



Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting of 24 May 2013, Brussels, Belgium

Present:

A list of those attending may be found at Annex 1.

Apologies for absence

Apologies are noted at Annex 1.

(1) Opening Remarks

Katrien de Wachter, Belgian representative to ECSA, welcomed Executive Committee (EC) members to the meeting on behalf of the Director-General (DG) of Belgian Customs and expressed pleasure that she and Rita de Wolf were able to host the meeting and ECSA competitors in the Brussels 20K despite the financial situation.

JH opened the meeting by expressing thanks to Belgian Customs for hosting the meeting and to Isobel Maltby (IM) of TAXUD for being able to attend until the lunch break. JH noted that European Customs Directors-General were meeting at the same time in Poland and advised that the Czech DG had promised to mention ECSA at the meeting.

(2) Approval of the Agenda

The meeting approved the agenda.

(3) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of 18 January 2013 in Rome were agreed as a true and fair record.

(4) Matters Arising

For an update on all action points, see Annex 2.

Action Point 09/11: It was agreed that something about how ECSA contacts have benefitted Member State administrations should appear on the home page of the website, provided that it was regularly updated. EB reported that Malta had been able to seize two stolen cars before they were sent to Libya, as a consequence of him approaching AK with details of the cars and receiving a reply within twenty-four hours. EB also reported that thanks to his contact with Belgium, he had this week attended a health and safety course on container inspection safety that would benefit his colleagues back in Malta.

Action Point 21/13: EB to supply Janne Kallio with appropriate details of how he had liaised with AK to ensure the seizure of two stolen cars in Malta, for publication on the website.

There was a general discussion about ways of reinforcing contacts with DGs and Member States who we don't hear from as much as we would like.

Action Point 22/13: JH and RD to refresh the list of ECSA delegates in good time before the AGM.

Action Point 23/13: JH to explore with TAXUD how it might be able to help in maintaining, expanding and refreshing contacts.

Action Point 24/13: JH to explore with Ireland the possibility of it hosting an EC meeting.

Action Point 09/13: It was agreed in principle to buy additional polo shirts, getting quotes from Sweden and Malta for a maximum of one hundred shirts.

Action Point 25/13: JH to contact Palle Lundborg of Sweden to ask him to get a quote for more polo shirts.

Action Point 26/13: EB to get quotes for more polo shirts.

Action Point 16/13: It was agreed to add a border to the left-hand side and to ask about fonts and proportions/colours of the logo.

Action Point 27/13: JH to see about fonts and proportions/colours of the logo.

The meeting agreed the necessity of retaining the colour codes for the logo, which are red (032), yellow (109), blue (287), green (348) and black (black).

Action Point 19/13: JH reported that Austria hosted a meeting which completely overhauled the rules of the sniffer dog competition. JH explained some of what is involved in hosting the competition and reported that no countries had volunteered to host it in 2014.

Action Point 28/13: TdG to informally explore whether the Netherlands could host the sniffer dog competition, perhaps in 2015.

(5) Treasurer's Report

SMH reported that the new bank account has finally been established. He said that the old account still contained the funds, €12,598.41. SMH further reported that the Czech Republic, France, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Norway, Slovakia and Turkey still had not paid their subscriptions for 2013. JH told SMH that he would pay the Czech Republic's subscription in cash in the margins of the meeting. In answer to a question, SMH reported that no subscriptions prior to 2013 were outstanding. It was agreed to keep the old bank account open until all 2013 subscriptions had been received.

Action Point 29/13: SMH to chase up outstanding 2013 subscriptions.

LL reported that Marit Solvik had left Norwegian Customs and that Bjørn Granli was now the representative.

(6) World Police and Fire Games 2013

RD read out the application from the Northern Ireland Region of Revenue & Customs Sports and Leisure in the UK for £500 towards the cost of hosting a reception for Customs officers attending the World Police and Fire Games in Belfast, United Kingdom. JH sought views from each member present. Arguments in favour included raising the Association's profile amongst Member and non-Member States whose officers attended such a reception and increasing networking opportunities. Arguments against included the fact that it would be money spent on a non-sporting event.

Following discussion, the grant application was approved, in the amount of €500 (not £500) on the proviso that RD would attend in order to positively promote the Association, that the promotional video would be shown and that promotional items would be handed out at the reception. In this latter regard, it was agreed that if necessary monies could be expended to acquire promotional items.

Action Point 30/13: RD to advise RCSL Northern Ireland of the EC's agreement to a grant of €500 towards a reception for Customs officers attending the World Police and Fire Games in Belfast.

(7) Communications

The meeting noted the recent attack on the website. EB said that he, Palle Lundborg and Janne Kallio had communicated through Facebook during the incident. EB said that the hacker had been able to attack whilst Janne had been working on the website and that in normal circumstances the attack would not have been possible.

