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Minutes of the ECU Ordinary General Assembly 2015

Grand Hotel Union, Ljubljana, Slovenia Friday 26 June 2015, 13.00-17.00 hours

ECU Board, present: Tone Sparby – ECU President Aljaž Britvič – Secretary General Andrey Kokoulin – ECU Vice President Mikael Sohn Ottesen – North Europe Representative Slavica Donkov – South Europe Representative Derek Kent – West Europe Representative Barbara Katzmayer – Middle Europe Representative

Guests: Karl Olson – ICU Secretary General Mike Jacki – ICU Advisor Damien Ng – President of Asia Cheer Union Cho Hank Wu – Representative of Chinese Taipei Cheerleading Association Dian Anggraini – President of Indonesia Cheerleading Association

Minute Taker: Alexandra Yagnyukova

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

Opening of the ECU Ordinary General Assembly 2015 by ECU President Tone Sparby.

Tone Sparby welcomed everyone to the 5th General Assembly in Ljubljana. She thanked the Slovenian organizers, the sponsors (Dollamur), and greeted the esteemed guests.

The Slovenian Cheerleading Association PR representative Anže Zadravec made a short presentation of the ECU Championship 2015 in Slovenia, outlining the main facts and describing the event's organisation, venue and PR activities.

2. ROLL CALL

ECU Secretary General Aljaž Britvič pointed out that the quorum needed is 15 countries with voting rights for

Country	Federation Name	Represented at the General Assembly
Armenia	All Armenian Association of Perform Art	X
Austria	Austrian Cheerleading and Cheerdance Federation	\checkmark
Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan Social & Modern Dance Association	X
Belarus	Belorussian Federation of Cheerleading	X
Belgium	Belgian cheerleading Federation	
Bosnia and	Cheer Union of Bosnia and Herzegovina	X
Herzegovina		
Croatia – CCCA	Croatian Cheerleading and Cheerdance Association	\checkmark
Croatia – CCF	Croatian Cheerleading Federation	
Czech Republic	Czech Cheer Association	
Denmark	Danish American Football Federation	\checkmark
England	British Cheerleading Association	
Estonia	Estonia Cheer Union	X
Finland	Finnish Cheerleading Federation	

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France – FASC	Federation All Star Cheerleading	X
France - FFFA	French Federation of American Football	\checkmark
Georgia	Georgian National Cheerleading Federation	x
Germany	Cheerleading and Cheerdance Federation Germany	\checkmark
Greece	Hellas Cheerleading Union	x
Hungary	Hungarian Cheer Federation	
Ireland	Irish Cheer Sport Association	\checkmark
Israel	CDA Israel	
Italy – FICAD	Italian Cheerleading Federation – Acrobatic and Dance	\checkmark
Italy – FICEC	Cheerleading and Cheerdance Italian Federation	\checkmark
Italy – FISAC	Italian Federation of Acrobatic and Choreographic Sports	\checkmark
Macedonia	Youth Cheer Club	x
Moldova	Federation of Modern Dances of Moldova	x
Montenegro	Cheerleaders of Bellissima	x
Netherlands	Dutch Cheerleading Association	V
Norway	Norwegian Federation of American Sports	\checkmark
Poland	Polish Dance Federation	
Romania	School Sports Association "Gh.Sincai" Floresti	x
Romania	Romanian Majorettes Association	
Russia – RCF	Russian Cheerleading Federation	\checkmark
(provisional)		
Russia	Russian Cheer Union	\checkmark
Scotland	Scotcheer	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	\checkmark
Wales	CheerSport Wales	x

The roll call was repeated after the break due to late arrivals. During the first part of the Assembly, 16 countries with voting rights were present, but during the break six more arrived: thus, the quorum required for adopting the revised Bylaws was reached.

22 participating countries with a vote.

- 5 participating countries without a vote.
- 1 provisional member Russia (RCF).

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda of the General Assembly was revised due to planned change of Bylaws:

- 1. Opening of the meeting
- 2. Roll call
- 3. Approval of the agenda
- 4. Approval of the Rules of Procedure for the meeting
- 5. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting
- 6. Yearly reports
- 7. Financial matters
- (break)

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- 8. Modification of bylaws
- 9. Suspension or expulsion of a member
- 10. Decisions on changes in member status
- 11. New membership applications
- 12. Proposals submitted
- 13. Elections
- 14. Date and place of next meeting
- 15. AOB

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.

