



# EUROPEAN SAILING FEDERATION

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

## President and Executive Board Report

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To be delivered at the 2020 General Assembly in compliance with article 15.5.a of the Constitution, on 28/03/2020.

This 2020 *President and Executive Board Report* follows the text of [Key Priorities \(v.3\)](#) approved on 14/05/2019 by the Executive Board. Where a development has occurred, we present a detailed explanation **in blue type**. Sometimes a development concerns several items in a section and also several sections. When we delve into a prospective, forward-looking point of view, we add *italics*.

### 1. Vision: More Sailors, More Fun, More Success

“Let’s help create the conditions to bring more people to have fun sailing and to succeed as sailors and as persons with sailors at the centre of our attention.”

The Executive Board wants to take what is probably a core goal of EUROSAF Members to the Continental level. How? By leveraging EUROSAF’s vantage position to coordinate projects across Europe and to facilitate resource and knowledge sharing among Members.

To achieve this vision together with the Members, the Executive Board shall rebuild trust and increase cooperation, working constructively and inclusively for sailing in Europe.

### 2. Value for Members: EUROSAF’s *Raison d’Être*

EUROSAF must bring value to its Members. The Executive Board shall implement projects to that end.

The Executive Board continued to address the issue of the cost and the worth of EUROSAF meetings, in line with observations received from several Members, with view that attending meetings must distract as few resources as possible from sailing activities and EUROSAF meetings must bring value to Members.

As commented by delegates at the 2018 General Assembly, once the effort and cost of attending the meeting has been taken in, the marginal cost of spending one more day is very small and well worth the benefit in terms of added value and networking opportunities. Therefore the Executive Board extended the duration of the 2019 Annual Meeting to include meetings of and presentations from EUROSAF Committees and presentations and workshops from third parties of sailing-related proposals, research, and projects. As the general feedback was very positive, the initial intention for 2020 was to follow the same line. However, considering the global health situation created by **COVID-19**, the Executive Board first decided to concentrate the meeting on one day, while continuing to include presentations related to EUROSAF activities, and later decided to cancel the physical meeting and replace it with a **conference call on 28/03/2020 from 0900 to 1200 CET** followed by an electronic general assembly convened according to article 13bis of the Constitution with an **electronic vote open from 31/03/2020 to 06/04/2020**. Procedural details are presented in a separate document.

*The 2021 General Assembly will take place in Budapest, Hungary, as decided by the 2019 General Assembly; the floor will be open for venue proposals for 2022.*



Projects can spring from both EUROSAF and its Members. Once a project is outlined, be it by a Member, a Committee, or the Executive Board, EUROSAF will reach to its Members to gather their support. Members will be invited to promote the projects and bring in experts with relevant knowledge and experience, locations and items to run activities, participants, and, in general, resources the project may need to succeed. No support means no implementation: this is the ultimate test of value for a project.

The Executive Board planned to include in the Annual Meeting agenda a presentations session with Committee and third-party projects and workshops that showcase the possibilities offered by cooperation at a European level and expected delegates to give their opinion and bring in their experience about the projects presented and to jump into projects that best serve MNAs, sailors, coaches, race officials, and sailing administrators around Europe.

*This opportunity may be postponed until a physical meeting is convened later in the year, if and when possible, if Members agree to it at the electronic vote mentioned above.*

### 3. Short-Term Goals: Expand Sailing Grounds

The Executive Board shall undertake to:

#### Consolidate the Secretariat.

- Ensure the secretary general and his supporting staff in Neusiedl-am-See deliver an outstanding level of service to all EUROSAF stakeholders.

On 10/03/2017 the Executive Board signed an agreement with the Austrian Sailing Federation. EUROSAF was granted the gratuitous right to use office, archive, parking, and meeting space on their premises in Neusiedl-am-See, some 40 km away from Vienna airport (Austria), for a 10-year period, against a limited contribution for running expenses, as long as EUROSAF's secretariat is seated there. Roland Regnemer took over from John Friend during the General Assembly in Sofia on 18/03/2017, as decided by the previous Executive Board. In December 2017 the Austrian Sailing Federation obtained from the Austrian Ministry of Sport a contribution towards the remuneration of our secretary general up to the equivalent of a half time and of supporting staff up to a 20-25% time equivalent. The Austrian Sailing Federation has submitted the paperwork needed to renew the funding for 2020; the confirmation of renewal is expected shortly.

The current Executive Board holds a meeting in Neusiedl-am-See at least once a year. During the meeting held on 15 and 16/10/2019 the Executive Board took again the opportunity to thank the Austrian Sailing Federation for its tangible and continuing support.

#### Update and expand the website and grow social media impact.

- Deliver one-to-one communication with our stakeholders; use Basecamp to communicate with the relevant persons in charge of EUROSAF matters in our member MNAs.

The Executive Board uses [Basecamp](#), an online collaboration platform, to communicate and coordinate actions almost daily. All Committee members have been granted access to Basecamp and some are using it regularly.

*Basecamp is available to communicate with people in charge of EUROSAF matters in member MNAs and thus to deliver one-to-one communication with EUROSAF main stakeholders. To help MNAs in keeping their information updated and our mutual channels of communication open, a form is available on the website.*



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- Include in the website past information from the previous website and other sources, when available.

The secretary general added the complete history of [Constitution versions](#) from 1998, available past information from [Annual Meetings since 2012](#), and some [EUROSAF events pictures](#), to serve as a historical archive.

*If you have further information from past EUROSAF meetings or events in digital format, please forward them to the secretary general for their inclusion on the website.*

- Develop EUROSAF's online presence and grow its impact.

