



Minutes of the ECA Board of Directors Meeting
Online Meeting
24th September 2025, 6:00 pm

8/2025

Present members:

- President: Jean Zoungrana
- Vice Presidents: Moira Aston, Andrej Jelenc
- Board Members: Greg Smale, Manuela Gawehn, Stien Verlinden, Peter Karai, Geir Kvillum, Christian Jacobsen, Vitor Felix
- ECA Office: Jovana Stanojevic, Ivana Sundov

ITEM 1

OPENING OF THE MEETING

The President, Mr. Jean Zoungrana, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. In his report, the President informed the Board about recent activities, governance matters, and international relations.

The Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Jovana Stanojevic, presented an update on office operations, developments, ongoing projects, and future priorities.

PRESENTING THE AGENDA

1	Opening of the meeting	J ZOUNGRANA
2	Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting	J STANOJEVIC
3	Online decision ICF Innovation fund project and update	J STANOJEVIC
4	Athletes committee	J ZOUNGRANA
5	Paddle Europe New name	V FELIX
6	Hosting fees and accreditation fees	P KARAI
7	Bidding process 2028	G SMALE
8	Update on other projects	M ASTON, V FELIX
9	ECA ROAD MAP	J STANOJEVIC
10	Human resources – communication	J STANOJEVIC
11	ECA Anti-Doping Rules	P KARAI
12	Headquarters update	J ZOUNGRANA
13	2026 SUP European Championships	J STANOJEVIC
14	LA2028 Qualification system	P KARAI, J STANOJEVIC
15	MISCELLANEOUS	Board
16	Next Board meeting	

ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

BM/47/2025.09.24. (unanimous)

The Board approved the minutes from previous meeting, held online 28th August 2025, without any amendments.

ITEM 3

ONLINE DECISION ICF INNOVATION FUND PROJECT AND UPDATE

The Board was reminded that discussions on the Innovation Fund project had taken place at the previous meeting. Since then, the project Paddle Europe 2.0 was finalised and submitted within the deadline of 11 September 2025.

The Board was further informed that the International Canoe Federation has reviewed the submission positively. A meeting with ICF has been scheduled for 9 October 2025 to discuss the project in more detail.

BM/48/2025.09.24. (unanimous)

Prior to submission, the proposal Paddle Europe 2.0 was circulated to the Board for online vote on 11.09.2025. The Board approved the submission of the project to the ICF Innovation Fund call. In line with the Statutes, this decision is hereby recorded in the minutes.

ITEM 4

ATHLETES COMMITTEE

The Board was informed that, following the Athletes Committee meeting of 15 September 2025, representatives for the non-Olympic disciplines were elected by the members of the Committee. In accordance with the Statutes, these appointments required Board approval.

The issue of appointing advisors to the Athletes' Commission was raised. This question was also raised within the ICF framework. This possibility would allow for broader representation of disciplines within the Athletes' Committee, as suggested by participants at the last ECA Congress, where the issue of the committee's composition was presented. The matter was only briefly mentioned at this meeting, and it was agreed that it will be further considered in more detail should the need arise.

The Board was informed that an additional candidate has expressed interest in joining the Paracanoe Technical Committee. With this application, the Committee is now complete. It was further noted that vacancies remain in the following Committees:

- Freestyle: one position to be filled.
- Recreational: four positions to be filled (currently only the Chair in place).

BM/49/2025.09.24. (unanimous)

The Board approved the appointment of the Athletes Committee representatives for the non-Olympic disciplines, thereby confirming the composition of the Athletes Committee as follows:

- Frederikke Hauge Matthiesen (DEN)
- Josef Dostal (CZE)
- Monica Doria (AND)
- Michal Martikan (SVK)
- Charlotte Henshaw (GBR)
- Anna Margrete Sletsjoe (NOR)

- Szabolcs Fodor (HUN)

BM/50/2025.09.24 (unanimous)

The Board approved Anja Adler as a 5th member of the Paracanoe Technical committee.

ITEM 5

PADDLE EUROPE NEW NAME

The Board recalled that, at its previous meeting, a working group for the implementation of the new name and branding was established. The working group is composed of Vitor Felix, Jean Zoungrana and Jovana Stanojevic.

At the present meeting, an update on the implementation strategy was presented, including awareness-building, digital platforms, branding at European Championships and other events, and the communication timeline. The strategy also foresees engagement of National Federations, athletes, sponsors, and media, and coordination with the ICF to align the promotion of Paddle Europe with Paddle Worldwide.