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS GA

Annex 1: Minutes of the ECU Ordinary General Assembly 2014 (Bonn)

ECU President Tone Sparby called attention to article 10.1, the creation of a special committee to investigate the necessary changes in the Bylaws within 1 year.

She also remarked that last year's minutes do not mention the fact that ECU has changed its registration and is now fully registered in Denmark.

ECU General Assembly unanimously approved the Minutes of the ECU Ordinary General Assembly 2014.

6. YEARLY REPORTS

Annex 2: ECU Judges Committee - Report of Activities for 2014

Annex 3: ECU Competition Rules Committee - Report of Activities for 2014

Annex 4: ECU Coaches Committee - Report of Activities for 2014

Annex 5: ECU Athletes Committee - Report of Activities for 2014

Annex 6: ECL Steering Committee - Report of Activities for 2014

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

ECU president Tone Sparby outlined the current set up of ECU. She remarked its continued growth and development and congratulated everyone on a job well done, extending special thanks to Secretary General Aljaž Britvič for his hard work.

Tone Sparby informed the General Assembly that the report files were available online and presented the chairpersons of the Committees:

Marko Ebert (Judges Committee) Ursula Hann (Competition Rules Committee) Joelle Krummenacher (Coaches Committee) Rita Kovacsik (Athletes Committee) Marko Sabol (Steering Committee)

The reports were unanimously approved.

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7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Secretary General Aljaž Britvič notified the General Assembly that the mistakes that had previously appeared in totals were corrected; the updated financial reports were approved by auditors and sent to the members. He then briefly presented the current financial situation to the General Assembly.

Upon question regarding increased costs and future plans as to steadying the balance, Aljaž Britvič replied that future plans envision gradually cutting expenses and increasing income, but the current situation causes no financial worries.

Audit report of ECU Finances 2014 was made by Lynn Veal and Roger Friedli.

ECU General Assembly approved the Financial Reports and Budget for 2015 and 2016.

8. MODIFICATION OF BYLAWS

8.1 PROPOSAL FROM ECU SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Annex 8: Changes of the ECU Bylaws (proposed by the Special Committee)

The ad-hoc Special Committee appointed by the ECU GA 2014 for revising the ECU Bylaws included Tone Sparby, Aljaž Britvič, Katarina Eriksson and Ursula Hann. Ursula Hann presented the changes proposed and led the discussion.

The central idea of the amendments is that in the ECU, each country should be represented by one member federation. To this end, the Special Committee proposed a new set of provisions that would come into force in January 2016 and a transitional provision valid until the end of December 2015 to solve the current situation.

The Special Committee proposed introducing the concept of Associate Members, who would not have voting rights, the right to present candidates or send athletes to competitions.

The transitional provision is as follows: the federations with membership in the ICU become representing member federations; and those without can become Associate Members upon written agreement (determining who would vote, access to European Championships, etc.) with the representing member federation, approved by the ECU board.

Ursula Hann then proceeded to present all the changes in detail. Firstly, there were a number of language changes: Bylaws became Statutes. Definition of cheerleading was added in Article 5.3:

Article 5.3

Definition of Cheerleading

The word "Cheerleading" is the universal and historical term that also refers to variations of the word "Cheerleading" including but not limited to "Cheer", "Cheering", "Sport of Cheerleading", "Sport of Cheer" and "Sport of Cheering".

Article 7

Current Text There are two categories of memberships in ECU.

B. More than one national federation from each country in Europe may become member of ECU.

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If there is more than one member federation from a country, these federations together will represent as one nation at the General Assembly.

If there is more than one member federation from a country, these federations will be given a period of two years from the day the last federation is accepted as a member to form one national member federation from this country.

If no agreement is made within two years, either by means of forming an umbrella organization for that country, or merger of country federations; ECU will have the right to determine which of the country's member federations that will be given the status as National Representative in ECU from that country, and thus represent that country with voting rights at the General Assembly.

This will be voted upon at the General Assembly upon recommendation by the Board of ECU.

The federation not given the status as National Representative in a country will stay as members in ECU, with all member rights except the right to vote at the General Assembly.

The recognition by ECU as National Representative, in a country with more than one member federation, is granted for a period of 2 years. The status as National Representative can be applied by other federations of that country after this period of 2 years.

7.1.1 National governing body

ECU shall generally admit as member federation the national cheerleading federation recognized by a country's National Olympic Committee, Confederation of Sports, Sports Ministry, or by the International Cheer Union (ICU).

