

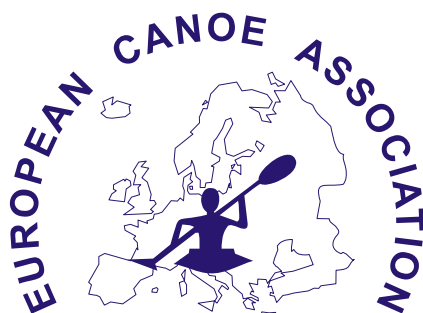
**THE 11th ORDINARY CONGRESS OF THE
EUROPEAN CANOE ASSOCIATION**

**ZAGREB, CROATIA
23rd MARCH 2013**

MINUTES

AGENDA:

1)	Opening of the Congress
2)	Roll – call of delegates and establishing the quorum
3)	Appointment of Scrutineers for the period of the Congress
4)	Report by the President and by the Secretary General on behalf of the ECA Board
5)	ECA Financial report 2011-2012 and Report by the Auditor
6)	ECA Board and ECA Auditor elections <u>List 1:</u> 6.1. a) Election of the ECA Vice President 6.2. b) Election of the Secretary General 6.3. c) Election of the Auditor <u>List 2:</u> 6.2. a) Election of the ECA Board members
7)	Elections of the Continental Representatives to the ICF Board
8)	Proposal for the Statutes Changes
9)	Fixing the Annual Subscription Fee for the next two (2) years
10)	Establishing the Working (Development) Programme for 2013/2014
11)	Establishing the Budget for 2013/2014
12)	Closing the Congress



Open discussion (max. 1hour)

ITEM 1

OPENING OF THE CONGRESS

The ECA President Mr. Albert Woods opened the 11th ECA Ordinary Congress at 9.00 a.m. by welcoming present Delegates, thanked to Croatian Canoe Federation and President Mr. Marko Curkovic and organisation team for splendid organisation. President Woods then invited Mr. Marko Curkovic to address the Congress.

Mr. Marko Curkovic welcomed the Delegates on behalf of Croatian Canoe Federation, as the organiser of the 11th ECA Ordinary Congress, especially greeted ICF 1st Vice President Mr. Istvan Vaskuti. Mr. Marko Curkovic reminded Delegates about 20th ECA Anniversary, and the fact that Croatia is the host of the Congress for the 2nd time. He then wished a pleasant stay in Hotel Antunovic and invited them to enjoy Zagreb.

President Woods presented apology of ICF President Mr. Jose Perurena Lopez, who was excused due to meeting with the Evaluation Commission of the International Olympic Committee in Madrid (ESP), because Madrid is one of the candidates for Olympic Games in 2020.

President Woods welcomed ICF 1st Vice President Mr. Istvan Vaskuti and invited him to address the Congress. Mr. Istvan Vaskuti expressed his satisfaction in taking part in the ECA Congress and on behalf of ICF President Mr. Jose Perurena Lopez wished a successful Congress. Mr. Istvan Vaskuti pointed out the progress of ECA during 20 years, progress of National Federations in Europe who organise European Championships and the good collaboration of all National Federations. He also wished a successful Congress, good decisions and good preparation of next 20 years of ECA.

President Woods then asked the Secretary General Mr. Branko Lovric to check the list of present and represented affiliates.

ITEM 2

ROLL – CALL OF DELEGATES AND ESTABLISHING THE QUORUM

Secretary General Lovric welcomed delegates and did the roll–call of the delegates and reported the presence of

29 National Federations as follows:

AUT, AZE, BEL, BIH, BLR, BUL, CRO, CZE, DEN, ESP, FIN, FYROM, FRA, GBR, GER, HUN, ITA, LAT, NED, NOR, POL, POR, ROU, RUS, SLO, SRB, SVK, SWE and TUR.

The quorum was reached; the count of votes showed a total of **29** valid votes. In addition, he explained that the simple majority is 15 votes and the 2/3 (absolute) majority is **20** votes.

ITEM 3

APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS FOR THE PERIOD OF THE CONGRESS

Secretary General Lovric suggested Mr. Phillipe Graille from France, Mr. Andrej Jelenc from Slovenia and Mr. John Leukemans from Belgium to be the Scrutineers during the Congress.

