



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 28th September 2012 in Luxembourg

Present: See Annex 1.

Minutes: Richard Dowling (Secretary)

Apologies for absence: See Annex 1.

(1) Opening Remarks

The President opened the meeting by welcoming delegates, particularly the new people from Norway, Turkey, Lithuania and Hungary. He also congratulated Anetta Janda on having recently become a mother. The President thanked Luxembourg for hosting the meeting.

The President noted that although its administration was not interested in becoming a member of ECSA at this time, the Swiss Customs Sports Club was considering whether it wished to apply for membership.

The Treasurer updated delegates on various logistical arrangements and mentioned the forthcoming Luxembourg royal wedding.

The Vice-President informed the meeting that in view of 2012 being the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Association, the Finnish Customs Sports Association had decided to present the Association with a ceremonial gavel, for use by the President at future AGMs and EC meetings. The President thanked Finland for the gift.

(2) Approval of the Agenda

The meeting approved the agenda.

(3) Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

Annual General Meeting 2011

With the correction of a spelling mistake on page 7, the minutes of the meeting of 30th September 2011 were agreed as a true and fair record.

Executive Committee Meeting January 2012

The minutes of this meeting were noted.

Executive Committee Meeting June 2012

The minutes of this meeting were noted. The Secretary commented on the thinking behind the EC recommending candidates for Officer positions.

The Secretary reminded delegates of the importance of having their DG's correct name on their country page.

Andrea Scott-Lewis asked Marco Paladino about the ECSA video that he had been hoping to produce. Marco said that this was still ongoing.

(4) Matters Arising

See Annex 2.

(5) Treasurer's Report & Annual Accounts 2012

The Treasurer issued copies of his report, which showed income and expenditure. He noted that this would be his last meeting as Treasurer, before commenting briefly on various items. Information was given about the tie clips. €10,481.18 is in the bank. The President said that there is money available for

promotional items, if delegates had ideas to suggest. Andrea Scott-Lewis suggested compact mirrors for ladies, which the meeting agreed was a good idea.

Svend Mandel-Hansen stated that he had no comments to make in his role as auditor.

The meeting agreed the annual accounts.

The meeting agreed that the current subscription of €150 should not be raised.

The President thanked the Treasurer for his long service, noting that it was not always easy to chase up outstanding subscriptions.

(6) Communications

The Vice-President updated the meeting on the website, noting particularly the contributions of the Swedish and Finnish webmasters. He reminded the meeting that the website had been refreshed in February, during a meeting that he and Palle Lundborg had had with the webmasters.

The Vice-President said that some administrations blocked work access to sites such as YouTube and Facebook. Palle Lundborg said that there was a Facebook group of some 150 members, the most recent arrival having been that day. Eamon Bugeja noted that there was a hyperlink from this Facebook group to the website and suggested a similar link from the website to the group.

Karl Wappel said that the Association needed a communications strategy that encompassed all forms of modern communication and that a member of the Executive Committee should take responsibility for this, not just for the website. The meeting tasked the EC with considering a communications strategy. The Secretary asked all those with views on communications to submit these in plenty of time before the EC meeting in January, noting that the Austrian, Italian and Belgian delegates had a communications background so could have a valuable contribution to make.

Action Point 01/13: Countries with ideas concerning communications to send these to JH in good time for the January 2013 EC meeting.

Andrea Scott-Lewis suggested that any flags on the website should have a link directly to that member state's homepage.

Action Point 02/13: LL to check with the webmasters whether it is feasible to have a link from any flag to that country's homepage.

Andreas Krueckeberg said that sometimes updates to the website did not appear very quickly. The Vice-President reminded the meeting that the webmasters were doing the work in their spare time. Karl Wappel suggested outsourcing the work, saying that a student might do the updates for, say, €150 per month. The meeting agreed to remit this idea for consideration by the EC.

Eamon Bugeja asked delegates to reflect on how they were promoting the website in their own countries. He suggested putting counters on the ECSA webpages on domestic websites.

Andrea Scott-Lewis suggested having a standard Publishing Request form, something that could be easily downloaded from the website itself and then submitted simply by clicking a button. This was agreed. Rita De Wolf said that it should be password-protected.

Action Point 03/13: ASL to draw up a draft Publishing Request form for consideration by the EC.

