



**THE EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS OF THE
EUROPEAN CANOE ASSOCIATION**

**ANTALYA, TURKIYE
9 NOVEMBER 2024**

MINUTES

ITEM 1

OPENING OF THE CONGRESS

President Jean Zoungrana declared the ECA Extraordinary Congress open and warmly welcomed the delegates. He expressed his sincere gratitude to the International Canoe Federation for accommodating the ECA Congress within their schedule and making this gathering possible. Furthermore, he extended his appreciation to the host, the Turkish Canoe Federation, and President, Mr. Alper Cavit Kabakci, for their warm welcome and outstanding hospitality in Antalya.

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

34 National Federations as follows:

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

The quorum was reached; the count of votes showed a total of **34** valid votes. In addition, he explained that the absolute majority is **18** votes, and the 2/3 majority is **23** votes. Therefore, 23 votes would be necessary for the Statute changes. It was decided that the voting would be conducted by a show of hands.

ITEM 3

APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS FOR THE PERIOD OF THE CONGRESS

The Congress unanimously accepted the Secretary General's proposal that Mr Wolfram Goetz from Germany, Mr Christian Jacobsen from Denmark, and Mrs Charmaine Collins from Great Britain serve as scrutineers during the Congress.

ITEM 4

ECA STATUTES – FOR APPROVAL

Today's meeting focuses on reviewing and approving key amendments to the European Canoe Association Statutes. The revision process began on August 26, 2023, with the creation of working groups that addressed the sports program, development initiatives, and governance and statutes. After several meetings of the Governance working group and consultations with National federations, the final proposals were presented at the ECA Extraordinary Congress, and today's vote will determine their adoption.

Voting Items

Article 3 – **ECA Headquarters** – The proposal to allow the ECA Board to determine the headquarters location in Europe. *The proposal was accepted by the Congress by a majority of 32 votes.*

Article 4 – **ECA Official Languages** – The proposal to recognize English and French as the official languages of the ECA, with English as the primary language. *The proposal was accepted by the Congress by 34 votes.*

Article 5 – **ECA Objectives** – The proposal to update the ECA’s objectives to emphasize athlete well-being, social impact, championships organization, and strengthening relations with the ICF. *The proposal was accepted by the Congress by 34 votes.*

Article 6 – **Powers** – The proposal to clarify the responsibilities of the ECA Board and delegate powers to manage the association’s affairs, except for matters explicitly reserved for the Congress. *The proposal was accepted by the Congress by 34 votes.*

Article 7 – **Responsibilities to the ICF** – The proposal to formalize the ECA’s obligations to the ICF, also recognises compliance with CAS rulings, and WADA anti-doping regulations. *The proposal was accepted by the Congress by 34 votes.*

Article 8 – **Membership** – The proposal to introduce clear rules on membership eligibility, application procedures, membership fees, resignation, suspension, and expulsion. *The proposal was accepted by the Congress by 34 votes.*

Article 9 – **Structure of the ECA** – The proposal to define the governance structure of the ECA as consisting of the Congress, Board of Directors, and Committees, while officially removing the Executive Committee (EXCO). *The proposal was accepted by the Congress by a majority of 24 votes.*

Article 10 – **The Congress** – The proposal to clarify the procedures for calling Congress, deadlines for motions, quorum rules, attendance, voting procedures, and secret ballots, as well as allowing for virtual Congress meetings, details regarding Extraordinary Congress, and removal of the President’s casting vote. *The proposal was accepted by the Congress by a majority of 33 votes.*

Article 11 – **The Board** – The proposal with the details regarding the powers and responsibilities of the ECA Board and define its governance structure. *The proposal was accepted by the Congress by 34 votes.*

Article 11 – **The Board** – The proposal to increase the number of elected Board members from five to seven, introduce an athlete representative, and implement gender balance requirements (one Vice President of each gender and at least two Board members of the

same gender). Additionally provides more details of President, Vice Presidents and BOD members roles. *The proposal was accepted by the Congress by a majority of 27 votes.*

Article 11 – **The Board** – The proposal to introduce clearer rules for Board nominations, elections, term limits, management of Board meetings, conflicts of interest, removal, and the code of conduct for Board members. *The proposal was accepted by the Congress by 34 votes.*

Article 12 & 13 – **Disciplinary and dispute procedures & Financial Management** – The proposal to establish a Finance Committee, providing details around financial management, implement external financial audits, and require reporting of income and expenditure to Congress. *The proposal was accepted by the Congress by a majority of 26 votes.*

