b>5.4</b>	All Congresses shall be held under the chairmanship of a selected Chairman. The Chairman is selected from the people present at the Congress and cannot be a member of the Board of Directors. Once selected, he/she cannot be a National Voting Delegate. The Board of Directors may suggest a person to be considered as a Chairman of the Congress. The President and the other Board Members do not have voting right, unless they act as Delegates with voting right.	All Congresses shall be held under the Chairmanship of the President of the ECA, or in the absence of the President, one of the Vice Presidents. The President and the other Board members do not have voting rights, unless they act as delegates with voting right.	<b>IN FAVOUR (24 votes)</b>
ECA	<b>9.3</b>	Meetings of the Board of Directors shall take place at least once a year on the same date and venue of a European Championships, whenever possible. The I.C.F. President or his delegate may attend the meetings of the Board without the right of vote. The Executive Committee summons the Board meeting at least one month before the date of the meeting. The Board decides by voting if at least 5 members are present: in case of equal distribution of votes, the President has the casting vote.	Meetings of the Board of Directors shall take place at least once a year. The I.C.F. President or his delegate may attend the meetings of the Board without the right of vote. The Executive Committee summons the Board meeting at least one month before the date of the meeting. The Board decides by voting if at least 5 members are present: in case of equal distribution of votes, the President has the casting vote.	<b>IN FAVOUR (28 votes)</b>
- ECA - HUN	<b>9.5</b>	The Board of Directors is responsible for: - Managing the ECA and enforcing the decisions adopted by the Congress - The administration and running of ECA according to the guidelines set by the Congress, -The creation of ad-hoc Commissions for an easier running of ECA tasks	The Board of Directors is responsible for: - Managing the ECA and enforcing the decisions adopted by the Congress - The administration and running of ECA according to the guidelines set by the Congress, -The creation of ad-hoc	<b>IN FAVOUR (29 votes)</b>

		-Deciding the date and venue of the Congress.	Commissions for an easier running of ECA tasks -Deciding the date and venue of the Congress - <b>The appointment of Technical Delegates for each of the disciplines</b> - <b>The setting up of impartial commissions for the doping/discipline etc</b> - <b>The employment of part or full time staff as may be necessary</b>	
ECA	12.4	<b>NEW ARTICLE – RENUMBERING OF ALL SUBSEQUENT ARTICLES</b>	<b>In the two Olympic disciplines for the Senior Championships, the federations that are awarded the Championships by the ECA Board must sign the contract for the running of the event including TV requirements within 90 days of the Board's decision.</b>	<b>IN FAVOUR (29 votes)</b>

## ITEM 12

### PROPOSALS FOR THE RULE CHANGES

Prior to the Congress, a motion had been received to create a new European Championship in Ergometer Canoeing. This had been proposed by the Danish Canoe Federation. The paper highlighted the motivation behind the proposal as well as the advantages to be gained from Ergo Canoeing. Mr Christian Jacobsen stated that Ergo Canoeing should be given further consideration as it is a spectator friendly sport and has the potential to attract more media attention. Furthermore, the Danish Canoe Federation suggested that the Congress should assign a Technical committee to draw up rules for the first competition which could be amended following experiences gained in the 2012 and 2011 European Championships.

The President stated that the Congress will embrace this suggestion, but he also stated that the ECA Board discussed this proposal at their last meeting held in February and agreed that this event should be held under the name 'European Cup' for the next two years. Additionally, he stated that it will be reviewed in two years time. The President then asked Mr Christian Jacobsen to come to the next Congress with a comprehensive set of rules, which, if acceptable, will then be made official.

***The Congress voted with 20 votes in favour of the ECA Board's proposal (6 against, 5 abstain).***

**ITEM 13**  
**ECA AWARDS**

The Chairman informed the Congress that the ECA Board had proposed that Mr. Viktor Kirin, an inaugural member of the Board, should become an Honorary Member of the ECA. *This was accepted by the Congress* and a special plaque was presented to Mr. Kirin.

Following the presentation, Mr Kirin gave a short speech to the Congress, where he highlighted his 45 years working with Bulgarian sports and 16 years with the ECA. Mr. Kirin reminded the Congress that the Bulgarian Canoe Federation carried the burden of organizing the first ECA Sprint Championship. At the end of his speech, he wished the ECA and all his colleagues even greater success in the forthcoming years.

Mr. Istvan Vaskuti then took the opportunity to thank the Congress for their support over the last few years and in his address to Congress explained the reason for his resignation from the ECA. He stated that performing the duty of both the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the ICF and being an ECA Board member, may possibly provide a conflict of interests and therefore he is unable to do both, Nevertheless, he will make all efforts to work for the best interest of the European continent.

**ITEM 14**  
**FIXING THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEE FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS**

The amount of the Annual Subscription fee for the next two years is agreed to be the same as present (€ 250). *This was accepted unanimously by the Congress.*

**ITEM 15**  
**ESTABLISHING THE WORKING (DEVELOPMENT) PROGRAMME FOR YEARS  
2009/2010**

The Development Programme was distributed to the delegates prior to the Congress for their consideration. The Chairman invited questions and comments from everyone. No comments were received and therefore, the Development Programme was *unanimously accepted by the Congress.*

**ITEM 16**  
**ESTABLISHING THE BUDGET FOR THE YEARS 2009/2010**

The budget was provided to the delegates prior to the Congress. The Chairman then invited questions from the delegates; no questions were received and therefore, it was *accepted by a majority of 27.*

**ITEM 17**  
**CLOSING THE CONGRESS**



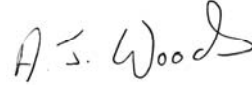
Mr. Otto Bonn thanked all delegates, volunteers and translators for their hard work and officially closed the 9th ECA Congress. He then handed over to the President, Mr. Albert Woods, to chair the open discussion.

Branko Lovrić



ECA Secretary General

Albert Woods



ECA President

## ITEM 17

### OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr Albert Woods then invited any comments from the floor. They were received as follows:

The German federation highlighted a report which had been previously circulated, on Dragon Boat Racing.

Albert Woods responded to the German federation by stating that the ECA remains supportive of Dragon Boat Racing and is open to organizing championships. However, no formal application has been received to date. In addition, organizers need to be found and Dragon Boat Championships need to be combined with Dragon Boat Club Championship events and be held every two years.

Albert also stated that the rules of the ICF must be followed, and that currently the President of the ICF, Mr. José Perurena López, is seeking a way forward that will work equally well for the ICF and the IDBF.

Stephen Gustafsson (SWE) stated that an Olympic Action Plan is required to ensure that Europe is unified with the rest of the ICF. It is obvious that Europe provides the best paddlers. Mario Santos (POR) stated that this matter *does* concern the Board that that steps are being taken to raise Europe's profile.

Albert Woods highlighted the fact that due to the current Olympic selection procedure, Europe does not have enough athlete places at the Games. He stated that he agrees with the ICF that the universality system is important, however he believes it should be reduced to a minimum number of quota athletes so that each continent is represented.

The Swedish federation encouraged the Board to put alternative selection methods together and stated that the ECA needs to be more overwhelming within the ICF.

It was then agreed that in order to maximize ECA's presence within the ICF that the ECA Board should meet prior to ICF Board meetings. Albert Woods then stated that a half day has already been arranged for the national federations at the next ICF Congress.

**Mr. Albert Woods then closed the proceedings.**