



**THE 10th ORDINARY CONGRESS OF THE
EUROPEAN CANOE ASSOCIATION**

**PORTO, PORTUGAL
26 MARCH 2011**

MINUTES

ITEM 1

OPENING OF THE SESSION

The ECA President Mr Albert Woods opened the 10th ECA Ordinary Congress at 9.00 a.m. After having welcomed the delegates, he asked the Secretary General Mr Branko Lovric to check the list of present and represented affiliates.

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

30 National Federations as follows:

ARM, AUT, AZE, BEL, BLR, BUL, CRO, CYP, CZE, ESP, FRA, GBR, GEO, GER, GRE, HUN, ISR, ITA, LAT, LTU, MAL, NED, NOR, POL, POR, ROU, RUS, SLO, SVK, and SWE.

The quorum was reached; the count of votes showed a total of **30** valid votes. In addition, he explained that the absolute majority is **16** votes and the 2/3 majority is **20** votes.

ITEM 3

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Secretary General suggested that Mr. Andrej Jelenc from Slovenia, Mr. Harald Marktler from Austria and Mr. John Leukemans from Belgium are the scrutineers during the Congress.

The proposal was accepted.

ITEM 4

NOTE THE AGENDA

There were no comments on the agenda of the meeting, so the Congress moved to the next Item.

ITEM 5

REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT AND BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON BEHALF OF THE ECA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND REPORTS OF TECHNICAL DELEGATES

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 by show of cards.

ITEM 6

ECA FINANCIAL REPORT 2009 – 2010 AND REPORT BY THE AUDITOR

The ECA Auditor, Mr. Andre Vandeput, delivered a report on the work of the ECA for the period 2009 – 2010 and made the following observations:

- FY 2009 – one Federation did not pay the Annual subscription fee
- FY 2010 – five Federations did not pay the Annual subscription fee
- FY 2009 – 10 Federations did not pay the full amount
- FY 2010 – 11 Federations did not pay the full amount
- FY 2009 – 15 Federations did not inform their bank that they were liable for charges
- FY 2010 - 10 Federations did not inform their bank that they were liable for charges.

He than congratulated the Treasurer on his excellent management of the ECA accounts and thanked him for his outstanding work.

The Report was unanimously accepted by the Congress.

A new quorum has been established upon arrival of delegates from Serbia.

The presence of **31 National Federations** changed the voting to:

- Absolute majority = 16 votes.
- 2/3 majority = 21 votes.

ITEM 7

ECA BOARD AND ECA AUDITOR ELECTIONS

At the time of Elections, Albert Woods handed over the Congress to Mr Miroslav Haviar, the ECA Vice President. Mr Haviar invited presidential candidates to answer a question posed by Slovenian delegates and to share their views on the future of the European canoeing sport.

Mr Bejnarowicz addressed the Congress with a brief speech in which he highlighted that he is ready to work hard for the benefit of the ECA, but, in order to go a step further, whole Europe must work together.

In his speech to the Congress, Mr Woods informed the delegates that the next few years will be challenging as the Olympic Programme is going forward, and that ECA needs to take a careful look that an equal number of events for female and male athletes is represented. He reported that ECA is working close with the ICF on finding the best solution to this issue and that ICF is preparing huge changes that will be presented at the ICF Congress which is to be held in 2012. He pointed out that now that the Canoeing has been officially added to the programme for the 2016 Paralympic Games, it has strengthened the position of the sport of canoeing in general.

As one of two founders of the ECA, he expressed hope that he will be able to continue with the enthusiastic work and to steer the ECA further forward. On behalf of the British Olympic Association, he invited all delegates to come to London for the OG 2012 where they will be warmly welcomed.

7.1. A – Election of the ECA President

There were 2 candidacies received for the position of the ECA President.

- **Albert Woods (GBR)** received **21 votes**.
- **Jozef Bejnarowicz (POL)** – 10 votes received

The newly re-elected President Woods took chair of the meeting from Mr Haviar and thanked the Congress for their vote of confidence. He further thanked the President of the Portuguese Canoe Federation Mr Mario Santos, who is also the ECA Vice President, for excellent organisation of the Congress. He then gave a warm welcome to the President of the ICF, Mr José Perurena López, and invited him to give a short speech as the ICF President.

