

Minutes of the ECU Ordinary General Assembly 2017

Prague, Czech Republic – Hotel Expo Vystaviste
Friday 23 June 2017, 15.00-18.00 hours

ECU Board, present:

President - Aljaž Britvič
Secretary General - Tone Sparby
North Europe - Mikael Sohn Ottesen
East Europe - Andrey Kokoulin
South Europe - Slavica Donkov

Minute Taker: Thea Halgard

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

Opening of the ECU Ordinary General Assembly 2017 by ECU President Aljaž Britvič.

The president welcomed everyone to the General Assembly, apologised for the delayed start of the meeting and proceeded to the roll call after the assembly had listened to the Olympic Anthem in celebration of the International Olympic Day.

2. ROLL CALL

ECU Members:

No.	Country	Federation	Present
1.	Armenia	All Armenian Association of Perform Art	X
2.	Austria	Austrian Cheerleading and Cheerdance Federation	X
3.	Belarus	Belorussian Federation of Cheerleading	X
4.	Belgium	Belgian Cheerleading Federation	X
5.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Cheer Union of Bosnia and Herzegovina	X*
6.	Croatia	Croatian Cheerleading Federation	X
7.	Czech Republic	Czech Cheer Association	X
8.	Denmark	Danish American Football Federation	X
9.	England	British Cheerleading Association	X
10.	Finland	Finnish Cheerleading Federation	X
11.	France	French Federation of American Football	
12.	Georgia	Georgian National Cheerleading Federation	
13.	Germany	Cheerleading and Cheerdance Federation Germany	X
14.	Greece	Hellas Cheerleading Union	X
15.	Hungary	Hungarian Cheer Federation	X

EUROPEAN CHEER UNION

The future of cheerleading in Europe!

European Cheer Union
Eskildsgade 18, 2. sal
DK-1657 København V
Denmark



16.	Ireland	Irish Cheer Sport Association	X
17.	Israel	CDA Israel	
18.	Italy - FISAC	Italian Federation of Acrobatic and Choreographic Sports	X
19.	Moldova	Federation of Modern Dances of Moldova	
20.	Netherlands	Dutch Cheerleading Association	X
21.	Norway	Norwegian Federation of American Sports	X
22.	Poland - PDF	Polish Dance Federation	X
23.	Romania	Romanian Majorettes Association	X
24.	Russia - RCU	Russian Cheer Union	X
25.	Scotland	Scotchcheer	
26.	Serbia	Serbian Cheerleading and Cheerdance Federation	
27.	Slovenia	Slovenian Cheerleading Association	X
28.	Spain	Spain Cheer and Dance	X*
29.	Sweden	Swedish Cheerleading Federation	X
30.	Switzerland	Cheerleading and Cheerdance Association Switzerland	X
31.	Ukraine	All-Ukrainian Cheerleading Federation	X
32.	Wales	CheerSport Wales	

* Arrived with a slight delay; not present at the beginning of the General Assembly.

ECU Associate Members, present at the GA:

	Country	Federation
	Italy - FICEC	Cheerleading and Cheerdance Italian Federation
	Russia - RCF	Russian Cheerleading Federation
	Poland - PCA	Polish Cheerleading Association

All representatives signed the attendance list upon arrival.

With 28 members in good standing, the required number of participating countries to reach the quorum was 14. At the start of the meeting there were 22 countries present, 1 more arrived during agenda item number 4 and 1 more during the break after agenda item number 9, leaving the total number of voting countries present at 24.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The board revised the agenda for the General Assembly at their meeting on Thursday the 22nd of June as they predicted that the item regarding the future of the ECU European Championships would take some time to discuss. This item was therefore moved to the end.

The revised agenda for the ECU Ordinary General Assembly 2017:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Roll call
3. Approval of the agenda
4. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting
5. Yearly reports
6. Financial matters
7. Decisions on changes in member status
8. New membership applications
9. Elections (auditors)
10. European Cheerleading Championships
11. Date and place of next meeting

The Agenda was unanimously approved.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS GA

Minutes of the ECU Ordinary General Assembly 2016 were sent to all members on 9 December 2016. No written notification with a correction of or alteration to the minutes was sent by any ECU member.

The Minutes of the ECU Ordinary General Assembly 2016 was unanimously approved.

5. YEARLY REPORTS

A. Yearly Reports

President Aljaž Britvič presented the yearly reports (all of which were sent to the delegates beforehand), giving an overview of the current state of cheerleading in Europe.

The federation is still experiencing rapid growth which is resulting in recurring issues of increased demand upon the organisation and an increased workload for the volunteers. The board is working towards a solution to the issues regarding the increased workload and have discussed the possibility of hiring a secretary to assist the board.

