

EUROPEAN CHEER UNION

The future of cheerleading in Europe!

European Cheer Union
Falkenfluhweg 12
CH-3114 Wichtrach
Switzerland



Minutes of the ECU Ordinary General Assembly 2014

Telekom Dome Arena, Bonn, Germany
Friday 27 June 2014, 15.00-18.00 hours

ECU Board, present: Tone Sparby – ECU President
Aljaz Britvic – Secretary General
Andrey Kokoulin – ECU Vice President
Slavica Donkov – Southern Europe Representative
Derek Kent – Western Europe Representative
Mikael Sohn Ottesen - Northern Europe Representative

Guests: Karl Olson (USA) – ICU Secretary General
Mike Jackie – ICU advisor
Mike Cooper – ICU Board member

Minute Taker: Lynn Veal (BCA England)

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

Opening of the ECU Ordinary General Assembly 2014 by ECU President Tone Sparby.

Tone Sparby welcomed everyone to the 4th General Assembly, she stated that this was the largest competition the ECU had held and she thanked the German Federation and Elite Brands for organising both the meeting and the competition. She also thanked ECU Secretary General Aljaz Britvic for all his time and hard work he had given to the ECU this past year.

2. ROLL CALL

Country	Federation Name	Represented at the General Assembly
Armenia	All Armenian Association of Perform Art	x
Austria	Austrian Cheerleading and Cheerdance Federation	√
Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan Social & Modern Dance Association	x
Belarus	Belorussian Federation of Cheerleading	√
Belgium	Belgian cheerleading Federation	√
Croatia – CCF	Croatian Cheerleading Federation	√
Croatia – CCCA	Croatian Cheerleading and Cheerdance Association	X
Czech Republic	Czech Cheer Association	√
Denmark	Danish American Football Federation	√
England	British Cheerleading Association	√
Estonia	Estonia Cheer Union	X
Finland	Finnish Cheerleading Federation	√
France – FASC	Federation All Star Cheerleading	X
Georgia	Georgian National Cheerleading Federation	√
Germany	Cheerleading and Cheerdance Federation Germany	√
Greece	Hellas Cheerleading Union	√
Hungary	Hungarian Cheer Federation	√
Ireland	Irish Cheer Sport Association	X
Israel	CDA Israel	X
Italy – FISAC	Italian Federation of Acrobatic and Choreographic Sports	√
Italy – FICEC	Cheerleading and Cheerdance Italian Federation	√
Italy – FICAD	Italian Cheerleading Federation – Acrobatic and Dance	√

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Macedonia	Youth Cheer Club	X	
Moldova	Federation of Modern Dances of Moldova		√
Montenegro	Cheerleaders of Bellissima	X	
Netherlands	Dutch Cheerleading Association		√
Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland Cheer Sport Association	X	
Norway	Norwegian Federation of American Sports		√
Romania	School Sports Association "Gh.Sincai" Floresti	X	
Russia	Russian Cheer Union		√
Scotland	Scotchcheer	X	
Serbia	Cheerleading Association of Serbia	X	
Slovenia	Slovenian Cheerleading Association		√
Spain	Spain Cheer and Dance		√
Sweden	Swedish Cheerleading Federation		√
Switzerland	Cheerleading and Cheerdance Association Switzerland		√
Ukraine	All-Ukrainian Cheerleading Federation	X	
Wales	CheerSport Wales	X	
	Membership Applicants		
France - FFFA	French Federation of American Football		√
Poland	Polish Dance Federation		√
Romania	Romanian Majorettes Association		√
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Cheer Union of Bosnia and Herzegovina	X	
Czech Republic	(CCU)		√
Russia	(RCF)		√

19 participating countries with a vote.

2 participating countries without a vote – Italy, Belarus

3 provisional members – Romania (Romanian Majorettes Association), Poland. France (FFFA).

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Roll call
3. Approval of the agenda
4. Approval of the Rules of Procedure for the meeting
5. Suspension or expulsion of a member (if applicable)
6. Decisions on changes in member status
7. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting
8. Yearly reports
9. Financial matters
10. Modification of bylaws, if any
11. New membership applications
12. Proposals submitted
13. Elections
14. Date and place of next meeting

The Agenda was approved by all in attendance at the General Assembly.

4. RULES OF THE PROCEDURE

The Rules of Procedure were approved by all in attendance at the General Assembly.

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5. SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION OF A MEMBER

No proposals.

6. DECISIONS ON CHANGES IN MEMBER STATUS

No proposals.

7. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS GA

Annex 1: Minutes of the ECU Ordinary General Assembly 2013 (Glasgow)

The president gave her apologies as it had been recorded that Jonas Miller and Lynn Veal (England) would audit the accounts for 2013, this should have been recorded as Lynn Veal (England) and Roger Friedli (Switzerland).

However Jonas Miller & Lynn Veal have audited the accounts for 2013.

ECU General Assembly approved the Minutes of the ECU Ordinary General Assembly 2013.

8. YEARLY REPORTS

The Yearly Reports had been sent to the membership with the Agenda to the GA.

Tone Sparby ECU president outlined the current set up of ECU. She stated that it is now a large European community, and due to this growth The Board members recognise that there is a need to review the current bylaws.

Tone Sparby reported that herself and Aljaz Britvic have been working on this review. However, as it is such a huge task they were unable to present any revisions to the General Assembly.

The revisions of the Bylaws will also be discussed as part of Agenda items 11 and 12. She reported that they are working towards finding solutions to some of the challenges a growing organisation presents.

The reports were unanimously approved.

9. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Secretary General Aljaz Britvic briefly outlined the current financial position to the General Assembly. The financial report and budgets had been sent to the members with the Agenda to the GA.

Upon question about unpaid membership fees, Secretary General Aljaz Britvic replied that the ECU is working on collecting all unpaid memberships, and he also reported that the fees are determined by how many members each federation has.

Audit report of ECU Finances 2013 was made by Jonas Miller and Lynn Veal.

ECU General Assembly approved the Financial Reports and Budget for 2014.

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10. MODIFICATION OF BYLAWS

10.1 PROPOSAL FROM UKRAINE

On 7th of May 2014 ECU received a proposal from Ukraine to change the ECU Bylaws.

Proposal: *Ukraine would like to make a proposal to change Chapter 2 Article 7.1 point B of ECU Bylaws.*

Proposed new text: *"In the ECU every European country can be represented only by 1 National sport federation which is recognized by and is a member of ICU".*

Explanation: *"What is the reason of this change? Ukrainian lawyers has looked through Bylaws of 117 international and European federations among which are federations of Football, Boxing, Swimming, Gymnastics, Figure Skating, etc. and they noted that without any exception in all international and European federations each country is represented by 1 National federation. If Cheerleading is on the way to become a member of Olympic Family we must obey a common rule. If we do not make changes in the ECU Bylaws (the country can be represented by multiple federations) it can become a compelling reason for the Olympic Committee to reject application of ICU to become a member of Olympic Family."*

An initial vote was taken on this proposal from the Ukraine

The Outcome was: 15 countries voted no, 4 countries voted yes.

The congregation discussed the matter of having more than one member per country.

The President presented the following counter proposal from the ECU board:

The ECU board proposes that we should change the Bylaws in 2015 for there to only be 1 full member equalling 1 national federation from each county. The ECU will appoint a special committee to investigate the necessary changes in the Bylaws within 1 year.

Proposed members of this committee: The ECU President, the ECU Secretary General, Katarina Eriksson from Sweden and Ursula Hann from Austria.

A vote was taken for the ECU Board's counter proposal.

The outcome of the vote: 19 Countries voted Yes

10.2 PROPOSAL FROM ECU BOARD

The ECU Board proposed following changes to the ECU Bylaws:

Article 1.2

Current Text

The General Assembly determines the location of the federation. ECU has been registered in Switzerland and has been constituted according to art. 60 et seq. of the Swiss Civil Code.

Modified Text

The General Assembly determines the location of the federation. The General Assembly of 2014 decided to register the federation within the EU, in Denmark.

The President clarified to the General Assembly why Denmark is to be the new country of registration for the ECU; being location within the EU with accessibility to apply for certain EU fundings and also lower bank fees on money transfers, an issue which has been raised by the membership.

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Article 5.2

Current Text

The federation operates on the basis of the English version of the bylaws. For Swiss constitutional purposes, there is a German translation of the bylaws.

Modified Text

The federation operates on the basis of the English version of the bylaws.

Article 8.4

Current Text

A member shall be considered in "good standing" for a fiscal year if such member's dues are paid in full on or before January 31 of such year. Only members in good standing are entitled to receive the services and/or benefits of ECU.

Modified Text

A member shall be considered in "good standing" for a fiscal year if such member's dues from all previous fiscal years are paid in full. Only members in good standing are entitled to receive the services and/or benefits of ECU and enjoy the membership rights given by these Bylaws.

