

Minutes of the ECA Board of Directors Meeting
Online Meeting
26th June 2025, 6:00 pm

6/2025

Present members:

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

Absent members:

- Vice President : Andrej Jelenc

ITEM 1

OPENING OF THE MEETING

The President, Mr. Jean Zoungrana, officially opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees. Board members were updated with recent President's meetings and information from them. 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	ECA Road map review	BOARD
4	ECA principal position on 2028 OQ pathway	C JACOBSEN
5	ECA Headquarters	J ZOUNGRANA
6	ICF Innovation funds	J ZOUNGRANA
7	Update on event calendar 2026 (Host / allocation)	J STANOJEVIC
8	Update on process event calendar / BID 2027-2028	J STANOJEVIC
9	Balance sheet (current expenditure vs budget)	P KARAI / I SUNDOV
10	Athletes committee elections	J STANOJEVIC
11	ECA development programme: training camps	J STANOJEVIC / G KVILUM / M GAWHEN / A JELENC
12	Date of the next Board meeting	

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/33/2025.06.26. (unanimous)

The Board approved the minutes from previous meeting, held online 20th May 2025, without any amendments.

ITEM 3

ECA ROAD MAP REVIEW

The Board took note of the current status of the Roadmap and acknowledged the need to proceed with key actions, including the preparation of bids for 2028. Given the current operational workload, reactive demands, and new emerging priorities, it was agreed that while the roadmap remains in effect, its implementation timeline will be reassessed following the summer period, with a formal review to take place in the autumn.

ITEM 4

ECA PRINCIPAL POSITION ON 2028 OQ PATHWAY

The Board was briefed on the latest developments regarding the ICF Olympic Qualification System for the 2028 Games. A working group has led the drafting process, incorporating feedback from coaches, team leaders and national representatives. The final draft is expected in July, followed by an open consultation process with national federations before a formal presentation at the World Championships in Milan.

Board members underlined the importance of safeguarding European interests within the system, particularly concerning athlete quotas, inclusion of the European Games, and the recognition of continental championships. It was agreed that ECA must be proactive and coordinated in its response.

BM/34/2025.06.26. (unanimous)

An online consultation meeting with ECA member federations will be organised between the ICF draft release and the World Championships, to gather feedback and present a unified European position.

ITEM 5

ECA HEADQUARTERS

The Board reviewed the current situation regarding the future location of the ECA headquarters. Although a previous decision had been made to establish the office in France, this option remains uncertain due to internal delays within the French Canoe Federation, with a final decision from their board expected by the end of July.

Alternative options were presented, including Hungary, Switzerland, Serbia, and Azerbaijan, with Hungary having already submitted a formal proposal. Members emphasized the need to clarify the intended function of the headquarters—whether as a

legal base, an operational office, or a development centre—before any final decision is taken.

"Some board members suggest that a call for applications be launched among national federations, which would further enhance the transparency of the process and offer a broader range of choice. It was therefore agreed that all potential scenarios will continue to be explored in parallel, and that, should the French option not materialise, the Board will move forward promptly with a formal decision on the next steps, including the possibility of launching an open call for applications.

ITEM 6

ICF INNOVATION FUND

The Board was updated on the current status of the ICF Innovation Fund. Despite outreach, no project proposals had yet been received from technical delegates, likely due to the ongoing competition season. It was agreed to improve communication by assigning Board contacts per discipline and sending an explanatory letter outlining roles and expectations. A joint meeting with technical delegates will be scheduled in September.

Concerns were raised regarding the purpose and ownership of projects funded by ICF, with emphasis placed on ensuring that ECA proposals generate independent value rather than duplicating ICF services.

The Board will continue to develop project ideas over the summer, with the aim of submitting a coordinated proposal to ICF in September.

ITEM 7

UPDATE ON EVENT CALENDAR 2026 (HOST / ALLOCATION)

The Board received an update on the preparation of the 2026 event calendar. Coordination with organisers and the ICF is ongoing, with some events already confirmed, while others remain provisional or without bids. The complexity of date alignment—especially due to shifting ICF events and last-minute cancellations—was highlighted as a major challenge.

