

Minutes of the ECA Board of Directors Meeting
Ljubljana, Slovenia
8-9th November 2025

9/2025

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. He briefly informed the Board of recent activities, including meetings related to the Innovation Fund, Athletes and Sport Committees, Slalom Committee, sponsorship matters, and discussions with National Federations regarding the Paddle Europe Headquarters.

The CEO, Ms Jovana Stanojevic, provided an update on governance, finance, legal matters, development, competitions, and ongoing cooperation with the ICF.

The Board expressed its appreciation to the Slovenian Canoe Federation for hosting the meeting.

PRESENTING THE AGENDA

1	Opening of the Meeting	
	President report	J ZOUNGRANA
	Chief Executive Officer report	J STANOJEVIC
2	Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting	BOARD DECISION
3	Recording of the online decision – Recreational committee members	BOARD DECISION
4	Paddle Europe Headquarters	BOARD DECISION
5	Hosting fees	P KARAI, BOARD DECISION
6	Accreditation fees	P KARAI, BOARD DECISION
7	Paddle Europe New name implementation	V FELIX, BOARD DECISION
8	TV Broadcast and Streaming strategy	A JELENC, BOARD DECISION
9	Finance rules and regulations	P KARAI, BOARD DECISION
10	Calendar 2027 vacant positions	BOARD DECISION
11	2028 Bidding process	G SMALE, BOARD DECISION

12	Recreational committee and activity	M ASTON
13	Sustainability - Strategic plan 2026 and beyond	S VERLINDEN, BOARD DECISION
14	MEDALS – new and old	A JELENC, BOARD DECISION
15	UNIFORMS	A JELENC, BOARD DECISION
16	Jury 2026	BOARD DECISION
17	Technical committees – CSP and CSL Chair	BOARD DECISION
18	PARTNERS and SPONSORS	J ZOUNGRANA, J STANOJEVIC
19	Paddle Europe 2.0 Project update and Other projects for ICF Innovation fund	J ZOUNGRANA, J STANOJEVIC
20	Finance report 2025-2026	P KARAI, J STANOJEVIC
21	Development - Strategy 2026	A HASSAN, J STANOJEVIC
22	LA2028 Qualification system	P KARAI, J STANOJEVIC
23	Dragonboat strategy	U SCHRECK, J STANOJEVIC
24	ECA & education – Initial ideas & direction	C JACOBSEN
25	Other European competitions – ECA jurisdiction and potential revenue	P KARAI, J STANOJEVIC
26	European Games 2027 Contract	J ZOUNGRANA
27	Awards	V FELIX
28	Code of ethics	V FELIX
29	Disciplinary rules	V FELIX
30	MISCELLANEOUS	BOARD

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

ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

BM/52/2025.11.08. (unanimous)

The Board approved the minutes from previous meeting, held online 24th September 2025, without any amendments.

ITEM 3

RECORDING OF THE ONLINE DECISION – RECREATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Board was reminded that an online vote had been conducted to approve the appointment of the members of the Recreational Committee, following the open meeting of the Committee held in September.

BM/53/2025.11.08. (unanimous)

The Board confirmed and formally recorded the online decision approving the composition of the Recreational Committee as follows:

Chair: Gabriele Koch (GER)

Members: Steven Fahy (IRL), Rita Gonçalves (POR), Ead Bećirević (CRO), Katinka Ingves (SWE).

ITEM 4

PADDLE EUROPE HEADQUARTERS

The Board reviewed the proposals received for hosting the Paddle Europe (ECA) headquarters and the comparative summary of all candidate countries.

BM/54/2025.11.08. (unanimous)

The Board is leaning towards establishing the ECA/Paddle Europe legal headquarters in Lausanne, SUI with further provision of the proposal details. Upon feasibility study provided by the next meeting, the final confirmation of the Board will take place then.

ITEM 5

HOSTING FEES

The Board received the proposal of the Finance Committee regarding the revision of hosting fees, including a comparison with ICF and other Olympic sports models.

BM/55/2025.11.08. (7 in favour, 2 abstention)

Following the presentation and discussion, the Board approved Option 1 as the new hosting fee structure, with the clarification that all non-Olympic disciplines shall be assigned the same fee level.

Hosting fees will be incorporated in the new Bidding process for 2028 European Championships and beyond with clear provisions for the HOC, as follows:

Competition	(€)	
Senior Sprint & Paracanoe EC	15000	OLY/PLY
Senior Slalom EC	15000	OLY
Sprint Junior & U23 EC	5000	OLY
Slalom Junior & U23 EC	5000	OLY
Wildwater Senior EC	5000	Non OLY
Wildwater Junior & U23 EC	5000	Non OLY
Marathon Senior & Junior & U23 EC	5000	Non OLY
Canoe Polo Senior & Junior & U21 EC	5000	Non OLY
Freestyle Senior & Junior & U23 EC	5000	Non OLY
Dragon Boat Senior & Junior & U23 EC	5000	Non OLY
Ocean racing Senior & Junior & U23 EC	5000	Non OLY
Stand Up Paddling SENIOR & Junior & U23 EC	5000	Non OLY

ITEM 6

ACCREDITATION FEES

The Board reviewed the proposals concerning accreditation fees, including examples from other Olympic sports and the recommendation of the Finance Committee.