EUROSAF activities are regularly posted on the website and on the Facebook channel, together with connected events and activities that expand EUROSAF's reach and increase its partners' goodwill.

*The Executive Board expects all people related to EUROSAF with an active Facebook account to "like" EUROSAF and to "like" all announcements, thus helping to expand their reach and impact.*

*The Executive Board encourages all stakeholders with news or graphic material related to EUROSAF to share them with the secretary general and thus to expand their reach and to enrich EUROSAF channels.*

### Maintain good communication with Members.

- Keep on sending bimonthly emails to EUROSAF stakeholders and interested parties.

As in 2018, the president sent five informative bimonthly emails in 2019 with current activities and projects to Members, Committee members, and interested parties. They are available [on the website](#).

- Continue meeting with European MNAs delegates during World Sailing meetings.

During the World Sailing Annual Conference in Bermuda in October 2019, five Executive Board members (Josep M. Pla, Tomasz Chamera, Pinar Coşkuner Genç, Yana Dobzhitskaya, and Timo Haß) invited the delegates of European MNAs to an informal meeting that pulled together over 40 participants representing more than 25 MNAs.

The main topic was the recent [2019 EUROSAF Mixed Offshore European Championship](#), sailed from Venice to Trieste (Italy) in Italian, Croatian, and Slovenian waters. The difficulties encountered in running the first event that followed the guidelines for the new Olympic event concentrated the debate and led the way to explore opportunities lying ahead. Further topics included comments on all other 2019 Events, a call for bids for 2020 and 2021 Events, an update about the ESA-WEST project, and an update about the upcoming Race Officials Exchange Meeting in Dun Laoghaire (IRL). Detailed explanations on all these topics are presented in the relevant items below.

*The Executive Board endeavours to keep this EUROSAF informal meeting as a permanent feature in World Sailing meetings.*

- Create opportunities for personal contact with and between stakeholders.

As demanded by many delegates after the 2018 General Assembly, the Executive Board extended the duration of the 2019 Annual Meeting to accommodate more time for networking and side meetings and planned to do so again in 2020.

In 2019 the Executive Board decided to have a representative at each EUROSAF Event (in line with *Consolidate current Events* priorities), whenever possible as a race official and through the Race Officials Exchange Programme.

*The same presence goal is set for 2020 events.*



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- Continue collecting contact details of key people that Members want to keep informed.

Although the Executive Board regularly informs EUROSAF Members, the line of communication is not always direct with people in charge to liaise with EUROSAF within MNAs. EUROSAF's messages not reaching the relevant people is a clear hindrance for Members that want to inform people in charge of EUROSAF punctually and access projects of their interest swiftly.

*The Executive Board keeps collecting contact details of key people that Members want to keep informed to insure that no opportunity is lost to them, without disabling any existing channel of communication. As noted above, the Executive Board prioritizes using Basecamp to that end, while informing Members and stakeholders of EUROSAF developments through all available channels: social media, website, email, Basecamp, and personal contact whenever possible.*

## **Make the most of Committees' expertise.**

- Coordinate and foster Committees' projects.

On 29/04/2017 the Executive Board approved the Terms of Reference of six EUROSAF Committees and one Working Party with a long-term view, represented by goals, and a mid-term view, with clearly defined objectives. By way of their responsibilities, the Executive Board provided the Committees and the Working Party with a wide-ranging array of means to achieve both their objectives and their goals and created a direct link between each Committee and the Executive Board to support their activity by nominating one or two liaison members. On 05/06/2018 the Executive Board revised the Terms of Reference of the Contact and Cooperation Committee, the Marketing & Media Committee, and the European Sailing Academy Working Party. All Committee members and terms of reference are available on the website.

Since their setting up, some Committees have experienced changes in their composition due to some members stepping down either from a chair position or from their Committee altogether, to some new members joining in, and to members taking on chair or vice-chair positions (C&C, M&M).

*The Executive Board expects the Committees to provide EUROSAF with relevant, inspiring projects that make the most of EUROSAF Members capacity and willingness to cooperate and exchange and expects them to be driving forces behind EUROSAF's projects. The Executive Board's responsibility is to foster those projects that will benefit sailing the most and support and make them thrive.*

- Promote physical meetings of Committees.

As explained in *Value for Members*, the Executive Board extended the duration of the 2019 Annual Meeting to include meetings of EUROSAF Committees. The low attendance of Committee members did not warrant Committee meetings taking place. Thus a common working session with attending Committee members and Executive Board members took place. The main conclusion was that a team approach would be more effective to work on EUROSAF projects. This conclusion was later included as a new item in the *Key Priorities* (v.3) document (see next point).

The Executive Board looked forward to holding Committee meetings during the 2020 General Assembly.

- Adopt a team approach for projects and bring together specific Committee members according to their skills and availability.

This was the conclusion reached at the Committee members meeting during the 2019 Annual Meeting in Istanbul, as explained above.

*The Executive Board will put this approach in place with new projects.*



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- Bring all communication and collaboration within Committees under Basecamp.

People are used to emails and, recently, Whatsapp. These tools, however useful, lack features needed when working on several projects with different teams changing in composition. Structuring and archiving, to name just two basic functions, are key for team members to contribute meaningfully and efficiently and to easily access past discussions and documents. Further tools, such as task assigning, deadline setting, progress tracking, and more, are bonuses available on Basecamp. However compelling, these capabilities have a tough time overcoming resistance to change.