(7) Reports from Member States

Rita De Wolf suggested that the standard report form should include a list of all events that had occurred in the preceding twelve months, so that member states could simply tick those that they had attended.

Austria

Karl Wappel said that Austrian Customs staff are regularly updated on ECSA activities. He updated the meeting about the 20th anniversary logo. Karl Wappel also informed the meeting that Austrian Customs sports activities had recently been the subject of an internal audit. The only relevant finding had been that a better track should be kept of the business and the personal time spent on sporting activities. He gave details of the sniffer dog competition that had been held in June; 21 countries (not all ECSA) attended. Karl referred favourably to his DG's support for the sniffer dog competition and asked if a letter of appreciation could be sent to him.

Action Point 04/13: JH to write to the Austrian DG thanking him for his support for the sniffer dog competition.

Italy

Marco Paladino commented briefly on his written report. He informed the meeting that the stamps he had given out marked the 10th anniversary of his administration.

Malta

Eamon Bugeja commented briefly on his written report, particularly the six-a-side football tournament in April. He said that he had given his Prime Minister a report on the event, with details from the various ministries involved. He said that he had also given information to Customs DGs when they had visited Malta for their meeting, especially the TAXUD DG who had then asked him for a report on the AGM. The football tournament was also mentioned at the DGs meeting itself and he had talked to Malta's Member of the European Parliament (MEP) about it. Eamon said that the MEP had said that he would talk to the European Commission about ECSA in Germany. Lastly, Eamon said that he had given a talk about the tournament to a group of visiting United States Customs officers.

Poland

Anetta Janda commented briefly on her written report.

United Kingdom

Andrea Scott-Lewis commented briefly on her written report.

Denmark

Svend Mandel Hansen said that Denmark had sent two teams to the football in Malta, one to the sniffer dogs and four players to the golf.

Norway

Jostein Hagen said that Norway had participated in football, table tennis, the Brussels 20K, the sniffer dogs and the golf.

Sweden

Palle Lundborg commented briefly on his written report. He added that a team had gone to the sniffer dogs and that people taking part in events had to write a report about them for the Swedish Customs website.

Czech Republic

Jan Hlinka commented briefly on his written report.

Netherlands

Theo de Goeijen commented briefly on his written report.

Finland

Lasse Lehtokangas commented briefly on his written report. He added that four Dutch and six Finnish Customs officers had cycled the length of Finland (some 1,500km) recently. Lasse also issued delegates with information concerning the forthcoming tenpin bowling event in Finland.

Luxembourg

Daniel Koener commented briefly on his written report.

Belgium

Katrien de Wachter said that Belgium had taken part in skiing, the Nijmegen Marches, the Czech running event and shooting but had not been able to participate in the table tennis or the Slovakian marathon. Anetta Janda confirmed to Katrien that she did not have to send a complete table tennis team to the table tennis tournament, other spare players could join whoever was sent to make up a team. Katrin finished by saying that Customs staff from 12 member states and TAXUD had taken part in the Brussels 20K.

Hungary

Barnabás Sik commented briefly on his written report. He also noted his country having participated in the swimming gala in the UK, winning a number of gold medals. He thanked the UK for having organised the event. He also noted Hungarian participation in the sniffer dogs and Italian skiing events.

Turkey

Yücel Karadiş said that Turkey had re-organised how ECSA activities were organised and had set up a separate website. He said that Turkey had taken part in the shooting. Lastly, Yücel said that Turkey would be looking to host an event each year, starting with the volleyball in 2013.

Germany

Andreas Krueckeberg said that Germany had not been able to send a football team to Malta but that he had attended the event himself. He commented briefly on his written report and said that he would be taking part in the Nijmegen Marches.

Lithuania

Alonas Ritvas said that Lithuania had sent a team to the Nijmegen Marches and had organised the shooting. They made the shooting an event to contribute to the wider developments of Customs officer skills by adding a self-defence seminar on day 1, before then having two days of shooting. Alonas thanked Jan Hlinka for helping him to organise the event. Alonas said that Lithuania intended to participate in running, walking and shooting in 2013. He closed by saying that Lithuania was hoping to establish a national Customs Sports Club.

Slovakia submitted a written report. No reports were received from Cyprus, France, Ireland, Latvia and Slovenia.

