



**THE 16<sup>th</sup> ORDINARY CONGRESS OF THE  
EUROPEAN CANOE ASSOCIATION**

**CHANIA, CRETE, GREECE  
25 MARCH 2023**

**MINUTES**

## ITEM 1

### OPENING OF THE CONGRESS

A short video about the ECA activities in 2021/2022 was presented by Mrs Nina Jelenc, as introduction of the Congress.

President Albert Woods declared the Congress open and greeted the delegates after what he handed over the floor to Mr Ioannis Skourtis who welcomed delegates and thanked the ECA Board of Directors to choose Chania to host the Congress. The President thanked to the Greece Canoe Federation for the excellent preparation of the Congress and handed over the floor to Mr Thomas Konietzko welcomed all delegates and explained the position of the IOC and the ICF regarding participation of the Belarus and Russian delegates to the Congress and meetings, so as the statements of the competitors from Belarus and Russia.

Mr Branko Lovric asked to take a minute of silence to honour all canoeing friends who passed away in the period between two ECA Congresses.

## ITEM 2

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

The ECA General Secretary Branko Lovric did the roll–call of the delegates and reported the presence of

**36 National Federations** as follows:

ALB, AND, AUT, AZE, BEL, BUL, CRO, CYP, CZE, DEN, ESP, EST, FRA, GBR, GER, GRE, HUN, IRL, ITA, KOS, LAT, LUX, MDA, NED, NOR, POL, POR, ROU, RUS, SLO, SRB, SVK, SWE, SUI, TUR and UKR.

The quorum was reached; the count of votes showed a total of **36** valid votes. In addition, he explained that the absolute majority is **19** votes, and the 2/3 majority is **24** votes. Therefore, 24 votes would be necessary for the Statute changes.

## ITEM 3

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

The Congress unanimously accepted the Secretary General's proposal that Ms Rosine Roland from Belgium, Mr Kristo Sepp from Estonia, and Mrs Jolanta Rzepka from Poland serve as scrutineers during the Congress.

## ITEM 4

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

The report was supplied to the delegates prior to the Congress. The report gives details about the tasks undertaken in 2021 and 2022.

Questions regarding the report were invited, however, none were forthcoming.

*The report was then unanimously accepted by the show of cards.*

## ITEM 5

### ECA FINANCIAL REPORT 2021 – 2022 AND REPORT BY THE AUDITOR

The Secretary General presented the accounts of the ECA including the financial report and the report by the ECA auditor, Mrs Evelina Petrova. An additional comment to the financial report is that depth from EMC Munich was received in 2023. and it will be part of the financial report 2023/2024 at the next ordinary ECA Congress in 2025.

Mr. Christian (DEN) asked about the ICF debt situation, and Mr. Lovric replied that situation will be resolved at the next meeting of the ICF Board of Directors to be held at the end of April in Budapest.

As there were no questions or comments, the report was then put to vote.

*The accounts and the reports were unanimously approved by the delegates.*

## ITEM 6

### ECA BOARD AND ECA AUDITOR ELECTIONS

Due to the absence of longer serving Vice President Mr Miroslav Haviar, during the election procedure of the ECA President the Chairman was ECA Vice President Mr Jaroslav Pollert.

The Secretary General explained in detail the voting procedure.

#### List 1:

##### – Election of the ECA President

Two nominations were received for the position of the ECA President, Mr **Albert Woods OBE (GRE)** and **Jean Zoungrana (FRA)**.

After a draw, Mr Jaroslav Pollert invited the candidates to present themselves to the Congress which they did in a short speech.

The Secretary General then did the roll-call of the voting delegates in alphabetical order.

Mr Jaroslav Pollert announced the results of the elections. The election went as follows:

- **Mr Albert Woods (GRE)** received 15 votes.
- **Mr Jean Zoungrana (FRA)** received 21 votes and therefore was elected for a 4-year term.

As a newly elected President, Mr. Jean Zoungrana chaired the rest of the Congress.

#### List 2:

##### – Election of the ECA Vice President

The only candidate for the position of the ECA Vice President was Mr **Andrej Jelenc** from Slovenia who had been elected for 4-year term, **with 33 votes in favour.**

**List 3:****- Election of the ECA Auditor**

The only candidate for the position of the ECA Auditor was Mrs **Evelina Petrova** from Bulgaria. Mrs Evelina Petrova had been re-elected for a 2-year term, **with 34 votes in favour**.