*The Executive Board will continue pushing for Committees' collaboration to be handled in Basecamp to benefit from its capabilities.*

## Further develop the Race Officials Exchange Programme.

- Manage the EUROSAF Race Officials' Exchange Programme and organize an annual meeting of member MNAs to agree exchange activities and provide valuable content.
- Put out and enhance the new web-based tool developed in 2018.
- Support the RO meeting that will take place in Dun Laoghaire (Ireland) on 11/01/2020.
- Encourage greater participation in the Programme by member MNAs, their National Race Officials, and their international event organizers.

The 2020 **EUROSAF Race Officials Exchange Meeting** took place on 11/01/2020 in Dun Laoghaire, Ireland, with the participation of the Executive Board.

From nearly 230 places offered in 135 events organized in 29 member nations and spanning all 2020, 145 were awarded on the spot while putting the new IT tool to test and the remaining ones were allocated during the following weeks. On top of the RO Exchange itself, Prof. Alessandro Pezzoli, vice-chair of the EUROSAF European Sailing Academy Working Party (ESA WP), made two presentations. Firstly he gave sound advice about weather analysis for ROs; secondly he unveiled the preliminary results of a study devoted to national and international RO distribution in Europe. Followed a fruitful discussion with delegates that brought up new avenues of research and suggested new opportunities for collaboration between EUROSAF Members (see *Broaden Race Officials Training* below). Some questions dealt with during the day—e.g. guidelines for matching ROs to events and user-friendliness of the new IT tool—will be followed up by ad hoc working parties.

The Executive Board fondly thanks Irish Sailing, the National Yacht Club, and the Royal Irish Yacht Club, and especially Jack and Rosemary Roy for their effective and friendly hospitality, with a distinctive Irish kindness.

*The 2021 EUROSAF Race Officials Exchange Meeting will take place in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, on 16/01/2021 under the invitation of the Royal Spanish Sailing Federation and Club Nàutic s'Arenal.*

## Broaden Race Officials Training.

- Expand the Race Officials Exchange Programme into training in collaboration with existing training structures and in line with the EUROSAF European Sailing Academy goals.
- Launch the RO Training Study, a research into RO distribution and training systems across Europe.

As shortly explained in *Further Develop the ROEP* above, the EUROSAF European Sailing Academy Working Party launched a research project concerning national and international Race Officials' distribution in Europe. Federico Piani (University of Trento, Italy) undertook the study "Determination of Current Situation and Dissemination of Race Officials' Training in European National Sailing Federations" under the supervision of Prof. Angelo



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Besana (University of Torino, Italy) and Prof. Alessandro Pezzoli (Politecnico di Torino, Italy). Its main output is an RO distribution per categories in EUROSAF Members. After presentation and fruitful discussion with delegates at the Race Officials Exchange Meeting in Dun Laoghaire last January, the main comments and possible ways forward were:

- The need to check data descriptions and completeness, as Members have different classification and reporting systems that do not make comparisons straightforward.
- The relevance of adding a regional dimension, as some large countries have regional sailing federations competent in RO training.
- The interest in relating RO figures to number of sailors, clubs, or events of national or international level in each Member.
- The possible impact of available training opportunities and numbers of trainees in each Member.
- The implications of ROs age distribution and current replacement processes.
- The benefits of collaboration between large Federations, with solid and comprehensive training programmes, and small ones, with limited or inexistent programmes.
- The importance of detecting and addressing uncovered needs in mid-tier Members, whose programmes may be strong in some areas and lacking in others.
- The awareness of social biases in sailing.

*The Executive Board and the European Sailing Academy Working Party plan to continue their collaboration with research institutions to further develop this promising first study into the areas of interest mentioned.*

## Consolidate current EUROSAF Events.

- Develop policy proposals concerning EUROSAF Events.
- Create guidelines for EUROSAF Events in line with these Key Priorities (e.g. training, development, increased participation in sailing, cultural exchange..) to enhance the value EUROSAF Events bring to Members, to sailors, and to European sailing.

*The Executive Board plans to finalize the internal reflection launched to define requirements for EUROSAF Events.*

- Set down EUROSAF Events regulations following the model of EUROSAF MR Regulations.

The Executive Board updated the [EUROSAF Match Racing Regulations](#), available on the website.

*The Executive Board plans to develop a set of regulations for each type of event in EUROSAF's calendar.*

- Finalise the bidding and granting process of 2020 EUROSAF Events and open the bidding process for 2021 Events.

2019 saw the consolidation of all traditional EUROSAF events, including [Women](#), [Youth](#), and of course [Open Match Racing European Championships](#)—held in Ledro, Italy, for the Women and Youth and in Šibenik, Croatia, for the Open—and also the [EUROSAF Parasailing Europeans](#)—held in Gmunden, Austria—under a successful inclusive format. In addition, the second edition of the recently introduced [EUROSAF Club Sailing Championship](#) was raced in Ascona, Switzerland.

In 2019 EUROSAF also launched a new series of events organized in collaboration with classes that, we believe, bring value to sailors, event organizers, and the classes themselves. To the [EUROSAF Pirat European Championship](#)—sailed this year in Bayramoğlu, Turkey—, already held every two years alternating with the class Youth Championship, was added the [EUROSAF L30 European Championship](#)—sailed in Garda,



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Italy—and the **EUROSAF 420 European Circuit**, which included 5 events—Imperia, Italy; Vilamoura, Portugal; Athens, Greece; Marseille, France; and Kiel, Germany—and gave free entry into the 420 European Championship to the top teams in three divisions.

Finally, in 2019 EUROSAF pioneered the **EUROSAF Mixed Offshore European Championship** following World Sailing guidelines for the future Olympic event and using the L30 OD boat chosen by World Sailing for the 2020 World Championship in Malta. In spite of some teething problems, the event—sailed in Italian, Croatian, and Serbian waters from Venice to Trieste, Italy—was clearly a hit.

