



Minutes of the Paddle Europe Board of Directors Meeting

03/2026

Online

12th May 2026 18:00 CET

Present members:

- President: Jean Zoungrana
- Vice Presidents : Moira Aston, Andrej Jelenc
- Board Members: Greg Smale, Stien Verlinden, Peter Karai, Geir Kvillum, Christian Jacobsen, Vitor Felix,
- Athlete Representative: Monica Doria
- PEU Office: Jovana Stanojevic
- Absent: Manuela Gawehn

ITEM 1

OPENING OF THE MEETING

The President, Mr. Jean Zoungrana, officially opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.

The Board received updates from the recent ICF meetings, including discussions on future ICF governance structure proposals, the role of Continental Associations, neutral athletes, IOC gender policies, Paddle Worldwide branding, the future digital ecosystem and concerns regarding Canoe Slalom within the Olympic programme due to venue costs.

The Board discussed the proposed common branding strategy with the ICF and future implications for Paddle Europe's visual identity. Different opinions were expressed regarding maintaining Paddle Europe's current identity versus adopting a unified branding structure.

The President informed the Board that Paddle Europe, together with sponsor Peisheng, would donate three boats to Cyprus, Greece and North Macedonia during the Junior and U23 European Championships in Szeged.

The Chief Executive Officer informed the Board that the 2026 season preparations are ongoing despite delays connected to the relocation of the headquarters.



PRESENTING THE AGENDA

1	Opening of the Meeting	J ZOUNGRANA
	- President report	J ZOUNGRANA
	- Chief Executive Officer report	J STANOJEVIC
2	Minutes of the previous meeting	Information
	FOR DECISION	
3	Allocation 2028 Sprint and Slalom – recording of the digital vote	BOARD decision
4	HEADQUARTERS	
4.1	PEU Statutes – amendment	BOARD decision
4.2	Closing of CRO HQ	BOARD decision
4.3	NF Eligibility 2026 European Championships	BOARD decision
	FOR DISCUSSION	
5	Continental Associations within ICF statutes	J ZOUNGRANA
	FOR INFORMATION	
6	Board members information	Board
7	FINANCE	
7.1	Auditors report 2025	
7.2	Financial realisation and accounts balance 30.04.2026	Information
8	BIDDING PROCESS	
	Overview	Information
9	Miscellaneous	Board
10	The date of next Board meeting	Board

Without any comments or alterations to the agenda, the President proceeded with the meeting.

ITEM 2

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

CEO informed the Board that the Minutes of the previous Board meeting were still under preparation and would be circulated together with the minutes of the present meeting for approval.

ITEM 3

Allocation 2028 Sprint and Slalom – recording of the digital vote

2028 European Championships, with deadline set to 20 April 2026, only 2 complete Bids were received: 2028 PEU Sprint, Paracanoe and Master European Championships and 2028 PEU Slalom European Championships.



The digital vote, in accordance with the Statutes Art. 11.62, was initiated due to the necessity to approve the Bids received in a timely manner, as both are part of the LA2028 Olympic qualification system and due to deadlines set by ICF.

The decision became effective on the date the digital vote was completed on 30 April 2026 and is hereby formally recorded for formal and administrative purposes.

BM/16/2026.05.12

The Board allocated, by simple majority, the 2028 PEU Sprint, Paracanoe and Masters European Championships to Spain, Trasona (Asturias) following the recommendation of the Canoe Sprint Committee.

Votes: 7 in favour, 1 Abstention, 3 did not vote

Mr. Andrej Jelenc declared a conflict of interest and therefore will not participate in the voting due to Slovenia's candidacy.

BM/17/2026.05.12

The Board allocated, by simple majority, the 2028 PEU Slalom European Championships to Tacen, Slovenia, following the recommendation of the Slalom Committee Chair.

Votes: 6 in favour, 1 Abstention, 3 did not vote, 1 conflict of interest declared

ITEM 4

PADDLE EUROPE HEADQUARTERS

4.1 PEU STATUTES

The Board discussed amendments required by the Swiss tax authorities regarding the registration of Paddle Europe headquarters in Lausanne.

The discussion focused on:

- Definitions of Board and committee members;
- Clarification of volunteer and paid positions;
- Swiss tax-exempt requirements;
- Transfer of assets in case of dissolution or relocation;
- Protection of Paddle Europe assets in case of relocation outside Switzerland.

