



Minutes of the ECA Board of Directors Meeting  
Meeting in Budapest, Hungary  
30<sup>th</sup> March 2025, 9:00 am

3/2025

#### 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, Nina Jelenc, Ivana Sundov

#### ITEM 1

#### OPENING OF THE MEETING

The President, Mr. Jean Zoungrana, officially opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees. Congratulations were extended to the newly elected members of the Board. The agenda was then presented to the members

#### PRESENTING THE AGENDA

1	Opening of the Meeting	J ZOUNGRANA
2	ECA structure, organisation, and projects	J ZOUNGRANA
3	Board functioning	J ZOUNGRANA
4	ECA/Paddle Europe headquarters	J ZOUNGRANA
5	Advisors to the Board	J ZOUNGRANA
6	ECA competition calendar 2025	J STANOJEVIC
7	2025 ECA Dragon Boat European Championships – Italy	J STANOJEVIC
8	Jury nomination for 2025 ECA Championships	J ZOUNGRANA
9	2025 ECA Canoe Slalom Championships VSR FRA – TV broadcast	J ZOUNGRANA J STANOJEVIC
10	Athletes Committee	P KARAI J STANOJEVIC
11	Finance Rules and Regulations	P KARAI
11	Montenegro NF	J ZOUNGRANA P KARAI
13	TV rights	J ZOUNGRANA
14	Miscellaneous	
15	Next Board Meeting	

The President proceeded with the meeting without any comments or alterations to the agenda.

## **ITEM 2**

### **ECA STRUCTURE, ORGANISATION, AND PROJECTS**

As it was presented at the Congress, an overview of the ECA organisational structure was presented in detail to new Board members, including the composition and responsibilities of its departments. The structure of the ECA bodies and technical committees was also reviewed.

## **ITEM 3**

### **BOARD FUNCTIONING**

The Board was presented with the current procedures for Board meetings, decision-making, and internal communication. It was highlighted that agendas and all relevant documents must be prepared and distributed well in advance of each meeting. This will allow Board members sufficient time to review the materials and ensure more informed and productive discussions.

Additionally, members were reminded of their roles and responsibilities and the need to actively contribute to strategic discussions and operational implementation. The use of Microsoft Teams as the primary platform for document sharing and communication was reconfirmed.

## **ITEM 4**

### **ECA / PADDLE EUROPE HEADQUARTERS**

In line with the Board's prior decision and based on the new Statutes, the headquarters of ECA – now Paddle Europe – will be established in France.

This transition was outlined in four defined steps. As of this meeting, Step 1 (statutory changes and name change) and most of Step 2 (de-registration in Croatia, preliminary work on French registration) are underway. However, the finalization of the agreement with the French Canoe Federation is still in progress. The current contract is being revised following the appointment of a new Secretary General in France.

## **ITEM 5**

### **BOARD ADVISORS**

Based on the new Statutes, the Board has the possibility to appoint advisors to support its work. It was indicated that, following a review of the organisation and individual consultations, proposals for appointing Board Advisors will be made in a second phase. The focus will be on identifying areas where additional expertise is needed.

## ITEM 6

### ECA COMPETITION CALENDAR 2025

Board members were informed that the 2025 ECA competition calendar has been published and is available on the official website. It includes confirmed events for 2025 and 2026, with 2027 events still to be decided. Board members will soon receive access to the calendar documents for easier navigation.

## ITEM 7

### 2025 ECA DRAGON BOAT EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP – ITALY

The Board discussed the situation regarding the 2025 ECA Dragon Boat European Championships, initially awarded to Spresiano, Italy.

This situation highlights the importance of thoroughly evaluating bids to host events, as late-stage difficulties can jeopardize the organization and, most importantly, negatively affect the athletes who depend on these championships. The Technical Committee will now focus on developing a strategy to rebuild and support the discipline's growth, with a preliminary plan expected by the end of the year.