2020 started with the **EUROSAF Inclusive Parasailing Europeans** raced in Javea, Spain, from 7 to 9 February.

The **EUROSAF Mixed Offshore European Championship** (EMOEC) will set sail for two nights at sea from downtown Genoa, starting on 16 June, again on L30 OD boats. The event offers a unique opportunity as a training ground for national teams preparing for the Worlds in October in Malta. Qualification series will be sailed during the week, before the actual race, if need be. The notice of race will be published shortly.

The **EUROSAF Match Racing Youth European Championship** will be sailed in Ledro, Italy, from 18 to 21 June. The **EUROSAF Club Sailing Championship** will take place on Lake Lipno, Czech Republic, on the same dates.

The **EUROSAF Match Racing Open European Championships** will be organized in Ekaterinburg, Russia, from 11 to 15 August and the **EUROSAF Match Racing Women European Championship** in Locarno, Switzerland, from 15 to 18 October;

In addition to the **EUROSAF 420 Circuit**, already run in 2018-2019 and comprising 9 events (Oberhofen, Switzerland; Athens, Greece; Imperia, Italy; and Palamós, Spain, already sailed; and Vilamoura, Portugal; Izola, Slovenia; Marseille, France; Csopak, Hungary; and Kiel, Germany), we have put forward the **EUROSAF Inclusive Sailing Circuit** including 5 events sailed in 2.4mR boats (Berlin, Germany; Jesolo, Italy; Attersee, Austria; Travemünde, Germany; and Achensee, Austria).

Concerning Class championships, the **EUROSAF Pirat Youth European Championship** will be organized in Ratzeburger See, Germany, from 26 to 31 July and the **EUROSAF L30 European Championship** will be sailed in Marseille, France, from 20 to 23 August.

A heartfelt thank you to all organising authorities, club staff, and volunteers, race officials, and of course sailors and their support teams, involved with EUROSAF Events!

*The same EUROSAF Events are initially envisaged for 2021 and the bidding process is still open. The secretary general has received shows of interest for some events (Match Racing Open and Youth Championships, Club Championship, and Para Sailing Inclusive Championship). Contact him if your MNA or its clubs are interested in organizing any EUROSAF Event, either in 2021 or in 2022.*

*For all EUROSAF Events the Executive Board keenly requests the support of all EUROSAF Members, via participation. Organisers setting them up are eager to run successful, memorable events and want their efforts to benefit as many European sailors as possible. So pass this information to people in charge and support the events by sending teams and sailors to participate. Take part and spread the word!*

- Closely follow up the implementation of events regulations and workflows regarding contracts with EUROSAF Events organizers.

The treasurer and the secretary general streamlined the workflow for events by following up the allocation of events with sending of contract and sending of invoice. This resulted in a greater control of the administrative process and a shortening of payment terms.



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*The Executive Board expects to allow for an easier process of creating and checking the Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions and giving the Event organizers a greater benefit.*

- Set up EUROSAF Class Circuits in collaboration with class associations to promote enhanced and cross-European participation in class events.

EUROSAF and the **International 420 Class Association** have set up the **EUROSAF 420 Circuit-Series for the European 420 Trophy**, a circuit of regattas within Europe to foster and promote two-person dinghy sailing. As detailed above, the 2018-2019 edition comprised five events across Europe and the 2019-2020 edition sports 9 events. EUROSAF awards medals to the top placed Boys/Mixed U19, Girls U19 and Open U17 teams across the retained events. The best boys' and girls' teams under 19 and the best team under 17 are eligible for an extra starting place (over the quotas for their nation) at the *420 Junior European Championship*, with the entry fee waived by the Class.

Building on this successful experience, EUROSAF has launched the **EUROSAF Inclusive Sailing Circuit-Series for the European 2.4mR Trophy** including 5 events sailed in 2.4mR boats. EUROSAF awards medals to the best three sailors overall and to the best three Para sailors overall and in addition to different ranking divisions if the applicable ranking becomes effective, depending on the number of participants.

Such circuits/trophies are a great opportunity for sailors from all over Europe to meet, exchange, and compete at an international level. By traveling further afield than their home waters they discover new regattas and new fellow sailors and enhance their experience. By being consistent in their results they have a European recognition within their reach. In addition, the selected regattas should see an increase in participation, especially from other parts of Europe.

They also are an effective way to enhance existing events' reach, to increase participation, and to bring value to all parties involved without cluttering an overcrowded calendar.

*The Executive Board invites classes to collaborate in setting up such Circuits/Trophies.*

- Enhance communication about EUROSAF Events and foster participation.

As explained in *Maintain good communication with Members*, all EUROSAF events have been posted on both the website and the Facebook channel with all the information received from organisers.

*The Executive Board wants to see event organisers provide as much information as possible about their event, both in advance for their promotion and during the event, to enhance public reach.*

- Establish a circuit for Olympic or pre-Olympic teams, not clashing with World Sailing and World championships, for a convenient and close field of play. Continue talks with event organisers previously involved in the EUROSAF Sailing Champions Cup to set up the circuit again with added value for organizers and sailors.

The World Sailing Annual Conference in Bermuda in October 2019 allowed for continuing conversations with high profile event organisers to re-establish a European Olympic Classes circuit. Key to EUROSAF and event organisers, and in line with *Bring value to EUROSAF events organisers and sponsors* policy, is the need to identify the added value brought to each party by the circuit. The Executive Board drafted and circulated a *Memorandum of Understanding* to serve as a starting point for the ongoing discussion.