LL updated the meeting on the current state of play with the website. He said that Janne needs to move each page to the new site. It was noted that some minutes of meetings seemed to have disappeared following the hacking attack. The meeting discussed adding links to Twitter and YouTube to the website and it was agreed that whilst this was desirable, the first priority must be restoring the website to full operational capability.

Action Point 31/13: MP to set up an ECSA E-mail address in order to facilitate the subsequent establishment of an Association YouTube account.

Action Point 32/13: EB to set up a personal Twitter account in order to scope out the issues involved and any difficulties prior to consideration being given to opening an ECSA Twitter account.

(8) Calendar

2013

The meeting updated the calendar. RD advised that the United Kingdom was not able to host the swimming tournament in 2013; it was agreed that the swimming tournament would have to be held over until 2014.

2014

The meeting updated the calendar for 2014.

SMH advised that Denmark would be checking out a possible venue for the golf tournament by holding its own event there in June 2013. If it proved suitable, then Denmark should be able to host the golf tournament at the same venue in June 2014. SMH further suggested that this might then prove a suitable venue for the June 2014 EC meeting.

LL advised that the cost of the hire of boats needed to be resolved before Finland could definitely commit to hosting a sailing tournament in 2014.

A proposal from the United Kingdom to host a cycling event in September 2014 was agreed.

EB said that Malta could host the football tournament in 2014 if Turkey could not.

Action Point 33/13: JH to write to all Member States seeking volunteers to host the swimming tournament in 2014.

(9) Any Other Business

In response to a question, RD clarified that the terms of office for MP and himself concluded at this year's AGM, along with TdG's year as a former Officer-observer. The meeting indicated that it would like both of them to offer themselves for re-election and for TdG to continue to attend meetings as an observer. The meeting stated that it valued having a native English speaker as Secretary. RD said that he appreciated this but said that the Association would not wish to be in a position whereby the United Kingdom always supplied the Secretary.

LL suggested incorporating into the Rules the requirement that event invitations be sent out at least six months prior to event dates. It was agreed that the EC should have discretion on how breaches of this requirement were dealt with.

Action Point 34/13: RD to revise the Rules to include a requirement that event invitations be issued at least six months prior to events.

The meeting agreed that it would be desirable for the Association's profile to be raised as far as the World Customs Organisation is concerned.

Action Point 35/13: MP to provide JH with details about his contact in the World Customs Organisation.

Action Point 36/13: JH to write to the World Customs Organisation giving information about the Association.

Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting, to be held in Valletta, Malta on Friday 11 October 2013.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5.40pm.

**RICHARD DOWLING
SECRETARY
28 MAY 2013**

Annex 1

Persons Attending and Apologies

Office	Name	Initials	Country	Present
President	Jan Hlinka	JH	Czech Republic	Y
Vice- President	Lasse Lehtokangas	LL	Finland	Y
Treasurer	Svend Mandel Hansen	SMH	Denmark	Y
Secretary	Richard Dowling	RD	United Kingdom	Y
Member	Marco Paladino	MP	Italy	Y
Member	Andreas Krueckeberg	AK	Germany	Y
Member	Eamon Bugeja	EB	Malta	Y
EC Observer	Theo de Goeijen	TdG	Netherlands	Y
EC Observer	Daniel Koener	DK	Luxembourg	A
Guest	Isobel Maltby	IM	TAXUD	Y

Annex 2

Update on Action Points taken forward from meeting of 18 January 2013

AP	BY	ACTION POINT
From Annual General Meeting of 01 October 2010		
09/11	ALL	Representatives having information about how ECSA contacts have benefitted member state administrations to send this to TdG.
		<i>Ongoing.</i>
From Executive Committee meeting of 18 January 2013		
08/13	JH	JH to advise Latvia that subscriptions from before 2013 were being waived but that future subscriptions should be paid on time and that they could perhaps consider organising an EC meeting.
		<i>Discharged.</i>
09/13	ALL	All to advise JH how many polo shirts they have and in what sizes.
		<i>Discharged.</i>
10/13	JH	JH to ask Bernie Sik of Hungary whether he would be willing to take on the role of auditor.
		<i>Discharged, Bernie has agreed.</i>
11/13	RD	RD to draw up a Communications Strategy and circulate to EC members.
		<i>Discharged, draft Strategy issued 21/01/2013.</i>
12/13	LL	LL to put general information about the ECSA plus a few photographs of events into a PDF leaflet on the website.
		<i>Ongoing.</i>
13/13	LL	LL to get links to Facebook and Twitter put onto the front page of the website.
		<i>Discharged.</i>
14/13	JH	JH to advise all Member States that when sending web information to LL it must be accompanied by the Publishing Request Form and copied to Janne Kallio at janne.kallio@tulli.fi .
		<i>Discharged.</i>
15/13	LL	LL to investigate the possibility of having a moving banner at the top of the front page.
		<i>Discharged, rolling banner installed 21/01/2013.</i>
16/13	JH	JH to circulate the two possible versions of the Association's logo, for EC members to advise their preference.
		<i>Discharged. New design chosen, flapping flag with Association name in capital letters.</i>