The National Governing Body, which is recognized by ICU as the official authority for the sport of cheerleading in that country, will also be recognized by ECU in the same way.

Modified Text

There are three categories of memberships in ECU.

B. Only one national federation from each country in Europe can be a member of the ECU.

C. ECU shall generally admit as member federation the national cheerleading federation recognized by the International Cheer Union (ICU).

D. If there is no national cheerleading federation recognized by the ICU, ECU will admit a national cheerleading federation based upon the recognition by a country's National Olympic Committee, Confederation of Sports, the Sports Ministry or any other national governing body for sport.

7.3 Associate members

The Board can accept associate members that can have limited membership rights and obligations. Associate members cannot have the following rights:

- The right to vote on the General Assembly
- The right to nominate candidates for the Board and committees
- The right to compete in the ECU competitions

Other associate members' rights and obligations are determined by the Board.

Article 9

Current Text

9.1 Rights

Members in good standing have the right:

- To receive in advance the agenda of the General Assembly, to be called to the meeting within the prescribed time, to take part in the meeting and to exercise the right to vote
- To be informed of the state of ECU •
- To participate in voting and elections •
- To draw up proposals regarding the agenda of the General Assembly
- To nominate candidates to the Board and committees in ECU
- To participate in competitions, camps, courses, training and other events organized by ECU

Provisional members have the right:

To participate in competitions, camps, courses, training and other events organized

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- by ECU
- To take part in the meeting of the General Assembly

9.2 Obligations

Members have the obligation:

- To comply at any time unreservedly with the bylaws, regulations and decisions of ECU
- To have their executive organs and, if applicable, their disciplinary organs, elected by their respective General Assemblies
- To have adopted the promotion and care of the sport of cheerleading as a task in their national bylaws
- Upon request, submit a copy of their current bylaws, in English, to ECU
- Ensure that their bylaws meet the rules of public interest in their own country and that they do not contradict the bylaws of ECU
- To notify ECU, in writing, any changes that affect the conditions of admission
- To pay their membership subscription in due time
- To act sportsmanlike
- Not to damage the reputation of the federation

Modified Text

9.1 Rights

Members in good standing have the right:

- To receive in advance the agenda of the General Assembly, to be called to the meeting within the prescribed time, to take part in the meeting and to exercise the right to vote
- To be informed of the state of ECU
- To participate in voting and elections
- To draw up proposals regarding the agenda of the General Assembly
- To nominate candidates to the Board and committees in ECU
- To participate in competitions, camps, courses, training and other events organized by ECU

9.2 Obligations

Members have the obligation:

- To comply at any time unreservedly with these statutes, regulations and decisions of ECU
- To have their executive organs and, if applicable, their disciplinary organs, elected by their respective General Assemblies
- To have adopted the promotion and care of the sport of cheerleading as a task in their national bylaws (statutes)
- Upon request, submit a copy of their current bylaws, in English, to ECU
- Ensure that their bylaws (statutes) meet the rules of public interest in their own country and that they do not contradict the statutes of ECU
- To notify ECU, in writing, any changes that affect the conditions of admission
- To pay their membership subscription in due time
- To act sportsmanlike
- Not to damage the reputation of the federation

9.2.1 Rights and obligations of provisional members and associate members Provisional members have the right:

- To participate in competitions, camps, courses, training and other events organized by ECU
- To take part in the meeting of the General Assembly
- Provisional members have identical obligations as other member federations.
- Associated members have rights and obligations that are determined and amended by the Board.

Article 11.2 (added) Status of suspended member

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Suspended member has no member's rights during the period of suspension. The Board may also decide to only suspend some of the member's rights for the period of the provisional suspension.

Article 12.1 **Current Text**

Expulsion of members

A member can be expelled from the federation by an absolute majority (50% + 1) of the General or Extraordinary Assembly, for the following reasons:

- a) refusal to pay any liabilities due to the federation
- b) Repeated non-payment of membership fees due to the federation
- c) Non-compliance of the bylaws, regulations, directives and decisions of ECU

Modified Text

Expulsion of members

A member can be expelled from the ECU by an absolute majority (more than 50% of all members) of the General or Extraordinary Assembly, for the following reasons:

a) Refusal to pay any liabilities due to the federation

b) Repeated non-payment of membership fees due to the federation

c) Non-compliance of the statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of ECU

d) Loss of recognition by the International Cheer Union (ICU)

e) Loss of recognition by a country's National Olympic Committee, Confederation of Sports or the Sports Ministry

Article 12.3 (added)

Expulsion by new membership

A member federation (as defined in Article 7.1) is expelled immediately if the General Assembly accepts a new member federation from the same country.