*The Executive Board plans to convene a working session with the event organisers to define a realistic, gradual set of actions and related calendar to put the circuit on course.*



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- Welcome classes wishing to hold EUROSAF European Championships in line with EUROSAF Events policy.

As a way to fulfil EUROSAF's vision of "More sailors, more fun, more successful sailors and persons with sailors at the centre of our attention," the Executive Board remains open to classes wishing to hold EUROSAF European Championships, such as:

- The **Pirat Class**, which held its biannual 2019 European Championship under the EUROSAF flag in Bayramoğlu, Turkey, and will hold its biannual 2020 Youth European Championship in Ratzeburger See, Germany.
  - The **L30 OD Class**, which held its 2019 European Championship in Garda and will hold the 2020 edition in Marseille, France.
- Bring value to EUROSAF Events organisers and sponsors.

*Under the initiative of the secretary general, the Executive Board is considering ways to bring value to EUROSAF Events organisers, particularly in the field of communication.*

- Attend all EUROSAF Events.

President Josep M Pla attended the L30 Europeans and the Mixed Offshore Europeans; vice-president Pinar Coşcuner Genç the Pirat Europeans, while acting as chair of the Jury; and secretary general Roland Regnemer the Para Sailing Inclusive Europeans and the Mixed Offshore Europeans; he was prevented from attending the Club Sailing Championship by illness. Nino Shmueli and Stasi Weinberger, chair and vice-chair of the EUROSAF Race Officials Committee, attended the Para Sailing Inclusive Europeans and acted as PRO and course race officer respectively; Stasi Weinberger attended the Match Racing Youth Europeans too and acted as umpire.

*As mentioned in Maintain good communication with Members, in 2020 attendance is expected to be in all events and, whenever possible, as race officials through the Race Officials Exchange Programme.*

## Launch Youth & Development projects.

- Promote further collaboration between member MNAs, especially with projects including exchange and training.

EUROSAF has been promoting a series of projects proposed by Members that will bring value to Members and participants, such as:

- The **Optimist On Tour** project from the Royal Dutch Watersports Association to bring sailing to young people in a fun and accessible way and keep them connected to the sport. In 2018 Rob Franken, Contact and Cooperation Committee previous chair, promoted the very successful Optimist On Tour project, run nationally by the Royal Dutch Watersport Association, which brings sailing to young people in a fun and accessible way and keeps them connected to the sport. The Royal Dutch Watersport Association generously offered to share its experience, tools, and resources with interested European MNAs. The German Sailing Federation has taken this opportunity and will run a youth sailing programme called "Segelsport vor Ort – Seglerjugend Road Show" based on the ideas of the Dutch project.
- Teaming up with the **Royal Dutch Watersports Association** to organise activities in favour of participation and development in the Association's premises in Medemblik, as generously offered by Rob Franken generously in 2017.
- Teaming up with the **French Sailing Federation** to organize a gathering in a national centre in France to develop multilateral exchanges for interested MNAs with a programme aimed at young people, in particular for new practices in foil, as generously offered by Nicolas Hénard, the Federation's president, in 2018.



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- Teaming up with the Italian Sailing Federation to promote the 2018 **EUROSAF European U23 Team Race Championship and Team Race Clinic** for athletes, coaches, and umpires that had to take place in Campione del Garda, Italy, and include training for sailors, coaches, and race officials followed by a competition to put the newly acquired skills to use. Sadly the event did not take place.
- The **College Placement Programme** from the International Junior Sailing Academy in Italy, whose mission statement is: “If you are a good sailor and a good student you can use your talents and take advantage of opportunities to study around the world,” with proposed scholarships to be given to promising young athletes through their MNAs (two to four per MNA), consisting in a 50% discount on the 2018-2019 fees and covered by International Junior Sailing Academy. The Programme fits EUROSAF youth goals to make better persons through sailing. It fills a widening gap between the needs of many young sailors and families who have invested heavily in sailing careers and what the training, competing, and, often crucially, educational environments can offer them to leverage their investment when they grow older.

### Step up actions in Para Sailing.

- Push for Para Sailing expansion in Europe and promote inclusive events.  
EUROSAF has been active in Para Sailing for a long time. The **EUROSAF Para Sailing European Championships** took place in Kiel (Germany) from 16 to 24 June 2018 in a bid to strengthen Para Sailing in Europe, in line with World Sailing stated goals to reinstate Para Sailing into the Paralympic sports programme for 2024 and beyond. In 2019 the **EUROSAF Parasailing Europeans** were held from 27 May to 2 June in Gmunden, Austria, under a successful inclusive format that was repeated in 2020 at the **EUROSAF Inclusive Parasailing Europeans** raced in Javea, Spain, from 7 to 9 February.
- Contribute to World Sailing’s Para Sailing Strategic Plan to re-introduce Para Sailing into the Paralympic sports programme for 2024 and beyond.

Sadly, in 2018 the sailing community received the disappointing and enraging news that sailing shall not be included on the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games sports programme. The sailing community, including EUROSAF, put quite some effort to secure the failed inclusion. Beyond the failure, the Executive Board deplores the situation of the sailors, who are deprived of such a motivating competition.

*The Executive Board is committed to continue supporting Para Sailing, especially in inclusive set-ups, as a contribution to gaining inclusion in the future.*

### Aim for the European Sailing Academy.

- Launch the RO Training Study, a research into RO distribution and training systems across Europe (see *Broaden Race Officials Training* above).  
See the explanation concerning this study in *Broaden Race Officials Training* above.  
*The Executive Board expects to receive a revised version of the study, taking into consideration some of the comments received at the ROEP presentation, after the defence of the BSc thesis by its author, Federico Piani, and is committed to help him publish his research in a scientific review.*
- Take part in the SKILLS by SPORT 4 MED (SBS4Med) project promoted by ASAG – Catholic University Milano as an Erasmus+ call, if funded.

