

Minutes of the ECA Board of Directors Meeting  
Online Meeting  
28th August 2025, 6:00 pm

7/2025

## 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, officially opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Board members were updated on the outcomes of the recent President's meetings, as well as on the organisation of the European Championships during the 2025 competition season. The agenda was then presented to the members.

### PRESENTING THE AGENDA

1	Opening of the meeting	J ZOUNGRANA
2	Introducing ICF development manager Europe & Africa	
3	Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting	
4	2026 Bid allocation – vacant positions	J STANOJEVIC
5	ECA congress 2027 call for application	I SUNDOV
6	Projects for ICF Innovation fund	J ZOUNGRANA / J STANOJEVIC
7	Communication	J ZOUNGRANA
8	Paddle Europe Headquarters	J ZOUNGRANA
9	ECA Competition calendar 2026-2027	J STANOJEVIC
10	Athletes committee / advisors	J ZOUNGRANA
11	2026 Calendar ECA Juries	BOARD
12	Paddle Europe Web page relaunch	M GAWHEN
13	ECA ROAD MAP	J ZOUNGRANA
14	2027 Interest to bid received – vacant positions	J STANOJEVIC
15	ECA Anti-Doping Rules	J STANOJEVIC, P KARAI
16	MISCELLANEOUS	Board
17	Next Board meeting	

One additional item was added to the Agenda: Legal clarification on Host agreements. This point will be discussed after Item 3 and 4 and recorded as Item 4A in the minutes. The remaining of the agenda was adopted without objections.

## ITEM 2

### INTRODUCING ICF DEVELOPMENT MANAGER EUROPE & AFRICA

The Board was introduced to Mr. Ali Hassan, ICF Development Manager for Europe & Africa. Mr. Hassan briefly presented his role and expressed readiness to support ECA in aligning its development strategy with ICF objectives.

The President underlined the importance of cooperation on development programmes, training camps and educational initiatives, and confirmed that Mr. Hassan will work closely with the ECA Office and CEO.

## ITEM 3

### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

#### **BM/37/2025.08.28. (unanimous)**

The Board approved the minutes from previous meeting, held online 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025, without any amendments.

## ITEM 4

### 2026 BID ALLOCATION – VACANT POSITIONS

The call for bids for the vacant positions in the 2026 ECA calendar was sent to the member federations on 15 July 2025. Applications were received and were presented to the Board for decision.

#### **BM/39/2025.08.28. (unanimous)**

The Board decided to allocate the 2026 ECA Junior & U23 Wildwater Canoeing European Championships to Grandtully, Scotland (12–15 August 2026). Conditional approval was granted to Crete (Greece) for the 2026 ECA Stand Up Paddling European Championships, subject to receipt and validation of full documentation.

## ITEM 4A

### LEGAL CLARIFICATION ON HOST AGREEMENTS

The Board discussed the matter of host agreements and the recent requests for them to be signed directly with local organising committees. Members emphasised the need to ensure clear responsibility and liability and agreed that the issue should also be submitted to the Congress for further consideration.

#### **BM/38/2025.08.28. (unanimous)**

The Board decided that host agreements must be signed by member National Federations; a local organising committee may be added as co-signatory only upon the National Federation's request and under a joint and several liability clause.

## ITEM 5

### ECA CONGRESS 2027 CALL FOR APPLICATION

The Board discussed the procedure for the 2027 ECA Congress. Two possible dates were considered, at the end of March or the beginning of April. It was noted that Easter Sunday in 2027 falls on 28 March, which will be taken into account when confirming the dates.

#### **BM/40/2025.08.28. (unanimous)**

The Board decided to launch the call for applications to host the 2027 ECA Congress, with a deadline in December 2025.

## ITEM 6

### PROJECTS FOR ICF INNOVATION FUND

The Board discussed the approach towards applications for the ICF Innovation Fund, ensuring alignment with the ECA strategic plan. It was noted that initial ideas are under development and will require additional time and coordination with the technical committees. Proposals should be prepared for submission by the September 2025 and December 2025 deadlines.