The proposal was unanimously accepted.

ITEM 4

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

President Woods reminded the Congress about 20th ECA Anniversary and the first meeting that was held on 11th December 1993 in Rome (ITA) when ECA was constituted. President Woods pointed out few achievements of ECA in 20 years:

- Europe is the strongest continent in the world
- Europe wins 90% of medals at the Olympic Games
- ECA started U23 Championships and ICF followed the idea
- ECA started Para canoeing at the European level and then pushed it to ICF level at the ICF Congress in Madrid (ESP) in 2002. Now, ICF has World Championships and Paracanoeing is part of Paralympics Games in Rio 2016, for the first time
- ECA was the 1st Federation to ensure live television broadcast at both Olympic disciplines at Championships at senior level. Now, the ICF is doing the same and all World Cups and World Championships are covered

President Woods also expressed his satisfaction for being ECA President through the years and to see how Europe has grown and how Championships are being organised to the highest level.

There were also Reports from Technical Delegates for all Championships that took place in Europe in 2011 and 2012.

The reports were then unanimously accepted.

ITEM 5

ECA FINANCIAL REPORT 2011-2012 AND REPORT BY THE AUDITOR

President Woods invited ECA Auditor Mr. Andre Vandeput, to address the Congress about financial reports. Mr. Andre Vandeput welcomed President Woods, Members of the Board, present Delegates and delivered a report on the work of the ECA for the period 2011 – 2012 and made the following observations:

- In 2011 – two (2) Federations did not pay the Annual subscription fee

- In 2012 – five (5) Federations did not pay the Annual subscription fee until 31st December 2012
- In 2011 – eight (8) Federations did not pay the full amount of the Annual subscription fee
- In 2012 – ten (10) Federations did not pay the full amount of the Annual subscription fee
- In 2011 – four (4) vouchers for the amount of 1.738,36 € have been sent to Federations. Treasurer Lovric informed the Congress about received amount of 470,00 € after 31st December 2012 and it was agreed with National Federation that the rest of the amount will be paid until the next World Cup

ECA Auditor Mr. Andre Vandeput congratulated Treasurer for the way he keeps financial books, clear and understandable, and for giving all the necessary information.

President Woods thanked the Auditor and Treasurer for good work.

Representative from Denmark, asked about the investment of the money. Secretary General Lovric replied that there was a certain income from bank interest and that it is up to Congress to decide about spending money. Some of the amount goes on developing of sports, helping ICF in the Development Programme in Europe.

The report was supplied to the Delegates prior to the Congress.

The report was then unanimously accepted.

ITEM 6

ECA BOARD AND ECA AUDITOR ELECTIONS

Secretary General Lovric presented List 1 with one candidate for ECA Vice President, Secretary General and Auditor. On the List 2 there were three (3) candidates for two (2) places in ECA Board of Directors.

6.1. A – Election of the ECA Vice President

The only candidate for the position of the ECA Vice President was Mr. Miroslav Haviar from Slovakia who was re-elected with 29 valid votes. (Elected for a 4 year term)

6.1. B – Election of the Secretary General

The only candidate for the position of the Secretary General was Mr. Branko Lovric from Croatia who was re-elected with 29 valid votes. (Elected for a 4 year term)

6.1. C – Election of the Auditor

The only candidate for the position of the Auditor was Mr. Andre Vandeput from Belgium who was re-elected with 29 valid votes. (Elected for a 2 year term)

6.2. A – Election of the ECA Board members

There were 3 candidacies received for the position of 2 Board members. The voting system: two (2) names on the ballot papers can be marked.