The Board agreed to mandate the Office to continue discussions with the Swiss tax authorities and obtain legal advice from Olympic Capital regarding the proposed statutory amendments.

4.2 Closing of Office in CROATIA

The Office presented a summary document listing all decisions previously adopted regarding the relocation of the headquarters from Zagreb to Lausanne.



The document is required for the administrative closure process of the Croatian headquarters.

BM/18/2026.05.12

The Board, unanimously, approved the summary document regarding the relocation and closure of the Croatian headquarters.

Votes: 10 in favour

4.3 NF Eligibility for 2026 European Championships

The office presented outstanding debts from member Federations and provided a proposal taking into consideration of the PEU Statutes, PEU Financial Regulations and current ongoing relocation of PEU from Zagred to Lausanne.

BM/19/2026.05.12

The Board decided that National Federations with outstanding debts from previous years must settle those debts in order to participate in the June 2026 European Championships.

The Board further agreed that the 2026 membership fee requirement would not be enforced for the June 2026 championships due to the ongoing relocation and invoicing delays.

Votes: 8 in favour, 1 Abstention, 1 did not vote

ITEM 5

CONTINENTAL ASSOCIATIONS WITHIN ICF STATUTES

The President presented a draft proposal regarding the role and missions of Continental Associations within the ICF Statutes.

The proposal aimed to clarify the role of Continental Associations, define strategic development responsibilities and recognise continental competitions, development, education and recreational activities.

The Board discussed the wording of the proposal and the importance of ensuring consistency with the broader ICF Statutes revision process.

Board members were invited to review the proposal and submit comments before the submission deadline to the ICF.



ITEM 6

BOARD MEMBERS INFORMATION

Christian Jacobsen informed the Board about the possibility for Board members to contribute directly to Paddle Europe social media platforms.

The Board discussed:

- Future procedures for social media contributions;
- The need for practical guidance and simplified communication workflows;
- Coordination between Board members and the Office regarding communication content.

Monica Doria informed the Board that the Athletes' Committee had started its internal work and strategic discussions. Further proposals and recommendations will be presented at the next Board meeting.

ITEM 7

FINANCE

7.1 2025 Auditors report

The Office presented the 2025 Auditor's Report and informed the Board that the financial accounts were prepared according to Croatian law and present a fair overview of Paddle Europe's financial position.

7.2 Financial realization and accounts balance 30.04.2026

The Office also presented the current financial implementation status, remaining budget balances and bank account balances as of 30 April 2026, focusing on:

- Budget implementation status;
- Current income and expenditure overview;
- Remaining budget balances;
- Current bank account balances as of 30 April 2026.

The Board further discussed the importance of improving the structure and presentation of future annual financial reports and its transparency.

It was proposed that the 2025 audited financial statements and Board minutes should be published in order to improve transparency.

ITEM 8

BIDDING PROCESS OVERVIEW

The Office presented an overview of the current bidding process for European Championships and European Cups for 2028 and 2029.



The Board noted:

- A significantly lower level of interest from organisers compared to previous years;
- Ongoing discussions with Poland and Portugal regarding future championship hosting;
- The need to analyse the reasons for reduced bidding activity.

The Board discussed whether the revised bidding procedures, global economic conditions and organisational pressures may be contributing to the lower number of bids.

ITEM 9

MISCELLANEOUS

The Office and Board member in charge of communication, Mr Vitor Felix presented an overview of the ongoing work regarding Paddle Europe communication and media strategy.

The Board was informed that:

- Communication activity significantly decreased during the previous months;
- Immediate measures were required to secure communication for the 2026 season;
- A temporary operational strategy has been implemented to ensure visibility of Paddle Europe events and activities.

The communication strategy includes:

- Website management;
- Social media activation;
- Monthly newsletters;
- WhatsApp communication channels;
- Media outreach and event promotion.

The Board discussed:

- The current status of cooperation with the Azerbaijan Federation under the communication agreement;
- The need to secure independent communication capacity for Paddle Europe events.

The Board expressed support for the emergency communication measures and acknowledged the need to further develop a long-term communication strategy.



ITEM 10

DATE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING

Following discussion and internal voting, the next Board meeting was scheduled for 18 June 2026.

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 20:35 CET.

Jovana Stanojevic,
Paddle Europe CEO

Jean Zoungrana
Paddle Europe President