Mr José Perurena López then gave a short speech to the Congress encouraging delegates to raise their issues during open discussion.

7.2. A – Election of the ECA Vice President

There were 2 candidacies received for the position of the ECA Vice President.

- **Mario Santos (POR)** received **25 votes**.
- **Jaroslav Pollert (CZE)** – 6 votes received

Mr Santos thanked the Congress for its confidence further stating that, as until now, he will continue to work in ECA's best interest for the next four years.

7.2 B - Elections for the members of the Board

Four nominations were received, with 3 places available.

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

All three members of the Board were elected in the first round. The election went as follows:

- **Thomas Konietzko (GER)** received **27 votes** and therefore was elected for a 4 year term.
- **Patrick Berard (FRA)** received **26 votes** and therefore was elected for a 4 year term.
- **Geir Kvillum (NOR)** received **19 votes** and therefore was elected for a 4 year term.
- **Juan Jose De Salabert Coll (ESP)** – 15 votes received.

7.2 C - Election of the ECA Auditor

The only candidate for the position of the ECA Auditor was Mr. Andre Vandeput from Belgium who received **19** valid votes. (Elected for a 2 year term)

The new structure of the ECA Board of Directors:		
President	Mr. Albert Woods (GBR)	Mandate valid 2015
Vice President	Mr. Miroslav Haviar (SVK)	Mandate valid 2013
Vice President	Mr. Mario Santos (POR)	Mandate valid 2015
General Secretary	Mr. Branko Lovrić (CRO)	Mandate valid 2013
Member	Mrs. Elly Müller (NED)	Mandate valid 2013
Member	Mrs. Irina Siraeva (RUS)	Mandate valid 2013
Member	Mr. Patrick Berard (FRA)	Mandate valid 2015
Member	Mr. Thomas Konietzko (GER)	Mandate valid 2015
Member	Mr. Geir Kvillum (NOR)	Mandate valid 2015

ITEM 8

ELECTION OF THE CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVES TO THE ICF BOARD

The election went as follows:

- **Mario Santos (POR)** received **23** votes and therefore was elected for a 4 year term.
- Geir Kvillum (NOR) received 8 votes.

BREAK

ROLL – CALL OF DELEGATES AND ESTABLISHING OF THE QUORUM

After the coffee 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 **31 National Federations** the absolute majority vote is 16 and the 2/3 vote is 21.

ITEM 9

PROPOSAL FOR THE STATUTE CHANGES

The Congress then considered the French proposal for ECA Statutes Changes.

ECA STATUTES CHANGE OF EXISTING WORDING			
Proposal from	Article	EXISTING WORDING	NEW WORDING
FRA ECA	12.3	Applications from the Federations to organise European Championships must be submitted to the Secretary General who will, after consultation with the appropriate Technical Delegate, submit them to the next Board meeting for their decision. From time to time, at least three months before the next ECA Board meeting, the Secretary General will inform all European Federations of the vacancies and inform them of the time frame for their applications.	<p>Applications from the Federations to organise European Championships must be submitted to the Secretary General who will, after consultation with the appropriate Technical Delegate, submit them to the next Board meeting for their decision.</p> <p>The bidding process schedule is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1st October of each year: ECA informs all National Federations of events which will be allocated at the 1st Board meeting of following year. - 1st January: deadline for declare the interest of bid by National Federations. - 15th January: ECA publishes a list of interested National Federations for each event. - 1st March: deadline to submit bid documents and technical visit by ECA Technical Delegate. <p>At 1st Board meeting of each year: prior the Board's decision, each National Federation may present and support its application by a 10 minutes presentation in front of the Board.</p>
ECA STAND: IN FAVOUR (26 votes)			