The Board exchanged views on the proposed actions and took note of the preparations for the official launch of the new identity from 1 January 2026.

This point will be discussed in more detail at the next in person Board meeting.

ITEM 6

HOSTING FEES AND ACCREDITATION FEES

The Board was informed that the Finance committee had reviewed the ECA Economic model adopted at the Congress in Budapest, including the aspects of hosting and accreditation fees. The committee presented its views and recommendations.

It was agreed that a decision on this matter will be taken at the next in person Board meeting in Ljubljana.

ITEM 7

BIDDING PROCESS 2028

The Board took note of the item concerning the bidding process for the 2028 events and agreed that further information, discussion and decision will take place at the next Board meeting in Ljubljana.

In this context, Ms. Stien Verlinden presented a proposal of a Sustainability Regulation. The Board welcomed the initiative and agreed that the regulation should define how sustainability principles will be implemented and applied in upcoming competition seasons. Further work on this matter will continue in future meetings.

ITEM 8

UPDATE ON OTHER PROJECTS

The Board was updated on the progress of several ongoing initiatives, including matters related to medals, uniforms and TV broadcast. It was noted that potential partners for the production of medals and uniforms are currently being identified, while the TV broadcast strategy will be discussed with the ICF.

On the Recreational Committee project, information was provided on recent activities and the next steps in developing recreational sport. The 1st open meeting was held on 29 September, where Ms. Gabi expressed strong commitment and enthusiasm for further progress in this area.

Regarding the Awards project, the Board was informed about the preparatory work underway. The Awards will consist of six different categories and will be presented once per year. A complete document outlining the concept is expected to be finalised for the next Board meeting. The Board noted the progress and agreed to continue following the developments at future meetings.

ITEM 9

ECA ROAD MAP

The Board received an update on the ECA Road Map. A Microsoft project management tool, compatible with Teams and Outlook, was introduced to support the monitoring of deadlines and implementation of activities. The system will provide shared access and simplified tracking of assignments and documents.

The Board took note of the update and agreed that progress under the Road Map will continue to be monitored using this tool.

ITEM 10

HUMAN RESOURCES – COMMUNICATION

The Board was informed that, following the decision at its previous meeting to arrange interim communication support, a contract has been concluded for a Communication Manager position from 1 October until 31 January 2026. The engagement will cover social media and website management as well as activities related to the implementation of the new name.

ITEM 11

ECA ANTI-DOPING RULES

The Board was informed of the outcome of consultations with the ICF Legal Manager, which confirmed that no separate ECA Anti-Doping Rules are required, as the relevant areas are already regulated at ICF level. It was, however, noted that the ICF rules are not comprehensive and do not fully cover continental activities.

It was agreed that the identified gaps and contradictions should be reported to ICF, highlighting the need to regulate anti-doping activities of the continental federations.

ITEM 12

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

The Board was informed of the responses received following the call for expressions of interest to host the Paddle Europe headquarters. Several National Federations, in some cases with government support, have expressed interest.

The deadline for submission of bids is 15 October 2025. Evaluation will take place between 15 and 25 October 2025, with a final decision to be taken by the Board at its meeting in Ljubljana on 8–9 November 2025.

ITEM 13

2026 SUP EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Board received an update on the bid for the 2026 Stand Up Paddling European Championships. The event will overlap together with the ICF Ranking race, bringing together sprint, technical and long distance races, over five days in September 2026.

BM/51/2025.09.24. (unanimous)

The Board approved the 2026 Stand Up Paddling European Championships in Agios Nikolaos, Crete, Greece, scheduled for 18–20 September 2026.

ITEM 14

LA2028 QUALIFICATION SYSTEM

The Board was informed that the ICF Board, on 23 September 2025, approved the nations-based option for Canoe Sprint to be submitted to the IOC for negotiation.

Principles for Canoe Slalom and Paracanoe have been agreed by the working groups. Consultations on Slalom one with National Federations took place online on 22 September 2025 and will continue in person at the upcoming World Championships. A consolidated document is expected in October 2025.

ITEM 15

MISCELLANEOUS

No items were raised under this agenda point.

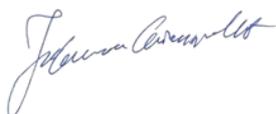
ITEM 16

DATE OF THE NEXT BOARD MEETING

The Board noted that the next meeting will be 8-9 November 2025 in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

With no further business on the agenda, the President concluded the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Jovana Stanojevic



ECA CEO

Jean Zoungrana



ECA President