



Minutes of the ECA Board of Directors Meeting
Online Meeting
29th April 2024, 6:00 pm

3/2024

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
- Ivana Sundov

Absent members:

- Board Members: Ruud Hejiselaar
- ECA Communication and Partnership Manager Nina Jelenc

ITEM 1

OPENING OF THE MEETING

The President greeted the board members, thanked them for their attendance, and provided updates on meetings, progress, and challenges since the last session before introducing the meeting agenda.

PRESENTING THE AGENDA

1	Opening of the Meeting	J ZOUNGRANA
2	Governance Programme – ECA Statutes	P KARAI / J ZOUNGRANA
3	Financial statement	B LOVRIC
4	European championships - Calendar and biddings	J STANOJEVIC
5	ECA Development Programme survey results	J ZOUNGRANA / M HAVIAR
6	ECA economic Model	J ZOUNGRANA
7	PARIS 2024	J ZOUNGRANA
8	ECA Training camps	M GAWEHN / A JELENC / J STANOJEVIC
9	Communication	J ZOUNGRANA
10	Neutral athletes	J STANOJEVIC
11	WW EC 2025 Italy	M GAWEHN
12	Miscellaneous	

12A	2024 ECA Championships – progress report	J STANOJEVIC
12B	ECA Sport program update and future steps	J STANOJEVIC

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

ITEM 2

GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME – ECA STATUTES

Following comments from the previous meeting, Peter Karai and Jean Zoungrana conveyed the Board members' feedback to the Governance Working Group, resulting in the presented changes. After discussion, the Board members decided that further deliberation was needed, agreeing to meet on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, during the Olympic qualifiers in Szeged to discuss these matters. Until then, President Jean Zoungrana urged all Board members to familiarize themselves with the materials and prepare their comments for the meeting, where all changes related to the ECA Statutes will be discussed.

ITEM 3

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The financial report was prepared and presented by Branko Lovric. Regarding feedback on the report, President Jean Zoungrana suggested creating a document aligning the approved provisional budget from Congress with the current budget realization. Additionally, concerning National Federations that have not paid their 2024 membership dues, it was decided to send them reminders.

- **Action:** Branko Lovric send out reminders to NFs regarding the Membership fee for 2024

ITEM 4

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS - CALENDAR AND BIDDINGS

Jovana Stanojevic informed the Board members about the current situation regarding the competition calendar for 2025, 2026, and 2027, providing updates and facilitating discussions on the matter. Overall, the focus is on finalizing dates and organizers for upcoming championships, addressing scheduling concerns and coordination with ICF calendar. Decisions are being postponed until the Board has all the relevant information necessary to make decision.

ITEM 5

ECA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME SURVEY RESULTS

The survey was sent out to National Federations, and the President, Jean Zoungrana, presented the results to the Board members. It was received 46 responses from 36 National Federations. Through this presentation, various aspects of European National Federations came to light, including the diversity in club sizes, paddler numbers, budgets and the

disciplines practiced. These findings underscored the Federations' needs in terms of training, development of paddle sports for all, high performance. They also made it possible to identify the main directions that the ECA's development project could take in sum, these insights offer a clearer understanding of the current landscape within the European canoe community.

ITEM 6

ECA ECONOMIC MODEL

In the discussion led by Jean Zoungrana on the ECA Economic model, the focus shifted to deliberations on Hosting and Membership fees. Regarding Hosting fees for the 2027-2028 budget, a decision must be made by October 1st, as invitations for ECH organizers for 2028 will be sent out in October. Board members are urged to review the materials and share comments.

Additionally, Membership fees were discussed, considering two scenarios: uniform fees for all federations or fees based on the federation's size, e.g., participation in Championships. The survey sent to the national federations showed that they are mostly in favor of the second scenario. Board members are advised to familiarize themselves with the materials and prepare comments, as a decision is imminent.

ITEM 7

PARIS 2024

The President Jean Zoungrana updated the Board members on Paris 2024 Olympics. The plan is to hold the ECA Board meeting during the Games. It was proposed finding the optimal timing for these events and suggested organizing a formal gathering at the headquarters. Furthermore, the need for ECA communication tools during the event was highlighted, which Jean Zoungrana will coordinate with Nina Jelenc.

ITEM 8

ECA TRAINING CAMPS

Updates were provided on training camps for Slalom and Wild Water canoeing. Andrej Jelenc informed the Board that the Slalom Camp took place from March 30th to April 7th, 2024, in Skopje. The Canoe Federation of North Macedonia successfully organized the camp, and reactions were positive. The report was sent by the head coach, Atanas Nikolovski. Regarding the WW Camp, Manuela Gawehn confirmed that invitations were sent out, with a deadline of April 30th for applications. Responses have been received from some countries, including Latvia, Romania, Kosovo, and Poland, while others are pending.

ITEM 9

COMMUNICATION

Updates on communication were provided by Jovana Stanojevic and Andrej Jelenc in the

absence of Nina Jelenc, the ECA Communication and Partnership Manager. For streaming the European Championships, the Eurovision platform was selected, with geo-blocking capabilities to ensure broadcast rights compliance. While the platform is relatively new, it has been used successfully in various sports events. Overall, the Board expressed satisfaction with the proposed streaming solution, highlighting its potential for future events.

ITEM 10

NEUTRAL ATHLETES

Jovana Stanojevic updated the Board on the ICF's publication of a list of confirmed athletes on their website. Also, on April 26th, the ICF sent an official letter on the matter. The ECA responded to an inquiry from the Belarusian Federation about their athletes' participation in the European Championships. As for the organizers of the 2024 European Championships, all have confirmed their position except Slovakia, whose response we await.

ITEM 11

WW EC 2025 ITALY

Manuela Gawehn informed the Board on the bid submitted by the Italian Federation to host the 2025 ECA WW European Championships. Currently, no specific dates can be proposed pending confirmation from another major event scheduled in Val die Sole. The Board has approved Italy's candidacy for this organization, and Manuela will provide further updates as information becomes available. Additionally, Matteo Benciolini Secretary General of the WRF proposed the idea of combining the Rafting World Cup with the WW European Championship for Junior & U23. The Board expressed interest in this proposal, and Manuela will continue discussions with Matteo to finalize details.

ITEM 12

MISCELLANEOUS

2024 ECA CHAMPIONSHIPS – PROGRESS REPORT

Jovana Stanojevic delivered an update on the progress of the 2024 European Championships, highlighting both completed and upcoming competitions. Currently, only the Ocean Racing competition has concluded, with a report awaited from Technical Delegate Roberto Liberato. She emphasized that the Freestyle Championships scheduled for August are the sole remaining competition, pending finalization of agreements and logistical arrangements.

ECA SPORTS PROGRAM UPDATE AND FUTURE STEPS

The discussion centered on defining crucial information needed to present the finalized document regarding the Sport programme at the Congress in 2024, with plans to

implement the program in 2025. It was agreed to schedule a separate meeting to focus solely on the sports program, ensuring that all disciplines are included and financial impacts are considered. It was noted that some disciplines, such as Freestyle and Marathon, are still waiting. Furthermore, the absence of a Medical project was highlighted, and the Board was informed that health-related policies, including those concerning Anti-doping and Extreme heat, have been published on the ECA website.

The President concluded the meeting by expressing gratitude for everyone's contributions. He emphasized the importance of addressing key topics, particularly ECA Statutes changes and the Economic model, urging ECA Board members to review documents and provide input. With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Branko Lovric



ECA Secretary General

Jean Zoungrana



ECA President