



## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Friday 20 October 2017 in Bordeaux, France

**Present:** See Annex 1.

**Minutes:** Richard Dowling (Secretary)

**Apologies for absence:** See Annex 1.

### **(1) Opening Remarks**

The President opened the meeting, noting the apologies (see Annex 1). Janne Kallio read out a message from Mick O'Hanlon of Ireland in which he advised of his retirement from Customs and his many happy memories of ECSA.

The President welcomed the new representatives of Finland, Belgium, Turkey and France.

JH thanked the French representative and French Customs for hosting the meeting, thanked those delegates present for attending and noted the 25th anniversary of the Association along with events and activities that were now regularly taking place. The President commended the representatives for all their contributions to the success of the Association.

The French representative welcomed delegates to the meeting, particularly those who had travelled a considerable distance to be present. He outlined the history and activities of the French National Customs Sports Association (ASND).

### **(2) Approval of the Agenda**

The meeting approved the agenda.

### **(3) Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)**

#### *Annual General Meeting 2016*

The Polish representative updated the meeting on the condition of the Polish Customs officer who had been injured in the Brussels airport attack. The President asked the Polish representative to pass on ECSA's good wishes to her colleague.

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 21 October 2016 were agreed as a true and fair record.

*Executive Committee Meeting 27 January 2017*

The minutes of this meeting were noted.

*Executive Committee Meeting 16 June 2017*

The Dutch representative asked about the minutes of the DG Club meeting, an Association presentation having been made there. The President said that he would endeavour to get these out to Member States. A short discussion of the benefits of DG involvement then took place.

On page 3, it was noted that it was PL who had advised that a gmail address had been set up. A typo was noted on page 5.

The minutes of this meeting were then noted.

#### **(4) Matters Arising**

*Action Point 09/11*

The President encouraged Member States to provide examples of how ECSA contacts had benefitted Member State administrations, TdG advised that following the German DG meeting the Dutch DG at the Four Days Marches, the working of a German - Dutch liaison group had been considerably improved. The German delegate gave an example relating to containers, the President gave an example relating to tariff classifications.

See Annex 2 for an update on all action points.

#### **(5) Treasurer's Report & Annual Accounts 2016 - 2017**

The Treasurer presented the accounts for 2016 – 2017, copies of which were issued to delegates: see Annex 3. He talked briefly about the accounts and it was confirmed that they had been approved by the auditors.

The meeting formally approved the accounts, thanking the Treasurer and the auditors for their work.

The Treasurer presented the budget for 2017 – 2018. He hoped that Ireland would continue to be a member following its representative's retirement. See Annex 4 for the budget.

**Action Point 01/18: JH to confirm Ireland's continuing membership of the Association and the identity of its new representative.**

#### **(6) European Customs Union 50th Anniversary**

The Italian representative gave a presentation on the 50th anniversary of the European Customs Union.

#### **(7) Smaller Group Discussions**

Smaller group discussions were held to:

- A. Review the Fitness Week (chair Denmark, scribe Germany);
- B. Generate ideas to mark the 50th anniversary of the European Customs Union (chair Italy, scribe Sweden)
- C. Generate ideas on how to secure management involvement and support for national and ECSA sporting activities (chair Netherlands, scribe Janne Kallio).

The groups were:

1. France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Austria;
2. United Kingdom, Norway, Finland, Turkey;
3. Hungary, Poland, Latvia.

See Annex 5 for details of these discussions.

**Action point 02/18: EC to progress the outputs from the smaller group discussions.**

**Action Point 03/18: AL and CO to see if they can get information from their administrations on the wellbeing benefits of time off for sport.**

Following the discussions, the meeting agreed that the small group work had again been worthwhile and could profitably be repeated on other subjects at future Annual General Meetings.

**Action Point 04/18: Prior to the 2018 Annual General Meeting, JH to canvass Member States for ideas for the small group discussions.**

The results of the Fitness Week photography competition were announced. Three photographs in first place, numbers 16 (Denmark), 18 (Czech Republic) and 29 (Sweden). The President proposed that the first prize of €100 be increased to €150 and shared equally between the winners. The meeting agreed. The EC will consider how the prizes of €50 will be paid. The meeting also commended the video produced by a colleague from Norwegian Customs.

#### **(8) Presentation on the Nijmegen Four Days Marches**

The Dutch representative gave a presentation on the Four Days Marches. The President encouraged participation in the event.

#### **(9) Website**

Janne Kallio gave a presentation on the website. The Danish representative asked if a named member of the Executive Committee (EC) should be given responsibility for the website, checking regularly on how up to date it was. A brief discussion ensued. The President urged Member States to supply information for the website.