Article 11.1

11.1 Suspension of members

Current Text

The Board may, by a majority decision, suspend until the next General Assembly a member who fails to comply with a provision of the bylaws, regulations, directives and decisions of ECU, and in particular for the following reasons:

- a) Liabilities due to ECU who are unpaid
- b) Not having paid membership fees

Modified Text

11.1 Provisional suspension of members

The Board may, by a majority decision, provisionally suspend until the next General Assembly a member who fails to comply with a provision of the bylaws, regulations, directives and decisions of ECU, and in particular for the following reasons:

- a) Liabilities due to ECU who are unpaid,
- b) Not having paid membership fees,
- c) Violating ECU Bylaws, other ECU regulations or ECU decisions,
- d) Damage the reputation of the ECU.

Article 11.2

Current Text

A decision must be made by the next General Assembly, provided the suspension is still in force at that time.

Modified Text

A final decision must be made by the next General Assembly, provided the provisional suspension is still in force at that time.

The General Assembly can suspend the ECU member without prior provisional suspension by the ECU Board.

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Article 17.2

Current Text

All delegates other than the Board shall submit a Power of Attorney document signed by the person who officially represents the member federation according to the rules of country from which the federation originates.

Modified Text

All delegates other than the Board and official legal representatives of the member federation shall submit a Power of Attorney document signed by the person who officially represents the member federation according to the rules of country from which the federation originates.

Article 25.2

Current Text

The minutes shall be submitted to the Board for approval within 1 month after the General Assembly, and sent out to the members within 2 months after the General Assembly.

Modified Text

The minutes shall be submitted to the Board for approval within 3 months after the General Assembly, and sent out to the members within 5 months after the General Assembly.

After questions from the assembly whether the minutes could be available sooner than stated, a vote took place and it was agreed that the minutes would be available to the Board for approval within 3 months after the General Assembly, and sent out to the members within 5 months after the General Assembly.

Article 26.2

Current Text

The Board consists of 8 elected members:

1. The President
2. The Vice President
3. The Secretary General
4. 5 Board Members, 1 from each of the following regions:

Modified Text

The Board consists of 8 elected members:

1. The President
2. The Vice President
3. The Secretary General
4. Five Regional Representatives, 1 from each of the following regions:

Article 26.3

Current Text

The members of the Board shall represent different countries.

Modified Text

The members of the Board shall regardless of their origin represent all ECU countries.

Article 31.2

Current Text

The amount of the membership fees is decided upon by the General Assembly, and shall be payable no later than the next 31st of January.

Modified Text

The amount of the membership fee is decided upon at the General Assembly.

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Article 31.3

Current Text

Invoices for membership fees are sent out by the Board, and shall be paid by 31st of January each year.

Modified Text

Deleted

A vote took place: 19 countries voted yes to these proposals

11. NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

11.1 POLAND / POLISH DANCE FEDERATION

Currently ECU does not have any member organization from Poland. The applicant (PDF) provided all documents that are required by the ECU Bylaws. ECU President and ECU Secretary General had been in contact with PDF representatives during the ICU World Championships and have briefly discussed their position on the development of cheerleading in Poland. The PDF is very interested in developing cheerleading and they have also informed that they are in a legal process of changing federation name into the "Polish Cheer & Dance Federation".

The ECU Board granted provisional membership to the Polish Dance Federation.

The President of the Polish National Federation made their presentation to the General Assembly, after which the Polish representatives left the GA and the GA discussed the application.

A vote took place for Poland to become a full member of the ECU.

Outcome: 19 countries voted yes for accepting a full membership

11.2 BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA / CHEER UNION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

ECU has received a membership application from the "Cheer Union of Bosnia and Herzegovina". Currently ECU does not have any member organization from this country. The applicant sent the ECU membership application form and was asked to also provide other required documents (e.g. NF bylaws, description of the federation).

The ECU Board granted provisional membership to the Cheer Union of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Bosnia and Herzegovina did not have a presentation to the General Assembly.

A vote took place for to Bosnia and Herzegovina to become a full member of the ECU.

Outcome: 19 countries voted yes for accepting a full membership

11.3 ROMANIA / ROMANIAN MAJORETTES ASSOCIATION

ECU has received a membership application from "Romanian Majorettes Association". ECU already has a member from Romania: "School Sports Association "Gh.Sincal" Floresti" (accepted in the ECU membership on 28th of June 2013 on Glasgow GA). However, this association is only a one team / club / school and their membership was granted on the fact that there was no other ECU member from Romania at that time. From the communication with both organizations ECU found out that they are cooperating together and that "School Sports Association "Gh.Sincal" Floresti" is actually a member of the "Romanian Majorettes Association". The ECU suggested to "School Sports Association "Gh.Sincal" Floresti" to resign their ECU membership as soon as the "Romanian Majorettes Association" receives full ECU membership.

