



Minutes of the ECA Board of Directors Meeting
 Online Meeting
 13th December 2023, 06 :00 pm

JZ 12/2023

Present members:

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

ITEM 1

OPENING OF THE MEETING

The president welcomes the board members, thanks them for their availability, and presents the agenda of the meeting.

PRESENTING THE AGENDA

1	Opening of the Meeting	J ZOUNGRANA
2	European Multisport Championship	J ZOUNGRANA
3	Collaboration ECA-WRF World Rafting Federation	J ZOUNGRANA
4	ECA Extraordinary Congress	J ZOUNGRANA
5	Calendar – bidding process	B LOVRIC
6	Ordinary congress 2025	B LOVRIC
7	ECA Strategic Plan – Governance program; ECA Governance Structure / NF's Survey	J ZOUNGRANA P KARAI
8	ECA Strategic Plan: Development program: ECA economic model	J ZOUNGRANA M HAVIAR
9	PARIS 2024 – Tickets and ceremonies -	J ZOUNGRANA
10	Participation of Russians and Belarusians to the competitions	GEIR KVILUM
11	ECA Structure, organization and human resources	J ZOUNGRANA
12	ECA Sport Program – Canoe Sprint & SUP (potentially other disciplines!?) NF survey in December 2023	J STANOJEVIC
13	EC Ocean Racing – Nomination of the Race Director – Roberto Liberato	J ZOUNGRANA
14	ECA Canoe Slalom Rules	A JELENC

	Online decisions to put on the Minutes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Award the 2024 European Freestyle Championship to the Austrian Canoe Federation 2. The fees for Slalom EC 	B LOVRIC
	Miscellaneous	

Taking into account the fact that a board meeting is planned on January 13, 2024 in Belgrade – Serbia-, the members of the board agree that certain points presented will be for information and that decisions can subsequently be taken at the next board of such so that the members of the board have time to read the elements and make their contribution to the reflection in January.

ITEM 2

EUROPEAN MULTISPORT CHAMPIONSHIP

On the EMC results:

The results of EMC are positive in terms of TV coverage (greater than the sum of each event) and in terms of economic benefits (400M€ for 100M€ invested)

On the federations

5 federations have signed a long-term commitment (canoeing, triathlon, climbing, cycling, table tennis), volleyball is underway and discussions are underway with rowing. The strategy is to build a solid base of federations.

About 2026

No declared city for 2026, for the moment. EMC need to extend the deadline to the 1st quarter or even the 2nd quarter of 2024. The context is not very favourable with the two wars.

33 cities and 18 countries were contacted and 4 cities stand out. Other potential candidates have emerged for the EMC 2030

Partnerships

EBU and sponsors have expressed interest but have not yet confirmed their commitment

ITEM 3

COLLABORATION WITH WORLD RAFTING FEDERATION

A report is made about the meeting between the ECA and the WRF. The question of raft development within the ECA was raised and several options were discussed.

As a reminder:

- *The WRF is the only federation recognized by the ICF,*
- *7 federations members of WRF have the delegation for rafting*
- *26 European nations are members of WRF*
- *Participation of European countries to the WC: 14 on 2021 & 18 on 2023*

In the short term, collaboration in the organization of championships is discussed. For 2024 it will not be possible to organize a European championship but there may be an opportunity on 2025.

ITEM 4

ECA EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS

A letter has been sent to the federations members.

The ECA – European Canoe Association – has initiated work on its strategic plan, its governance and its new statutes. Their adoption requires the organization of an extraordinary congress.

Article 5.6 of the statutes of the ECA provides the following:

“5.6 Extraordinary meeting of the Congress shall be called against written requests to the ECA from a simple majority of member Federations. ”

This is why the French Canoe Federation is requesting the organization of an extraordinary ECA congress in 2024. This congress, organized in November 2024, at the same time as the ICF congress, would make it possible to limit the cost for our member federations who are already attending the ICF Congress.

This would allow us, from the elective congress of 2025, to set up a new organization and implement the strategic plan of the ECA otherwise we would have to wait until 2027 for that, which would be a waste of time for the ECA and for our member federations.

So, I would be grateful if you would seek the opinions of other member federations. Indeed, the ECA has 46 members and the holding of this congress requires the agreement of 24 federations

29 federations answer to the request. 28 in favour and 1 against.

A letter will be sent to the ICF and the President of the Türkiye federation to organize this Extraordinary congress.

ITEM 5

CALENDAR AND BIDDING PROCESS

An update of the calendar and the bidding process is made by the general secretary who will send all the bidding dossiers to the board members for our next Board meeting in Belgrade.

ITEM 6

ECA ORDINARY CONGRESS 2025

An update of the bidding process is made by the general secretary who will send all the bidding dossiers to the board members for our next Board meeting in Belgrade.