The Danish representative also asked about the possibility of having a gallery for each event, into which Member States could upload photographs.

The Finnish representative asked about restrictions on social media usage.

**Action Point 05/18: The website to be on the agenda for the next EC meeting.**

#### **(10) Reports from Member States**

##### *Czech Republic*

The representative commented on his written report.

##### *Germany*

The representative commented on his written report.

*Italy*

The representative commented on his written report.

*Sweden*

The representative advised the meeting of various activities and events and a proposed sea kayaking event.

*Netherlands*

The representative commented on his written report.

*Turkey*

The new representative advised of participation in various events.

*Austria*

The representative commented on his written report.

*Latvia*

The representative advised of participation in various events, including four Customs officers having taken part in the Czech running event at their own expense.

*Finland*

The new representative advised of the situation in Finland and of participation in various events.

*Belgium*

The new representative advised of participation in various events.

*Poland*

The representative advised of the situation in Poland and of participation in various events. She also advised that following her transfer to other duties within Polish Customs, a new representative would be taking over from her. The President thanked Anetta for all her contributions to ECSA over the preceding nine years, the meeting warmly endorsing his comments.

*Norway*

The representative had nothing to add to the written report.

*Luxembourg*

The representative commented on participation in various events and gave details of the football tournament in June 2018 in Stegen, Luxembourg, moved from the original date in May 2018.

*Hungary*

The representative passed on a message of thanks from Jozsef Nagy, outgoing head of the Hungarian Customs Sports Association and advised of participation in various events. The President asked the representative to pass on the Association's thanks to Mr Nagy.

*United Kingdom*

The representative commented on her written report, particularly the two cycling events.

*France*

The new representative advised of organising and participating in various events and that consideration was being given to the possibility of hosting the shooting event.

### *Denmark*

The representative commented briefly on his written report and on an impending reorganisation of the tax and customs administration in his country, noting possible impacts on the national sports club.

### *Slovakia*

The Secretary outlined the Slovak written report, noting that it had been the first one received.

## **(11) Calendar**

### *2018*

Events and meetings were agreed for 2018, including the possibility of participating in events marking the 50th anniversary of the European Customs Union; see Annex 6.

### *2019*

Events and meetings were agreed for 2019; see Annex 7.

The Turkish representative advised that his country might be able to host some events or meetings in 2019, also stating that Ankara now had a World Customs organisation accredited dog training school.

The Hungarian representative presented his country's water sports proposal, proposing to survey Member States in order to establish potential interest. This was agreed.

The German representative updated the meeting on the forthcoming volleyball event.

## **(12) Elections**

The President outlined the background to the elections. He advised that Richard Dowling's second four year term as Secretary was now concluding and that as per the Constitution he was not eligible to stand for re-election. He further advised that Andrea Scott-Lewis of the United Kingdom was the only candidate for the post of Secretary. She was accordingly elected as Secretary. The President advised that as per the Constitution, Richard Dowling as a former Officer would remain on the EC as a non-voting member for one further year

The President also advised that Marco Paladino's second four year term as an Ordinary Member of the EC was concluding and that he too was not eligible to stand for re-election. He further advised that there were no candidates to replace Mr Paladino. He lastly advised that the EC had agreed to co-opt Mr Paladino back onto the committee, to handle communications.

## **(11) Any Other Business**

The meeting approved a payment of €200 to the Danish representative towards the cost of the ECSA backpacks he had purchased.

The Danish representative suggested that reminders be sent to Member States when invitations were due to be issued for events. The meeting agreed.

The Belgian representative passed on the regards of his predecessor, Katrien de Wachter.

The German representative advised that all invitations to events in Germany should come via him and no-one else.

The President noted that Bosnia-Herzegovina had expressed an interest in joining the Association and that a representative from that country would be invited to attend the next EC meeting.

The President once again thanked the Polish representative for all her hard work for ECSA, congratulated the Italian representative on his promotion to work temporarily for the European Commission and thanked the French representative for hosting the meeting. The meeting warmly echoed all these sentiments.

The meeting noted the illnesses of Alonas Ritvas of Lithuania and Lieven Muylaert, former President and passed on best wishes for their speedy recovery.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.30pm.