ITEM 10

PROPOSAL FOR THE RULE CHANGES

- 1) A motion received by the French Canoe Federation regarding the rule changes has been withdrawn.
- 2) The Congress voted on the proposal received by the Dutch Canoe, to hold the ECA Marathon Championships for all classes every year, instead of every 2 years. Mr Woods informed that the Board has asked for the opinion of ECA Technical delegate for Marathon racing Mr Jorn Cronberg, and that he is in favour of the proposal, so the ECA Board will support the proposal of having European Marathon Championships for all classes every year. **The proposal was accepted by a majority of 24 votes.**
- 3) A motion had been received to keep 9 lanes at every European Championships. This had been proposed by the Swedish Canoe Federation. Mr Kent-Åke Lundberg stated that there were several reasons why ECA should try to push forward the proposal to maintain 9 lanes in the programme of the European, as well as the World Championships. He then highlighted that one of the reasons is that maintaining 9 lanes would reduce the number of races and that, statistically, reducing the number of lanes from 9 to 8 would increase the number of races which is not good when it comes to TV coverage requirements. Moreover, looking from a perspective of an athlete, the government funding support will be granted only to athletes who achieve ranking in A finals in categorized international competitions. For example, it is better for an

athlete to achieve 9th best timing in A finals than achieving 1st timing in B finals. In the end, he appealed to the Congress that ECA should raise this question again at the ICF level.

Mr Woods then invited Mr José Perurena López to reply to this question on behalf of the ICF.

Mr José Perurena López stressed that this is a technical rule and it should be discussed by the Board and not the Congress. Furthermore, hearing the opinion of affiliated Federations at the ICF Congress in Spain, the ICF Board has decided to postpone with the decision until after the ICF Congress to be held in 2012 where this issue will be discussed in more detail. From his point of view, it is necessary to maintain 9 lanes at the World Championships and World Cup races to which the OG Rules do not apply to. He then highlighted that the main problem refers to the program of the Olympic Games; K4 in particular. The decision whether to have 9 or 8 lanes at the OG 2016 is in the hands of the ICF Board and will be based on the opinion of the ICF Continental Associations at the ICF Congress which is to be held in 2013.

Mr Kent-Åke Lundberg thanked Mr José Perurena López for the support and stressed that ECA should elaborate its position on the issue before the ICF Congress takes place. Embracing the idea, Mr Woods proposed ECA should take a vote on the principle of maintaining 9 lanes at ECA and ICF Sprint Championships. Mr José Perurena López reported that 7 members of the ICF Board currently present at the ECA Congress will hear Europe's position.

The Congress voted with 26 votes in favour of the principle of maintaining 9 lanes at ECA and ICF Sprint Championships.

ITEM 11

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 by a majority of 21 votes.***

Mr Woods once more reminded the Federations that all bank charges must be borne by the remitter and not the ECA.

ITEM 12

ESTABLISHING THE WORKING (DEVELOPMENT) PROGRAMME FOR YEARS 2011/2012

The programme was supplied to the delegates prior to the Congress. Mr Woods invited questions and comments from the floor, however, none were forthcoming.

The report was then accepted by a majority of 29 votes.

ITEM 13

ESTABLISHING THE BUDGET FOR THE YEARS 2009/2010

The budget was provided to the delegates prior to the Congress. The President then invited questions from the delegates; no questions were received and therefore, it was *accepted by a majority of 25 votes*.

ITEM 14

CLOSING THE CONGRESS

In closing the ECA Congress 2011, the ECA President Mr Albert Woods thanked all delegates for their attendance, volunteers and translators for their hard work, and the host federation for arranging a superb Congress.



OPEN DISCUSSION

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

Mr Andrej Jelenc from Slovenia helped bring attention to the fact that Organisers of international events (World Cup races), for which is mandatory to have international TV coverage, are experiencing difficulties in their effort to communicate with Mr Simon Toulson, the ICF Secretary General; regarding the exact procedure for TV broadcasting of ICF events. In addition, he explained that it would be helpful to get, as soon as possible, more precise information on the role and responsibilities of the organiser since the events are getting closer.

This was supported by the Czech delegate, Mr Ivo Eichler, who also said that the Czech TV had received a letter from Mr Simon Toulson directly, without any knowledge of the Czech Canoe Federation.

