



EUROPEAN SAILING FEDERATION

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

25th Ordinary General Assembly

Zoom

12 March 2022 – 9.30h–13.20h CET

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome

At 9.34h CET, president Josep M. Pla (AND) welcomed all delegates and observers to the 2022 EUROSAF Ordinary General Assembly. He thanked the Croatian Sailing Federation and Miroslav Bjelajac for their invitation to Zagreb, which unfortunately could not be met. He gave a short overview of today's agenda, the order of the items and the voting procedure. Secretary general Doris Gstatter (AUT) explained the rules of the meeting and stated that the meeting was recorded by her.

2. Roll call and apologies for absence

At the technical entering to the Zoom meeting Roland Regnemer (AUT), assistant to the secretary general, carried out the attendance check. The list of attendees is attached to the minutes (appendix 1).

3. 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.

Tomasz Chamera expressed his regrets that the meeting could not take place physically. He presented greetings and congratulations from World Sailing president Quanhai Li (CHN), thanks for all activities, initiatives, and support to the sport and World Sailing. He reported about current issues and World Sailing initiatives. Regarding war in Ukraine, he stated that World Sailing is clearly following the recommendations by the IOC, which were further detailed in a statement from president Thomas Bach, and a following call with World Sailing. He called for staying positive.

4. Nomination of scrutineers

The president proposed to take the decisions by general assent. Before each decision he would ask if anyone wanted a formal vote. If no delegate asked for a formal vote, then the item would be deemed approved by general assent.

Only matters not resolved during the meeting would be put to a formal vote by e-mail next week. For this case the president proposed to nominate Balázs Hajdu (HUN), Dieter Neupert (SUI) and Stanislav Kassarov (BUL), members of the Legal Committee, as the scrutineers of the General Assembly.

Voting result: The proposed scrutineers were approved by general assent.



5. New memberships

The president reported about the request from the Sailing Federation of North Macedonia to join EUROSAF. He proposed to welcome them as a new Member. Voting result: The proposal was approved by general assent.

Secretary general Slavcho Moshoski (MKD) introduced his Federation and the recent history in a few words, looking forward to a close cooperation within EUROSAF.

6. Ratification of the “EUROSAF statement concerning war in Ukraine”

The president summarized the content of the EUROSAF statement. He explained that it is in line with the IOC recommendations and the subsequent World Sailing statement. He pointed out that IOC president Thomas Bach clarified in his statement, to which Tomasz Chamera referred earlier, that delegates should not be shun from meetings to keep communication channels open. He added that, according to the Legal Committee, limiting rights of athletes and officers and changing fees for Members are to be decided by the General Assembly. Therefore, the statement was on the agenda of this meeting.

Christian Lerche (DEN; also representing SWE) referred to the letter sent to EUROSAF by the Nordic Sailing Federation. Therein EUROSAF was asked to send a strong signal to RUS and BLR that they are not wanted as long as the war is going on. This includes delegates, athletes, and others. He stated that confirming the statement would mean that they could go on to participate; not confirming it would mean no statement and they could also go on to participate. Then the word was given to Oleg Ilyin (RUS), but due to technical problems, his words were not heard. He was connected by phone later and stated that the Russian Yachting Federation complied with the World Sailing recommendation to suspend the participation of athletes and officials in events until further notice. He reminded that participation in sailing activities was based on the fundamental principles of the Olympism, written in the Olympic Charter: every individual must have the possibility of practising sport, without discrimination of any kind and sports organizations should apply political neutrality. In the EUROSAF Constitution he found similar words and he pointed out that none of the reasons to exclude an MNA from Membership was applicable to RYF.

Ion Echave (ESP), Legal Committee chair, stated two points to the comment from DEN. Concerning participation of representatives, only the General Assembly could suspend the rights of a Member. Concerning participation of a country and being elected, he



pointed out that Yana Dobzhitskaya (RUS) in her position as EUROSAF Executive Board member was not representing the interests of RUS, but of EUROSAF.

George Wossala (HUN), honorary president, noted that EUROSAF was a sports federation and should not be political. He disagreed with DEN and strongly recommended to accept the Executive Board statement.

