



ECA Report

ICF Ordinary Congress
Antalya, Turkey
4-10 November 2024

ECA REPORT

Name of the BoD Member: ZOUNGRANA Jean
Function on BoD: President European Canoe Association

1. The ECA 2023 Congress

Since the last ICF congress, the ECA's news has been marked by the elections at the March 2023 congress for the period 2023-2027.

Mr. Albert Woods was also named Honorary Life President on this occasion for his commitment to leading the ECA for 30 years.

Results:

President: ZOUNGRANA Jean

Vice-President: JELENC Andrej

Board members: GAWEHN Manuela, STANOJEVIC Jovana, KVILLUM Geir

ECA Auditor: PETROVA Evelina

Continental representatives to ICF Board: JELENC Andrej, STANOJEVIC Jovana

2. Tasks undertaken since the last ICF Congress

2.1. ECA's work on governance and strategic plans

Several working groups were formed to renovate the statutes and build the strategic development plan and the sports program of the ECA for the period 2025-2028.

For this purpose, a call for applications was launched to the member federations. 20 federations responded and proposed 95 applications.

After approval of the composition of the working groups by the Board, a kick-off meeting of these working groups was held in September 2023.

Many meetings were organized. They made it possible to deliver proposals for new statutes, the ECA's strategic development plan and ECA economic model, as well as

the sports programme. The latter will be finalized by the new technical committees that will be set up in January for approval at the 2025 ECA Congress.

The New statutes and the strategic plan will be submitted to the ECA extraordinary congress on 9th of November 2024.

2.2. Structure and organization of the ECA

One of our first tasks was also to structure the ECA's organization. An organizational chart has been set up and a recruitment of human resources has been carried out, and the missions and freelance contract of each agent have been defined. An agreement was concluded with the Croatian federation for the administrative assistant.

Administrative assistant: SUNDOV Ivana Sport & Event Manager: STANOJEVIC Jovana Communication & Partnership Manager: JELENC Nina
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It is also the establishment of a sports commission which brings together all the technical delegates from the different disciplines.

IT tools have also been put in place for the Board and the technical delegates with Microsoft Office and Microsoft Teams for meetings and to share documents.

2.3. Meetings of the ECA bodies

Many meetings have been organized since the 2023 congress to make progress on the various projects.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working Group meetings: more than 15 meetings• Board meeting: 12 meetings, 6 of which were face-to-face• Meeting with the national federations for the statutes in Szeged• Meetings of the Sports Commission: 2 meetings |
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3. The events

The European Championships

The organization of the European Championships is one of the main missions of the ECA. As always, the calendar has been dense and it is not possible to list all the events in this report.

Some highlights:

- The organization of the European Games in Sprint and Slalom in Krakow – Poland. (2023)
- For the first time the organization of a European combined championships in Sprint, Paracanoe and SUP (introduced to the European Championships for the first time with lot success and high participation numbers) in Szeged. (2024)
- Hosting of Special Olympics events for the first time at the European Sprint Championships in Szeged. (2024)

- Hosting Paracanoe Marathon events (2024)

2023	2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 European Games - Canoe Sprint Krakow, Poland • 2023 European Games - Canoe Slalom Krakow, Poland • ECA Wildwater Canoeing European Championships Skopje, North Macedonia • ECA Canoe Marathon European Championships Slavonski Brod, Croatia • ECA Junior and U23 Canoe Slalom European Championships Bratislava, Slovakia • ECA Paracanoe and Junior/U23 Canoe Sprint European Championships Montemor-o-Velho, Portugal • 2023 ECA Canoe Polo European Championships Brandenburg, Germany • ECA Canoe Polo Clubs European Championships Arcos de la Frontera, Espagne 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECA Ocean Racing European Championships Azores Islands, Portugal • ECA I Feel Slovenia Canoe Slalom European Championships Ljubljana - Tacen, Slovenia • ECA Canoe Sprint, Paracanoe and SUP European Championships Szeged, Hungary • ECA Junior and U23 Canoe Sprint European Championships Bratislava, Slovakia • ECA Junior and U23 Wildwater Canoeing European Championships Dallenwil, Switzerland • ECA Canoe Masters Marathon European Championships Poznan, Poland • ECA Canoe Marathon European Championships Poznan, Poland • ECA Junior and U23 Canoe Slalom European Championships Krakow, Poland • ECA Canoe Polo Clubs European Championships Bacoli - Naples, Italy • ECA Canoe Freestyle European Championships Graz, Austria

Many European cups and categories events – Juniors, Masters - have also been organized in different disciplines and categories. We cannot name them all.

This report is an opportunity to thank all the federations and organizing committees for their commitment to the organization of these events.

Furthermore, major European events are currently under consideration, including the 2026 European multi-sport championships and the next 2027 European Games in Istanbul – Turkey.

4. PARIS 2024

The European continent hosted the Olympic Games and the Paralympic games for the first time. I won't be totally impartial in saying that these Games were an exceptional success.

All Canoe events were organized on the same venue, the Olympic and Paralympic nautical center in Vaires-Sur-Marne with it's lake and artificial river for slalom and kayak cross.

For the first time Kayak Cross was in the programme. The organization was a real success with the public.

It was also the centenary of canoeing's presence at the Games. We were in demonstration at the Paris Games in 1924. It was also the centenary of the ICF, which was celebrated on the occasion of these Games.

The French Canoe Federation inaugurated its new headquarters and hosted these various convivial moments.

Many personalities, presidents of the republic, prime ministers and dignitaries visited us during these Games, which contributed to the notoriety of our paddle sports.

5. Conclusion

This report cannot ignore the geopolitical situation with the war between Russia and Ukraine started on 2022. We hope that diplomatic channels will allow a rapid end to this conflict. The populations are the first victims. The sports movement is also impacted. The ECA has applied the ICF regulations regarding the participation of Russian and Belarus athletes during the European Championships.

Finally, since the last ICF and ECA Congress, many changes have been made to the organisation and functioning of the ECA. I would like to thank all the members of the Board and the technical delegates for their commitment.

Different important steps await us. The extraordinary congress of 2024 to approve our new statutes and our strategic development plan.

It is also at the end of this year, the appointment of the chairman of our different disciplines.

And finally, the ordinary congress of March 2025, which will allow us to approve the sports program, organize the elections according to our statutes and start to implement our strategic plan.

Jean ZOUNGRANA

President European Canoe Association