



**THE 13<sup>th</sup> ORDINARY CONGRESS OF THE  
EUROPEAN CANOE ASSOCIATION**

**BUCHAREST, ROMANIA  
1 APRIL 2017**

**MINUTES**

## ITEM 1

### OPENING OF THE SESSION

The President Albert Woods declared the Congress opened and greeted the delegates. Then he handed over the floor to Mr Gheorghe Toth who welcomed Mr Florin Misca, Deputy Secretary General of the Romanian Olympic Committee, and Mr Cosmin Razvan Butuza from Ministry of Youth and Sport. The President thanked the translators and the Romanian Canoe Federation for excellent preparation of the Congress.

Mr Butuza highlighted that, unfortunately, the entire sports in Romania is undergoing a crisis, and especially canoeing and women in sport. The lack financial means and the lack of performers and professors had been a constant problem in Romanian Federation for a long period. The NOC has more stability today and is trying to attract more young talents into the sport in order to bring back the Romanian sports to the world elite.

## 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

**28 National Federations** as follows:

BEL, BIH, BLR, BUL, CRO, CYP, CZE, DEN, ESP, EST, FRA, GBR, GER, HUN, ITA, LAT, LTU, MDA, NED, NOR, POL, POR, ROU, RUS, SLO, SRB, SVK, and SWE.

The quorum was reached; the count of votes showed a total of **28** valid votes. In addition, he explained that the absolute majority is **15** votes and the 2/3 majority is **19** votes. Therefore, 19 votes would be necessary for the Statute changes. A list of present delegates is attached to these minutes.

## ITEM 3

### APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS FOR THE PERIOD OF THE CONGRESS

The Congress unanimously accepted the Secretary General's proposal that hat Ms Sanja Djakovic from Serbia, Mr Colin Woodgate from Great Britain and Mr Ricardo Machado from Portugal serve as scrutineers during the Congress.

## ITEM 4

### REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT AND BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON BEHALF OF THE ECA BOARD

The report was supplied to the delegates prior to the Congress. The report gives details about the tasks undertaken in 2015 and 2016, ECA competitions organise in those two years and other issues. The main points of the report are as follows:

- Inclusion of the canoeing events in the programme of the European Games 2015;
- Good co-operation with the European Olympic Committee and the inclusion of the canoeing events in the programme of the European Youth Festival in Gyor 2017;
- Good co-operation with the ICF Paracanoe Committee; increased number of participants and quality of the ECA Championships (2 per NF/discipline instead of 1);
- Intensive marketing activities lead to significant increase in money raised through sponsorships;
- Employment of Ms Nina Jelenc lead to significant improvement of ECA's social media activities (new layout of ECA's web page, ECA profiles on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, ECA press releases published at the most respected sports channels and websites);
- ECA worked tightly together with the ICF on developing the both disciplines, Olympic and non-Olympic. Therefore, with support from the ICF TIP programme and support of the host Federation, 2 combined slalom and WW TIP camps were organised in Skopje (MKD). Also, with the support from the ICF a slalom camp was organised in Solkan (SLO) with participation of athletes and coaches from 9 countries;
- All ECA Senior Championships in Olympic disciplines had high-quality TV coverage and live streams.

Questions regarding the report were invited, however, none were forthcoming.

***The report was then unanimously accepted by the show of cards.***

#### ITEM 5

#### ECA FINANCIAL REPORT 2009 – 2010 AND REPORT BY THE AUDITOR

The Secretary General presented the accounts of the ECA including the financial report and the report by the ECA auditor, Mr Jean Claude Dethise. He had no additional comments except for that ECA has had a good income from the continental games and that ECA Auditor's report on the work of the ECA for the period 2015 – 2016 has been attached to the working materials.

As there were no questions or comments, the report was then put to vote.

***The accounts and the report were unanimously approved by the delegates.***

#### ITEM 6

#### ECA BOARD AND ECA AUDITOR ELECTIONS

The Secretary General explained in detail the voting procedure.

**List 1:**

**– Election of the ECA Vice President**

There was only 1 candidacy for the position of the ECA Vice President received from Mr **Miroslav Haviar (SVK)**.

**Voting results:**

YES	NO	ABS
25	0	3

so Mr Haviar will continue to work on the position of the ECA Vice President for the next four years.