The president explained that Yana Dobzhitskaya had been elected as Executive Board member and took part in all meetings. As she is conflicted when issues concerning RUS, BLR, and UKR are discussed, she did not take part in such discussions and decisions.

Wolfgang Mayrhofer (AUT) supported the differentiation made by Ion Echave: elected persons act not on behalf of their own Federation. He suggested to have 2 positions: to keep the vice-president, but not these Federations' delegates. There were further statements in the chat, read by the president, or presented in own words, supporting one of these opinions, by Tomás Musil (CZE), Miroslav Bjelajac (CRO), Susanne Kuusansalo (FIN), Ana Jasna Gamulin (SLO), Oleg Ilyin (RUS) via phone, George Paches (UKR), Tomasz Chamera (POL), Alexandru Octavian Micu (ROU), Walter Cavallucci (ITA), and Smadar Pintov (ISR). Then the president closed the debate by pointing out that the Executive Board wanted and needed a democratic decision.

The secretary general stated that Leo Vekemans (BEL) had informed her that he just left the meeting, because he is forbidden to participate together with RUS and BLR participants. Christian Lerche stated that he would leave the meeting, too. Both were willing to come back after a break.

The president announced a break for 30 minutes, until 11.20h.

Following the break, the president suggested to come to an approval or a modification of the statement by Members later. For that, Members should bring their proposal in writing. Proposals would be checked by the Legal Committee and then voted on. There were no further comments, and the president put this item on hold.

Ion Echave asked to clarify the expectations from the Legal Committee. The president detailed the proposal: to open a period when Members could contribute their proposals to the statement of the Executive Board; the Legal Committee to give their opinion whether they are in line with the Constitution; then to inform all Members, and to open a vote on the proposals.



Wolfgang Mayrhofer supported to put the item on hold and suggested to have Working Parties for proposals. He supported having Yana Dobzhitskaya in the meeting. Christian Lerche stated that the Nordic Group was ready to contribute with a proposal to redraft the statement. Walter Cavallucci suggested asking the IOC to clarify the agreement of the Executive Board statement with their recommendations and, if it was in agreement, to accept it. Wolfgang Mayrhofer added that we should not only follow the IOC but also build our own position, since Europe is close to the conflict. Christian Lerche wrote in the chat a suggestion for a rewording of the statement.

Christian Lerche asked about the participation of Yana Dobzhitskaya in the meeting. The president answered that she attended as EUROSAF Executive Board member, she had her constitutional duties, and was fulfilling them. Christian Lerche then abruptly quit the meeting, followed by some other delegates. The president considered that the discussion on the Executive Board proposal had come to an end, that the process described earlier would be applied where the Executive Board proposal, together with any other proposal conforming with the Constitution, would be put to an e-mail vote, and that the exact process and deadlines would be notified to Members shortly after the end of the current meeting.

7. 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 and that some items would be added. The president reported about the extension of the funding by the Austrian Ministry for the secretariat in Neusiedl am See until 2024 thanks to the support of the Austrian Sailing Federation. He explained that the funding is decreasing, so EUROSAF has to take more of the costs from year to year. He also highlighted the support of the Mixed Offshore discipline, the redrafting of the ESA WEST project with Constanta Maritime University in Romania, and the progress in good governance regarding the ASOIF criteria. Vice-presidents Pinar Coşkuner Genç (TUR) reported about the Race Officials Exchange Programme and webinars, Timo Hass (GER) about the EUROSAF Cups and future projects for know-how exchange, Marco Predieri (ITA) about e-sailing and the DigiSail project, Alexandru Octavian Micu (ROU) about a project for European insurances and Express Sailing, Anne Mallédant (FRA) and Yana Dobzhitskaya (RUS) about EUROSAF Events and Events regulations. The report is available at <https://www.eurosaf.org/past-activities/106-ordinary-general-assembly-2022>.

