



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 30th September 2011 at Helsinki, Finland

Present: Netherlands: Theo de Goeijen, President;
Finland: Lasse Lehtokangas, Vice-President;
United Kingdom: Richard Dowling, Secretary & Andrea Scott-Lewis;
Luxembourg: Daniel Koener, Treasurer;
Belgium: Katrin de Wachter & Rita de Wolf;
Malta: Frank Agius & Eamon Bugeja;
Denmark: Svend Mandel Hansen;
Sweden: Palle Lundborg;
France: Jacky Golanski;
Czech Republic: Jan Hlinka;
Poland: Anetta Janda;
Slovakia: Nora Kocaniova;
Austria: Karl Wappel;
Germany: Andreas Krueckeberg;
Hungary: Barnabas Sik
Turkey: Ozay Kutlu;
Norway: Marit Solvik & Bjorn Granli

Minutes: Richard Dowling

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were noted as having been received from Cyprus, Ireland, Italy and TAXUD.

(1) Opening Remarks

The President opened the meeting by thanking Finland and more particularly its Director-General Tapani Erling for hosting the meeting. He then welcomed the delegates to the meeting, particularly Marit Solvik and Bjorn Granli from Norway.

(2) Approval of the Agenda

The meeting approved the agenda.

(3) Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

Annual General Meeting 2010

The minutes of the meeting 01st October 2010 were agreed as a true and fair record.

Executive Committee Meeting January 2011

The minutes of this meeting were noted. The President noted the participation of some EC members in the Brussels 20K and invited, on behalf of Belgian colleagues, all representatives to participate in the 2012 Brussels 20K as a part of an ECSA team.

Executive Committee Meeting June 2011

The minutes of this meeting were noted.

(4) Matters Arising

Action Point 09/11: The Secretary emphasised the importance of being able to demonstrate the value of ECSA to DGs, a view echoed by the President. A brief discussion ensued about the Association's profile in Member States, the President noting that his DG had told him that the Association was well known amongst DGs. It was agreed that representatives should send to the President and Vice-President copies of any articles that mentioned ECSA.

Action Point 14/11: The meeting noted that Latvia had last paid a subscription in 2008. The President informed the meeting that he had raised the subject of the overdue subscriptions with the Latvian participant at the Nijmegen Marches and she had said she would see what she could do about it.

Action Point 29/11: The president commented briefly on the possibility of addressing a DGs meeting. Karl Wappel suggested writing to all DGs thanking them for their support and enclosing a small gift; the meeting concurred.

Action Point 01/12: TdG to write to all Directors-General to thank them for their support for ECSA and enclosing a small gift marking the Association's 20th anniversary.

(5) Treasurer's Report & Annual Accounts 2011

The Treasurer issued copies of his report, which showed income and expenditure. He commented briefly on various items. €12,685.83 is in the bank. Sven Mandel-Hansen updated the meeting on the audit. He stated that the minutes of the May 2011 EC meeting did not include a positive decision to buy the pennants that had later been purchased and he also enquired why the Dutch quote had not been taken up when it had been cheaper than the UK quote. The President said that the EC would bear the first point in mind for the future. As for the comparative costs, the Dutch quote had not included the fringing that had been eventually included. A brief discussion on ways of minimising costs in future took place. Frank Agius reminded the meeting that it had been agreed at the 2010 AGM that the accounts should include make reference to the authority given for expenditure to take place. Arising from the discussion, the meeting considered whether the amount of expenditure that could be authorised by the EC alone should be limited but decided not to adopt any such limit.

The President distributed pennants to each country present.

The meeting agreed the annual accounts.

The Treasurer emphasised the importance of paying subscriptions by bank transfer wherever possible and when forwarding invoices for payment to include the appropriate IBAN number and SWIFT/BIC code.

The Treasurer noted that his term of office would end at the AGM in 2012 and pointed out the importance of putting hand-over procedures in place.

(6) Applications for membership

The President reported that he had received an enquiry from somebody in Bosnia-Herzegovina Customs but had received no further response after replying.

The meeting voted unanimously to admit Norway as a member of the Association.

