



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 02nd October 2009 at Vienna, Austria

Present: Netherlands: Theo de Goeijen, President (TdG),
Finland: Lasse Lehtokangas, Vice-President (LL)
Luxembourg: Daniel Koener, Treasurer (DK)
United Kingdom: Andrea Scott-Lewis (ASL), Richard Dowling (RD)
Belgium: Lieven Muylaert (LM)
Italy: Marco Paladino (MP)
Malta: Frank Agius (FA)
Denmark: Svend Mandel Hansen (SMH)
Sweden: Palle Lundborg (PL)
Hungary: Barnabas Sik (BS)
France: Pierre Galland (PG)
Czech Republic: Jan Hlinka (JH)
Poland: Anetta Janda (AJ)
Slovakia: Jan Gajdos (JG)
Austria: Peter Zeller (PZ)

Note Taker: Richard Dowling

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were noted as having been received from Cyprus, Ireland, Lithuania, Latvia Turkey and the Taxation and Customs Union Directorate-General (TAXUD) of the European Union.

(1) Opening Remarks

TdG opened the meeting by thanking Austria for hosting the meeting. He then welcomed the delegates to the meeting, particularly the new delegates from Poland, the Czech Republic and France. He particularly welcomed the attendance of a Maltese delegate for the first time. He also noted that it was gratifying that despite the current financial difficulties, fifteen member states were represented at the meeting.

(2) Approval of the Agenda

The meeting approved the agenda.

(3) Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

Annual General Meeting 2008

PG advised that under 'Tour de Table' France had competed in the six-a-side football in Budapest in 2008. With this correction, the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 2008 were agreed as a true and fair record.

Executive Committee Meeting January 2009

Under 'Approval of the minutes of the AGM' it was noted that subsequent to the 2008 AGM a report had been received from Slovakia and that the minutes of the EC meeting should reflect this. Under 'Approval of the minutes of the AGM' it was and 'Action list' it was noted that Andrew should in fact read Andrea. Under 'Responsibility committee' it was noted that the question mark after JG's name should be removed and that RD's name had been omitted in error. Under 'Any other business' it was noted that a Slovakian marathon would be in 2010 not 20120.

Executive Committee Meeting June 2009

Under Action Point 15, it was noted that the text should read 'ECSA administrative and financial calendar.' An anomaly in the numbering of the list of action points was also noted, which revealed the omission on an action point from the main body of the minutes, although it did appear in the list of action points at Annex 1.

(4) Matters Arising

Executive Committee Meeting January 2009

TdG advised that he had contacted the French Customs attache in the Hague following a misunderstanding about the organisation of a cross-country event in France which resulted in invitations not being sent out to most member countries. It was noted that Luxembourg had attended and that the ECSA flag had been on display. It was also noted that invitations will be sent out in English in future.

In response to a question from TdG, ASL outlined the background to and the effects of the creation of the UK Border Agency. A discussion then took place concerning how widely eligibility criteria to compete in ECSA events should be applied. LM proposed that each member state be allowed to designate eligibility criteria. The meeting agreed with this proposal, although PZ asked that it be noted in the minutes that in his opinion eligibility should be restricted to Ministry of Finance staff only. TdG commented that certainly people such as police officers should not be included. LM reminded the meeting of the TAXUD dimension. It was agreed that the Executive Committee (EC) would monitor the situation on an ongoing basis.

TdG congratulated PL on the Swedish victory in the sailing Coppers Cup.

(5) Directors-General meeting in Budapest

TdG drew the attention of the delegates to the minutes of the meeting of Customs administration Directors-General in Budapest, which had been included in the papers for the meeting. TdG expressed his thanks to those who had made his presence at and presentation to the Budapest meeting possible, most particularly BS. TdG said that he had been encouraged by the reaction to his presentation both during and after the meeting. He noted that Estonia had an expressed interest in joining the Association. As for Germany, the situation was somewhat complex. Local German sports clubs are interested in participating in events and would like Germany to be a member of the Association. TdG said that he was in contact with two such sports clubs.

(6) Treasurer's Report & Annual Accounts 2009

DK commented favourably on the number of member states who now pay their subscriptions by bank transfer. He noted some minor revisions to the report issued with the papers for the meeting, most particularly the error in the 'Balance Vienna 2009', which should have been 14,742.25 Euros. DK also commented on the background to most of the entries in the accounts. He advised the meeting that due to the illness of the official in the Luxembourg Ministry of Finance who normally arranged for payment of the ECSA subscription, he had paid the subscription from his personal funds and subsequently reimbursed himself. He also advised that due to the vagaries of internet banking, he had paid an invoice for 1,138.54 Euros from his personal funds and had again subsequently reimbursed himself. DK remarked that the interest earned on our money would be considerably less this year.

SMH noted that he had had to audit the accounts by himself this year, due to the other auditor being unable to attend the meeting. SMH confirmed that he had found the accounts to be satisfactory.