**– Election of the ECA Secretary General**

**Voting results:**

YES	NO	ABS
26	0	2

The only candidate for the position of the ECA Secretary General was Mr **Branko Lovric** from Croatia who had been re-elected for another 4-year term.

**- Election of the ECA Auditor**

The only candidate for the position of the ECA Auditor was Mr **Jean Claude Dethise** from Belgium. Mr Jean Claude had been re-elected for a 2-year term.

**Voting results:**

YES	NO	ABS
26	0	2

All of the candidates received over 50 percent of the votes.

**List 2:**

**- Elections for the members of the Board**

Five nominations were received, with 3 places available.

The voting system: up to three names on the ballot paper can be marked.

Mr Geir Kvillum from Norway invited the candidates to introduce themselves to the Congress which they did in a short speech.

Mrs Manuela Gawehn (GER) was the first who addressed to the Congress giving additional information about her; among others how her careers in canoeing started at a very young age as her both parents were competitors in WW canoeing. She used to race in K1, C1 and C2 in WW and slalom but at some point later she took over coaching instead of paddling. Today, she is working side by side with the head coach of German WW Junior national team. She has over 20 years of experience in WW canoeing and officiating. In the past 10 years, she was helping organisers of the WW Championships to ensure that those competitions are high-quality. Over the past 5 years, she has been a member of the ICF WW Committee.

Ms Elena Iskhakova (RUS) introduced herself to the delegates. She had been involved in the sport of the canoeing since she started to paddle at the age of 11. After 15 years of kayaking, she continued her career in Dragon boat racing and from 2011 she has been working for the Russian Canoe Federation. Her first position was Assistant to the Canoe Sprint head coach and later she became CSP team leader. From 2013 she had been working as an Assistant to the President of the Russian Canoe Federation, and from the last year, she moved to the position of the Secretary General. She is also a member of the ICF Dragon boat racing Committee. As she shares the same passion and beliefs as Mrs Irina Siraeva who is stepping down from the position of ECA Board member, she highlighted that she would like to continue her dedicated work. In the end, she stated that the Russian athletes who were under anti-doping investigation just yesterday got the permission from the ICF that they can continue to compete and that all charges had been dropped.

Mr Christian Jacobsen (DEN) introduced himself to the delegates in a few sentences. First, he thanked the Board and the delegates for their trust and awarding Denmark the World Sprint Canoe Championships 2021. He highlighted the importance of change and that Danish Canoe Federation had started to host the international events again and to cooperate with schools, and, if elected, he would also like to engage ECA in similar projects. In his opinion, ECA should work towards to less dependency from the IOC and the ICF funding. Also, in order to ECA to be able to drive the sport of canoeing and provide better support to its affiliated Federations, it is important to put all the efforts to strengthen and develop Europe by improving collaboration between the member countries, sharing good practice and working with different authorities in order to find new ways of financing some of the non-competitive part of the sport.

Mr Peter Karai (HUN) then stepped forward with a couple of major points about himself and his work. He currently works at the Hungarian Canoe Federation as the Vice-president. He started kayaking in 1995, but since he wasn't successful enough, he ended his sports career very soon. He continued further to be active in the canoeing sport by paddling 600-700 km per year and working for the Hungarian Canoe Federation since 2009 as the member of the Financial Committee. Four years later he moved to the position of the Board member, and from there to Financial Vice-president in past December. As far as the education is concerned, he has the following degrees: the University of Economics in Hungary, Business Law postgraduate degree (auditor; tax expert), the University of Physical Education degree and postgraduate course in the Sports Law. He highlighted his several main objectives which are a stable racing system, more efficient business administration and marketing activities and, the most important, anti-doping activities. He emphasised that since the August 2016, being the head of the Hungarian Anti-doping Group, he produced a new anti-doping concept for the Hungarian Canoe Federation which is very strict and, as the Vice-president he managed to increase the budget for anti-doping activities. In the end of his speech he highlighted that 82 percent of the boats in the Olympic event finals of the OG Rio 2016 came from Europe, and therefore, it is

essential to work towards increasing the position and role of the ECA in the canoeing sport at the international level.

Mrs Elly Muller (NED) briefly addressed to the delegates. Since the most of the delegates already know Ms Muller from the CSP competitions, she highlighted her greatest passion of working with athletes in particular, which she considers the most important people. With all the knowledge and years of the experience in organising the ECA CSP championships, she always strives to provide good and fair races for athletes with the best officials. She affirms her value and her ability by letting her actions speak for themselves.

