

Minutes of the ECA Board of Directors Meeting  
Online  
11th December 2025

10/2025

## Present members:

- President: Jean Zoungrana
- Vice Presidents : Moira Aston, Andrej Jelenc
- Board Members: Greg Smale, Manuela Gawehn, Stien Verlinden, Peter Karai, Geir Kvillum, Christian Jacobsen, Vitor Felix, Monica Doria
- ECA Office: Jovana Stanojevic, Ivana Sundov

## ITEM 1

### OPENING OF THE MEETING

The President, Mr. Jean Zoungrana, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. He informed the Board about recent governance matters, sponsorship discussions, and ongoing work related to Paddle Europe Headquarters candidates.

The CEO, Ms. Jovana Stanojevic, briefly reported on the feasibility study for Legal HQ Lausanne, ongoing work on the Bidding Process document, and meetings with 2026 European Championships Host Organisers. She informed the Board that the EOC 2027 European Games contract had been signed and noted continued financial review and receipt of bids for Congress 2027.

The Board noted that, for the first time in ECA's history, an athlete is serving on the Board, with Ms. Monica Doria, Chair of the Athletes Committee, participating in the meeting in this capacity. The Board welcomed Ms. Doria and expressed satisfaction with the strengthened athlete representation.

### PRESENTING THE AGENDA

1	Opening of the Meeting	
	President report	J ZOUNGRANA
	Chief Executive Officer report	J STANOJEVIC
2	Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting	BOARD DECISION
3	PEU Headquarters	J ZOUNGRANA / J STANOJEVIC
	• Legal Lausanne, SUI	
	• Satellite offices: AZE, HUN, SRB	
4	Finance report – outstanding debts and accounting open items	P KARAI / J STANOJEVIC
5	Bidding process 2028	G SMALE / J STANOJEVIC
6	Rules and Regulations	G SMALE / J STANOJEVIC
	• Championships	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discipline specific</li> </ul>	
7	Development plan for 2026	J STANOJEVIC
8	CSP and CSL Chair appointment	J STANOJEVIC
9	ITO allocation 2026	J STANOJEVIC
10	Paddle Europe new name launch (video and implementation first phase)	V FELIX / J STANOJEVIC
11	ICF Innovation fund	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on Paddle Europe 2.0</li> </ul>	J ZOUNGRANA / J STANOJEVIC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ocean Racing</li> </ul>	S VERLINDEN
12	MISCELLANEOUS	BOARD
13	NEXT BOARD MEETING	BOARD

Without any comments or alterations to the agenda, the President proceeded with the meeting.

## ITEM 2

### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

#### **BM/67/2025.12.11. (unanimous)**

The Board approved the minutes from previous meeting, held in Ljubljana 8th and 9th November 2025, with a request that an annex with the adopted Hosting Fees be added to the document.

## ITEM 3

### PEU HEADQUARTERS

The Board received an update on the establishing the Legal Headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland, including ongoing consultations with the ICF, Olympic Capital and legal advisors, as well as the statutory and administrative requirements for registration. Further information is still needed regarding the financial and operational implications, staff requirements and several legal aspects, which remain unknown and are essential for a final assessment.

As the decision cannot be taken without the outstanding information, the Board agreed to continue the discussion at its next meeting, once the full set of details is available. Board members were invited to review the provided materials regarding this item.

## ITEM 4

### FINANCE REPORT – OUTSTANDING DEBTS AND ACCOUNTING OPEN ITEMS

An update on outstanding debts and accounting open items were presented to Board. As the year-end approaches and preparations continue for closing the office in Croatia, National Federations will be reminded of their outstanding obligations and requested to settle pending payments.

#### **BM/68/2025.12.11. (unanimous)**

The Board took note of the report and decided that any amounts not settled by the time of the closure of the Croatian office and bank account will be carried forward as open accounting items to the new office.

## ITEM 5

### BIDDING PROCESS 2028

The Board received an update on the preparation of the Bidding Process 2028 document, outlining the concept, vision, event levels and disciplines, bidder guidance, evaluation criteria and

sustainability framework presented in the draft. The Board expressed its appreciation for the direction of the document, noting that it will undergo further refinement before being finalised.

## ITEM 6

### RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Board reviewed the proposals for updates to several discipline-specific rules and regulations upon recommendation of the Technical committees and adopted the following decisions:

**BM/69/2025.12.11. (unanimous)**

The Board approved the Marathon Elite updates, including the introduction of short distance events: Junior C1 Women, Junior C1 Men and long distance events: Senior C2 Women, the recognition of Paracanoe races as official European Championships, and the introduction of a European Nations Cup (continental ranking by categories and classes).

**BM/70/2025.12.11. (unanimous)**

The Board agreed that Marathon Masters age-group structures will follow the ICF rules, with any future changes to be implemented only in line with ICF amendments.