**RICHARD DOWLING**  
**SECRETARY**  
**27 OCTOBER 2017**

**Annex 1**

**Persons present and apologies received**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Present/Apologies</b>
Austria	Andreas Lerchner		Present
Belgium	Ivan Hervent		Present
Czech Republic	Jan Hlinka	President	Present
Cyprus	Aleka Palekythritou		Apologies
Denmark	Svend-Mandel Hansen	Treasurer	Present
Finland	Stefan Aniszewski		Present
	Janne Kallio	Web Master	Present
France	Cédric Orgeret		Present
Germany	Andreas Krueckeberg	Vice-President	Present
Hungary	Barnabás Sik		Present
Ireland	Mick O'Hanlon		Apologies
Italy	Marco Paladino	EC member	Present
Latvia	Agate Mellere		Present
Lithuania	Alonas Ritvas		Apologies
Luxembourg	Daniel Koener		Present
Malta	Eamon Bugeja		Apologies
Netherlands	Theo de Goeijen	EC member	Present
Norway	Jostein Hagen		Present
Poland	Anetta Janda		Present
Slovakia	Nora Kačániová		Apologies
Sweden	Alexander Plumeyer		Present
Turkey	Okan Arslan		Present
United Kingdom	Andrea Scott-Lewis		Present
	Richard Dowling	Secretary	Present
TAXUD	Isobel Maltby	Observer	Not present

**Annex 2**

**Update on action points taken forward from previous meeting(s)**

AP	BY	ACTION POINT
<b>From Annual General Meeting of 01 October 2010</b>		
09/11	ALL	Representatives having information about how ECSA contacts have benefitted member state administrations to send this to JH.
		<i>Ongoing.</i>
<b>From meeting of 27 January 2017</b>		
03/17	JH	JH to write to Member States seeking to generate interest in them hosting some of the new events discussed at the AGM.
		<i>Discharged.</i>
04/17	PL	PL to establish a standard method for uploading pictures from the ECSA Fitness Week.
		<i>Discharged.</i>
05/17	JH	JH to write to all Member States publicising ECSA Fitness Week.
		<i>Discharged.</i>
06/17	JK	Janne Kallio to publicise ECSA Fitness Week on the website.
		<i>Discharged.</i>
07/17	JH	JH to write round the member States seeking expressions of interest in serving on the EC.
		<i>Discharged.</i>
<b>From meeting of 16 June 2017</b>		
08/17	JH	JH to ask MP about the eligibility of the Italian players at the table tennis tournament.
		<i>Discharged.</i>

**Annex 3**

**Annual Accounts 01 September 2016 – 31 August 2017**

Income	€	€	Budget €
Subscriptions		3,300.00	3,300.00
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Web-site, hosting	85.32		90.00
Bank costs	95.48		75.00
Promotional items: Pens €1,999.79 Golf €749.08 Cups/logo €421.14	3,170.01		3,000.00
Subventions (Italy, Golf)	379.42		1,500.00
Miscellaneous: Beer mug/plaque €87.00 Donation (Mark Rembiasz) €200.00 Transportation €55.00	<u>342.00</u>		<u>300.00</u>
		(4,072.23)	4,965.00
Surplus		<b>(772.23)</b>	
Bank balance 01/10/2015		15,609.12	
Deficit		<u>(772.23)</u>	
Bank balance 30/09/2016		<b>14,836.89</b>	

## Notes to the accounts

- (1) As per section 5.5.2 of the Association Rules, the financial year runs from 01 September to 31 August.

**Svend Mandel**  
Treasurer, ECSA

**Barnabás Sik**  
Auditor

**Palle Lundborg**  
Auditor

## Annex 4

### Budget for 2017 – 2018

Income	€	€
Subscriptions		3,450.00
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Website (hosting)	85.32	
Bank costs	110.00	
Promotional items	2,000.00	
Subventions	1,000.00	
Miscellaneous	950.00	
		(4,145.32)
Estimated balance 31 August 2017		<b>(695.32)</b>

**Svend Mandel**  
Treasurer, ECSA

## Annex 5

### Outputs from the Smaller Group Discussions

#### Review of the Fitness Week

##### *Ideas brainstorming*

- Put ECSA fitness week on the end of September;
- to find out the objectives of the fitness week, exact definition of the objectives;
- raise awareness of ECSA;
- focus should be on “customs officers sports week” with a link to ECSA;
- focus on local sports activities;
- Belgium has already a sports activity week last week of September;
- there should be more exchange of information during the fitness week;
- to extend the period of the fitness week to one month, to open it up to the complete month of September;
- fitness week should be clearly named e.g. “European Customs/Tax Sports Activities in September”;
- preselection of pictures before the AGM saves time;
- a period of one year for the activities would also be good;
- photo contest should run from AGM to AGM.



### *Priorities (no ranking)*

- A period of one year for the activities would also be good;
- preselection of pictures before the AGM saves time;
- fitness week should be clearly named e.g. "European Customs/Tax Sports Activities in September";
- raise awareness of ECSA;
- to find out the objectives of the fitness week, exact definition of the objectives;
- there should be more exchange of information during the fitness week.