BM/56/2025.11.08. (unanimous)

After discussion, the Board approved the introduction of a unified 15 EUR accreditation fee per athletes applicable across all European Championships.

Accreditation fees will be implemented from 2026 through National Federations fees related to the Championships together with the already existing fee for the ITO travel costs.

The clear budget will be distributed to further elevate the services of the European Championships and it will include partly further enhancement of the development budget for each discipline.

ITEM 7

PADDLE EUROPE NEW NAME IMPLEMENTATION

The Board received an update on the implementation strategy for the Paddle Europe rebranding, including the transition plan for digital platforms, communication activities and the planned full adoption of the new identity from 1 January 2026.

BM/57/2025.11.08. (unanimous)

Following the presentation and discussion, the Board approved the strategy for the implementation of the new name, including the following elements:

1. Approval of the overall new name implementation strategy, as presented.
2. Rebranding of the existing website, while exploring additional platform options, pending further clarification regarding potential funding support for a new website.
3. Confirmation of the European Championship titles, which shall follow: “[Year] Paddle Europe [Discipline] Championships”, with full discipline names used where applicable (Paracanoe, Canoe Polo, Ocean Racing).
4. Adoption of the official communication hashtag: #IPaddleForEurope, as part of the external communication and promotional activities linked to the rebranding.

ITEM 8

TV BROADCAST AND STREAMING STRATEGY

The Board received an update on the development of the TV broadcast and streaming strategy. It was noted that the collaboration framework with the ICF is under preparation and the agreement draft is still not finalised.

BM/58/2025.11.08. (unanimous)

Following the discussion, the Board approved the collaboration with the ICF for the 2026–2029 senior European Championships in Slalom and Sprint.

BM/59/2025.11.08 (unanimous)

The Board further decided to terminate the partnership with TV in Europe Ltd, and recover all ECA assets and archives currently held by Television in Europe Ltd.

The ECA Office was tasked with carrying out the necessary administrative steps related to these decisions.

ITEM 9

FINANCIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Board reviewed the proposal of the Finance Committee regarding the updated Financial Rules and Regulations, including the presented timeline and amendments to the existing framework.

BM/60/2025.11.08. (unanimous)

Following the discussion, the Board approved the Financial Rules and Regulations, along with the Annex "Financial Manual", without any amendments or comments.

ITEM 10

CALENDAR 2027 VACANT POSITIONS

The Board reviewed the vacant positions in the 2027 competition calendar. It was agreed that the decision regarding the 2027 Canoe Slalom Junior & U23 European Championships is postponed to the next Board meeting.

BM/61/2025.11.08. (unanimous)

The Board approved Mezzana (ITA) as host of the 2027 Wildwater European Championships.

ITEM 11

2028 BIDDING PROCESS

The Board was informed that, ahead of the meeting, a survey on the future European competition calendar (2028+) was circulated widely across the canoeing community, including National Federations, Host Organisers, Technical Committees, Athletes and the Athletes Committee, as introduced by the Board Member Mr Greg Smale. The purpose of the survey was to collect structured feedback on the potential adjustment of the frequency and structure of European Championships.

BM/62/2025.11.08. (unanimous)

Based on the survey results and the discussion held at the meeting, the Board concluded that there is no basis at this stage to modify the current model for non-Olympic disciplines.

European Championships will therefore continue as follows:

1. Olympic disciplines: every year — approved.
2. Non-Olympic disciplines: continue under the present structure (Marathon annually; all other non-Olympic disciplines every two years).
3. The Board agreed, as part of a long-term strategic reflection, the option of transitioning to a harmonised two-year cycle for all non-Olympic disciplines may be explored in future. Relevant discipline committees will be invited to monitor developments and prepare strategic considerations for potential future implementation, including options for additional competition formats.

ITEM 12

RECREATIONAL COMMITTEE AND ACTIVITY

The Board received an update on the activities of the Recreational Committee, including the recent open meetings and the preparation of a European recreational events calendar. Ms Moira Aston, ECA Vice President informed the Board that the Terms of Reference are being finalised and will be submitted for approval once the internal comments are completed.

ITEM 13

SUSTAINABILITY - STRATEGIC PLAN 2026 AND BEYOND

The Board received an update on sustainability tools and proposals for introducing sustainability practices through ECA events, including the DECK project outcomes, the sustainability rating tool and the new guidance document for event organisers. The proposed approach for 2026–2027 focuses on collecting baseline data from all ECA event hosts through the sustainability rating tool (before and after events), providing direct support where needed, and gradually familiarising organisers with sustainability procedures.

BM/63/2025.11.08. (unanimous)

The Board welcomed the direction of the work for 2026–2027 European Championships and noted the need for a clearer and more accessible Sustainability Strategy and roadmap, suitable for National Federations and future hosts, and aligned with potential future Bidding process and Host Agreement requirements. This revised strategy will be prepared for further Board consideration.

