



# EUROPEAN SAILING FEDERATION

THE CONTINENTAL ASSOCIATION FOR SAILING IN EUROPE  
SUPPORTING SAILING IN EUROPE SINCE 1998

## 26<sup>th</sup> Ordinary General Assembly

Rome, Italy

11 March 2023 – 9.30h–13.05h CET

## Meeting Minutes

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### 1. Welcome

At 9.44h, Francesco Ettore, president of the Italian Sailing Federation welcomed all attendees, and highlighted the importance of meeting in person. Then EUROSAF president Josep M. Pla (AND) welcomed all delegates and observers to the 2023 EUROSAF Ordinary General Assembly. He thanked the Italian Sailing Federation and Francesco Ettore who prepared the meeting for their commitment and generosity to EUROSAF.

### 2. World Sailing statement

The president welcomed World Sailing vice-presidents Özlem Akdurak (TUR) and Tomasz Chamera (POL), and handed over to Tomasz Chamera, as official representative of World Sailing in this General Assembly, who congratulated the meeting for having invited and present so many countries at this General Assembly and for the anniversary celebration. He reported about World Sailing's focus on establishing a proper cooperation with Continental Associations and the set-up of a respective commission. He called for exchanging news and ideas, and for focus on good cooperation to move the sailing sport forward. The president thanked Thomasz for his attendance and his words and handed over to Özlem Akdurak, who stated that today she was here to represent her country as a delegate but, also on behalf of World Sailing, she thanked all nations for their support and help after the earthquake in Turkey. She noted that as humans we are all friends. The president thanked Özlem for her words and handed over to the secretary general.

### 3. Roll call and apologies for absence

By means of a roll call, secretary general Doris Gstatter (AUT) noted that 28 Members were represented by the delegates (thereof 3 via proxies). The list of all attendees is attached to the minutes (appendix 1).

### 4. Nomination of scrutineers

The president proposed to nominate Dieter Neupert (SUI), Sara Sutcliffe (GBR), and Alberto Vollandri (ITA) as the scrutineers of the General Assembly. The proposal was approved unanimously.



## 5. Report of the president and the Executive Board

The report was sent to all Members before the meeting. The president stated that Executive Board members would only highlight some points in their areas of responsibility. The president mentioned the necessary changes in the ESA concept and reported about the plan to have a EUROSAF sailing facility in Murcia for 5 years, the contract with the regional government to be signed shortly. He thanked Rafa González, who has been instrumental in reaching this agreement, and announced his presentation in the afternoon. The president also reported about the collaboration with World Sailing and the other Continental and regional Associations. First vice-president Pınar Coşkuner Genç (TUR) highlighted potential new collaborations like in Erasmus+ projects. She mentioned the EUROSAF Webinars including such projects, and reported about the Race Officials Exchange Programme. Vice-presidents Anne Mallédant (FRA) reported about EUROSAF events and the strong partnership with classes, Yana Dobzhitskaya (RUS) about the first edition of EUROSAF Events regulations, Alexandru Octavian Micu (ROU) about Express Sailing, and Marco Predieri (ITA) about e-sailing and an insurance needs survey. Vice-president and treasurer Timo Hass (GER) explained the funding by the Austrian Ministry for the secretariat in Neusiedl am See until 2024 thanks to the support of the Austrian Sailing Federation, which would be capped step by step, and EUROSAF would have to create income different from membership fees. The full report is available at <https://www.eurosaf.org/past-activities/151-ordinary-general-assembly-2023>.

Charles Glover (GBR) asked about the long-term plan for the EUROSAF Training Centre in Spain. The president explained that the commitment for EUROSAF is that there should be at least one EUROSAF European event per year—in 2023 this will be the EUROSAF Inclusive European Championship—and some regular activity such as training camps, etc. He stressed that there are no financial obligations and that, if such commitments were not met by lack of activity, the agreement would simply be unwound without any penalties. He envisioned possibilities for training in the winter season, for race officials' trainings, and other activities. He commented that the Executive Board saw the potential of this agreement as similar to the agreement with the Austrian Sailing Federation about the secretariat in Austria that has increased the quality of service and opened a new world of possibilities for EUROSAF and its Members that were difficult to foresee when it was signed. There were no other questions.

## 6. Report of the secretary general

The secretary general reported about office activities related to EUROSAF Meetings and Events, external and internal communication efforts, and current office projects. The report is available at <https://www.eurosaf.org/past-activities/151-ordinary->



[general-assembly-2023](#). The president added to the long list of tasks the office work connected with the almost 50 weekly Executive Board meetings and the physical meetings. There were no questions or comments.

## **7. Members in arrears**

The treasurer reported that there were two Members in arrears, UKR and ARM. For ARM the reason was the blockage of their Russian bank account, so they could not pay, a solution would be found. For UKR the 2022 General Assembly had decided to waive the 2022 fee. The treasurer proposed to also waive their fee for 2023, which would mean to also waive the 2016 fee that was agreed to be paid in 2023. The proposal was approved unanimously.