TdG drew the attention of the meeting to the EC's proposal that the financial year of the Association be amended to run from 01st September to 31st August. He also drew attention to the proposal that subscriptions should be henceforth paid in advance rather than in arrears and that to avoid financial difficulties for member states the subscription should be reduced to 75 Euros for 2009 and 75 Euros for 2010. A discussion of potential administrative difficulties in member state administrations then took place, following which delegates were asked for their opinions individually. As a consequence of this, it was agreed that the financial year should be amended to run from 01st September to 31st August and that subscriptions should no longer be paid in arrears but that the subscription should remain at 150 Euros per year.

As a consequence of the decisions made, DK stated that he would send out invoices for the 2009/2010 subscriptions by 31st October, requesting payment by 01st February 2010 from those member states paying by bank transfer. It was agreed that member states paying in cash would pay as soon as possible and in any event by 01st February 2010. It was also agreed that TdG would write to any member states who had difficulties and that the EC would resolve such cases.

AP 19/09: DK to send out subscription invoices by 31st October, requesting payment by 01st February.

AP 20/09: Any member states having difficulty with the new arrangements for payment of the subscription to contact TdG.

The meeting adopted the annual accounts.

(7) Draft ECSA Rules

LL outlined the background to the production of the draft rules and RD took the meeting through the draft page by page. No significant concerns were expressed.

(8) Website

LL demonstrated the ECSA website. He asked for information to be provided where this was missing from a member state's part of the site. There was a brief discussion about what should be included on a member state's site; TdG confirmed that this was essentially each member state's decision to make. LL invited any suggestions for the site. He confirmed that it would shortly include a notation of the last time that the site had been updated. TdG also said that E-mail notifications would be sent to each member state each time the site was updated. Various other comments were made in the discussion that took place.

(9) Promotional Items

LM and ASL modelled two examples of polo shirts, the Swedish design then being chosen. It was agreed that shirts would only be given to organisers of events. TdG showed the meeting the three dimensional stickers he had sourced. These had been included in the packs for the meeting and member states requiring extra stickers were asked to contact him. He also distributed mobile phone holders, pins and pens. TdG invited suggestions for further such items; PL mentioned mouse mats. LM mentioned the T shirts used at the 20K in Brussels and was asked to bring an example of these to the next EC meeting.

AP 21/09: Suggestions for promotional items to be sent to TdG.

TdG confirmed that he had a large ECSA flag and would order another one. He said that standard flags could be sent to member states that did not have one.

(10) Reports on events in 2009

United Kingdom

ASL referred to her written report.

Belgium

LM referred on the 20K road race and Belgian participation in various events including the Slovakian marathon in Kosice, the Finnish swimming gala and the sniffer dog competition and participation in upcoming events. LM said that his administration did not allow teams to be sent to events, only individuals.

Italy

MP mentioned skiing in Italy and Italian participation in the Brussels 20K and the volleyball and referred to participation in upcoming events.

Malta

FA outlined Maltese Customs participation in local Maltese events and said that he hoped for Maltese participation in upcoming ECSA events.

Denmark

SMH referred to the difficulties in securing Danish participation in international events but said that he was more hopeful for the future.

Sweden

PL referred to his written report and also mentioned participation in the Nijmegen Marches and the World Police & Fire Games in Vancouver.

Hungary

BS referred to his written report and commented on some items.

Luxembourg

DK mentioned participation in the French cross-country, the Brussels 20K, the Nijmegen Marches, the Budapest marathon and having organised the shooting competition.

France

PG referred to his written report and French participation in various events.

Czech Republic

JH mentioned the Brussels half marathon, the Nijmegen Marches, the shooting competition, the volleyball in Vienna and having organised the September running event.

Poland

AJ mentioned organising the table tennis (with five member states' teams having attended) and that the team that had attended the Finnish swimming gala had been very impressed.

Slovakia

JG referred to organising the Kosice marathon and participating in the table tennis, the half marathon and the Czech running event.

Austria

PZ referred to participation in the shooting and organising the volleyball competition that was taking part simultaneously with the meeting.

Netherlands

TdG referred to his written report, mentioning the Nijmegen Marches and various other events in which Dutch Customs officer had participated. He invited all those present to the festivities on the last day of the 2010 Nijmegen Marches.

Finland

LL referred to his written report and specifically mentioned the swimming gala. He also referred to participation in upcoming events.

(11) Calendar for 2010 and 2011

Various events and meetings were agreed for 2010. See Annex B for details.

Various events and meetings were agreed for 2011. See Annex C for details.

TdG referred to the importance of keeping the sniffer dog competition going. BS said that he would have to seek the approval of his administration to host the event in 2010. LL advised that Finland might be able to host the sniffer dog

competition in 2011. The Czech Republic suggested holding an event in Hungary at the same time as that member state's presidency of the European Union. TdG commented favourably on establishing such a principle.

AP 22/09: BS to seek approval from his administration to host the sniffer dog competition in 2010.

DK reminded the meeting of the need to copy ECSA representatives as well as Directors-General in on invitations to events. PL reminded the meeting that events should also go on the Association's website.