Mr Bojan Žmavc, also from Slovenia, emphasized that the main problem is the lack of coordination between organisers and the ICF headquarters which is a crucial aspect in making a successful event, further stating that ICF Secretary General should be reminded to take into account this remark.

Mr José Perurena López first apologized to the Czech delegate, and then responded to the Congress by stating that choosing the TV broadcasting company has been a complex process. The ICF Secretary General has been negotiating with the French TV company who is an expert in this field and the Contract has been signed a week ago. He further

stated that the ICF Secretary General will pay a visit to the Organisers of 7 ICF World Cup races to discuss the issues and the broadcasting program. In order to clarify the current situation, this topic will be on the agenda of the next ICF Board meeting.

Mr Stefan Gustafsson from Sweden asked for some feedback on the question he raised at the last ECA Congress 2009 that concerns the ECA Olympic Action Plan, whose goal is to provide more quota places for European athletes at the Olympic Games.

Albert Woods responded that, in his personal opinion, all the best athletes should be sent to the OG, but since the IOC requires universality, ECA has put a proposal to the ICF Board suggesting only crew boats to be selected at the World Championships, and the balance of the single events to be selected at the Continental events. The ICF Board wasn't in favour of the proposal which would have given more quota places for Europe. He then asked Mr José Perurena López to explain in more detail the present number of quota places allocated to Europe.

Mr José Perurena López then gave a short speech to the Congress, where he clarified the Olympic selection procedure focusing on the universality question and that it would not be good for Europe to have this discussion during the ICF Congress because they are in the minority.

Mr. Istvan Vaskuti from Hungary, who is also the 1st Vice president of the ICF, outlined that it is very difficult to share the quotas between the continents so that each continent is fairly represented. He then highlighted the fact that 2/3 of the people selected come from European countries. Therefore, he shared the opinion that Europe should accept the current situation. In his opinion, the Olympic Games in Beijing produced the best finalists, where both, quality and universality were represented.

Mr. Thomas Konietzko from Germany took the opportunity to address the Congress and suggested to ICF President having made standard Programme (software) for World Cup races and the World Championships.

Mr José Perurena López responded to the German delegate that one of the topics of the ICF Congress in 2013 will be making the World Cup races more interesting for TV and spectators. ICF is currently working close with one company to develop software for all the World Cup races and World Championships and this shall also be presented at the next ICF Congress for approval. He continued with ICF's plans on how to steer the Canoeing sport forward over the next few years; TV and Broadcasting, International Relations, Event Management and the possible future activities.

Mr Bojan Žmavc from Slovenia stated that both, Slalom and Sprint, are spectator friendly, further supporting Mr Perurena's suggestion of having the standard software, Programme and one TV Broadcasting company. He then pointed out that Canoeing, other than just being an interesting sport, has the potential to realize a certain economic benefits from an ecological point of view.

Mr Kent-Åke Lundberg from Sweden reported that in January 2011, a few European Federations got together to discuss the issues in Europe, and they came up with a proposal to the new ECA Board to hold the ECA Congress in the same year as the ICF, just before the ICF Congress takes place. Second proposal is that, in order to work on the issues, ECA should organise a meeting with National Federations at the beginning of each year (in January).

Mr Woods responded that the new ECA Board will consider these proposals. He also reminded that the ECA Statute would require changes in case of acceptance of the proposal for moving the date of the ECA Congress. In addition, Mr Woods invited all National Federations to send their proposals and suggestions for the next Congress.

In the end, Mr Petar Lovrić from Croatia took the opportunity in his address to thank Mr José Perurena López for excellent organisation of the ICF Congress held last year in Spain, further stating that ECA is very thankful to have such a good representatives who have raised so many good points at the ICF Congress as well as the ICF Board.

ECA President Mr Albert Woods thanked Mr Petar Lovrić for his kind words and to ICF President Mr José Perurena López for his great kindness in honouring the ECA Congress by his presence.

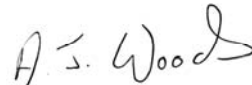
The Open discussion finished at 11.30 a.m.

Branko Lovrić



ECA Secretary General

Albert Woods



ECA President