## **8. 2022 Financial report**

The treasurer presented the accounts, sent to all Members before the meeting, for the year ending on 31 December 2022 and explained the financial situation. He mentioned the provisions made in the context of the expected expenses next year. This presentation was also important to clarify the situation for the funding. The report is available at <https://www.eurosaf.org/past-activities/151-ordinary-general-assembly-2023>. There were no questions or comments.

## **9. Report of the auditors**

The auditor Wolfgang Mayrhofer (AUT) reported that together with Susanne Kuusansalo (FIN) they had gone through the accounts, agreed on them, and supported their approval. The report is available at <https://www.eurosaf.org/past-activities/151-ordinary-general-assembly-2023>. As auditor he congratulated the Executive Board and the treasurer in terms of transparency and cooperation via the online tool, and added that the financial situation would allow to be even more ambitious in terms of projects. There were no questions or comments.

## **10. Decision on approval of 2022 Accounts**

The president proposed to approve the 2022 Accounts. The proposal was approved unanimously.

## **11. Appointment of auditors**

The president explained that one auditor, Susanne Kuusansalo, had to leave after completing her term. He proposed to elect Marie Björling Duell (SWE) as an auditor in addition to Wolfgang Mayrhofer. The proposal was approved unanimously.



## **12. Granting of relief (discharge of responsibility) to the Executive Board**

The president proposed to grant relief to the Executive Board. The proposal was approved unanimously.

## **13. Decision on approval of 2023 Budget**

The treasurer detailed the 2023 budget, sent to all Members before the meeting. He added that sponsorship might be higher than expected related to the sailing academy or other initiatives. The president proposed to approve the 2023 budget. The proposal was approved unanimously.

## **14. Future General Assemblies**

As already decided in last year's General Assembly, the 2024 Ordinary General Assembly will take place in Hungary. George Wossala (HUN) explained that the venue will be in Balatonfüred, the new headquarters with the harbour of the Federation. The meeting will take place on 13 April 2024. There were no questions or comments. Yiannos Photiou (CYP) stated that Cyprus Sailing Federation would be available to host the 2025 Ordinary General Assembly. The president asked whether having the Race officials Exchange meeting in 2024 and the General Assembly in 2025 would not be too much of a load for his Federation, to what he responded that they were happy to support EUROSAF. The president thanked him and recalled that the decision should be made next year by the General Assembly.

## **15. Other business**

The president highlighted that 4 attendees of the EUROSAF founding meeting 25 years ago were attending today's General Assembly: Ion Echave (ESP), Marino Fattori (SMR), Oleg Ilyin (RUS), and György Wossala (HUN).

The president explained that Charles Glover (GBR) had proposed before the meeting to hold a brainstorming session about the future of EUROSAF. He thus asked each attendee to give their views.

Charles Glover was interested in the opportunities with the Training Centre in Spain and how the centre would be used. He stated that the 2023 budget showed that EUROSAF had to find more sustainable earnings and suggested to bring in ideas about activities and events for commercial opportunities. He suggested strengthening the sharing of knowledge via webinars and launching a mentoring programme for big sailing nations to help smaller ones, maybe in the fields of coaches and participation. Inga Jakobson highlighted the benefits for small countries of initiatives such as the insurance project and the Race Officials Exchange Programme. Since LAT as a small



country does not have enough coaches, she suggested setting up a coach exchange programme in Murcia, for example as a pilot project for smaller countries.

Maciej Szafran (POL) suggested tapping European funds to support mobility and creating a space to share best practice.

Line Markert (DEN) supported sharing knowledge and prioritizing webinars. She expressed a big interest with youth into sport and with volunteers. She would like to learn from other Members' challenges and experiences and suggested an IT platform to help volunteers learn. A learning platform would allow reaching out to Members, enhancing communication and sharing of ideas. She proposed asking all Members with a formal questionnaire what should be the role of EUROSAF in the future. She considered EUROSAF should not have a political agenda in WS.

Michael Mifsud (MLT) wanted EUROSAF to be involved in bringing sailing into the Games of the Small States of Europe. On a prompt from the president, delegates from AND, CYP, ISL, MLT, and SMR showed their interest in joining a specific WP.

Accordingly, EUROSAF should complete and fill the gaps of other bodies. Especially smaller nations appreciate support in development and exchange of race officials, which could be extended to coaches and trainers. EUROSAF should act as collaboration platform and as platform to share experience between the nations, to support to bring people to the sport. Winter ice sailing could be topic for a working party with the nations practising that. Some attendees suggested to ask in a questionnaire what Members want from EUROSAF.

George Wossala (HUN) suggested EUROSAF should fill in the gaps left open by World Sailing.

Csaba Haranghy (HUN) brought forward the possibility that EUROSAF could sanction big European sailing Events. He reminded the meeting that Hungary had put forward a bid to host the World Sailing annual conference.

Maja Lesny (POL) recommended working on development issues.

Tatiana Ermakova (RUS) submitted getting involved with winter sailing, that is, ice sailing.

Goran Stevanovic (SRB) encouraged developing a programme for coaches with a regional approach and supported the idea of mentoring.