Tomasz Chamera (POL) added that Poland had been granted the lead of the DigiSail programme in partnership with World Sailing. He stated that further details would follow soon. Burcu Algon Giogianni (AZE) thanked Özlem Akdurak (World Sailing) and



Timo Hass (EUROSAF) for their support in some visa issues to participate in Youth Europeans last year and stated that this underlines the representation of Members by EUROSAF and World Sailing. Charles Glover (GBR) asked for details about ESA WEST investments and the millennial challenge. The president stated that the treasurer would detail ESA WEST later. Regarding new generations, he explained that current business models bringing new entrants in sailing were becoming obsolete and needed to be adapted to a changing approach to sailing. There needs to be more than selling parking space for boats in the future. It is important to identify the changes, and then to look for answers, that may include ideas like Sailing as a Service. This initiative is open to Members to share and work together.

8. Report of the secretary general

The secretary general reported about office activities, organization of EUROSAF Events, external and internal communication efforts, the expanded website and Social Media activities, and plans for the next years. The report is available at <https://www.eurosaf.org/past-activities/106-ordinary-general-assembly-2022>. There were no questions or comments.

9. Members in arrears

Timo Hass, treasurer, reported there were three Members in arrears, without having an agreement for delayed payment: ARM, BUL, and MLT. For UKR the Executive Board had decided to delay their obligation to pay their fee till the end of March.

10. 2021 Financial report

The treasurer presented the accounts, sent to all Members before the meeting, for the year ending on 31 December 2021 and explained the financial situation. He reported about a balanced budget and reserves to be used. The report is available at <https://www.eurosaf.org/past-activities/106-ordinary-general-assembly-2022>. There were no questions or comments.

11. Report of the auditors

The auditor Yiannos Photiou (CYP) reported that together with Susanne Kuusansalo (FIN) they had gone through the accounts prepared, agreed on them, and supported their approval. The report is available at <https://www.eurosaf.org/past-activities/106-ordinary-general-assembly-2022>. There were no questions or comments.

12. Decision on approval of 2021 Accounts

The president proposed to approve the 2021 Accounts.
Voting result: The proposal was approved by general assent.



13. Appointment of auditors

The president explained that one auditor, Yiannos Photiou, had to leave after completing his term. The Executive Board proposed to elect Wolfgang Mayrhofer as an auditor in addition to Susanne Kuusansalo. Wolfgang Mayrhofer introduced himself with a few words.

Voting result: The proposal was approved by general assent.

14. Granting of relief (discharge of responsibility) to the Executive Board

The president proposed to grant relief to the Executive Board.

Voting result: The proposal was approved by general assent.

15. Decision on approval of 2022 Budget

The president detailed the funding from the Austrian Ministry, which is to help to gain capacity and to be able to take in more ambitious projects while keeping the finances sustainable. EUROSAF has to show progress, the funding is decreasing thereby lowering the share in expenses. Since the secretariat is consolidated and doing a good job, he saw EUROSAF in a position to start being more ambitious in a conservative way. That was the basis of the following budget. The treasurer thanked for these explanations on the funding, other projects had been stated in the report.

Charles Glover agreed to invest reserves in projects, and repeated his question about investments in ESA WEST and in the Race Officials Exchange Programme. The treasurer explained that the investment in the ROEP is mainly for a new IT/software tool, to make communication easier for all parties and to have a better feedback function. Regarding the ESA WEST project, this means setting up an online platform to handle it in a digital format. Charles Glover also asked whether there were any thoughts about changing the membership fees or structure. The treasurer would like to change the structure, but the current one seems useful at the moment.

The president proposed to approve the 2022 budget.

Voting result: The proposal was approved by general assent.

16. Future General Assemblies

Marco Predieri presented the proposal of the Italian Sailing Federation to host the 2023 General Assembly in Rome, Italy. He stated full support from the Italian government and the Italian Olympic Committee. Since last year the General Assembly had decided to have the 2023 meeting in Hungary, he explained that he had agreed



with the Hungarian Sailing Federation to have the 2023 meeting in Italy, and Hungary would be available to host the 2024 General Assembly.

Charles Glover commented that Covid has shown many ways of working, and to reduce environmental impacts and costs. He suggested to have future General Assemblies as hybrid meetings, so delegates could decide whether to travel or not. Pinar Coşkuner Genç stated that the Race Officials Exchange meeting had nearly the same number of participants online in 2021 and physically in 2022. At the same time the physical meeting had much more impact, and brought chances to discuss more between the delegates. She suggested to keep physical meetings whenever possible. Alexandru Octavian Micu supported both propositions, with a tendency to hybrid meetings. The president stated that the Executive Board should consider these views when organizing the next General Assemblies.