Article 12.4 (added)

Expulsion of associate members The Board can expel associate members.

Article 18.3

Current Text

In case of no quorum a second General Assembly shall be held 24 hours after the first was due to convene, with the same agenda.

In that second General Assembly, no quorum is required, unless an item on the agenda proposes the amendment of these bylaws, the election of the board members, the expulsion of a member or the dissolution of ECU.

Modified Text

In case of no guorum a second General Assembly shall be held 24 hours after but not later than 3 days after the first General Assembly was due to convene, with the same agenda.

In that second General Assembly, no quorum is required, unless an item on the agenda proposes the amendment of these statutes, the election of the Board members, the expulsion of a member or the dissolution of ECU.

Article 22

Current Text

Agenda for Ordinary General Assembly

- 22.1 The agenda shall include as follows:
- 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)

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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 (if applicable)
- 14. Date and place of next meeting

22.2 The agenda may be modified by the General Assembly provided there is a 2/3 majority of the votes validly cast.

Modified Text

Agenda for Ordinary General Assembly

- 22.1 The agenda shall include following topics:
- 1. Opening of the meeting
- 2. Roll call
- 3. Approval of the agenda
- 4. Approval of the Rules of Procedure for the meeting
- 5. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting
- 6. Yearly reports
- 7. Financial matters
- 8. Modification of statutes
- 9. Suspension or expulsion of a member
- 10. Decisions on changes in member status
- 11. New membership applications
- 12. Proposals submitted
- 13. Elections (if applicable)
- 14. Date and place of next meeting
- 22.2 The order of the agenda is determined by the Board.

22.3 The agenda may be modified by the General Assembly provided there is a 2/3 majority of the votes validly cast.

Article 27 Current Text

Eligibility, Term of office

27.1 Candidates to the positions of the board are brought forward by their federations.

Proposals shall be submitted to the Board at least 3 months before the General Assembly where the elections will take place.

Proposals on candidates shall be accompanied by the candidates' CV (Curriculum Vitae).

27.2 The list of candidates and their CVs shall be circulated to the member nations before the General Assembly.

27.3 The candidates must have reached the age of majority in their own country, and be in full possession of their civil rights.

27.4 Board members are appointed for a term of 2 years.

The President may be re-elected once.

27.6 Elected members are not personally liable for the debts and other obligations when acting responsibly in official capacity.

Modified Text

Eligibility, Term of office

27.1 Candidates to the positions of the Board are brought forward by their federations.

Proposals shall be submitted to the Board at least 6 weeks before the General Assembly where the elections will take place.

Proposals on candidates shall be accompanied by the candidates' CV (Curriculum Vitae).

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27.2 The list of candidates and their CVs shall be circulated to the member nations before the General Assembly.

27.3 The candidates must have reached the age of majority in their own country, and be in full possession of their civil rights.

27.4 Board members are appointed for a term of 3 years.

The President may be re-elected once.

27.6 Elected members are not personally liable for the debts and other obligations when acting responsibly in official capacity.

Article 28 (added)

Replacement

28.1 If an elected Board member resigns before the end of her or his term or cannot fulfil his duties as Board member at full capacity, the remaining Board members have the right to appoint another eligible member. 28.2. A Board member co-opted as a replacement holds temporary office until the next General Assembly, where an election has to be held for the approval of the new Board member.

28.2 The term of appointment for a co-opted Board member ends with her or his predecessor's term.

Article 38 (added)

Transitional Provisions

38.1 If there already is more than one member from a specific country:

a) The member that is an ICU member will become the sole member federation (as defined in Article 7.1). b) The member that is not an ICU member will become an associate member (as defined in Article 7.3) if

• it has signed a written agreement with the member federation or

• *it will sign a written agreement with the member federation until the 31st of December 2015. The agreement must regulate the right of both members regarding participation in the ECU European Cheerleading Championships and the right to vote in the ECU General Assembly.*

38.3. ECU membership of members that do not become a member federation or an associate member as described above will be terminated on 31st of December 2015.

Upon question regarding the application of the revised Bylaws, namely regarding the right to send athletes, for countries such as the UK, ECU President Tone Sparby replied that the Bylaws mostly concern new members and written agreement prevails otherwise, and that England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales are considered separate countries and can thus each be represented. Derek Kent additionally clarified the UK situation.