Wolfgang Mayrhofer (AUT) looked forward to innovative ideas to bring people of all ages to sail. He suggested aiming at structures above national boundaries and reminded European Union programs towards developing a healthy and sustainable society.

Sarah-Louise Rossiter (IRL) considered the successful Race Officials Exchange Programme should expand into training, reminded that Irish Sailing has created an online platform that is available for sharing with other Members, and that preparing IJs for world level events would be welcome.



Marie Björling Duell (SWE) insisted on disseminating knowledge, organizing race clinics, and supporting para sailing.

Gunnar Haraldsson (ISL) agreed on sharing experience, for instance on coaching and volunteer work.

Marino Fattori (SMR) recalled the need to support smaller Federations.

Sara Sutcliffe (GBR) emphasized the interest of bringing European Members together and creating relationships through forum and exchange opportunities that would foster friendship.

Rafa González (ESP) mentioned the options of the Murcia sailing centre and looked forward to EUROSAF sanctioning European titles.

Salem Rabih (LEB) would like to see sailing more accessible and suggested creating a fund or exchange programme to help small Federations, while commenting on the challenge of just attending the meeting. He took the opportunity to ask the meeting to consider the Lebanese Yachting Federation becoming a Member. The president took note and said the meeting could not decide on the spot because the item was not on the agenda but, if a formal demand were submitted, it would be examined for compliance with the Constitution and, if so, put before the General Assembly for decision.

Martin Vogler (SUI) suggested EUROSAF to provide what Members alone cannot and not what is already provided.

Mona Küppers (GER) wished EUROSAF and sailing in Europe to develop as positively as it does.

Yiannos Photiou (CYP) advanced finding sponsorship to strengthen finances and support Members and having a youth European Championship similar to WS's.

Olivier Bovyn (FRA) insisted on bringing new people to sail, from schools to universities, with a motto: "sailing is coming to you". He advised bringing order to the patchwork of classes, each with their own championships, and helping to build a European calendar for youth programmes protecting national competitions. He would welcome an initiative to share equipment.

Arturo Delgado (ESP) moved to support classes and to find a relevant place in WS for Continental Associations while working for the promotion of the sport and controlling Continental competitions.

Ion Echave (ESP) endorsed having a bottom-up approach.

Smadar Pintov (ISR) suggested a platform for groups to bring ideas.

Özlem Akdurak (TUR) reminded that EUROSAF shares its Members with WS and supported regional collaboration within EUROSAF. She would welcome a class-based solution to lower costs of travel and logistics and also having more clinics.

Tomasz Chamera as World Sailing vice-president had the final word and suggested defining clearly EUROSAF's position, with its own money and spirit. EUROSAF should stand for development (race officials exchange programme) and for events (disciplines,



classes, youth). He advised against losing time in fighting and called for EUROSAF to inspire Members by creating ideas and developing tools, and to bring sailing to the next level.

## **16. Meeting close**

The president thanked all attendees for their presence and support, and closed the 26th Ordinary General Assembly at 13.05h CET.



## Appendix 1: List of Attendees

Delegates		
Akdurak	Özlem Iyigün	TUR +proxy AZE
Ausman	Madis	EST
Birau	Mihai Cristian	ROU
Björling Duell	Marie	SWE
Bovyn	Olivier	FRA
Echave	Ion	ESP +proxy POR
Ermakova	Tatiana	RUS +proxy BLR
Ettore	Francesco	ITA
Fattori	Marino	SMR
Glover	Charles	GBR
Haraldsson	Gunnar	ISL
Jakobsone	Inga	LAT
Küppers	Mona	GER
Markert	Line	DEN
Mayrhofer	Wolfgang	AUT
Mifsud	Michael	MLT
Mydlik	Martin	SVK
Photiou	Yiannos	CYP
Pintov	Smadar	ISR
Pla	Josep M.	AND
Rossiter	Sarah-Louise	IRL
Stevanovic	Goran	SRB
Szafran	Maciej	POL
Vogler	Martin	SUI
Wossala	Gyorgy	HUN





<b>Observers and others</b>		
Bajada	Christian	MLT
Cavallucci	Walter	ITA
Chamera	Tomasz	POL
Coşkuner Genç	Pınar	TUR
D'Amico	Alberto	ITA
Delgado	Arturo	ESP
Dobzhitskaya	Yana	RUS
González	Rafa	ESP
Gstatter	Doris	AUT
Haranghy	Csaba	HUN
Hass	Timo	GER
Holczhauser	Andras	HUN
Ilin	Oleg	RUS
Khairallah	Khairallah	LEB
Mallédant	Anne	FRA
Micu	Alexandru Octavian	ROU
Neupert	Dieter	SUI
Predieri	Marco	ITA
Rabih	Salem	LEB
Regnemer	Roland	AUT
Rochelli	Fabio	ITA
Semec	Daniela	ITA
Sutcliffe	Sara	GBR
Szafran	Maciej	POL
Theodossiou	Totos	CYP
Volandri	Alberto	ITA