

Minutes of the ECA Board of Directors Meeting  
Online Meeting  
20th May 2025, 6:00 pm

5/2025

## 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. The agenda was then presented to the members

### PRESENTING THE AGENDA

1	Opening of the Meeting	J ZOUNGRANA
2	Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting	J ZOUNGRANA
3	Board and office organisation	J ZOUNGRANA
4	Paddle Europe Road map	J ZOUNGRANA
5	Finance committee Composition	J ZOUNGRANA
6	ICF Innovation fundings	J ZOUNGRANA
7	Competition Calendar and Biddings	J STANOJEVIC
8	2025 Racice Sprint livestream platform	J STANOJEVIC
9	Miscellaneous	
	IT Tools -email & access to Teams and Tech support	M GAWHEN
	Athletes committee members – Slalom Election -	J STANOJEVIC
	Olympic Qualification system	P KARAI
	Headquarters	J ZOUNGRANA
10	Human resources	J ZOUNGRANA

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/28/2025.05.20. (unanimous)**

The Board approved the minutes (Budapest March 30, 2025) without any amendments.

## ITEM 3

### BOARD AND OFFICE ORGANISATION

The mission of each Board member was presented, with the objective of clearly defining individual responsibilities and fostering autonomy in their roles and relations with the staff and bodies.

The Board Organisation:

**Jean Zongrana, President:** Institutional Relations and Partnerships - Management and Governance

**Moira Aston, Vice-President and representative to ICF Board:** Paddle Sports for All

**Andrej Jelenc, Vice-President and representative to ICF Board:** Communication and Slalom discipline

**Peter Karai, Board member and representative to ICF Board:** Finance Committee Chair, Sprint discipline, Medical and Antidoping

**Geir Kvillum, Board member:** Non-Olympic Flatwater disciplines, Finance Committee Member

**Manuela Gawehn, Board member:** Non-Olympic Whitewater disciplines and IT Tools

**Stien Verlinden, Board member:** Non-Olympic Sea disciplines and Sustainability

**Greg Smale, Board Member:** Sport and Events Co-Ordination Lead and E-Sports

**Christian Jacobsen, Board member:** Education and Finance committee member

**Vitor Felix, Board member:** Paracanoe discipline and Awards, Disciplinary, Ethic and Communication

## ITEM 4

### PADDLE EUROPE ROAD MAP

Following the presentation of the Board members' missions, a roadmap was introduced to outline a timeline for the implementation of the various tasks and projects.

This timeline can be further detailed and adjusted by Board members ahead of the next Board meeting.

## ITEM 5

### FINANCE COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

The proposed composition of the Finance Committee is as follows:

- Peter Karai (Chair)
- Christian Jacobsen
- Geir Kvillum

**BM/29/2025.05.20. (unanimous)**

The Board approved proposed composition of the Finance Committee.

## ITEM 6

### ICF INNOVATION FUND

The Board reviewed the details of the ICF Innovation Fund, which offers support projects aimed at enhancing fan engagement, event atmosphere, and innovation in event delivery. Eligibility includes committees, national federations, and partner organisations. The Board noted the application process, criteria, and submission timeline, and agreed to encourage relevant working groups to develop proposals aligned with strategic goals.

## ITEM 7

### ECA COMPETITION CALENDAR AND BIDDINGS

The Board reviewed the provisional 2026 competition calendar, noting ongoing scheduling conflicts, particularly having two championships in the same country, and the possible impact of the ongoing rescheduling of the ICF events. Several championships dates remain to be confirmed with organising committees.

Regarding the bidding process, the Board noted the reopen call for 2025 Canoe Polo (deadline May 26, 2025).

For 2026, discussions are ongoing with potential host National federations for concerning the organisation of Wildwater Canoeing and Stand Up Paddling (SUP) European Championships.

A new call for 2027 bids, covering Junior & U23 Slalom, Canoe Polo, and Dragon Boat, will be launched in October 2025.

The decision on the 2027 Junior & U23 Sprint Championships is expected in June 2025.

## ITEM 8

### 2025 RACICE SPRINT LIVESTREAM PLATFORM

The Board discussed streaming options for the 2025 Canoe Sprint and Paracanoe European Championships in Racice.

#### **BM/30/2025.05.20. (unanimous)**

Decision was to proceed with the Olympic Channel for Finals to allow proper geoblocking due to TV rights and have a worldwide reach, while coverage for Heats and Semifinals remains on ECA YouTube for selected days.

## ITEM 9

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### **IT Tools -email & access to Teams and Tech support:**

Board members were inquired about potential difficulties in accessing their email and using Teams.

### **Athletes committee members**

Slalom elections: Monica Doria (AND) and Michal Martikan (SVK) were elected.

Upcoming elections: Sprint, Paracanoe. For Paracanoe candidates are still missing. The call for applications is still open with a reminder to be sent to all NFs affiliated to ECA for further submissions.

### **Olympic Qualification system:**

The issue of quotas in the qualification system was raised, with concerns about their impact on European federations and the lack of transparency in the decision-making process. A letter to this effect has been sent to the ICF, and discussions are ongoing.

### **Headquarters:**

The location of the headquarters in France will be the subject of a decision by the Executive committee of the French federation on May 27. Following that decision, the ECA Board will convene again for final confirmation.

## **ITEM 10**

### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

It was proposed to appoint Jovana Stanojevic as CEO. The Board held a discussion covering several aspects of the position, her current responsibilities, organizational and strategic aspects related to ECA, as well as the terms of her appointment. Final discussions will be made by the ECA President in due time.

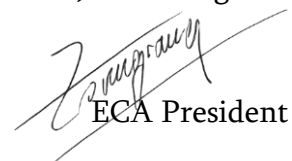
Following the discussion, the proposal was submitted to a vote.

### **BM/31/2025.05.20. (8 votes in favour, 1 abstention)**

The Board approved the appointment of Jovana Stanojevic as CEO.

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

Jean Zoungrana



ECA President