BM/35/2025.06.26. (unanimous)

Further to the calendar discussion, the Board reviewed the current status of ECA Championships for 2026 and took note of the following overview:

Confirmed dates:

- Sprint Junior & U23 – Szeged, HUN (23–26 July)
- Canoe Slalom Seniors – Ivrea, ITA (23–27 September)
- Marathon – Pitesti, ROU (27 July – 2 August)
- Freestyle – Lieksa, FIN (10–13 June)

Events with proposed dates (TBC):

- Sprint Seniors / Paracanoe / Masters – Montemor-o-Velho, POR (10–13 June)
- Junior & U23 Slalom – Epinal, FRA (20–23 August)
- Ocean Racing – Brest, FRA (24–30 August)

Vacant events (no host confirmed):

- Junior & U23 Wildwater Canoeing
- Stand Up Paddling (SUP)

The Board agreed that open calls for bids will be launched as soon as possible for the vacant Junior & U23 Wildwater Canoeing and SUP events in 2026.

ITEM 8

UPDATE ON PROCESS EVENT CALENDAR / BID 2027-2028

The Board reviewed the status of the 2027 competition calendar. Several events remain without hosts, including Slalom Junior & U23, Wildwater Senior, Canoe Polo, Dragon Boat, and SUP.

The Board also considered the allocation of the 2027 Sprint Junior & U23 and Paracanoe Championships. Based on the previous analysis and recommendations, it was agreed to proceed with the most suitable available option.

BM/36/2025.06.26. (unanimous)

The 2027 European Championships in Canoe Sprint for Juniors and U23, as well as Paracanoe, is allocated to Belgrade, Serbia. A call for bids will be launched for all remaining vacant disciplines in the 2026 and 2027 calendars, with a deadline set before the next Board meeting (28 August 2025). The bidding process for 2028 events will open in October 2025.

Item 9

BALANCE SHEET (CURRENT EXPENDITURE VS BUDGET)

The Board received a financial overview document, however, certain income items were missing from the presentation. Due to time constraints, the figures were not reviewed in detail during the meeting.

The Finance Committee will hold its first meeting in July to review the current financial situation, with the updated budget report to be prepared for the next Board meeting on 28 August 2025. The Board supported the plan to develop a more structured and continuously updated financial report, with active involvement of the Finance Committee and the ECA Office.

ITEM 10

ATHLETES COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The Board was informed about the current composition of the ECA Athletes Committee. Following the elections during the European Championships, the current members are:

- Josef Dostal (CZE) – Sprint
- Frederikke Hauge Matthiesen (DEN) – Sprint
- Charlotte Henshaw (GBR) – Paracanoe
- Monica Doria (AND) – Slalom
- Michal Martikán (SVK) – Slalom

The elections for representatives from non-Olympic disciplines are planned to take place in July. Once all members are confirmed, the Athletes Committee will proceed with the election of its Chair in September. The Board expressed satisfaction with the quality and representation of the newly elected members.

ITEM 11

ECA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME: TRAINING CAMPS

The Board received an update on the ongoing development camp projects. Camps for Slalom, Marathon, and Wildwater have already been successfully completed, with final reporting and invoicing currently being processed. The Sprint camp in Romania is scheduled to begin in the coming days.

Regarding Canoe Polo, the organisers have yet to deliver a first bulletin, making it unlikely that a development camp will be feasible in the short timeframe remaining. The Board was reminded that funding for these camps is expected from the ICF, and that timely submission of all necessary documents (invoices and final reports) is essential in order to secure the allocated funds.

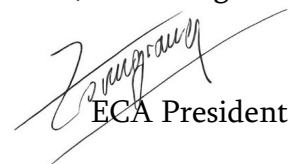
ITEM 12

DATE OF THE NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next ECA Board Meeting is scheduled to take place online on 28 August 2025.

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

Jean Zoungrana



ECA President