## ITEM 7

### COMMUNICATION

The Board was informed about the conclusion of the contract of the ECA Communication Manager and the arrangements that had ensured continuity until the end of the competition season. Upon the personal request for acquisition of the IT equipment used while performing the missions, the topic was further discussed and put forward for decision.

The Board further addressed the organisation of communication activities for the remainder of the year. It was underlined that long-term solutions will depend on the future structure of the organisation, while for the interim period temporary external support will be arranged to ensure continuity of essential tasks.

In addition, the Board discussed the implementation of the new name and branding as a key project for 2026.

#### **BM/41/2025.08.28. (unanimous)**

The Board approved the sale of IT equipment to the outgoing Communication Manager.

#### **BM/42/2025.08.28. (unanimous)**

The Board approved the engagement of interim communication support.

#### **BM/43/2025.08.28. (unanimous)**

The Board approved the creation of a working group for the implementation of the new name and branding.

## ITEM 8

### PADDLE EUROPE HEADQUARTERS

The Board discussed the future location of the Paddle Europe headquarters. While several scenarios had been considered previously, it was agreed that the decision should follow a transparent process open to all National Federations. Launching a call for expressions of interest was seen as the most appropriate way to ensure fairness and equal opportunity, while giving the Board a broader view of possible solutions.

#### **BM/44/2025.08.28. (unanimous)**

The Board decided to issue a call to all member National Federations to express their interest in hosting the Paddle Europe headquarters.

## ITEM 9

### ECA COMPETITION CALENDAR 2026-2027

The Board was presented with the draft calendar for the upcoming competition seasons. It was noted that the majority of 2026 European Championships are already confirmed, with only a few dates still pending. 2027 has vacancies pending allocation in November 2025. The 2027 dates are to be determined with each host individually. Further discussion addressed the European Games,

where Canoe Sprint remains on the provisional programme, though the venue has changed. A site inspection of the new venue is still required, and clarity from ICF is pending regarding the role of continental games in Olympic qualification.

**BM/45/2025.08.28. (unanimous)**

The Board approved the ECA Competition Calendar for 2026–2027 as presented.

**ITEM 10**

**ATHLETES COMMITTEE / ADVISORS**

The Board received an update on the Athletes Committee. A 2nd call for nominations in the non-Olympic disciplines has been sent to National Federations. Once applications are received, the already elected athletes within the Committee will decide on the new members to be added. The deadline for nominations is set for 8 September 2025.

**ITEM 11**

**2026 CALENDAR ECA JURIES**

Board members were invited to consider and indicate their availability for jury appointments at the 2026 European Championships by completing the shared table on the common platform upon an invitation to be issued.

**ITEM 12**

**PADDLE EUROPE WEB PAGE RELAUNCH**

The Board received first draft concept and proposals on the relaunch of the ECA website. It was underlined that the project is extensive and will need to be approached in stages, balancing available resources and cooperation with ICF where appropriate.

In discussion, it was agreed that an interim “light” solution should be implemented to ensure new name implementation and rebranding requirements are met in due time, while more ambitious functionalities may be developed gradually. Further internal coordination will follow to refine the scope, budgetary implications, and possible support opportunities.

**ITEM 13**

**ECA ROAD MAP**

The President invited Board members to review the distributed materials. No discussion was held at this stage.

**ITEM 14**

**2027 INTEREST TO BID RECEIVED – VACANT POSITIONS**

The President invited Board members to review the distributed materials. No discussion was held at this stage.

**ITEM 15**

**ECA ANTI-DOPING RULES**

This item was postponed to the next meeting of the Board.

**ITEM 16**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

No items were raised under this agenda point.

## ITEM 17

### DATE OF THE NEXT BOARD MEETING

The Board noted that the next online meeting will be scheduled for September 2025, with the exact date still to be confirmed. Members also discussed the organisation of the next in-person meeting, which is planned for November 2025, following the proposal to host it in Ljubljana.

#### BM/46/2025.08.28. (unanimous)

The Board decided to hold its next in-person meeting on 8–9 November 2025 in Ljubljana.

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

Jean Zoungrana

  
ECA President