(7) Website

The Vice-President updated the meeting on the current position with the website, thanking countries that had updated their information. He asked for ideas concerning the website to be sent to him and for those countries that had not sent information or a photograph of their delegate to do so as soon as possible.

A discussion about various aspects of the website took place. The importance of regularly updating it was agreed, as was a clear note on the site of when it had last been updated. Andreas Krueckeberg suggested a strap-line at the bottom of the home page and possibly some background music. Rita de Wolf suggested a calendar of events with links to further details of each event, so that information on events need not be accessed only via the hosting Member State's homepage. It was also suggested that the flags on the website could be their normal (to scale) size rather than all square, that the date of the most recent change to the website be prominently shown and that . The Vice-President said that he would look into all these ideas.

(8) Reports from Member States

Austria

Karl Wappel said that he would like to find out more about how each Member State organised sport in its own country. He also reported that the forthcoming sniffer dog competition had attracted entries from 21 countries and that it was hoped that Russia would also attend. Some of the 21 countries were not ECSA Member States. The President said that any ramifications from this would have to be addressed on a case-by-case basis, as had been the case with the Table Tennis tournament this year.

Turkey

Ozay Kutlu commented briefly on his written report and said that Turkey would like to host an event; he mentioned hiking, volleyball and football as possibilities.

Denmark

Sven Mandel-Hansen mentioned Danish participation in the Brussels 20K.

Belgium

Rita de Wolf advised that the 2012 20K would be on 27th May.

Czech Republic

Jan Hlinka reported that the Czech running event would be on 07th September to 09th September.

United Kingdom

Andrea Scott-Lewis noted feedback from UK participants in the skiing that one of the events had been cancelled at short notice this year due to a lack of competitors; this could call future participation into question. It was noted that the Dutch had not attended this year but should do so next year and that more Swedes should also be there. The President said that he would contact Marco Paladino to discuss the issue.

Action Point 02/12: TdG to contact MP to discuss participation levels at the skiing and difficulties caused by any late cancellation of parts of the programme.

Hungary

Barnabas Sik updated the meeting about the merger of the Customs and Tax administrations on 01st January 2011 and on various sporting activities.

Malta

Frank Agius mentioned participation in running events in Belgium and the Czech Republic and two friendly football matches against Italy. Eamon Bugeja gave a short presentation on the forthcoming ECSA football tournament in Malta, which will be on 25th and 26th April 2012. The invitations will be issued in the next two or three weeks. Eamon noted that after meeting a Finnish competitor at the 2010 football tournament he was now working with him on a project to harmonise safety procedures for dealing with containers that had been fumigated. The meeting agreed that this was a good example of contacts made through ECSA benefitting Member State administrations. Palle Lundborg reminded the meeting that countries not able to put a full team into the football tournament should contact the organisers and the President to see if they could form composite teams with other countries in the same position.

France

The meeting was updated on French activities past and future.

Luxembourg

Daniel Koener referred to his written report and forthcoming participation in events.

Germany

Andreas Krueckeberg referred to his written report and advised that there were 13 ECSA participants in the upcoming Cologne running event. He also noted the EC meeting taking place in Cologne on 20th January 2012.

Norway

Marit Solvik and Bjorn Granli gave the meeting information on Customs sports activities in their country. The Customs Sports Club is separate from the administration. A football tournament involving some 300 Customs officers is the flagship event.

Finland

Lasse Lehtokangas said that Finland would send a men's and a women's team to the football tournament in Malta.

No reports were received from Cyprus, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Ireland and TAXUD.

(9) Calendar for 2012 and 2013

Various events and meetings were agreed for 2012. See Annex 3 for details.

It was noted that Slovakia was not organising the marathon in 2011 and had therefore expected to do so in 2012. It was agreed that Slovakia would organise the 2012 marathon and Hungary would then organise the 2013 marathon.

Andreas Krueckeberg said that if the German running event was a success in 2012, they would wish to organise it on a regular basis. It was agreed to review the position after the event. It was also agreed that Andreas and Jacky Golanski would liaise in order to avoid their events clashing.