**List 4:****- Elections for the members of the Board**

Six nominations were received (listed alphabetically):

1. Manuela Gawehn (GER), 2. Geir Kvillum (NOR)      3. Eva Lindmark (SWE)  
4. Jaroslav Pollertr (CZE)      3. Maris Pravains (LAT)      6. Jovana Stanojevic (SRB)

with 3 places available.

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

Mr President Jean Zoungrana invited the candidates to introduce themselves to the Congress which they did in a short speech.

The Secretary General then did the roll-call of the voting delegates in alphabetical order.

The President Mr Jean Zoungrana announced the results of the elections. Two members of the Board were elected in the first round, and the third member in the second round. The election went as follows:

- **Mrs Manuela Gawehn (GER)** received 29 votes in 1<sup>st</sup> round and therefore was elected for a 4-year term.
- **Mrs Jovana Stanojevic (SRB)** received 30 votes in 1<sup>st</sup> round and therefore was elected for a 4-year term.
- **Mr Geir Kvillum (NOR)** received 19 votes 2<sup>nd</sup> round and therefore was elected for a 4-year term.

<b>The new structure of the ECA Board of Directors:</b>		
President	Mr Jean Zoungrana (FRA)	Mandate valid 2027
Vice President	Mr Miroslav Haviar (SVK)	Mandate valid 2025
Vice President	Mr Andrej Jelenc (SLO)	Mandate valid 2027
General Secretary	Mr Branko Lovrić (CRO)	Mandate valid 2025
Member	Mrs Manuela Gawehn (GER)	Mandate valid 2027
Member	Mr Ruud Hejiselaar (NED)	Mandate valid 2025
Member	Mr Peter Karai (HUN)	Mandate valid 2025
Member	Mr Geir Kvillum (NOR)	Mandate valid 2027
Member	Mrs Jovana Stanojevic (SRB)	Mandate valid 2027

## ITEM 7

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

After the ECA Board elections, there were 2 candidates for the ECA representative to the ICF Board, with 2 places available. The election went as follows:

- Andrej Jelenc (SLO) – elected for a 4-year term (32 votes)
- Jovana Stanojevic (SRB) - elected for a 4-year term (33 votes)

## ITEM 8

### PROPOSALS FOR THE ECA STATUTE CHANGES – RECEIVED FROM NF

The Congress considered the proposals from Danish Canoe Federation for ECA Statutes Changes. Secretary General Mr Branko Lovric reminded that the 2/3 majority is 24 votes.

The proposal concerning Article 5.4 of the ECA Statutes – the Chairman of the Congress to be independent and elected at the opening of each Congress – *The proposal received 19 votes in favour, so was not accepted by the Congress.*

## ITEM 9

### FIXING THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEE FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS (2024-2025)

No change had been proposed by the Board therefore it was agreed that the amount of the Annual Subscription fee for the next two years would be the same as present (€ 250). *This was accepted by a majority of 33 votes.*

## ITEM 10

### ESTABLISHING THE WORKING (DEVELOPMENT) PROGRAMME FOR 2023/2024

The ECA Working and Development programme was supplied to the delegates prior to the Congress. The report gives details about the main goals and tasks in 2023/2024. Federations expressed concern of participation in the European Games due to limited Olympic qualifications. Mr Albert Woods, Mr Thomas Konietzko, and Mrs Jovana Stanojevic informed delegates that continuous work has been done due to this question. For future European games plan is to have unlimited qualifications.

*The ECA Working and Development programme was approved by a majority of 32 votes.*

## ITEM 11

### ESTABLISHING THE BUDGET FOR 2023/2024

The Secretary General presented the budget for 2023/2024. The suggestion from the floor was to increase the budget for ECA Development Programme up to 130.000,00 €.

As there were no further questions or suggestions *the ECA Budget with including the proposal to rise amount of the Development programme to 130.000 € was approved by a majority of 29 votes.*

## ITEM 12

### CLOSING THE CONGRESS

President Jean Zoungana proposed *Mr Albert Woods as Honorary Life President of the ECA, which was approved by a majority of 34 votes.*

Thanked the Greece Canoe Federation, scrutineers, and translators for their hard work and all the delegates for their input. He then invited all the delegates to give contributions to the Open discussion that will be held after the Congress.

*The Congress closed at 12.30 p.m.*

Branko Lovrić

Jean Zoungana

ECA Secretary General

ECA President