As this was the last congress in the role of the ECA Board of Directors member for Mrs Irina Siraeva (RUS) who is leaving canoeing on an international level, she took the floor to thank everyone for their support and trust and kind and friendly relations during her 12 years of service in the ECA. She expressed her gratitude and hope that she is leaving behind a small contribution in the development of the European canoeing. After a short and very emotional speech, she gave her full support to her co-worker Ms Elena Iskhakova who had been appointed by the Russian Canoe Federation as a candidate to the ECA Board of Directors.

The outgoing ECA Board member Mr Thomas Konietzko (GER) who has been elected to the position of the ICF vice-president took the floor to express his content as regards to his new position, but, at the same time, sadness for leaving the ECA where he had the privilege to gain many wonderful friendships. He expressed his appreciation for being able to continue good collaboration with ECA from his new ICF function.

The Secretary General then did the roll-call of the voting delegates in the alphabetical order.

The President Albert Woods announced the results of the elections. All three members of the Board were elected in the first round with over 50 percent of the votes. The election went as follows:

- **Ms Manuela Gawehn (GER)** received 17 votes and therefore was elected for a 2-year term.
- **Ms Elly Müller (NED)** received 22 votes and therefore was elected for a 4 year term.
- **Mr Peter Karai (HUN)** received 24 votes and therefore was elected for a 4-year term.

<b>The new structure of the ECA Board of Directors:</b>		
President	Mr Albert Woods (GBR)	Mandate valid 2019
Vice President	Mr Jaroslav Pollert (CZE)	Mandate valid 2019
Vice President	Mr Miroslav Haviar (SVK)	Mandate valid 2021

General Secretary	Mr Branko Lovrić (CRO)	Mandate valid 2021
Member	Mr Manuela Gawehn (GER)	Mandate valid 2019
Member	Mrs Elly Müller (NED)	Mandate valid 2021
Member	Mr Andrej Jelenc (SLO)	Mandate valid 2019
Member	Mrs Marta Felpeto Lamas (ESP)	Mandate valid 2019
Member	Mr Peter Karai (HUN)	Mandate valid 2021

## ITEM 7

### ELECTION OF THE CONTINENTAL REPRESENTATIVES TO THE ICF BOARD

After the ECA Board elections, there were 4 candidates for the ECA representative to the ICF Board, with 3 places available; minimum 1 from the minority gender. The election went as follows:

- **Marta Felpeto Lamas (ESP) – with 22 votes is elected for a 2 year term (till the end of her mandate as ECA Board member)**
- **Andrej Jelenc (SLO) – with 17 votes is elected for a 2 year term**
- **Branko Lovric (CRO) – with 18 votes is elected for a 4 year term**

## ITEM 8

### PROPOSALS FOR THE ECA STATUTE CHANGES – RECEIVED FROM NF

The Congress then considered the Swedish proposals for ECA Statutes Changes. President Woods reminded that the 2/3 majority is 19 votes. There were 3 proposals as follows:

- a) The first proposal was concerning the Article 1.3 of the ECA Statutes - the only official language of ECA would be English got 11 votes. – ***The proposal was not accepted by the Congress.***
- b) The second proposal concerning the Article 5 of the ECA Statutes was to support fair representation and equal access to women in all canoeing activities as well as in the management of the sport. Mrs Elly Muller thanked for this proposal and further outlined that there is more male than female competitors in the world and that there are still countries in which women are not allowed to do sports. She said that it would be nice if woman and men could be equally represented in everything, but, in order to achieve the gender equality, it must start at the higher level (e.g. IOC). In the end, the President commented that the ECA Board feels that having the best people in the right position is more important, but, the gender equality will definitely come with time. ***The motion was not accepted by the Congress (3 votes in favour).***
- c) The third proposal as regards the Article 6.3 of the ECA Statutes was to limit the number of mandates a person can be elected to the ECA Board. President Woods

commented that it is very difficult to get connections even after 8 years of serving as the continental representative. He further stated that the Board feels that National Federations have the right to elect the best persons from the proposed candidates and that there is no need for restrictions that can cause vacancy for some positions. ***The motion was not accepted by the Congress (4 votes in favour).***

#### ITEM 9

#### PROPOSALS FOR THE ECA STATUTE CHANGES – FROM THE ECA BOARD

In order to harmonize the ECA and ICF Statutes (ICF rules regarding continental representatives), a proposal from the ECA Board for minor changes and grammatical corrections to the ECA Statutes which are necessary for the proper terminology and do not alter the sense or meaning of the rules was circulated to the delegates prior to the Congress. The President went through all the proposed changes in the ECA Statutes providing detailed explanation and then made a motion to approve the new ECA Statutes accepting the change as recommended by the ECA Board.