Article 14 – **ECA Representation on the ICF Board** – The proposal to clarify the election procedure for ECA representatives on the ICF Board and introduce gender balance requirements for these positions. *The proposal was accepted by the Congress by 34 votes.*

Article 15 & 16 – **Technical Committees & ECA Championships** – The proposal to introduce clearer guidelines for appointing Technical Committees, appointment of the Chairs to be confirmed by the BOD and confirm that ECA Championships must follow the ECA Championship Policy which will be developed in 2024/2025. *The proposal was accepted by the Congress by a majority of 27 votes.*

Article 17 & 18 – **Dissolution & Uncovered Matters** – The proposal to define the procedure for dissolving the ECA and establish that the Board will handle any matters not explicitly covered by the Statutes. *The proposal was accepted by the Congress by 34 votes.*

Statutes contents – **Definitions** – The proposal to introduce formal definitions for key terms that were missing from the 2021 ECA Statutes. *The proposal was accepted by the Congress by 34 votes.*

Power of the Board to Make Minor Amendments – The proposal to allow the ECA Board to make minor technical amendments to the Statutes without requiring approval from the Congress. *The proposal was accepted by the Congress by 34 votes.*

ITEM 5

ECA STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME – FOR APPROVAL

The President, Mr Jean Zoungana has presented the ECA Development and Strategic Plan, focusing on strengthening the organization, supporting member federations, improving event quality, and expanding participation in paddle sports. The plan was developed through a series of working group meetings and a survey conducted among National Federations. The proposals aim to align ECA's strategy with the International Canoe Federation and ensure a structured approach to future development.

The Congress voted on five key proposals:

The proposal to **develop the ECA as a continental federation**, focusing on strengthening its administrative structure, establishing a headquarters, improving financial sustainability, and enhancing cooperation with the ICF and other continental federations. *The proposal was accepted by the Congress by 34 votes.*

The proposal to support the **development of ECA member federations**, by encouraging cooperation and synergy between National federations and providing structural and developmental support. *The proposal was accepted by the Congress by 34 votes.*

The proposal to enhance the quality of **ECA competitions and events**, with an emphasis on improving organization, increasing audience engagement, and optimizing communication strategies to generate more revenues. *The proposal was accepted by the Congress by 34 votes.*

The proposal to support **high-performance development**, aimed at assisting federations, athletes, coaches, and officials, expanding training programs, and increasing participation in international competitions. *The proposal was accepted by the Congress by 34 votes.*

The proposal to promote **paddle sports for all, including recreational, educational, and health and well-being initiatives**, developing paddle sports for all, strengthening paddler safety training, and developing a recreational event calendar and strengthen communication on recreational, tourism, health and well-being activities. *The proposal was accepted by the Congress by 34 votes.*

ITEM 6

ECA SPORT PROGRAMME – FOR DISCUSSION

Mrs Jovana Stanojevic presented the Sport Programme, developed by the working group composed of technical delegates from all disciplines. The programme aims to strengthen ECA's role in international competitions, improve event quality, and enhance athlete development across various disciplines.

The proposal to consolidate ECA's presence at the Olympic, Paralympic, and European Games, while expanding participation in other multi-sport events, was introduced. This includes initiatives to develop all paddle sports, improve media coverage, increase athlete and nation participation, and foster cooperation for performance development. The Congress was also presented with measures to reinforce athlete protection against doping and other risks, promote accessibility for disabled athletes, and integrate sustainability into event organization. The proposal to establish a clear and transparent event allocation process, ensuring stronger involvement of technical delegates and the gradual integration of sustainable development criteria, was outlined.



As part of the implementation timeline, the appointment of technical delegates and committee members is scheduled for December 2024, followed by the drafting of the final version of the Sport Programme in early 2025. The plan is set for approval at the ECA Congress in March 2025. At the conclusion of the presentation, all ECA member federations were invited to review and comment on the draft sport programme documents, available on the presented powerpoint presentation for each discipline.

ITEM 12

CLOSING THE CONGRESS

As there were no further agenda items or comments from the delegates, President Jean Zoungrana officially closed the Congress. He expressed his gratitude to all the commissions for their contributions in preparing the proposals and extended his appreciation to the ECA staff for their dedicated work and support. Additionally, he once again thanked the Turkish Canoe Federation for their warm hospitality and excellent organization of the event.

The Congress closed at 5 p.m.

Branko Lovrić	Jean Zoungrana
	
ECA Secretary General	ECA President