ITEM 14

MEDALS – NEW AND OLD

The Board reviewed the proposed medal options for future ECA events. Remaining stocks of old medals will be utilised appropriately and incorporated into future internal and ceremonial uses as suitable.

BM/64/2025.11.08. (unanimous)

Following the presentation and discussion, the Board selected Option 2 (size 80mm, thickness 8 mm, left design 2) as the official medal version to be used from 2026 European Championships.

ITEM 15

UNIFORMS

The Board was informed that three proposals for the new official apparel set had been received. After reviewing all the proposals, the Board agreed to proceed and further define the apparel set for Board members, technical committee Chairs and the Office, consistent with the official Paddle Europe branding.

ITEM 16

JURY 2026

BM/65/2025.11.08. (unanimous)

The Board reviewed the proposed Jury appointments for the 2026 European Championships across all disciplines and confirmed the list as presented.

Competition	Jury Chair	Jury Member
Freestyle	Andrej Jelenc	Christian Jacobsen
Sprint Senior & Para	Jean Zoungrana	Peter Karai
Marathon	Jean Zoungrana	Geir Kvillum
Sprint Junior & U23	Vitor Félix	Stien Verlinden
Slalom Junior & U23	Greg Smale	Moira Aston
Ocean Racing	Stien Verlinden	Vitor Félix
Slalom Senior	Jean Zoungrana	Andrej Jelenc
Wildwater Junior & U23	Jean Zoungrana	Moira Aston
SUP	Jean Zoungrana	Stien Verlinden

ITEM 17

TECHNICAL COMMITTEES – CSP AND CSL CHAIR

The Board reviewed the vacant positions within the ECA Technical and Athletes Committee structures for the period 2026–2028.

BM/66/2025.11.08. (unanimous)

The Board approved the publication of the call for nominations for Technical Chairs in Sprint and Slalom, Technical Committee members and the Athletes Committee representative.

ITEM 18

PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

The Board received an update on the current status of partnerships and sponsorship discussions. Ongoing talks with existing partners will continue, and new potential partnerships are being explored. The Board took note of the direction of work and supported further development of the sponsorship approach.

ITEM 19

PADDLE EUROPE 2.0 PROJECT UPDATE AND OTHER PROJECTS FOR ICF INNOVATION FUND

The Board received a brief update on the ongoing development of the Paddle Europe 2.0 project. Work on the digital platform component continues, in line with the project framework. No new proposals were received for potential submission to the ICF Innovation Fund.

ITEM 20

FINANCIAL REPORT 2025-2026

The Board received the financial update for 2025–2026, including the current budget overview and forecast for the upcoming period. The financial situation and planned expenditures were noted, with no remarks requiring further action.

ITEM 21

DEVELOPMENT - STRATEGY 2026

The Board received a short update on the development activities in 2025 and the outline of the Development Strategy for 2026. The work on the strategic framework will continue, with further details to be prepared for the next Board meeting.

ITEM 22

LA2028 QUALIFICATION SYSTEM

The Board received an update on the information available regarding the qualification system for the LA2028 Olympic Games. As the system is still under development at ICF/IOC level, the Board will be informed once official details are released.

ITEM 23

DRAGONBOAT STRATEGY

An overview was given on the current status of Dragonboat activities in Europe and the considerations for future strategic direction. The matter will continue to be developed, with further options to be reviewed at a later stage.

ITEM 24

ECA & EDUCATION – INITIAL IDEAS & DIRECTION

The Board exchanged initial views on potential areas of cooperation within education and on possible future developments in this field. The concepts presented are in an early stage, and further refinement will be undertaken before any proposals are submitted for consideration.

ITEM 25

OTHER EUROPEAN COMPETITIONS – ECA JURISDICTION AND POTENTIAL REVENUE

The Board held a short exchange on the status of various European competitions organised outside the ECA framework and the implications for jurisdiction, branding and potential income streams. It was agreed that the topic requires further internal assessment to clarify ECA's position and possible next steps.

ITEM 26

EUROPEAN GAMES 2027 CONTRACT

A short update was provided regarding the contractual matters related to the 2027 European Games. Discussions with the organisers are ongoing, and further details will be shared once available.

ITEM 27

AWARDS

This item was postponed to a future Board meeting. Relevant documents have been circulated, and Board Members are invited to review them in preparation for the next discussion.

ITEM 28

CODE OF ETHICS

This item was postponed to a future Board meeting. Relevant documents have been circulated, and Board Members are invited to review them in preparation for the next discussion.

ITEM 29

DISCIPLINARY RULES

This item was postponed to a future Board meeting. Relevant documents have been circulated, and Board Members are invited to review them in preparation for the next discussion.

ITEM 30

MISCELLANEOUS

No items were raised under this agenda point.

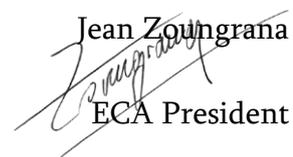
ITEM 31

DATE OF THE NEXT BOARD MEETING

The Board noted that the next meeting online 11th December and in person with set date on 24 and 25 of January.

With no further business on the agenda, the President concluded the meeting on 9 November 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

Jovana Stanojevic
ECA CEO

Jean Zoungrana

ECA President