



Minutes of the ECA Board of Directors Meeting
 Meeting in Belgrade, Serbia
 13th January 2024, 09 :00 am

1/2024

Present members:

- President: Jean Zoungrana
- Vice Presidents: Miroslav Haviar, Andrej Jelenc
- Secretary General: Branko Lovric
- Board Members: Manuela Gawehn, Peter Karai, Geir Kvillum, Jovana Stanojevic
Ruud Heijselaar
- Nina Jelenc, Ivana Sundov

ITEM 1

OPENING OF THE MEETING

The President welcomed the Board members, expressed gratitude for their availability, and proceeded to present the agenda for the meeting.

PRESENTING THE AGENDA

1	Opening of the Meeting	J ZOUNGRANA
2	ECA Extraordinary congress & ICF Congress Provisional schedule	J ZOUNGRANA
3	ECA Development program – ECA economic model -	J ZOUNGRANA / M HAVIAR
4	ECA Governance program - Governance structure and organization / Survey	J ZOUNGRANA / P KARAI
5	ECA human resource's – Missions and contracts	J ZOUNGRANA
6	Opening of a bank account in France at Crédit Agricole	J ZOUNGRANA
7	Neutral athletes on the European championships	G KVILUM
8	Calendar and Bidding process	B LOVRIC
9	Officials in European Championships	B LOVRIC
10	ECA ordinary congress 2025	B LOVRIC
11	European Olympic Qualifier – Canoe Sprint	J STANOJEVIC
12	Bratislava 2024 – use of ECA name	J STANOJEVIC
13	ECA Sports Program – Current status of the disciplines	Responsible Board members

14	Reimbursement of the ITO travel costs	R HEIJSELAAR
15	ITO for European Championships	R HEIJSELAAR
16	Relay for European Marathon Championships from 2024 or from 2025	R HEIJSELAAR
17	Tender for race management, GPS (marathon) and Graphics (marathon)	R HEIJSELAAR
18	Slalom rules	A JELENC
19	Evaluation of the present ECA situation	M HAVIAR
20	Predictable costs of the ECA Office in Paris (salaries, administration and stationery costs, account managing costs)	B LOVRIC
21	Canoe Freestyle – ICD / ECA rule differences	M GAWHEN
22	Slalom Coach Courses	A JELENC
23	Miscellaneous	

The Board made a decision to give precedence to the discussion regarding the evaluation of the current ECA situation (item 19). Furthermore, the agenda was amended to incorporate the selection of Jury members for the ECA Championships as a topic for deliberation.

ITEM 19

EVALUATION OF THE PRESENT ECA SITUATION

Mr. Haviar proposed to make analysis of the present situation in the ECA before taking the initiatives.

After the members of the Board expressed their views on the current situation, they determined that it is necessary to set goals and a direction for further development. The most effective approach would be to define smaller objectives and activate teams according to the new organizational structure.

The President reminds that each Program of the ECA strategic plan starts with an analysis of the situation of the ECA.

ITEM 2

ECA EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS & ICF CONGRESS PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE

The Board was informed that the ECA has received a response from the ICF, and the Turkiye Canoe Federation with a confirmation of the organising the ECA Extraordinary Congress with provisional schedule for Saturday, November 9th, 2-6 PM.

ITEM 3

ECA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM – ECA ECONOMIC MODEL

A presentation on the ECA Economic model was given, outlining the economic model and suggesting strategies for increasing income and providing member federations with opportunities for revenue growth. Following an in-depth discussion among ECA Board

members, it was agreed that the Working Group would refine and present the strategies in a more defined manner. The Board will subsequently make decisions based on these detailed proposals.

It was also discussed a request from the organisers of the 2024 ECA Canoe Slalom Senior European Championships to incorporate a partner's name into the title of the Championships. The proposal suggested naming the Championships as the "2024 ECA I Feel Slovenia Canoe Slalom Senior European Championships." Also, the decision was that organizers would be required to pay € 7500 for the right to use the partner's name in the title of the Championships. Upon payment, the income generated would be divided equally, with ECA retaining 50% and the remaining 50% allocated to the competition organizer.

ITEM 4

ECA GOVERNANCE PROGRAM - GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION / SURVEY

The survey, dispatched to National Federations on December 18th, gathered 39 responses from 35 federations. Responses will be shared with the Governance working group, forming the basis for proposals to rewriting the ECA Statute.

ITEM 5

ECA HUMAN RESOURCE'S – MISSIONS AND CONTRACTS

The Board agreed with the new organization presented by the President and then agreed to define and sign the annual contract with the persons engaged in realisation of the tasks and programme activities of the ECA, namely: Jovana Stanojevic as the ECA Sport and Event Manager, Nina Jelenc as the ECA Communication & Partnership Manager, and with Croatian Canoe Federation for Ivana Sundov as the ECA Administrative Assistant employed by the Croatian Canoe Federation. During this discussion Jovana Stanojevic, Nina, Jelenc, and Ivana Sundov were not in attendance. The Board also endorsed the proposed job descriptions.

ITEM 6

OPENING OF A BANK ACCOUNT IN FRANCE AT CRÉDIT AGRICOLE

The board has approved the opening of a bank account in France at Credit Agricole for the President.

ITEM 7

NEUTRAL ATHLETES ON THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

A letter was dispatched to the organising federations of this year's Championships to inquire about their position on the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes. With only 1 response received, the Board discussed the matter and agreed to allow only athletes

recognized by the ICF as neutral to participate in ECA competitions. The competition jury will be responsible for enforcing this rule during events and following ICF instructions before competitions. Organising federations will be reminded to respond to the previously sent letter.