(8) Calendar for 2012, 2013 and 2014

Eamon Bugeja briefly outlined the background to the organisation of the snooker tournament that had been proposed and the fact that, due to lack of entries, it was not a viable event.

Barnabás Sik gave a short presentation on the 1st ECSA/Regional Basketball tournament, which is scheduled for 15th - 18th November 2012. Non-ECSA countries bordering Hungary have been invited, in the hope that they will then be interested in joining the Association. So far, Italy, Romania, Croatia, Serbia, Ukraine and Hungary are taking part.

Various events and meetings were agreed for 2013; see Annex 4 for details.

The meeting having noted that Malta would be unable to stage the swimming gala in 2013 due to the unavailability of facilities, agreed that the EC should be tasked with finding a suitable alternative host.

Action Point 05/13: JH to consider possible host countries for the 2013 swimming gala.

Various events and meetings were agreed for 2014; see Annex 5 for details.

Eamon Bugeja said that Malta could run an event that he called the Amazing Race. It would consist of various athletic activities combined with knowledge-type challenges. Karl Wappel queried the link to the work of Customs officers and said that the meeting should discuss what events should be prioritised with this in mind, so that administrations could be more easily persuaded to support events. In reply, Eamon said that not all ECSA events were directly linked to Customs work (for example, table tennis and football) but they nevertheless offered benefits such as improved health, team working and networking. Other delegates concurred. Eamon said that his proposed event would also provide these benefits. Following discussion, it was agreed that Eamon should provide the EC with written details of his proposed event. These would then be sent to Member States for them to gauge interest.

Action Point 06/13: EB to provide the EC with full written details of the Amazing Race in good time for the January meeting.

Barnabás Sik asked if Hungary could host the 2014 marathon as well as the 2013 marathon. He said that if the marathon then returned to its normal alternation between Slovakia and Hungary, the change would mean that Hungary would be hosting the marathon and the shooting in alternate years rather than the same year, thus easing the strain on his administration. He further said that if this was agreed Hungary could then host the 2014 AGM, at the same time as the marathon.

Action Point 07/13: JH to ask Slovakia whether it would be willing for Hungary to host the marathon in 2014 as well as 2013, before then returning to the normal alternation arrangement.

(9) Elections

Eamon Bugeja and Andreas Krueckeberg were elected as Ordinary Members of the Executive Committee.

Svend Mandel Hansen was elected Treasurer.

Jan Hlinka was elected President.

Theo de Goeijen gave a short speech on standing down as President. He outlined how he had been persuaded to become Treasurer, how he had handed over some €10,000 in cash to Daniel Koener when the latter became Treasurer and the problems he had had in combining his ECSA duties with his day-to-day work. He thanked the Secretary for his work, which he said had relieved him of some of the burdens. Theo outlined how far the website had come but said that there

was more to be done. He said that it had been a great pleasure to attend the events that he had visited as President. He paid tribute to the organisers of events and to the support provided by their management. Lastly, Theo referred to the importance of gaining the support of TAXUD and the European Commission.

Assuming the Presidency, Jan Hlinka thanked the Executive Committee for recommending him and said that he looked forward to relying on Theo De Goeijen's support in the future. He said that he had the full support of his DG and referred to the first discussion of ECSA, at a DGs meeting in 2006. Lastly, he noted that eight countries founded ECSA but that it now consisted of twenty-two countries.

(10) Any Other Business

Svend Mandel Hansen enquired about any restrictions on usage of the logo and suggested putting it on the website for download. He noted that when he had put it on T-shirts it had generated interest. The (outgoing) President noted that there were currently two logos, the normal one and the 20th anniversary one, that could be sent to printers. Karl Wappel said that his graphic designer had the colour codes. Andreas Krüeckeberg said that the 20th anniversary logo, the flapping flag, should be used as the logo in the future, without, of course, the 20th anniversary wording. The discussion that followed identified some logistical issues with such a suggestion, for example the presence of the other logo on recently-purchased promotional items. It was agreed to remit the issue for discussion by the Executive Committee.

Andreas Krueckeberg requested and received feedback on the lack of interest (for financial reasons) in attending the domestic German volleyball tournament.