- Mrs. Elly Müller was re-elected with **25 valid votes** (Elected for a 4 year term)

After the first voting, there was a tie vote between Mr. Piotr Markiewicz (POL) and Mrs. Irina Siraeva (RUS). After the 2nd round, the results were as follows:

- Mrs. Irina Siraeva was re-elected with **15 valid votes** (Elected for a 4 year term)
- Mr. Piotr Markiewicz received 13 votes
- 1 vote was invalid

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 2017
Vice President	Mr. Mario Santos (POR)	Mandate valid 2015
General Secretary	Mr. Branko Lovric (CRO)	Mandate valid 2017
Member	Mr. Patrick Berard (FRA)	Mandate valid 2015
Member	Mr. Thomas Konietzko (GER)	Mandate valid 2015
Member	Mr. Geir Kvillum (NOR)	Mandate valid 2015
Member	Mrs. Elly Müller (NED)	Mandate valid 2017
Member	Mrs. Irina Siraeva	Mandate valid 2017

ITEM 7

ELECTIONS OF THE CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVES TO THE ICF BOARD

Three (3) nominations were received, with 2 places available.

The voting system: up to two (2) names on the ballot paper can be marked.

All two (2) members were elected in the first round. The election went as follows:

- **Mr. Branko Lovric (CRO)** received **25** votes and therefore was re-elected for a 4 year term
- **Mr. Thomas Konietzko (GER)** received **19** votes and therefore was elected for a 2 year term
- Mrs. Irina Siraeva – 13 votes received

ITEM 8

PROPOSAL FOR THE STATUTES CHANGES

ECA STATUTES CHANGE OF EXISTING WORDING			
Proposal from	Article	EXISTING WORDING	NEW WORDING
CRO	12.3 Paragraph 6	At 1 st 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.	At Board meeting prior the Board's decision, each National Federation may present and support its application by a 10 minutes presentation in front of the Board.
Explanation: In the year of the ECA Congress, 1 st Board meeting is organised in January, what is before requirements of the conditions in Article 12.3 paragraph 5: (- 1 st March: deadline to submit bid documents and technical visit by ECA Technical Delegate), so decision can not be made before 1 st March.			
ECA STAND: IN FAVOUR			

Mr. Christian Danielson (DEN) noticed possibility of wording not being right.

The proposal was accepted, subject to the correction of text.

ITEM 9

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 (250.00 €). *This was unanimously accepted.*

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

ITEM 10

ESTABLISHING THE WORKING (DEVELOPMENT) PROGRAMME FOR 2013/2014

ECA Working (Development) Programme was presented in writing.

Mr. Christian Danielson (DEN) believed that for any decisions, financial reports for last two (2) years should be overviewed together with the Working Programme and the budget for next two (2) years. He complemented the Working Programme and pointed out the importance of how to achieve all the goals. For the points 4, 5 and 7 which are about TV Coverage, Marketing and Sponsorship and increasing Female participation he pointed out that they could be easily turned into projects with the help of professional. he pointed out that Croatian Canoe Federation already has in the budget some room for staff

members and maybe ECA should increase that with 30.000,00 or 35.000,00 € and another 25.000,00 € for projects.

President Woods thanked the Danish delegate and also the Croatian Canoe Federation for a splendid job with a financial support to ECA through their own budget.

Development (Marketing) Programme was accepted.

ITEM 11

ESTABLISHING THE BUDGET FOR 2013/2014

President Woods announced that the budget will have to be amended to suit the input from representative of Denmark.

The Congress accepted the budget, subject to addition from the Danish delegate unanimously.

ITEM 12

CLOSING THE CONGRESS

President Woods thanked for attendance, input and patience to delegates and to Croatian Canoe Federation and translators for their hard work and closed the Congress.

President Woods invited all the Delegates for ECA 20th Anniversary Celebration Dinner. Having officially closing the Congress it was time for Open discussion.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Thomas Konietzko gave a short overview about what is ECA trying to do and to achieve in marketing, and he also gave a short presentation of the 1st Marketing meeting that was held in February 2013 in Wien (AUT) with organisers of great European Championships. There were twelve (12) experts from nine (9) Federations present. At the end of Marketing meeting, some objectives were arranged with experts:

- Raising the profile of the ECA competitions
- Improving the ECA bidding process
- Working closely with ICF and other continents because Marketing strategy should have wide network

ECA Marketing Programme was created during the last two (2) years. In 2012, with marketing activities, ECA had significant income. Mr. Thomas Konietzko also expressed the importance of sponsoring education of Officials and Coaches, in the developing countries, helping organisers of Championships etc.