The President advised that Lithuania had agreed to organise the shooting in 2012 and had asked for this to have ECSA status. Richard Dowling gave details of the 2012 golf tournament in the United Kingdom.

Frank Agius stated that Malta would like to organise a snooker or pool event in November 2012. He was asked to write out to Member States to gauge interest. Ozay Kutlu said that he would do the same concerning a possible hiking event in Turkey in December. Andrea Scott-Lewis said that she and Barnabas Sik hoped to organise a basketball event in Hungary in November.

Various events and meetings were agreed for 2013. See Annex 4 for details. There was a discussion about maximising the accessibility of Association events for disabled competitors. It was agreed that the EC would discuss a policy statement on the issue at its next meeting and that countries hosting events next year would see if they could include disabled participants, especially in athletics events.

(10) Elections

Lasse Lehtokangas was unanimously re-elected as Vice-President of the Association. Anetta Janda was co-opted onto the EC for a further year.

(11) 20th anniversary

Various ideas for marking the Association's 20th anniversary in 2012 were discussed. The following action plan was agreed:

- Production and distribution of T shirts mentioning the anniversary;
- All events in 2012 to make reference to the anniversary in publicity and elsewhere;
- One or perhaps two events (perhaps football and sniffer dogs) to be designated as flagship events for the purpose of marking the anniversary;
- A special variant of the Association's logo to be used for 2012 only;
- A DVD and presentation to be produced.

Karl Wappel said that he could offer the services of some of his media team in Austria, to help with the DVD and presentation.

The meeting agreed that around 1,000 to 1,100 T shirts costing a maximum of €6,000 and of sufficient quality to be worn regularly could be ordered at the discretion of the EC.

Karl Wappel suggested a cap on expenditure for the anniversary. The President said that a budget would be prepared and then Member States updated.

It was agreed that Andrea Scott-Lewis would be the contact point for all information concerning 20th anniversary activities.

(12) Working with the European Commission

The President issued delegates with a copy of the letter of 29th August 2011 that he had sent to the Director-General of Education and Culture. He said that no reply had yet been received.

(13) Any Other Business

Barnabas Sik suggested taking some ECSA gifts when attending the DGs meeting.

In closing proceedings, the President reiterated his thanks to Lasse Lehtokangas and Finnish Customs for their excellent organisation of the AGM.

Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The 2012 Annual General Meeting will be hosted by Luxembourg on Friday 28th September 2012 in Luxembourg city.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 17:23 hours.

**RICHARD DOWLING
SECRETARY
03RD OCTOBER 2011**

Annex 1

Update on outstanding Action Points from 2011

AP	BY	ACTION POINT
		From Executive Committee meeting of 10 June 2010
32/10	LL	LL to start sending out monthly updates of changes to the website.
		<i>Ongoing.</i>
		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 28 January 2011
11/11	LL	LL will put on the website a single list of all representatives and their E-mail addresses.
		<i>Ongoing.</i>
14/11	LL	LL to ask his Director-General to informally raise the matter of the overdue Latvian subscriptions with the Latvian Director-General.
		<i>Discharged, no further developments.</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>Ongoing.</i>
30/11	DK	DK to liaise with Svend Mandel-Hansen about setting up a new bank account.
		<i>Ongoing.</i>
31/11	TdG	TdG to issue the invitations to the 2011 AGM, liaising with LL.
		<i>Discharged.</i>
32/11	DK	DK to contact Jacky Golanski in order to obtain confirmation whether the French cross-country event will take place.
		<i>Discharged, it will take place on 14th October 2011.</i>
33/11	TdG	TdG to advise Andreas Kruckeberg of the proximity of the German running event to the French cross-country event.
		<i>Discharged 11/05/2011, Germany to consider moving its event.</i>
34/11	RD	RD to see whether the UK can host the golf tournament in 2012.
		<i>Discharged, UK can host, probably in September 2012 in the Manchester area, not too far from the airport.</i>
35/11	TdG	TdG to see whether Hungary can host the marathon in 2012.
		<i>Discharged see agenda item 9.</i>