The Secretary confirmed the terms of office of all members of the Executive Committee and that Theo De Goeijen and Daniel Koener would be non-voting members of the EC for 2013 only.

A question was asked about whether squad sizes in football could be increased. It was noted that the French had taken a larger squad to Malta and that the increasing age of players was an argument for larger squads. It was agreed to discuss the subject at the next EC meeting.

Eamon Bugeja asked whether it was always necessary to publish a full table of results of events, saying that lower-placed teams could suffer adverse reaction from their management. A number of those present disagreed.

Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The 2013 Annual General Meeting will be held in Malta on Friday 11th October 2013.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 16:30 hours.

**RICHARD DOWLING
SECRETARY
01ST OCTOBER 2012**

Annex 1

Persons present and apologies received

Country	Name	Role	Present/Apologies
Austria	Karl Wappel		Present
Belgium	Katrien De Wachter		Present
	Rita De Wolf		Present
Czech Republic	Jan Hlinka	EC member	Present
Cyprus	Stala Hartsioti		Absent
Denmark	Svend-Mandel Hansen	Auditor	Present
Finland	Lasse Lehtokangas	Vice-President	Present
France	Jacky Golanski		Apologies
Germany	Andreas Krueckeberg		Present
Hungary	Barnabás Sik		Present
	Jozsef Nagy		Present
Ireland	Mick O'Hanlon		Apologies
Italy	Marco Paladino	EC member	Present
Latvia	Jana Kravale		Absent
Lithuania	Alonas Ritvas		Present
Luxembourg	Daniel Koener	Treasurer	Present
Malta	Eamon Bugeja		Present
Netherlands	Theo de Goeijen	President	Present
Norway	Jostein Hagen		Present
Poland	Anetta Janda	EC member	Present
Slovakia	Nora Kačániová		Apologies
Slovenia	Brane Gregorič		Apologies
Sweden	Palle Lundborg		Present
Turkey	Yücel Karadiş		Present
United Kingdom	Andrea Scott-Lewis		Present
	Richard Dowling	Secretary	Present
TAXUD	Isobel Maltby		Apologies

Annex 2

Update on Action Points taken forward from meeting of 01st June 2012

AP	BY	ACTION POINT
		From Annual General Meeting of 01 October 2010
32/10	LL	LL to start sending out monthly updates of changes to the website.
		<i>Ongoing, to start after the AGM, by E-mail. Delegates were reminded of the importance of regularly checking and updating their country's details.</i>
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 07 May 2011
29/11	LL	LL to ask his DG to suggest an ECSA presentation to a Customs DGs meeting sometime in 2013.
		<i>Discharged, the Finnish DG will suggest this.</i>
30/11	DK	SMH to liaise with DK about setting up a new bank account.
		<i>Ongoing.</i>
		From Annual General Meeting of 30th September 2011
03/12	TdG	TdG to send new Estonian DG an invitation to join ECSA.
		<i>Ongoing, this will be tried at the 2013 DGs meeting. LL will also ask Estonia when meeting with them on 26th October.</i>
05/12	TdG	TdG to write to all Member States seeking expressions of interest in serving on the EC and acting as auditor.
		<i>Discharged.</i>
12/12	JH	JH to liaise with Svend-Mandel Hansen about whether the Czech Republic or Denmark would host the January 2013 EC meeting.
		<i>Discharged, Czech Republic to host.</i>
13/12	TdG	TdG to establish whether Turkey is interested in hosting the marathon.
		<i>Discharged, see calendar.</i>
14/12	RD	RD to report back to the next meeting on how the UK encourages the participation of disabled competitors.
		<i>Ongoing. AGM updated on UK activity.</i>
18/12	TdG	TdG to informally chase up outstanding subscriptions from Germany, Lithuania and Turkey.
		<i>Discharged, subscriptions received.</i>