Several questions were posed concerning Associate Members. It was explained that an Associate Member does not necessarily have to be a non-profit organisation, but could also be a company, a university, an institution, etc. The purpose of introducing such members is cooperation and the pursuit of mutual interests without granting said members all the rights and obligations of full members.

Replying to the comment that the set timeline only leaves six months for negotiating agreements within countries with several federations, Ursula Hann pointed out that the decision had been there for a year, and the Bylaws had been originally suggested in 2014; moreover, the initial written agreements could be amended later on, so the timeline was reasonable.

Concern was expressed over the fact that members with ICU membership would have the power to exclude other members, but ECU Secretary General assured that the ECU Board will exercise authority over uncooperative members.

A vote took place for all the amendments as a package deal; the revised Bylaws (Statutes) were approved unanimously.

8.2 PROPOSAL FROM CZECH REPUBLIC

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The Czech Republic agreed that the new Bylaws (Statutes) solved the issues that were the subject matter of their proposal.

9. SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION OF A MEMBER

The ECU Board proposes to expel the following members due to inactivity and unpaid membership fee:

Azerbaijan / Azerbaijan Social & Modern Dance Association Estonia / Estonia Cheer Union Macedonia / Youth Cheer Club Montenegro / Cheerleaders Bellissima Serbia / Cheerleading Association of Serbia

The Secretary General Aljaž Britvič noted that, if expelled, the inactive members may be re-accepted

A vote took place for all five members to be expelled from the ECU. Outcome: expulsion of the five members was unanimously approved.

10. DECISIONS ON CHANGES IN MEMBER STATUS

Changes in member status were covered in point 8 of the Agenda by the revised Bylaws (Statutes).

11. NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

11.1 POLAND / POLISH CHEERLEADING ASSOCIATION

Currently ECU already has a member organization from Poland – the Polish Dance Federation (that is actually in a process of changing the federation name into "Polish Cheer & Dance Federation"). Polish Dance Federation is also am ICU member. The applicant (Polish Cheerleading Association) provided all documents that are required by the ECU Bylaws.

As per the revised ECU Bylaws (Statutes), it was suggested that the Polish Cheerleading Association become an Associate Member.

11.2 RUSSIA / RUSSIAN CHEERLEADING FEDERATION

Russian Cheerleading Federation membership application was rejected by the ECU General Assembly 2014. In July 2014, RCF reapplied with the same application, and the ECU Board granted them a provisional membership.

RCF decided to resign their membership in ECA and IFC and signed an agreement with the Russian Cheer Union (RCU), which is an ECU and ICU member, in January 2015. RFC thus holds the Associate Member status as per the new Bylaws (Statutes).

No vote was needed.

12. PROPOSALS SUBMITTED

Only one proposal was submitted. The subject of the proposal was amending ECU Bylaws, and it was therefore covered by point 8 of the Agenda and the new Bylaws (Statutes).

13. ELECTIONS

13.1 ECU AUDITORS

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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 Guri Aunan (Norway) Both were elected unanimously.

13.2 ECU BOARD

The following candidatures were received within the official deadline: Aljaž Britvič

Ursula Hann

- 1. President 2. Vice-President 3. Secretary General 4. North Europe 5. West Europe 6. Middle Europe 7. East Europe
- 8. South Europe
- 9. South Europe 10. South Europe
- Tone Sparby Mikael Sohn Ottesen Derek Kent Dr. Jan Becker Andrey Kokoulin Slavica Donkov Walter Perosino Riccardo Cavalieri
- Slovenia Austria Norway Denmark England Germany Russia Croatia Italy Italy

Italy took off its two candidates due to the revised status of the Italian member associations as per the new Bylaws (Statutes), thus leaving Slavica Donkov the only candidate for South Europe Representative. ECU President Tone Sparby thanked Italy for cooperation.

Upon question as to the purpose of regional representatives, their role was clarified and it was remarked that the Bylaws set no specific tasks for the representatives.

All the eight candidates were approved by acclamation.

14. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING

ECU Ordinary General Assembly 2016 should be held one day before the European Cheerleading Championships 2016 in Vienna (Austria).

15. AOB

ICU Advisor Mike Jacki congratulated the ECU on behalf of the ICU on doing a great job and thanked everyone for their responsiveness and support of the ICU WADA program.

Brites Algo