

Minutes of ECSA Meetings held in Hluboká nad Vltavou,
Czech Republic,
September 19th 2008

Attendees:

Petr Zeller **Austria**

Lieven Muylaert **Belgium**

Stala Hartsioti **Cyprus**

Katy Stifterova **Czech Republic**

Svend Mandel Hansen **Denmark,**

Robert Andrecs **EC TAXUD,**

Jakki Golanski **France,**

Lasse Lehtokangas **Finland**

Barnabas Sik, **Hungary,**

Mick O'Hanlon **Ireland,**

Rasa Lubauskaite **Lithuania**

Daniel Koener **Luxembourg**

Theo de Goeijen **Netherlands,**

Jan Gajdos and Janka Dianiškova **Slovakia**

Alexander Plumeyer **Sweden,**

Andrea Scott-Lewis & Richard Dowling **U.K.**

Apologies:

Slovenia, Turkey, Italy, Poland, Latvia and Malta

The chairman welcomed the members and thanked the host country for the organization of the meeting. The chairman introduced new faces attending the meeting and especially the new member, Austria, represented by Peter Zeller.

Approval of the minutes

The minutes of the AGM in Heviz in 2007 and of the EC meetings in Riga and Nice have been approved by the AGM.

ECSA Websites

Theo gave a presentation of the ECSA websites. He started with an overview of the progress of the website since the beginning till the version that we have today. Theo explained the web protocol: the procedure of adding information or picture to the website.

The request is sent to web-coordinator Theo who does the first check and then Theo sends it to both webmasters, Janne and Giel. Theo further presented the country information which is on the websites. Theo remembered all the members to up-date their personal emails and send information about up-coming events.

New member country: Austria

Peter Zeller introduced himself shortly and gave a very detailed and interesting presentation about the Austrian Customs and 40th Anniversary of Customs Union and Austrian Customs Sports Activities.

Peter informed the members that he is going to retire. However, he made sure that the membership will continue and he gave contacts of three colleagues that will continue to be the contact points for ECSA matters.

6-a-side football.

It was agreed by members to create a small working group that will create rules for the 6-a-side football.

These include pitch dimensions (50m X 35m inc. goal size of 2m high by 5m long with a goalkeeper area extending 10m from the goal line. Rules are FIFA standard rules, no offside, all free kicks to be direct and 'throw-in to be taken by foot)

The UK will be chair a rules subcommittee of Slovakia, Ireland, UK & Czech Republic and will present the results at the next AGM.

The AGM voted about the membership of Austria and agreed unanimously with the membership.

Malta

Unfortunately Malta was not present at the AGM meeting. However their request for membership has been presented by the Chairman.

The AGM agreed unanimously with the membership of Malta.

40 years of European Customs Union

Robert Andrec from the European Commission gave a presentation about the activities related to the Anniversary 40 years of European Customs Union.

The Commission organized among others Open Day in Brussels on 7 June, which focused on practical presentations of the work of Customs. There was also a Customs Action Week. Robert informed that the European Parliament adopted a Resolution on the 40th anniversary of the Customs Union.

Under the French Council Presidency a special event on July, 4 was also organized. Robert asked the members to collect pictures from ECSA sport events because they will be included into a final activity report that will be sent to directors general afterwards.

Robert also explained that the experience gained during this campaign will be used in the future for the upcoming events.

Member states then presented their activities carried out in the framework of the anniversary. Some of the examples were very interesting ideas, from which we can learn.

The ECSA sport events organized under the umbrella of the anniversary were the following ones:

- 4-days Marches in Nijmegen, Netherlands
- ECSA Shooting Competition in Hungary
- ECSA Six-a-side football in Hungary
- Half-marathon of Brussels in Belgium
- October will see the Košice Marathon of Peace in Slovakia.

Treasurer's report

Daniel Koener reported on the financial situation.

He appealed on the representatives to make sure that if they pay the annual subscription by bank transfer, that the paying party bears the cost and not the receiver.

Among the EURO-countries, a bank transfer up to €15 does not attract any costs for both parties. There were no requests for financial support of activities in the past year and no requests have been presented during this AGM.

Lieven said: "It is not ECSA's intention to hold money on deposit. Originally we wanted to help new countries to organize events as well as spending a certain amount on ECSA-related promotional material. We do not want to have more than €10,000 on deposit at any time.

Before the 2008 annual subscriptions were paid in full (some member countries had already paid in advance of the AGM) Daniel's report showed the ECSA balance at €13,731, with perhaps another c.€2,000 to be collected after the AGM.

Tour de Table

The members reported on events which they hosted or participated in 2008 and their ambitions for 2009:

Slovakia: Participated in the Table Tennis Tournament in Poland, in 20k Brussels, in the Shooting competition and in 6-a-side football in Hungary, and in 4-days Nijmegen marches. Expressed an interest in organizing the shooting competition in 2009.