19/12	DK	DK to chase up all outstanding subscriptions, giving a 14 day deadline and where appropriate reminding countries about Rules 1.1.2 and 5.7.2.
		<i>Discharged.</i>
20/12	TdG	If DK is unsuccessful in chasing up outstanding subscriptions, TdG to write to the Slovenian and Latvian DGs advising that if the subscription is not paid then competitors cannot be sent to events.
		<i>Ongoing, to try at DGs meeting in 2013.</i>
21/12	LL	LL to explore with the webmasters the possibility of using YouTube to publicise the Association.
		<i>Discharged, see item 6.</i>
22/12	TdG	TdG to ask Malta for feedback on the football tournament, for informal discussion at the AGM.
		<i>Discharged, see item 8.</i>
23/12	TdG	TdG to ask DK to send out the programme for the AGM.
		<i>Discharged 06/06/2012</i>
24/12	TdG	TdG to ask Slovakia to issue the marathon invitation.
		<i>Discharged, invitation issued.</i>
25/12	TdG	TdG to check with Turkey as to whether the proposed hiking event will take place.
		<i>Discharged, planned for 2015.</i>
26/12	TdG	TdG to advise Malta that the swimming gala should focus on swimming alone.
		<i>Discharged, swimming gala not possible due to non-availability of venue.</i>
27/12	RD	RD to draw up draft calendar for 2014.
		<i>Discharged 06/06/2012.</i>

Annex 3

Action Points Taken Forward from AGM 2012

AP	BY	ACTION POINT
From Annual General Meeting of 01 October 2010		
32/10	LL	LL to start sending out monthly updates of changes to the website.
09/11	ALL	Representatives having information about how ECSA contacts have benefitted member state administrations to send this to JH.
From Annual General Meeting of 30th September 2011		
03/12	JH	JH to send new Estonian DG an invitation to join ECSA.
14/12	RD	RD to report back to the next meeting on how the UK encourages the participation of disabled competitors.
20/12	JH	If SMH is unsuccessful in chasing up outstanding subscriptions, JH to write to the Slovenian and Latvian DGs advising that if the subscription is not paid then competitors cannot be sent to events.
From Annual General Meeting of 28th September 2012		
01/13	ALL	Countries with ideas concerning communications to send these to JH in good time for the January 2013 EC meeting.
02/13	LL	LL to check with the webmasters whether it is feasible to have a link from any flag to that country's homepage.
03/13	AS L	ASL to draw up a draft Publishing Request form for consideration by the EC.
04/13	JH	JH to write to the Austrian DG thanking him for his support for the sniffer dog competition.
05/13	JH	JH to consider possible host countries for the 2013 swimming gala.
06/13	EB	EB to provide the EC with full written details of the Amazing Race in good time for the January meeting.
07/13	JH	JH to ask Slovakia whether it would be willing for Hungary to host the marathon in 2014 as well as 2013, before then returning to the normal alternation arrangement.

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	Mid-May	Poland	Swider
Running	26/05/2013	Belgium	Brussels
EC meeting	07/06/2013	Sweden	Gothenburg
Shooting	July	Hungary	
Walking	16/07 - 19/07/2013	Netherlands	Nijmegen
Running	06/09 - 08/09/2013?	Czech Republic	10K & 1 mile
Volleyball	25/09 - 26/09/2013	Turkey	Ankara
AGM	11/10/2013	Malta	
Marathon	06/10/2013	Hungary	Budapest
Running	October	France	
Running	October	Germany	Cologne

Note

Activities in *italics* are not yet confirmed.

There may be a Badminton event in Austria.

Annex 5

Events & Meetings in 2014

Activity	Date	Member State	Comments
EC meeting	24/01/2014	United Kingdom	Bournemouth
Downhill skiing	February/March	Italy	
<i>Amazing Race*</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>Malta</i>	
Table Tennis	Mid-May	Poland	Swider
20K Road Race	25/05/2014	Belgium	Brussels
EC meeting	23/05/2014	Belgium	Brussels
<i>Sniffer Dogs</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>Germany</i>	
<i>Shooting</i>	<i>Late June/early July</i>	<i>Sweden</i>	
Walking	Mid-July	Netherlands	Nijmegen
Sailing	August	Finland	
<i>Golf</i>	<i>Late August</i>	<i>Denmark</i>	
Running	Early September	Czech Republic	10K & 1 mile
Football	Late September	Turkey	Ankara
<i>AGM</i>	<i>Early October</i>	<i>Hungary</i>	<i>Budapest</i>
<i>Marathon</i>	<i>October</i>	<i>Hungary</i>	<i>Budapest</i>
Cross-country	October	France	
Running	October	Germany	5 - 20K

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.

Turkey is proposing to host a hiking event in Antalya in 2015.