### **Ideas for marking the 50th anniversary of the European Customs Union**

#### *Group 2*

- We should have a leaving party for the UK
- Look up what MS will lead the council of Ministers 2018
- Printing T-shirts with two logos (with the logo of ECSA together of the logo of the 50th anniversary./AP note)
- \* Select one or two special ECSA sport event for celebrating
- Making contact with DG COM
- Coming up with a motto
- \* Making a special edition of our logo
- \* Something on the website that announces the 50th anniversary

#### *Group 1*

- \* Manneken Pis will be dressed as a customs officer on Jan 26 2018 (international Customs Day). Ask Belgian representative to ask Belgian administration if ECSA could be incorporated on that day. ECSA to have a photo session by Manneken Pis that day
- Promote the 50 anniversary on key events/with press release of ECSA
- Investigate if GD TAXUD can sponsor our key ECSA events
- National sport association to contact national administration for sponsorship/celebration
- \* Have a 50 years anniversary trophy (an extra prize besides the regular one /AP note) in a key event

#### *Group 3*

- \* Make contact with working group of the 50th anniversary celebration. Pass the info on to ECSA EC.
- Incorporate the 50th anniversary logo into ECSA events
- \* Investigate if ECSA celebrating event can be advertised on national celebrating website
- Invite "customs customer" to ECSA events.

\* Ideas prioritized by working groups and orally presented at AGM.

### **Ideas for greater management commitment to, sporting activities**

- Write a personal letter to all the DG's.
- a country has organised an event and the President can write a thank you letter.
- a country has sent a lot of participants
- a country did not participate but is a paying member (thank you for the fee and hope to see participants in the future)
- Appoint DG's as ECSA ambassadors for a period of 1-2 years
- Use the 40% less sick leave data
- in letters to DG's
- on the website
- Involve management in events.
- not only as a guest but also as a participant
- write reports after events for management but also for the website

- Use the yearly DG club meeting.
- no overkill with a yearly presentation
- Inform and use the labour union.

### Annex 6

#### Events & Meetings in 2018

Activity	Date	Member State	Comments
EC meeting	<i>23 February</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>Rome</i>
Skiing	04/03 – 11/03	Italy	
<i>Pool</i>	<i>18 – 20 April</i>	<i>Malta</i>	
Mountain Biking	18 May	United Kingdom	Yorkshire
Table Tennis	Mid-May	Poland	Swider
Running	27 May	Belgium	Brussels
Football	15 June	Luxembourg	Stegen
EC meeting	15 June	Finland	Helsinki
Tennis	28 – 30 June	United Kingdom	Bournemouth
Walking	17 - 20 July	Netherlands	Nijmegen
Fitness Week	1st week Sept	All	
Running	07/09 - 09/09	Czech Republic	10K & 1 mile
Golf	September	Austria	
Road Cycling	21 September	United Kingdom	Kent or Yorkshire
Swimming	05 October	United Kingdom	Corby
Marathon	07 October	Hungary	Budapest
AGM	October	Germany	Hamburg

**Note:** Activities in *italics* are not yet confirmed.

### Annex 7

#### Events & Meetings in 2019

Activity	Date	Member State	Comments
EC meeting	Late Jan/early Feb		
Skiing	Late Feb/early Mar	Italy	
Table Tennis	Mid-May	Poland	Swider
Mountain Biking	17 May	United Kingdom	
Running	26 May	Belgium	Brussels
<i>EC meeting</i>	<i>June</i>		
<i>Shooting</i>	<i>June</i>		
<i>Sniffer Dogs</i>	<i>June</i>		
Walking	Mid-July	Netherlands	Nijmegen
Fitness Week	September	Everywhere	
Running	Early September	Czech Republic	10K & 1 mile
Road Cycling	20 September	United Kingdom	
AGM	Late Sept/early Oct		
Marathon	Early October	Slovakia	Kosice
<i>Volleyball</i>	<i>November</i>		

**Note:** Activities in *italics* are not yet confirmed.

## Annex 8

### Record of Action Points taken forward

AP	BY	ACTION POINT
		<b>From Annual General Meeting of 01 October 2010</b>
09/11	ALL	Representatives having information about how ECSA contacts have benefitted member state administrations to send this to JH.
		<b>From Annual General Meeting of 20 October 2017</b>
01/18	JH	JH to confirm Ireland's continuing membership of the Association and the identity of its new representative.
02/18	JH	EC to progress the outputs from the smaller group discussions.
03/18	AL/C O	AL and CO to see if they can get information from their administrations on the wellbeing benefits of time off for sport
04/18	JH	Prior to the 2018 Annual General Meeting, JH to canvass Member States for ideas for the small group discussions.
05/18	JH	The website to be on the agenda for the next EC meeting.

#### **Note**

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