#### **BM/23/2025.03.30. (unanimous)**

Given the low number of participating countries, which does not meet the required threshold for a valid European Championships, and the complexities involved, the Board agreed to cancel the 2025 ECA Dragon Boat European Championships.

## ITEM 8

### JURY NOMINATION

Board members expressed their availability and preferences for Jury appointments. Once the schedule is approved, nominations will be confirmed and communicated via email. Procedures regarding travel cost reimbursements were explained, and it was noted that further data on event costs and logistics will be collected to improve future competition management.

## ITEM 9

### 2025 ECA CANOE SLALOM CHAMPIONSHIPS VSR FRA – TV BROADCAST

The Board was informed about challenges with the TV broadcast for the 2025 ECA Canoe Slalom European Championships in France due to the host federation's difficulties meeting production requirements. Streaming will be provided, but full TV production is uncertain. The next step is a meeting with the Organizing Committee and ECA Vice-Presidents to address the situation and explore solutions.

**ITEM 10**  
**ATHLETES COMMITTEE**

The topic of the Athletes Committee was already presented in detail during the Congress the previous day, and no further discussion was required during the Board meeting. It was confirmed that the next step will be to launch the call for application process in the coming week. Voting will take place during the upcoming European Championships in Vaires-sur-Marne and Racice, and the process will continue according to the established timeline.

**ITEM 11**  
**FINANCE RULES AND REGULATIONS**

A draft version of the Finance Rules and Regulations was presented, with emphasis on Article 4.4, which states that federations with unpaid debts will not be eligible to participate in European Championships.

**BM/24/2025.03.30. (unanimous)**

The Board approved a provisional version of the Finance Rules and Regulations. National federations will be formally notified of their debts and the consequences of non-payment. A deadline will be set for settling outstanding amounts. The document is expected to take effect immediately, and its enforcement will be monitored closely in the lead-up to the competition season. A working group will refine the document further.

**ITEM 12**  
**MONTENEGRO NF**

The Board was informed on the inactivity of the Montenegro Canoe Federation for several years and has failed to fulfil its financial obligations. To clarify the status of the Federation, the Montenegrin Olympic Committee was contacted, which confirmed that the Federation no longer exists.

**BM/25/2025.03.30. (unanimous)**

In accordance with the Statutes, the Board agreed to suspend the Montenegro Canoe Federation. Following this decision, ECA now records a total of 45 member federations.

**ITEM 13**  
**TV RIGHTS**

The Board discussed current and future approaches to television broadcasting rights. A proposal was received from David Goldstrom to negotiate a four-year TV rights deal with Hungarian Television for the European Canoe Sprint & Paracanoe Championships (2025–2028).

**BM/26/2025.03.30. (unanimous)**

The Board decided to authorize the continuation of the television rights agreement for the year 2025 only. No long-term contract covering the years 2026 to 2028 will be concluded at this stage. Any future agreements will be considered only after the adoption of

ECA/Paddle Europe's comprehensive TV and streaming strategy. Discussions with Hungarian Television may proceed, provided they align with the future strategic direction.

**ITEM 14**  
**MISCELLANEOUS**

The Board received updates on several topics:

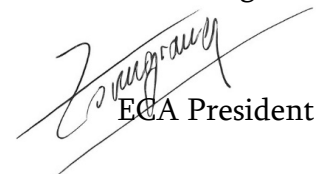
- Implementation of **European training camps** in line with the strategic development programme, including funding applications to the ICF, and the importance of designing well-structured projects that go beyond simple training sessions.
- Progress in developing a **partnership agreement with the World Rafting Federation**. A draft has been received and is under review, with a potential signing planned during the European Championships in Mezzana.

**ITEM 15**  
**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

It was proposed to create a long-term meeting calendar, which will be shared via email and agreed upon online. The date of the next Board meeting has not been determined and will be confirmed at a later stage.

The President thanked the Board members for their participation and contributions throughout the meeting. With no further points raised under any other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Jean Zougrana



ECA President