In November 2019 the Executive Board was informed that “the European Commission has funded the project promoted by Forum Sport4Impact which indicates EUROSAF as selected privileged entity to cooperate with” thanks to the push from Prof. Alessandro Pezzoli, vice-chair of the ESA WP.



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The SKILLS by SPORT 4 MED project, promoted by ASAG – Catholic University Milano, “starting from the necessity to train and educate people to develop or change new work skills and competencies and using an experimentation within a set of Mediterranean basin Countries,” aims at “creating awareness of that possibility on coaches/sport instructor and at constructing a set of open and educational resources to support soft and professional skill development through sport. Thus, sport becomes a sort of incubator of skills and competencies development, particularly useful and immediate for people to understand and experience.”

According to the proposal, “the project will be implemented through the following actions:

- Analyse the skills of coaches and sport instructors to identify the ones they hold and the ones they implicitly transmit athletes (mainly desk research based on already existing studies);
- Explore the opinion of the main stakeholders and decision makers in the field of labour (i.e., HR manager, HR agencies) about the skills and competencies particularly useful to enter in the current labour market (i.e., team working, flexibility, diversity management, time management and so on...);
- Compare the first two points to identify the gap among the skills that coaches and sport instructors hold and the skills requested by labour market, to understand which are yet owned and which need to be developed by them;
- Create a training course (packaged in open educational materials) dedicated to coaches and sport instructors with the following aims: raising their awareness on the skills and competencies they have developed through sport, support them in developing eventual missing skills requested by labour market and finally, let them become trainers of youth, unemployed or migrants of such skills;
- Pilot a number of training courses where coaches and sport instructors become trainers of youth, unemployed or migrants to support them in the development of a set of skills need to (re)integrate into the labour market.”

The Forum Sport4Impact, headed by Dr Paolo Bertaccini, will hold a **Sport4Impact Forum Conference** from 20 to 22 May in Milan, Italy, and will include the first public meeting of the SBS4Med project oriented to dissemination. The Conference is organized by ASAG of Sacred Heart Catholic University in Milan in cooperation with United Nations Agencies ([UNESCO](#), [UNODC](#), and [ILO](#)). The three key issues addressed will be Sport Integrity; Skills for Labour Market, Social Inclusion, Development; and Innovation and Multistakeholder.

The main scope of the Forum and its Conference is to accompany, strengthen, and upgrade existing intervention programs and to trigger new ones to ensure and achieve growing impacts by the use of science-based methodologies. In its very essence the Forum aims at connecting in a virtuous manner the “research system” (Universities and research centres) with public and private policies (state and local authorities, sport bodies, NGOs) all around the world through a high-level cooperation with the United Nations system and other primary international organizations to trigger fertile interactions between global and local approaches, needs, and practices.

Furthermore the 6th Meeting of the **European Commission Expert Group on Sport Integrity** will take place embedded into the Conference. Thus the EC top officials on sport, the 27 Member States, and approximately 20 observers (FIFA, UEFA, INTERPOL, FIFPRO, EU ATHLETES, etc) will attend the event.

*The project puts sailing high in the list of sports benefitting from the tools developed and will provide EUROSAF with a direct experience of participating in ERASMUS+ projects and their administration.*



## EUROPEAN SAILING FEDERATION

- Draft an Erasmus+ call to fund the ESA-WEST project.
- Set up the ESA-WAVE project as a one-week test event for the ESA-WEST project.

After analysing the requirements and implications of drafting an Erasmus+ call, especially regarding administrative load and obligations in terms of output of the project, the Executive Board decided to follow a different route.

The **ESA-WEST** project aims at dramatically bridging the gap between knowledge producers (research) and its users (athletes, coaches, officials, and administrators) in all fields relating to or having an impact on sailing in a dynamic, challenging, and rewarding environment. It will improve the attractiveness of sailing as a field of study, and thus enlarge the body of knowledge about our sport, put such knowledge within easy reach, and show sailing's potential as an educational tool. It will also greatly benefit EUROSAF Members by providing:

- Improved education in and about sailing
- Increased visibility and impact of sailing-related research
- More research in sailing-related fields
- New sailing-related knowledge
- Job opportunities for sailors reaching end of sailing career
- Useful networking and collaboration opportunities

On 16/12/2019 the president, the vice-chair of the ESA WP, and representatives from Fundació Navegació Oceànica Barcelona, Facultat de Nàutica of Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, and Universitat Pompeu Fabra **met in Barcelona** to discuss their possible involvement in setting up the first edition. Further meetings have followed and will be continued.

*The Executive Board asks Members to identify a contact person in their country, ideally with connections to research or industry, to serve as the link to develop the project locally in terms of awareness and attendance.*

*The Executive Board expects to partner with an organizing University to start working on the practicalities to launch the first edition.*

- Develop a European network of collaborating universities and higher education institutions to give the sailing community easier access to sailing related knowledge and the sport of sailing further recognition as a fruitful matter of study.

EUROSAF has signed two Memoranda of Understanding, stating collaboration goals and introducing no obligations, with Constanta Maritime University (Romania) on 14/11/2018 and with Politecnico di Torino (Italy) on 16/01/2019. Prof. Alexandru Micu, chair of the Youth and Development Committee, and Prof. Alessandro Pezzoli, vice-chair of the European Sailing Academy Working Party, were instrumental in reaching these agreements. Contacts have started with further Universities to expand the network.