George Wossala stated that he hoped to meet personally, to exchange as in the past. He graphically commented that e-sailing is a nice activity, but does not compare to the real thing. He confirmed the agreement of the Hungarian Sailing Federation to move their proposal to host the General Assembly in Hungary from 2023 to 2024.

The president summarized the proposal to have the 2023 Ordinary General Assembly in Rome, Italy, and 2024 in Hungary.

Voting result: The proposal was approved by general assent.

17. Other business

The president summarized the further process concerning the EUROSAF statement: the published statement should be put for a vote, and for any modifications to the statement a timeframe would be opened. Those who wanted could send their proposals. They would be checked by the Legal Committee to be sure they complied with the Constitution. Then they would be put to the vote, and the statement be updated accordingly, if amended. He added that Members would also be asked to grant the executive Board authority to adapt and update it to new situations.

Maja Lesny (POL) stated that all Members sending proposals to the Executive Board would be a big mess. She suggested a Working Party to discuss, and then to have another Extraordinary General Assembly. The president stated that it was up to the Legal Committee how to deal correctly with this.

There were no further items, questions, or remarks.



18. Meeting close

The president thanked all attendees for their presence and support and ended the online meeting at 13.22 CET, while the General Assembly would come to a close when Item 6 was resolved.

Finalizing item 6, Ratification of the “EUROSAF statement concerning war in Ukraine”

On 13 March 2022 all Members were informed via e-mail by the secretary general about the further procedure: following the discussion during the General Assembly, Members could submit a counter proposal to the Executive Board statement by midnight CET 16 March 2022. Any such proposal would be checked for compliance with the Constitution by the Legal Committee and put to an e-mail vote.

The Secretariat received one counter proposal from the Danish Sailing Association that was deemed in accordance with the Constitution by the Legal Committee. Voting via e-mail was open from 18 March to midnight CET 22 March 2022.

On 24 March 2022, all Members were informed about the voting result: 28 votes were cast in each item, no invalid votes were recorded.

1. Ratification of the “EUROSAF statement concerning war in Ukraine”

- A. Executive Board proposal of 3 March 2022
 - B. Danish Sailing Association proposal of 16 March 2022
- A: 16 – B: 10 – Abstain: 2
Decision: A approved

2. Giving authority to the Executive Board to amend the statement and terminate it according to the development of the situation and to IOC and WS recommendations

- Yes: 26 – No: 2 – Abstain: 0
Decision: approved

The 25th Ordinary General Assembly came then to a close.



Appendix 1: List of Attendees

Delegates		
Akdurak	Ozlem	TUR
Algon Giogianni	Burcu	AZE
Ausman	Madis	EST
Bjelajac	Miroslav	CRO
Cavalluci	Walter	ITA
Echave	Ion	ESP
Gamulin	Ana Jasna	SLO
Glover	Charles	GBR
Hass	Timo	GER
Ilyin	Oleg	RUS
Jakobsone	Inga	LAT
Kuusansalo	Susanne	FIN
Leśny	Maja	POL
Mallédant	Anne	FRA
Mayrhofer	Wolfgang	AUT
Micu	Alexandru	ROU
Moshoski	Slavcho	MKD
Musil	Tomasz	CZE
Nikiforidis	Takis	GRE
Paches	Georg	UKR
Photiou	Yiannos	CYP
Pintov	Smadar	ISR
Pla	Josep M.	AND
Predieri	Marco	SMR
Prekrasnov	Tatjana	SRB
Rossiter	Sarah-Louise	IRL
Serra Gentil Quina	Mário	POR
Vanicky	Dusan	SVK
Vekemans	Leo	BEL
Wossala	Gyorgy	HUN
Lerche	Christian	DEN, proxy SWE



Observer and others		
Chamera	Tomasz	POL
Coşkuner Genç	Pınar	TUR
Dobzhitskaya	Yana	RUS
Ettore	Francesco	ITA
Gstatter	Doris	
Mata	António	POR
Neupert	Dieter	SUI
Stavrev	Stefan	MKD
Tsantilis	Costas	GRE