***The motion was accepted by the majority of 26 votes. The revised ECA Statutes had been attached to the minutes of the Congress.***

#### ITEM 10

#### PROPOSAL FOR THE RULE CHANGES

A motion to include U23 events in the programme of the ECA WW Canoe Championships was then presented to the Congress and put to vote.

***The motion was accepted by the majority of 27 votes.***

#### ITEM 11

#### DECISION ABOUT CHANGING THE ECA LOGO

The President Albert Woods presented the new ECA logo proposal which was chosen unanimously by the Board at their meeting earlier this year. The decision has been made to present this option as the new ECA logo on the basis of a modern look, simplicity, as well as the possibility of the logo look in the negative and other variants. Mr Woods pointed out that ECA needs the new modern logo that would conform to these three characteristics for TV graphic purposes and that the old ECA medals and T-shirts would be changed gradually. ***The new ECA logo was then accepted by the show of cards (26 votes in favour).***



The new ECA logo:

LOGO C



#### ITEM 12

#### FIXING THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEE FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS

No change had been proposed by the Board therefore it was agreed that the amount of the Annual Subscription fee for the next two years would be the same as present (€ 250). *This was accepted by a majority of 27 votes.*

#### ITEM 13

#### ESTABLISHING THE WORKING (DEVELOPMENT) PROGRAMME FOR 2017/2019

The ECA Working and Development programme was supplied to the delegates prior to the Congress. The report gives details about the main goals and tasks in 2017/2019. The Secretary General addressed to the Congress giving short update on the progress of the marketing and social media activities and income from TV rights. He emphasized the great contribution of Ms Nina Jelenc, ECA PR expert, who works on raising the ECA marketing activities. He informed that, ten days ago, he had a meeting with professionals for further development of ECA marketing activities and that this topic would be further discussed at the next Board meeting. In the end, he informed that the presentation on the new ECA website which started running just 2 days ago would be given later by Miroslav Haviar.

As regards the Paracanoeing, the ECA had raised the number of participating athletes per federation from 1 to 2 athletes so that the ECA Championships would have a higher number of participants and, hopefully, live broadcasting events.

Mr Jaroslav Pollert from Czech stressed that the classification is a very difficult subject which should be sorted out at the ICF level. Mr Woods agreed that some of the organisers do not even have the proper facilities for disabled which is a great problem, but now, since ECA has the technical delegate for Paracanoeing who will do the technical visit of

the ECA Championships venues together with Ms Elly Muller, it is expected that the situation would improve.

*The ECA Working and Development programme was approved by a majority of 26 votes.*

#### ITEM 14

#### ESTABLISHING THE BUDGET FOR 2017/2018

The Secretary General presented the budget for FY 2017/2018 with last minute changes which he explained and asked if there were any questions but there were none. *The President Albert Woods then asked for and received approval for the 2017/2018 budget (25 votes in favour).*

#### ITEM 15

#### ECA AWARDS

The President then thanked and recognised the long and distinguished work of Mrs Irina Siraeva from Russia, one of the longest standing ECA Board members, who has chosen to step down from the ECA Board. She was presented with the ECA award for her contribution in 12 years long service in the ECA Board.

Another award for significant contribution to the ECA had been presented to Mr Thomas Konietzko from Germany, who had recently been elected to the position of the ICF vice-president.

They both received strong and deserved applause at the time of the presentation.

#### ITEM 16

#### CLOSING THE CONGRESS

The President Albert Woods thanked the Romanian Canoe Federation, scrutineers, translators for their hard work and all the delegates for their input. He then invited all the delegates to give the contribution to the Open discussion that will be held after the Congress.

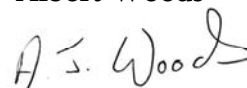
*The Congress closed at 11.30 a.m.*

Branko Lovrić



ECA Secretary General

Albert Woods



ECA President