France: Participated in no event in 2008 but will organize the Cross de Kepi (cross country race – women 5k, men 10k). They will take on France in volleyball in 2009

UK: Participated in the 20k Brussels, shooting in Hungary, Nijmegen Marches, Table Tennis in Poland.

Hungary: Organized the 2008 6-a-side football, participated in the Shooting competition, Nijmegen Marches, Table Tennis in Poland. Plans to organize the sniffer dog competition in 2009.

Luxembourg: Cross country in France 2008, 20k Brussels, Shooting in Hungary, Nijmegen Marches and offered to organize the shooting in Luxembourg in 2009.

Belgium: Organized the Brussels 20k and will do so in 2009. They also walked in Nijmegen.

Finland: Summer & Winter games. Also participated in ECSA 6-a-side and Nijmegen.

Netherlands: 2008 Brussels 20k, Shooting, Table Tennis in Poland. In 2009 they will organize the Nijmegen March and hope to participate in the designated ECSA events.

Ireland: Organized the Lupton Cup (Senior's football between Irish Republic, Northern Ireland, England, Scotland & Wales in 2008 and will participate in the designated ECSA events.

Czech Republic: Participated in Brussels 20k, 4-days marches in Nijmegen, 6-a-side football and the Shooting in Hungary. Plans to organize a running event in September.

Austria: Hopes to organize volleyball competition for 2009.

Cyprus: Couldn't participate in 2008 due to reorganizing of the Department but hopes to participate more in 2009.

Latvia (Alise sent greetings to the AGM by telephone): They hope to organize ice hockey in 2009.

Lithuania: Shooting competition in 2008 and will consider organizing the sniffer dog competition in 2009, but cannot confirm yet.

Denmark: no participation in 2008. Svend conducted a survey of Danish Customs sports colleagues and hopes for improvement in 2009.

Sweden: Skiing in Italy, 6-a-side football in Hungary and sniffer dogs in 2008. No plans yet for 2009.

ECSA status for 2009

ECSA status has been granted to the following sport events:

- Cross country in France in October 2008
- 20 km of Brussels (May 2009)
- Cross country in the Czech Republic (4 and 5 of September 2009)
- Ice hockey in Latvia
- Customs Dogs Competition in Hungary, if Hungary cannot organize it Lithuania is a possible candidate to organize this event
- 4-days Marches Nijmegen in the Netherlands (21 to 24 of July 2009)
- Volleyball in Austria (if possible)
- Swimming Competition in Finland (28 of August 2009)
- Marathon in Hungary
- Shooting Competition in Luxembourg (2 of July 2009)

Executive Committee

As the term of nomination of some of the EC members finished, Lieven asked the members to express whether they would volunteer for the EC.

Slovakia and Sweden expressed their interest to become EC members. So the EC looks from now on as follows (if the Management of Jan and Palle agrees).

Members:

- Luxembourg
- Czech Republic
- The Netherlands
- Belgium
- United Kingdom
- Finland

Coopted:

Slovakia
Sweden

AGM adopts this decision.

Dates and places of the next meeting.

AGM 2009 in Salzburg, Austria.

Date: 1st to 3rd October 2009

Lieven announced that the AGM in 2010 will be held in Belgium.

EC meeting

Denmark will organize EC meeting on 12th June 2009

Belgium will organize EC meeting in January, 30 (if, for any reason, this would not be possible, the meeting will take place in the Netherlands)

Election of the Chairman & EC duties/Role

Lieven explained that both Theo and Lasse had earlier expressed interest in going forward for the role of Chairman. He explained how the EC had attempted to deal with this issue and the EC had listened to presentations from both candidates in Nice and had voted (not unanimously, 4:1 in favour of Theo) to recommend Theo as the EC's choice to the AGM.

Discussion focused on the power of the EC to make decisions from AGM to AGM. Robert stressed the need for professionalism and accountability at all times, especially as ECSA membership is growing.

He said: "The duty of accountability and professionalism will weigh heavier on the new chairman as ECSA membership grows".

Peter raised the question whether there are auditors who control and approve the financial report. There was a discussion about this.

A question was put to the AGM: Does the AGM agree that the Executive Committee acted correctly in nominating a candidate for chairman to the AGM? (7 votes for, 8 against).

Question: EC can make recommendations?
8 votes for, 7 against.

After much discussion, the AGM agreed that answers and voting to both questions contradicted each other and decided to bring a set of proposals concerning the role of the EC to the next AGM.

Lieven then invited both candidates to agree to accept the decision of the AGM on who should be the next Chairman. Both parties agreed. Then an election followed where the AGM members voted secretly between Theo and Lasse.

The resume:
15 countries voted:

5 countries voted for Lasse
10 countries voted for Theo

After Lieven declared the results of the election, the AGM members congratulated Theo as the new chairman of ECSA.

Lieven closed the AGM at this point.