The money will also be used for necessary equipment such is ECA starting system that will be used for all Championships and disciplines. Also, with the money, ECA could pay the costs for Technical Delegates and Officials to decrease organising costs.

There are also marketing packages for different companies (sponsors) starting from 4.000,00 € up to 15.000,00 € for ECA Premium package. ECA sponsorship is also being implemented into organising contracts. Tourismusverband Saalachtal and Ötztal Tourismus are Associations connected with recreation area in Austria and they are not connected with Olympic performance sport, but with recreational sport. There is a possibility for a sponsorship in spring 2013.

The idea is also to implement more stakeholders from different countries into the activities. The commission, if ECA signs the sponsorship contract, is 15% to the stakeholder.

Mr. Thomas Konietzko also proposed ECA Marketing Committee: Mr. David Goldstrom, Mr. Paul Owen, Mr. Joseph Bejnarowitz, Mr. Bojan Zmavc and Mr. Thomas Konietzko as the Chair of the Committee which will be decided on the Board meeting after Congress.

Mr. Thomas Konietzko promised working hard in the future and to improve income and marketing activities together with the National Federations.

President Woods thanked Mr. Thomas Konietzko for his hard work and all the effort.

President Woods informed the Congress about new ECA web site, which we can thank to Mr. Miroslav Haviar for his involvement. It is still a working process, but there are also results of World Championships for all disciplines and Olympic Games going back in history.

Dr. Abraham Attila (HUN) pointed out the importance of Marketing rules so there will not be a conflict interest, in case a sponsor is the same for country of organiser and ECA. Mr. Thomas Konietzko answered that it was arranged on the 1st Marketing meeting to contact National Federation before contacting sponsor. ICF is working on that very subject about which area is ICF or ECA on a boat and equipment and which is Federation. At the ICF Board meeting in Glasgow (GBR) in March 2013, it was agreed to do the marketing through selling space for advertising but also to work on an implementation date. There are sponsors already committed to Federations, and we can not implement a change without giving an implementation time.

Mr. Bojan Zmavc (SLO) commended the Marketing programme for going in the right direction and focusing on the organiser of the event.

ICF 1st Vice President Mr. Istvan Vaskuti wanted to clarify the advertising surfaces on boats and equipment. The main goal of ICF is to find a general sponsor for sport. The most

powerful Federations and most successful athletes are in Europe and if ICF could have a conflict about the subject, they need to clarify the conflict with the European stakeholders.

Mr. Walter Aumayr (AUT) welcomed the Delegates and conveys greetings from Mr. Harald Markler (AUT) who is sorry not to be active any more due to health reasons and he thanked for decay of excellent cooperation.

President Woods informed the Congress about meetings with European Olympic Committee for over a year. Mr. Patrick Hickey, President of European Olympic Committee invited all Presidents of European sports to come to a meeting in Rome and he wanted a concept about having the European Games. President Woods also attended European Olympic Committee Assembly in Rome. Forty eight (48) National Olympic Committees were present: thirty eight (38) voted in favour of the principle of having European Games, two (2) voted abstained and eight (8) voted against. It was quite convincing majority of the European Olympic Committees that wanted European Games.

The final decision about which sports will be in the programme will not be until the end of April, but canoeing is in a very strong position.

Baku (AZE) will be the host of the 1st European Games which will be held in the 2nd week in June 2015. Only Sprint canoeing would be in the programme. Total number of athletes has been reduced from 7.000 to 4.500 athletes and ECA will inform National Federations about the correct number of athletes and how will they be selected. Organisation Committee in Baku will provide the economy flights for all participants, they will have Olympic village, only cost for National Olympic Committees will be to transport their athletes to the airport. There are three (3) countries already thinking about bidding for 2019.

Canoeing was the first sport to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the European Olympic Committee, Baku Organising Committee and ECA. There are some European countries who do not qualify to go to the Olympic Games and European Games give these countries the ability to enter to event in Europe which is an Olympic standard.

President Woods thanked once again to all the Delegates for the attendance, the organiser and translators.

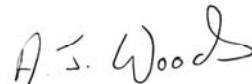
The Congress closed at 11.30 a.m.

Branko Lovric



ECA Secretary General

Albert Woods



ECA President