*These agreements are a first step, to be followed by further agreements to create a European level network of collaborating institutions to give the sailing community easier access to sailing related knowledge and the sport of sailing further recognition as a fruitful matter of study. The Executive Board expects to continue developing partnerships with Universities active in the field of sailing.*

### **Nurture a good relationship with World Sailing.**

- Expand the collaboration with World Sailing.



## EUROPEAN SAILING FEDERATION

- Define and promote a better integration of EUROSAF and other Continental Associations into World Sailing.

As previously stated, the Executive Board wants to make Continental Associations meetings a permanent feature of World Sailing meetings and wishes for a more tangible support that will not translate into higher costs.

The Executive Board decided to launch the 2019 EUROSAF Mixed Offshore European Championship (EMOEC) to help European National Sailing Federations access the new Olympic Mixed Offshore event at a high level of competition and at a reasonable cost and also to help test, showcase, and promote the new Olympic event. The 2020 edition, sailed on L30 boats, clearly offers a training ground for national teams preparing for the Worlds in October 2020 in Malta. The president and Riccardo Simoneschi, organizer of the 2019 and 2020 editions, explained to Alastair Fox, World Sailing Events manager, the hurdles encountered while setting up and running the 2019 event, with the desire to share the experience with World Sailing and help it towards the delivery of the announced World Championship. The president also presented the Executive Board's intention that the 2020 edition be the European qualifier to the Worlds, if needed. Later in the conference the president was ready to give his views on the event, based on actual and direct experience, to the Events Committee. Unreasonably, he was not invited to speak.

Vice-president Pınar Coşkuner Genç attended World Sailing's Development and Regions Committee meeting in Bermuda in October 2019 where she presented EUROSAF Events, highlighting Circuits and very especially the efforts done towards Para Sailing and the inclusive approach introduced in 2018 and 2019.

The president formally invited World Sailing's president to EUROSAF's 2020 General Assembly. Although no formal answer was received from him, World Sailing vice-president Nadine Stegenwalner informed he could not attend and had asked her to join the meeting. The president readily invited her to attend.

The president sent World Sailing's president a letter on 14 January 2020 stating the Executive Board's opposition to move an announced April Extraordinary General Meeting to Dubai and a request it be held in a well-connected European city, if it were convened. The letter remained without answer, or even acknowledgment.

The president sent World Sailing's president a letter on 27 February 2020 stating the Executive Board's demand to receive proof of wrongdoing from one of EUROSAF's honorary presidents, in front of accusations made public, in order to take the relevant internal steps to discipline him if appropriate. The letter remained without answer, or even acknowledgment. Therefore, the president sent a subsequent letter on 17 March 2020 stating the Executive Board's conclusion that such accusations were void and no action was needed.

Although the collaboration with World Sailing should expand and more formal contacts take place, the Executive Board deplores the consistent lack of interest, recognition, and support for EUROSAF initiatives aiming at supporting World Sailing projects, such as the Mixed Offshore new Olympic discipline, not to mention for giving Continental Associations any significant role in World Sailing.

### **Strengthen EUROSAF finances.**

The 2019 accounts show that the income from Member subscriptions was slightly higher than planned because seven Members paid their outstanding debts from previous years. Three Members have not paid the 2019 membership fees until today. Two event fees (one from 2017 and one from 2018) were received; two payments from 2015 and 2018 are still outstanding. Four event fees from 2019 were received in the beginning of 2020 with two



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payments still outstanding. The agreed contribution support of the German Sailing Federation for 2015 to 2017 concerning the Race Officials Exchange Programme was received as well as payments for medals supplied to Event organizers, including a payment from an event in 2016. The opening of a PayPal account led to a “test payment” of 0,13 Euro.

Most of the expenses concerning running costs developed as expected or below budget. Special costs for travel of EUROSAF Executive Board or Committee members not covered by their MNAs did not arise. The Austrian Sailing Federation generously provided EUROSAF with the office in Neusiedl am See, which generated significant savings for EUROSAF. The travelling expenses for the Secretary General were lower than budgeted because one payment was debited in 2020. The costs for hosting the website and using the Basecamp web-tool as well as the costs to produce medals for EUROSAF events were significantly lower due to the hosting fee for 2019 being included in the costs of programming the webpage and the change to a yearly fee at Basecamp as well as a further change in the production of the medals. Expenses on investments were made concerning new flags for representing EUROSAF at events and to use pennants as commemorative gifts (promotion) as well as medal blanks to be used in next years and a set of commemorative thank-you gifts (marketing). Other expenses on investments were not made since the development of the new Race Officials Exchange Programme software was not invoiced in 2019. The same applies for legal costs to end the dispute with Konzeptwerft AG.

The 2020 budget is based on the 2019 figures and contains investments that will be made in 2020. The funding from the Austrian government, negotiated by the Austrian Sailing Federation, is not yet confirmed for 2020. The budget does not include the fees from the secretary general. In case the funding will not be continued, the Executive Board and the secretary general have agreed a proportionate payment of 6.000 Euro for the first half-year. Independently of the funding, the Board will start negotiations with the secretary general as the current contract ends on 30/06/2020. Any new contract that would give rise to costs in excess of the funding from the Austrian government or, in the unlikely event the funding is not granted, that would give rise to further costs, would be financed from the assets.

- Finalise recovery of outstanding bills.

The treasurer has been collecting past dues actively; four Members and three event organisers are still in arrears.

- Ensure continuity to the funding from the Austrian Ministry of Sport to support the secretariat in Neusiedl-am-See (see *Consolidate the Secretariat* above).