17/13	MP	MP to finalise the promotional videos and send to LL for uploading onto the website and YouTube, linked with Facebook.
		<i>Discharged, meeting approved videos.</i>
18/13	JH	JH to invite Tomas Kucirek of TAXUD to the next EC meeting.
		<i>Void, Isobel Maltby attended.</i>
19/13	JH	JH to write to all Member States seeking expressions of interest in hosting the 2014 sniffer dogs event.
		<i>Discharged, no volunteers so no event in 2014.</i>
20/13	JH	JH to write to Turkey asking them to confirm that they would definitely host the football in 2014.
		<i>Discharged, Turkey unlikely to commit until after volleyball in September.</i>

Annex 3

Action Points taken forward from meeting of 24 May 2013

AP	BY	ACTION POINT
		From Annual General Meeting of 01 October 2010
09/11	ALL	Representatives having information about how ECSA contacts have benefitted member state administrations to send this to TdG.
		From Executive Committee meeting of 18 January 2013
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		From Executive Committee meeting of 24 May 2013
21/13	EB	EB to supply Janne Kallio with appropriate details of how he had liaised with AK to ensure the seizure of two stolen cars in Malta, for publication on the website.
22/13	JH/ RD	JH and RD to refresh the list of ECSA delegates in good time before the AGM.
23/13	JH	JH to explore with TAXUD how it might be able to help in maintaining, expanding and refreshing contacts.
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25/13	JH	JH to contact Palle Lundborg of Sweden to ask him to get a quote for more polo shirts.
26/13	EB	EB to get quotes for more polo shirts.
27/13	JH	JH to see about fonts and proportions/colours of the logo.
28/13	TdG	TdG to informally explore whether the Netherlands could host the sniffer dog competition, perhaps in 2015.
29/13	SM H	SMH to chase up outstanding 2013 subscriptions.
30/13	RD	RD to advise RCSL Northern Ireland of the EC's agreement to a grant of €500 towards a reception for Customs officers attending the World Police and Fire Games in Belfast.
31/13	MP	MP to set up an ECSA E-mail address in order to facilitate the subsequent establishment of an Association YouTube account.
32/13	EB	EB to set up a personal Twitter account in order to scope out the issues involved and any difficulties prior to consideration being given to opening an ECSA Twitter account.
33/13	JH	JH to write to all Member States seeking volunteers to host the swimming tournament in 2014.
34/13	RD	RD to revise the Rules to include a requirement that event invitations be issued at least six months prior to events.

35/13	MP	MP to provide JH with details about his contact in the World Customs Organisation.
36/13	JH	JH to write to the World Customs Organisation giving information about the Association.

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Annex 4

Events & Meetings in 2013

Activity	Date	Member State	Comments
EC meeting	18/01/2013	Czech Republic	Prague
Skiing	23/02 - 02/03/2013	Italy	Bormio
Tenpin bowling	08/02 - 09/02/2013	Finland	Lappeenranta
Table Tennis	May	Poland	Swider
EC meeting	24/05/2013	Belgium	Brussels
Running	26/05/2013	Belgium	Brussels
Shooting	04/07 - 07/07/2013	Hungary	Budapest
Walking	16/07 - 19/07/2013	Netherlands	Nijmegen
Running	06/09 - 08/09/2013	Czech Republic	10K & 1 mile
Volleyball	25/09 - 27/09	Turkey	Marmaris
Running	05/10/2013	Germany	Cologne
Marathon	06/10/2013	Slovakia	Košice
AGM	11/10/2013	Malta	Valletta
Running	18/10/2013	France	Cysoing (Lille)

Note

Activities in *italics* are not yet confirmed.

Annex 5

Events & Meetings in 2014

Activity	Date	Member State	Comments
EC meeting	24/01/2014	United Kingdom	Bournemouth
Skiing	February or March	Italy	
Amazing Race	24/04 - 26/04/2014	Malta	
Table Tennis	Mid-May	Poland	
Running	25/05/2014	Belgium	Brussels
<i>EC meeting</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>Sweden or Denmark</i>	
<i>Golf</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>Denmark</i>	
<i>Shooting</i>	<i>Late June/early July</i>	<i>Sweden</i>	
Walking	July	Netherlands	Nijmegen
<i>Sailing</i>	<i>06/09/2014</i>	<i>Finland</i>	<i>Aaland</i>
Running	September	Czech Republic	10K & 1 mile
Cycling	12/09 - 13/09/2014	Coalport, Telford	
<i>Football</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>Turkey or Malta</i>	
AGM	Early October	Hungary	Budapest
Marathon	Early October	Hungary	Budapest
<i>Running</i>	<i>October</i>	<i>Germany</i>	<i>Cologne</i>
Running	October	France	

Note

Activities in *italics* are not yet confirmed.

* The Amazing Race is an event something like a triathlon in that it involves various different physical activities but it also involves certain knowledge-based (work and otherwise) activities.