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The President of the Romanian Federation made their presentation to the General Assembly, after which the representatives of the Romanian federation left the GA.

During the discussion it was confirmed by the Secretary General that the current member organisation would resign their membership once the Romanian Majorettes Association has been accepted as members.

A vote took place for Romania to become a full member of the ECU.

Outcome: 19 countries voted yes for accepting a full membership

11.4 FRANCE / FRENCH FEDERATION OF AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Currently ECU already has a member organization from France: "Federation All Star Cheerleading" (FASC). FASC has paid all their dues and it is financially in a *good standing*. However, FASC has never participated with its teams / athletes on the ECU European Cheerleading Championships, neither have other persons from FASC participated on any of ECU events. FASC was also excluded from the ICU membership on the last ICU General Assembly.

The applicant Federation Francaise de Football Americain (FFFA) sent the ECU membership application form and was asked to also provide other required documents (Bylaws, description of the federation, proof of governmental recognition, proof of non-for-profit status etc.). ECU President and ECU Secretary General had been in contact with FFFA representatives during the ICU World Championships and have briefly discussed their position on the development of cheerleading in France. The FFFA is very interested in further development of cheerleading in France. FFFA also became an ICU member on the last ICU General Assembly.

The ECU Board granted provisional membership to the French Federation of American Football.

A representative from France made their presentation to the General Assembly, after which the representative left the GA and a discussion took place.

A vote took place for France to become a full member of the ECU.

Outcome: 18 countries voted yes, 1 country voted no. Full membership was granted.

11.5 CZECH REPUBLIC / CZECH CHEERLEADING UNION

ECU has received a membership application from the "Czech Cheerleading Union" (CCU) from the Czech Republic. ECU already has a member from Czech Republic: "Czech Cheer Association" (CCA). ECU has informed CCA about new membership application from their country and asked them for their opinion regarding this matter, which CCA also provided.

The ECU Board did not grant provisional membership to the Czech Cheerleading Union.

A presentation was made by the President of the Czech cheerleading union (CCU), after which the representatives from CCU left the GA.

A presentation was made from the current member Czech federation, CCA.

A vote took place for CCU to become a full member of the ECU.

Outcome: 3 countries voted yes, 16 countries voted no

The General Assembly asked that CCU reach out to the other federation.

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11.6 RUSSIA / RUSSIAN CHEERLEADING FEDERATION

The Russian Cheerleading Federation (RCF) applied for the ECU membership. ECU Board examined the application documents and decided that the membership application will be submitted to the ECU GA (as per Article 8.3. of the ECU Bylaws). RCF is an ECA / IFC member.

ECU already has a member federation from Russia: Russian Cheer Union (RCU) that is also an ICU member. In February 2014 RCU informed ECU that all Russian teams and athletes will be allowed to qualify to the European Cheerleading Championships 2014 on the competition that will be organized by RCU and will be held in Moscow on 7th and 8th of May 2014. ECU has informed RCF about this possibility.

The ECU Board did not grant provisional membership to the Russian Cheerleading Federation.

The representatives from RCF made their presentation to the General Assembly, after which they left the GA.

A presentation was then given from existing Russian ECU member, RCU. The GA discussed both applications.

A vote took place for RCF to become a full member of the ECU.

Outcome: 3 countries voted Yes , 2 countries abstained, 14 countries voted No

12. PROPOSALS SUBMITTED

Only one proposal was submitted. The subject of the proposal was about ECU Bylaws changes and therefore the proposal was discussed under point 10 of the Agenda.

13. ELECTIONS

ECU AUDITORS

According to Article 33 of ECU Bylaws each General Assembly appoints 2 qualified auditors. Their duty is to check the accounts of the present calendar year and present their report to the next year General Assembly, with their conclusions and recommendations.

Proposed candidates: Lynn Veal (England) and Roger Friedli (Switzerland).

Both were elected unanimously.

14. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING

ECU Ordinary General Assembly 2015 should be held one day before the European Cheerleading Championships 2015.

It was announced that the 2015 & 2016 European Cheerleading Championships will be held at the following locations with dates to be confirmed.

2015 - Slovenia – Ljubljana

2016 - Austria - Vienna