The president and the secretary general are in conversations with Herbert Houf, president of the Austrian Sailing Federation, to that end. As commented, the Austrian Sailing Federation has submitted the paperwork needed to renew the funding for 2020; the confirmation of renewal is expected shortly.

### **Apply good governance principles in line with IOC recommendations.**

- Improve the application of the principles of good governance set forth by the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF), namely transparency, integrity, democracy, sports development/solidarity, and control mechanisms.
- Measure the improvement in their application by a yearly assessment following ASOIF recommendations.

In 2018 the Executive Board conducted an initial, conservative self-assessment. In many cases the score in specific criteria was low because either they are not directly applicable



to EUROSAF, because it is not an international federation comparable in scope with ASOIF members, or because policies, structures, or procedures that exceed EUROSAF current goals or capabilities are not in place. Although the Executive Board considered the initial global score poor, it was also aware that the total possible score is out of reach because of the mismatches mentioned. During the World Sailing Annual Conference in Bermuda in October 2019, the president took the opportunity to comment the situation with James Carr, head of Administration & Projects at ASOIF, who explained that as the criteria in the ASOIF principles of good governance are not compulsory and rather form a set of guiding rules for international federations to adapt to their needs and reality, the more so for non-ASOIF members.

The Executive Board had a working session on the good governance principles and adopted a set of measures to increase the overall score of EUROSAF.

*The measures are being implemented as an ongoing and continuous process to improve the governance of EUROSAF without overtaxing its resources and capabilities*

## 4. Long-Term Goals: From Consolidation and Development To Knowledge, Unity, and Trust

The Executive Board shall endeavour to:

- Give rise to new opportunities for the benefit of European sailors, coaches, race officials, and sport administrators.
- Impact sailing at Continental level in a strong, positive, and lasting way.
- Foster unity and trust in Europe to grow sailing into a powerful Continental sport.

### Cooperation with and among Members

- Maximize the benefit to Members from cooperation within EUROSAF.
- Build stronger ties between Members.
- Build strong and mutually beneficial ties with the sailing community.
- Build on Members' diversity a stronger EUROSAF.

The Contact and Cooperation Committee started its work towards EUROSAF's vision and towards making an asset of what has formerly proved a hindrance: our differences.

- Work on the following objectives:
  - Bring value to the sailing community through cooperation projects.
  - Develop lasting and rewarding cooperation projects between Members.
  - Maintain a good working relationship with all other sailing stakeholders (World Sailing, Continental Associations, Classes, Clubs).

### Race Officials

- Help National Judges, Umpires, Measurers, and Race Officers from European MNAs become International Race Officials and develop a successful international career.
- Give European international event organizers access to highly skilled International Race Officials.

### Youth & Development

- Promote a lifelong participation in sailing to fulfil the promise that "sailing is a sport for life."



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- Foster personal growth through sailing.

*The Youth and Development Committee, with the support of the Events Committee, shall explore, among other topics fundamental to sailing's development, the personal growth aspect of sailing: how sailors can become more successful and better persons through our sport. Continued participation in the sport in all phases of life is also a crucial topic the Committee shall work on.*

- Develop youth sailing in Europe.
- Work on the following objectives:
  - Keep young sailors involved in the sport throughout youth and beyond, whether in competitive sailing or not.
  - Offer young sailors consistent pathways from grassroots to (top) competitive sailing.

## Events

- Promote and facilitate sailing for all ages throughout Europe.
- Use EUROSAF Events as a way to foster personal growth through sailing.

EUROSAF Events are a powerful tool in reaching the vision stated in the Key Priorities. Youth, Para Sailing, Match-Race, and Club Sailing are targeted from 2018, with Mixed Offshore added in 2019, and continue to be in 2020.

*The Events Committee shall delve into the value that EUROSAF events bring to Members, to sailors, and to European sailing. The Committee shall bring forth proposals to ensure that EUROSAF Events help reach EUROSAF goals also in other areas, such as training, development, increased participation in sailing, and cultural exchange, to name just a few, while increasing their value to organisers and sponsors.*

## Para Sailing

- Help increase participation and visibility.
- Set up a Para Sailing development program for European MNAs.

## Marketing & Media

- Make EUROSAF actions visible to its stakeholders, to the sailing community, and to the public in general.
- Manage EUROSAF's value as an investment for funding partners.
- Work on the following objectives:
  - Develop an effective communication strategy for EUROSAF.

*The Marketing and Media Committee shall develop effective strategies to increase the awareness of sailing in Europe.*
  - Develop a strategy for media relations and awareness.

## European Sailing Academy

- Set up a European Sailing Academy to coordinate, develop, and distribute knowledge, training, and research about all matters related to sailing.

*Knowledge about sailing is constantly being created all over Europe in MNAs, in training institutions, in research centres, and in companies, to name a few. The European Sailing Academy Working Party shall undertake to review and coordinate, develop, and distribute knowledge, training, and research about all matters related to sailing in Europe for the benefit of the sailing community.*



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- Work on the following objectives:
  - Bring value to the sailing community through knowledge, training, and research projects.
  - Bridge the gap between sailing knowledge generators and users.
  - Create a repository to collect, store, and distribute knowledge useful to the sailing community.
  - Define and promote European standards of training in sailing.
  - Detect mutually beneficial cooperation opportunities between Members and research or training institutions.

## Regional Games

- Become the natural interlocutor to the IOC.

## Classes

- Increase communication and promote non-Olympic classes.

## Other Sailing Continental Associations

- Collaborate for mutual benefit.

## Finance

- Consolidate a steady flow of revenue for EUROSAF's projects.