Three candidates

- Hungary – Budapest -
- North Macedonia – Skopje -
- Romania – Bucarest -

ITEM 7

ECA GOVERNANCE PROGRAM

A report is made on the progress of the working group's reflections on the statutes and governance of the ECA. A survey is proposed to obtain the opinion of member federations. The Board validates the sending of this survey for which it suggests a more open question allowing the federations to express themselves more widely on this question. This survey will be sent to the federations on December 18 for a return on January 15. After discussion between the members of the board it was agreed that this survey will be sent to the presidents and general secretaries.

ITEM 8

ECA STRATEGIC PLAN: DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM: ECA ECONOMIC MODEL

A presentation is made of the document on the ECA Economic model that will be studied by the Working Group on ECA development program. The document presents the economic model of the ECA and the different levers on which the ECA can act to increase its income and allow its member federations to have opportunities to increase their income. This important point will be discussed further on our next board meeting.

ITEM 9

PARIS 2024

A point is made on the presence of board members at the PARSI 2024 Games. In terms of ticketing, it is agreed to invite honorary members of the ECA to attend the Games. It is also agreed to plan ceremonies and friendly moments during the Sprint, Slalom and Paracanoe events for the benefit of our European federations on the occasion of these games in partnership with the ICF and the FFCK.

ITEM 10

PARTICIPATION OF RUSSIANS AND BELARUSIANS TO THE COMPETITIONS

The ECA has adopted the recommendations of the ICF in order to have a coherent position for all continental and international federations. The conditions imposed lead the organizers, depending on the country, to accept the presence or not of the Russians and Belarusians athletes.

The members of the board agree that it is necessary to send a letter to the organizing federations in order to specify the conditions for welcoming or receiving these athletes. Furthermore, the presence of these athletes raises the question of their eligibility which must be certified by the ICF. Furthermore, it also raises the question of monitoring compliance with these conditions on the different sites where the competitions are organized. The question of the creation of a supervisory committee and possible disciplinary measures in the event of violation of these rules of neutrality are raised.

This point will be discussed at greater length during the next board meeting. Until then, a letter will be sent to the organizing federations in order to know their position regarding the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes.

ITEM 11

ECA STRUCTURE, ORGANIZATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES

The ECA has never had a formalized organizational chart. The missions of the staff working for the ECA have never been formalized. There's no working contract.

The president presents to the members of the Board a proposal for the organization of services as well as the missions of people working part-time for the ECA.

This proposal aims to

- have a long-term vision of the organization and functioning of the ECA
- Enable the implementation of the ECA strategic plan when adopted by the congress
- Clarify the missions and working conditions of staff within the ECA

Four departments are offered

1. A management, administration, communication and partnership department which would bring together all the support functions for ECA activities.
2. A Sport and Events Department
3. A Development and National Federation's services Department
4. A river and water trails and sustainable development Department

These different departments could gradually be put in place with regard to the evolution of the economic model and the resources available to the ECA.

Member federations will also be able to contribute to the management of certain ECA services or projects through the establishment of satellite offices.

These points will be discussed more widely during the next board meeting in order to validate the organization adopted, the missions of the staff and the amounts of their remuneration.

ITEM 12

ECA SPORT PROGRAM – CANOE SPRINT & SUP NF SURVEY

Working groups have been set up in the different disciplines in order to build the ECA sports project. The two working groups on Sprint and SUP wish to carry out a questionnaire among the federations. The questionnaires were sent to the members of the board.

After some discussions, the members of the Board did not object to the distribution of these surveys. They will be sent to the NF's on December.

ITEM 13

EC OCEAN RACING – NOMINATION OF THE RACE DIRECTOR – ROBERTO LIBERATO

The 2024 Ocean Racing European championship will be organized in Portugal. The Board decide to nominate Roberto LIBERATO, Chairman of ECA Ocean Racing Committee as Race Director of the competition.

ITEM 14

ECA CANOE SLALOM RULES

The following proposals are presented by Andrej Jelenc.

EUROPEAN SENIOR SLALOM CHAMPIONSHIPS

The European Canoe Slalom Championships are held every year.

Where the European Canoe Slalom Championships are also used for the purposes of Olympic selection, they are run under unmodified ICF rules for a World Championships.

Otherwise, the European Championships are run under ICF rules for a World Championships (ICF Rules Chapter 13) except where modified below.

EUROPEAN JUNIOR AND UNDER 23 SLALOM CHAMPIONSHIPS

The European Junior and Under 23 Slalom Championships are held every year. with both championships held as part of the same competition.

The European Championships are run under ICF rules for a Junior and Under 23 World Championships (ICF Rules Chapter 14) except where modified below

VALIDITY OF A COMPETITION

Rule 1.7.1 is replaced by:

1.7.1 - A valid European Championship is held only if at least five (5) National Federations start in the event. If during the competition some National Federations drop out or do not finish, the validity of the Championships is not affected;

NUMBER OF ENTRIES

Rule 1.6.1.a is varied to only allow entries from federations that are members of both ICF and ECA

1.6.1.a - Nominal entries for ICF competitions will only be accepted from National Federations which are current members of both the ICF and the ECA;

Rule 2.2.2 is amended to read:

2.2.2 There are two types of European Continental competitions for canoe slalom:

- ECA Continental Championships See 15.3 for the number of entries.*
- ECA Cup Run under ICF International Competition Rules, with the number of entries to be determined by the HOC.*

Rule 15.3 is replaced by:

15.3 - ENTRIES [SR]

15.3.1 - Each National Federation can enter three (3) boats per Canoe & Kayak event. For Kayak Cross see rule 16.13.