36/11	TdG	TdG to calculate numbers and costings of T-shirts needed to issue one to each event participant in 2012 and advise the EC.
		<i>Discharged, see agenda item 9.</i>
37/11	ALL	All to consider ideas for souvenirs and to check out costings for T-shirts in their own countries and pass this information to TdG.
		<i>Discharged.</i>
38/11	TdG	TdG to write to the Commissioner for Education and Culture to see how ECSA might work with her to promote common interests in the field of sport.
		<i>Discharged, see agenda item 12.</i>
39/11	TdG	TdG to send pictures of the proposed pennant to EC members electronically.
		<i>Discharged, 12/05/2011.</i>
40/11	JH/ AJ/ RD	JH, AJ and RD to obtain costings of pennants.
		<i>Discharged, 400 @ 24cm x 35cm: NL €2,620, UK £2,196.</i>
41/11	LL	LL to invite Estonia to organize an EC meeting.
		<i>Ongoing, LL seeing Estonian Customs 01/11/2011.</i>
42/11	TdG	TdG to invite Norway to attend the 2011 AGM as an observer.
		<i>Discharged 31/05/2011, Norway wishes to join ECSA at the AGM.</i>
43/11	DK	DK to approach contacts in Swiss Customs to see if they might be interested in joining ECSA.
		<i>Ongoing, DK has a meeting with Swiss Customs on 25th and 26th October.</i>

Annex 2

Action Points Taken Forward from AGM 2011

AP	BY	ACTION POINT
		From Executive Committee meeting of 10 June 2010
32/10	LL	LL to start sending out monthly updates of changes to the website.
		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 28 January 2011
11/11	LL	LL to put on the website a single list of all representatives and their E-mail addresses.
		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.
30/11	DK	DK to liaise with Svend Mandel-Hansen about setting up a new bank account.
41/11	LL	LL to invite Estonia to organize an EC meeting.
43/11	DK	DK to approach contacts in Swiss Customs to see if they might be interested in joining ECSA.
		From Annual General Meeting of 30th September 2011
01/12	TdG	TdG to write to all Directors-General to thank them for their support for ECSA and enclosing a small gift marking the Association's 20th anniversary.
02/12	TdG	TdG to contact MP to discuss participation levels at the skiing and difficulties caused by any late cancellation of parts of the programme.

Annex 3

Events & Meetings in 2012

Activity	Date	Member State	Comments
EC meeting	20th January	Germany	Cologne
Downhill skiing		Italy	
Football	25th - 26th April	Malta	6-a-side
Table Tennis	10th - 13th May	Poland	
20K Road Race	27th May	Belgium	Brussels
<i>EC meeting</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>Italy/Austria</i>	
Sniffer Dogs	11th - 15th June	Austria	
Shooting	Late June/early July	Lithuania	
Walking	17th - 20th July	Netherlands	Nijmegen
Running	07th - 09th September	Czech Republic	10K & 1 mile
Golf		United Kingdom	
AGM	28th September	Luxembourg	Helsinki
Marathon	07th October	Slovakia	Kosice
Cross-country	October	France	
<i>Snooker/pool</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>Malta</i>	
Running	November	Germany	5 - 20K
<i>Basketball</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>Hungary</i>	
<i>Hiking</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>Turkey</i>	

Note

Activities in *italics* are not yet confirmed.

Annex 4

Events & Meetings in 2013

Activity	Date	Member State	Comments
<i>EC meeting</i>	<i>January</i>	<i>Denmark/Czech</i>	
Skiing	February or March	Italy	
Tenpin bowling	March	Finland	
<i>Cycling</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>Austria</i>	
Table Tennis	May	Poland	
Running	May	Belgium	Brussels
EC meeting	May/June	Sweden	
Shooting	July	Hungary	
Walking	July	Netherlands	Nijmegen
<i>Swimming</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>Malta</i>	
<i>Sailing</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>Finland</i>	
Running	September	Czech Republic	10K & 1 mile
<i>Volleyball</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>Turkey/Germany</i>	
<i>AGM</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>Turkey</i>	
Marathon	October	Hungary	
Running	October	France	
Running	November	Germany	

Note

Activities in *italics* are not yet confirmed.