ITEM 8

CALENDAR AND BIDDING PROCESS

The venues for the two ECA European Championships in 2025 have been selected. The French Canoe Federation won the bid to host the 2025 ECA Senior Canoe Slalom European Championships in Vaires-sur-Marne. Additionally, the 2025 ECA Junior and U23 Canoe Slalom European Championships will take place in Solkan, Slovenia.

Decision for the year 2026 has been postponed due to needs of more information from the potential organisers.

The board has also agreed to enhance the bidding process, focusing on transparency, with the aim of having it finalized by October 2024.

ITEM 9

OFFICIALS IN EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Competent ECA Technical Delegates have informed Board about selection of the Officials for the ECH in 2024.

Board agreed to ask ICF again to allow access to the ICF/SDP system to the ECA TD's to follow enrolments in their discipline.

ITEM 10

ECA ORDINARY CONGRESS 2025

The ECA Board of Directors reviewed the bids for hosting the 2025 ECA Ordinary Congress (Hungary-Budapest, North Macedonia-Skopje or Ohrid and Romania-Bucharest). After validation of the bids, Board made the decision to hold the next Ordinary Congress in Budapest, Hungary.

ITEM 11

EUROPEAN OLYMPIC QUALIFIER – CANOE SPRINT

Attention was brought to the Board that European Qualifiers are integrated into the ICF World Cup, and it was suggested that discussions with the ICF should take place regarding the potential involvement of ECA in this event.

ITEM 12

BRATISLAVA 2024 – USE OF ECA NAME

ECA Board agrees that 2024 International Regatta Bratislava will serve as a test event for the 2024 ECA Junior&U23 Canoe Sprint European Championships to be held 27-30 June 2024.

ITEM 13

ECA SPORTS PROGRAM – CURRENT STATUS OF THE DISCIPLINES

During this discussion, members of the Board presented the current status of disciplines and working groups. It is evident that some of the working groups are highly active, interested, and motivated, while others are facing challenges.

ITEM 14

REIMBURSEMENT ITO TRAVEL COSTS

To allow selection of the best officials for the ECA Championships, the Board agreed to align with ICF, so travel costs of the Officials in non Olympic disciplines will be divided to the participant countries. Decision is valid from this 2024 season.

ITEM 15

ITO FOR EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Considering that certain challenges have arisen regarding the nominations of ITOs, the Board has decided to re-evaluate the method and implementation of ITO nominations.

ITEM 16

RELAY FOR EUROPEAN MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIPS FROM 2024 OR FROM 2025

The relay will undergo testing in the World Cup event of 2024, and it will be further tested at the European level in 2025. Following the test event, Ruud Hejiselaar will share more information and details.

ITEM 17

TENDER FOR RACE MANAGEMENT, GPS (MARATHON) AND GRAPHICS (MARATHON)

Board agreed to announce tender for the ECA Race Management System for sprint and marathon for period 2025-2028.

ITEM 18
SLALOM RULES

After the previous meeting where Andrej Jelenc presented changes to the slalom rules, the Board decided to accept the alteration of the number of finalists in senior competitions to 12, in line with the ICF rules.

ITEM 20
PREDICTABLE COSTS OF THE ECA OFFICE IN PARIS (SALARIES, ADMINISTRATION AND STATIONERY COSTS, ACCOUNT MANAGING COSTS)

As the costs of the new office in Paris will be part of the ECA Budget process for the 2025-2026, this initiative is risen to be defined at the beginning of 2025 to prepare the provisional budget for 2025 Congress.

ITEM 21
CANOE FREESTYLE – ICF / ECA RULE DIFFERENCES

Considering the Freestyle rules from 2018, the board has approved the proposed changes from the Freestyle working group. The updated list of events includes:

1. K-1 Surface Men
2. K-1 Surface Women
3. K-1 Surface Junior Men
4. K-1 Surface Junior Women
5. C-1 Surface Men
6. C-1 Surface Women

Additionally, the number of participants per country has been changed to 5.

ITEM 22
SLALOM COACH COURSES

Andrej Jelenc has prepared a document outlining the Slalom coach course in three levels. The Board has suggested preparing a plan that includes issuing an ECA Certificate, seeking recognition from the ICF, and promoting this initiative.

ITEM 23
MISCELLANEOUS

At the beginning of the meeting, an agenda item was added regarding the selection of Jury members for competitions in 2024. In the end, it was decided to create a Google Forms through which board members will apply, and the decision will be made by the President later.

Board defined deadlines for sending out to NFs invitation for application of the TDs for all disciplines. Letter to go out: May 2024, Deadline for application 15 October. Decision has to be done by the 31 December 2024 and valid from the 1st January 2025.

Board agreed to start next meetings with the President's report about actual situation and actions taken between two Board meetings.

Manuela Gawehn proposed to connect ECA Touring activities with the EPP – Core Group (European Paddle Pass), what was welcomed by the Board.

After a challenging experience at the European Games in Krakow, Miroslav Haviar expressed opinion that the ECA has to have more power on leading the European qualifying competitions for OG and he took responsibility to prepare the document with the proposal how to reach more objective judging on the official events.

Considering new ECA and ITO uniforms, the President, Jean Zoungrana and Andrej Jelenc will continue work on finding the best solution and present the options to the Board.

The President, Jean Zoungrana, expressed gratitude to all members of the Board for their inputs and contributions. With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Branko Lovric
ECA Secretary General



Jean Zoungrana
ECA President