15.3.2 The defending European Champion may be entered by their National Federation in addition to the 3 boats mentioned above. The defending Champion will be identified by wearing a special bib, with the words "European Champion (year)."

In Kayak Cross, only three entries per federation are allowed, so 16.13 is replaced with:

16.13 Entries

16.13.1 - For European Championships competitions, each National Federation can enter three (3) boats per event.

16.13.2 - The defending European Champion may be entered by their National Federation in addition to the 3 boats mentioned above. The defending Champion will be identified by wearing a special bib, with the words "European Champion (year)".

PROGRAMME

The programme will be extended to include Kayak Cross Time Trials as a medal event:4.1.2. is therefore amended to read:

4.1.2 Kayak Cross programme

MX1	Men's Kayak Cross
MX1T	Men's Kayak Cross Time Trial
WX1	Women's Kayak Cross
WX1T	Women's Kayak Cross Time Trial

As the ICF Rules are repetitive, 16.8 is also amended to include Kayak Sprint Cross event:4.1.2. is therefore amended to read:

16.8 Competition Programme

The following individual events will be contested in Kayak Cross:

MX1	Men's Kayak Cross
MX1T	Men's Kayak Cross Time Trial
WX1	Women's Kayak Cross
WX1T	Women's Kayak Cross Time Trial

SCHEDULE

European Championships have a shorter schedule than World Championships.

13.4 - COMPETITION SCHEDULE [PR]

13.4.1 - A European Championship Canoe Slalom competition normally occurs on four (4) consecutive days.

13.4.2 - The final competition Schedule is the responsibility of the ECA CSLC.

JURY

Rule 7.1.2 and 7.1.3 is replaced. The Jury is appointed by the ECA Board, not the HOC.

7.1.2 During the European Championships, the supreme authority rests with the Jury. The Jury consists of three (3) persons, president and two members, which are appointed by the ECA Board of directors. One of the members will be from the organising Federation.

7.1.3 If the less than three members are appointed, the appointed ECA Jury members will select additional members of the Jury from the team leaders or NF representatives present at the event.

COURSE DESIGN

Two coaches design a course at European Championships. one nominated by their NF before January 15th in the year of the Championships as head course designer and one from the Host Organising Committee as an adviser.

During the course setting course designers can use the demonstration team to confirm that the gate combinations are negotiable in a fairly fluent way.

Demonstration of the course in sections is part of a course setting process, not a separate part of the course approval. Rule 9.6.3 is therefore changed to read

9.6.3 - The demonstration is a full-length run by each demonstrator.

TRADEMARKS AND ADVERTISING

Requirements for advertising on equipment and clothing for ECA Championships are same as detailed in the ICF Guidelines for Advertising Trademark Identification on Equipment Manual with the differences, that ICF logo is changed with ECA logo. Upper part of Country Code Sticker (part A) and lower part (part B- event logo) is provided by organisers of the Championships.

PROGRESSIONS

For the 2024 season progression during the European Championships will be standardised across classes and genders:

EVENT	To SF from Heats 1 run	To SF from Heats 2 run	To the final
MK1	20	10	10
WK1	20	10	10
MC1	20	10	10
WC1	20	10	10
	To the final phase from Kayak Cross Time Trial		
MX1	16 regardless of nation		
WX1	16 regardless of nation		

For the avoidance of doubt, European Kayak Cross qualification events are always run using Format A, that is without a repechage.

After this presentation, discussions on the number of athletes reaching the finals take place. It is pointed out that at the ICF it is proposed that 12 athletes reach the final while the ECA committee's proposal limits the number to 10. This proposal leads to a difference in regulations between the ECA and the ICF. Furthermore, it is noted that the more limited number of athletes also potentially limits the number of Nations represented in the finals with possible impacts on the audience during our competitions.

These proposals will be discussed further at the next Board meeting.

ITEM 15 ONLINE DECISION

2024 EUROPEAN FREESTYLE CHAMPIONSHIP

Digitally, the board made the decision to award the European Freestyle Championships to Austria.

**ITEM 16 ONLINE DECISION
THE FEES FOR SLALOM EC**

To enable the rapid publication of competition information, the board took the decision digitally to set the amount of prices for the European slalom championships. For 2024, on proposal of the Technical Delegate, this amount is set at:

- 150 € For Junior Championships. Accreditation fee stay the same as in 2023 –for all access period (5 days training + 4 days competition).
- 160€ For seniors (5 days training + 4 days competition).

The President Jean Zoungrana thanked all members of the Board for their inputs and contribution. There being no further business on the agenda, the meeting was closed at 8:30 p.m.

Branko Lovric
ECA Secretary General



Jean Zoungrana
ECA President