(12) Elections - EC and Auditors

A list of Executive Committee members and their terms of office had been provided by TdG prior to the meeting. It was noted that the vacancy for office of Secretary had been created by Katy Stifterova standing down at the expiry of her term of office. The meeting also noted that RD had been asked to stand as Secretary and signified its agreement to his taking on the role; his term of office will be 2009 - 2013. MP was asked to fill the consequent vacancy on the Executive Committee. MP stated that he would need to discuss the invitation with his administration; TdG will send an invitation to the Italian administration to reinforce the argument in favour of MP taking on the role. An alternate nominee in the form of AJ was put forward in case MP was unable to accept the nomination.

AP 23/09: MP to advise TdG whether he is able to accept election to the Executive Committee.

TdG proposed that SMH and Mick O'Hanlon of Ireland should be elected as auditors for the period 2009 - 2010. The meeting agreed and SMH accepted his election. TdG will contact Mr O'Hanlon to confirm whether he is able to accept election.

AP 24/09: TdG to contact Mick O'Hanlon of Ireland to see whether he is able to act as auditor for 2009 - 2010.

(13) Any Other Business

PZ advised that as a consequence of his retirement, Markus Zuccatto will take over as the Austrian representative. PZ thanked those attending the meeting for their friendship, wished the group all the best for the future and hoped for continued participation in ECSA events.

FA asked if fund raising or sponsorship was allowed for events. TdG explained that in the Netherlands no sponsorship is allowed and most administrations took the same line. In ECSA, sponsorship is not permitted.

MP conveyed greetings from Giampiero Piacentini who has now retired; the meeting returned the greetings.

ASL presented the six-a-side Football Rules that she had drawn up and circulated to RD, JG, CS and MO'H for initial agreement. It was agreed that the remaining members of the meeting will examine the draft rules. Any suggestions will be considered by the Executive Committee at its January 2010 meeting, in order that the final set of rules is in place by the time of the six-a-side football in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, United Kingdom in May 2010.

AP 25/09: Comments on the draft six-a-side football rules to be sent to ASL by 18th December.

PZ confirmed departure arrangements for Sunday and was presented with two items of promotional material from the Dutch Customs as retirement gifts: a compass and binoculars. He also received a bottle of Dutch alcohol to toast his retirement.

(14) Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The 2010 Annual General Meeting will be hosted by the Netherlands or Belgium, the exact date and venue to be advised.

The January 2010 Executive Committee meeting may be hosted by Malta but no definite arrangement has yet been made.

AP 26/09: FA to advise TdG as soon as possible whether Malta can host the January 2010 EC meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 17:00

**RICHARD DOWLING
SECRETARY
19th OCTOBER 2009**

AP	BY	ACTION POINT
		From meeting of 01st October 2009
19/09	DK	DK to send out subscription invoices by 31st October, requesting payment by 01st February.
20/09	ALL	Any member states having difficulty with the new arrangements for payment of the subscription to contact TdG.
21/09	ALL	Suggestions for promotional items to be sent to TdG.
22/09	BS	BS to seek approval from his administration to host the sniffer dog competition in 2010.
23/09	MP	MP to advise TdG whether he is able to accept election to the Executive Committee.
24/09	TdG	TdG to contact Mick O'Hanlon of Ireland to see whether he is able to act as auditor for 2009 - 2010.
25/09	ALL	Comments on the draft six-a-side football rules to be sent to ASL by 18th December.

Annex B

Events & Meetings in 2010

Activity	Date	Member State	Comments
EC meeting	January	Malta?	FA to confirm
Downhill skiing	28/02 - 07/03	Italy	
Cross Country	18/03	France	La Sauldre
Table Tennis	13/05 - 16/05	Poland	
EC meeting	26/05	United Kingdom	Newcastle-on-Tyne
6-a-side Football	27/05	United Kingdom	Newcastle-on-Tyne
20K Road Race	30/05	Belgium	Brussels
Golf	June	Austria	PZ to confirm
Shooting	July	Belgium/Netherlands	
Walking	July	Netherlands	Nijmegen
Swimming	August	Poland?	?? to confirm
Athletics	03/09 - 05/09	Czech Republic	10K & 1 mile
Marathon	01/10 - 04/10	Slovakia	Kosice
AGM	October	Netherlands or Belgium	
Basketball	November	United Kingdom?	ASL to confirm

Annex C

Events & Meetings in 2011

Activity	Date	Member State	Comments
EC meeting	January	Malta?	If not in 2010
Supermarathon	March	Hungary?	Lake Balaton
Table Tennis	May	Poland	
Golf	June	Sweden?	PL to confirm
EC meeting	June	Sweden	
Shooting	July	Slovakia?	JG to confirm
Walking	July	Netherlands	Nijmegen
Athletics	September	Czech Republic	10K & 1 mile
Marathon	October	Hungary	
Volleyball	October	Finland	
AGM	October	Finland	