**BM/71/2025.12.11. (unanimous)**

The Board supported the publication of a separate Marathon Masters guidelines document.

**BM/72/2025.12.11. (3 in favour, 3 abstentions, 5 not in favour)**

The Board did not approve the proposal to reduce the minimum number of participating nations required to validate a European Championship in Marathon Para races title from five to three and confirmed that the five-nation requirement remains in place.

**BM/73/2025.12.11. (unanimous)**

The Board approved the increase of the participation fee from EUR 80 to EUR 100 for the 2026 Wildwater Junior & U23 European Championships, noting that ECA accreditation fees apply in addition to this.

**BM/74/2025.12.11. (unanimous)**

The Board approved the inclusion of SS2 Mixed and proposed Masters categories in Ocean Racing European Championships, aligned with the ICF structure.

**BM/75/2025.12.11. (unanimous)**

Further, regarding the Ocean Racing discipline, the Board did not approve the inclusion of OC1 and OC2 title categories at this stage. The Board also noted that the Ocean Racing rules require updating and alignment with ICF rules, to be addressed separately.

**BM/76/2025.12.11. (unanimous)**

Paracanoe proposal to have 3 medal tables: Sprint, Paracanoe and overall was formalized to match what has already been done for years.

The Board took note of the request for additional time to further develop the proposed rule changes in Canoe Sprint discipline; no decision was taken.

## ITEM 7

### DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR 2026

The Board was informed that Technical Committees submitted proposals for development activities in 2026, to be funded through the ICF development budget, complemented where applicable by the ECA budget. Views were exchanged on the effectiveness of different development formats, noting that approaches may vary by discipline and that further reflection on long-term development strategies will be required.

**BM/77/2025.12.11. (unanimous)**

The Board approved the Development Plan 2026 and agreed to allocate an equal development budget per discipline, in line with 2025, amounting to EUR 5,000 per discipline.

The approved development activities for 2026 include:

- TIP camps before European Championships for Marathon, Wildwater and SUP, with SUP also including a country seminar.
- Sprint development activities, comprising an online coaches conference (January–March 2026), followed by an in-person coaches conference, and the organisation of a winter training camp, subject to available budget availability.
- Ocean Racing development initiatives, including work on new formats.
- Kayak Cross development activities, linked to preparation before the European Championships in Epinal.

## ITEM 8

### CSP AND CSL CHAIR APPOINTMENT

The Board was informed of the nominations received for the Sprint and Slalom Committee Chair positions. Updates were provided on eligibility considerations, recommendations for continuity of work in the Sprint discipline, and the procedural implications of a formal resignation in the Slalom Committee Chair. The Board noted that all appointments must follow the ECA Statutes and established governance procedures acknowledging the contributions of outgoing committee members.

**BM/78/2025.12.11. (unanimous)**

The Board appointed Mr. Michel Letienne as Chair of the Sprint Committee for the term until 2028.

**BM/79/2025.12.11. (unanimous)**

The Board appointed Ms. Sara Timea Seprenyi as Chair of the Slalom Committee for the term until 2028.

## ITEM 9

### ITO ALLOCATION 2026

The Board reviewed the proposed ITO allocations for the 2026 European Championships and discussed whether the allocation should be decided directly by the Board or delegated to the technical committees. It was agreed that discipline committees prepare the proposed lists, which are reviewed by the responsible Board member(s) and the CEO, with the Board retaining the right to intervene in cases of eligibility, ethical concerns or other justified reasons.

**BM/80/2025.12.11. (unanimous)**

The Board confirmed the agreed review and approval process for the ITO allocations for 2026 and raised no objections to the nominations presented.

## **ITEM 10**

### **PADDLE EUROPE NEW NAME LAUNCH (VIDEO AND IMPLEMENTATION FIRST PHASE)**

The Board reviewed the initial countdown visuals and the first draft of the launch video for the Paddle Europe name implementation. The Board noted that the materials represent an early draft and provided feedback regarding messaging, visual identity and representation of all disciplines. It was agreed that further refinement is required to better reflect the approved strategy and the objectives of the launch.

## **ITEM 11**

### **ICF INNOVATION FUND**

The Board was informed that the ICF has postponed the scheduled meeting with the applicants and projects submitted under the Innovation Fund. No further updates were available at this stage.

## **ITEM 12**

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

No items were raised under this agenda point.

## **ITEM 13**

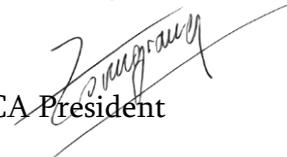
### **DATE OF THE NEXT BOARD MEETING**

The Board reviewed the schedule of upcoming meetings and agreed to revise the previously approved dates. The in-person Board meeting was rescheduled to 28–29 March 2026, and the next meeting will be held online on 26 January 2026.

With no further business on the agenda, the President concluded the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Jovana Stanojevic, ECA CEO

Jean Zoungrana

  
ECA President