B. Cheerleading in Europe – Map

Matyas Miklos, Hungary, presented a map illustrating the popularity of cheerleading in Europe including details of the winning countries in international competitions.

C. Financial Reports

The ECU treasurer was not present at the General Assembly, so the Financial Reports were presented by president Aljaž Britvič. He highlighted the fact that despite of the increased workload of the federation, less than 1% of the expenses are spent on Bank & Office. These are the posts which are under revision by the board and might be increased if a secretary is hired.

The audit report concluded that all records of the ECU regarding 2016 have been found to be in order.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

A. Membership fee

The ECU membership fees have not changed since the inception of the European Federation as is. The board suggested to change the 5-tier-system, to a simpler 3-tier-system and to increase the membership fee somewhat. The difference in price per athlete is slight in any case.

There was a brief discussion regarding this item to explain the thoughts and considerations behind the suggestion.

Tier	Number of athletes	Membership fee (yearly)
1	1 – 500	100 EUR
2	501 – 1.000	500 EUR
3	1.001 – infinity	1.000 EUR

The board's suggestions for item 6A was approved.

B. ECU Budget 2017/2018

The budget was unfortunately not ready in time to be sent out before the meeting, but presented at the meeting.

Note: expenses regarding hiring a secretary to help with the workload of the federation is not included in the budget for 2017 as the board had not made any decision at the time of the general assembly.

The budget for 2018 was unanimously approved.

7. DECISIONS ON CHANGES IN MEMBER STATUS

- A. The previous agreement between the two Russian federations is no longer in effect. The Russian Cheerleading Federation is therefore demoted to associate member and membership clubs/teams may not compete in ECU-competitions.

EUROPEAN CHEER UNION

The future of cheerleading in Europe!

European Cheer Union
Eskildsgade 18, 2. sal
DK-1657 København V
Denmark



The General Assembly adopted the recommendation that Russian Cheer Union (ECU member federation) and Russian Cheerleading Federation (ECU associate member) should cooperate in the future and search for solutions that would benefit all Russian Athletes in the Sport of Cheerleading.

- B. The board suggests that provisional member Serbian Cheerleading and Cheerdance Federation is accepted as a full member.

The Serbian Cheerleading and Cheerdance Federation full membership status was approved.

- C. and D. The General Assembly granted status of ECU member federation to All Armenian Union of Cheer sport and Cheerleading and Azerbaijan Cheerleading Federation.

8. NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

The board received a membership application from Bulgaria shortly before the General Assembly and had not had an opportunity to process the application. The ECU will process the inquiry in due course and in collaboration with the ICU.

No proposals.

9. ELECTIONS

ECU AUDITORS

The board proposed to keep the same auditors as last year:

Spela Planinc, Slovenia

Romy Möbius-Kramer, Germany

The proposed auditors were unanimously approved.

10. THE FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN CHEERLEADING CHAMPIONSHIPS

A. Proposal: Include Paracheer in the European Cheerleading Championships.

Rick Rodgers from Paracheer International presented the proposal and answered questions.

The proposal was unanimously approved by acclamation. Paracheer will be included from 2018.

B. Future competition format – presentation and discussion

Due to the excessive growth of both the federation and the competition, it is apparent to the board that the competition format of the Europeans needs to change. In addition to the growth of the competition itself, the board has also registered multiple requests to expand the competition by including various components, all of which poses various consequences to be considered. As the situation is now, the competition will need to be downscaled from 2019 and to include the various requests, means that even further measures must be taken.

The table below (shown at the GA) illustrates the various requests and likely consequences:

EUROPEAN CHEER UNION

The future of cheerleading in Europe!

European Cheer Union
Eskildsgade 18, 2. sal
DK-1657 København V
Denmark



Option:	Just one – consequences	All options 1-4 consequences:
1. ParaCheer	Slightly longer days Venue requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One team per country and increase to 4 days Venue costs and other costs will double – must also double the participant fee Not enough judges Need professional event producers <p>Or: Split in 2 championships –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Junior – Senior Cheer – Performance Cheer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If there is support to bring back group/partner stunt, maybe one solution could be to organise a separate ECC for small groups?
2. Level 4 Junior	Increase to 3 days or 1 team per country	
3. Doubles	Increase to 3 days or 1 team per country	
4. Semi-finals and finals	3 days and 1 team per country or 4 days if 2 per country	
As is today, 2 teams per country, teams only	3 days from 2019	
Teams only, one level cheer (6 sr, 5 jr)	2 days	
Teams only, one level cheer, finals	3 days	

To include all the requests above and keep the competition format as it is now would not be feasible. The increase in costs would be too great, there are currently not enough judges and the event itself would need professional planners to organise and execute. In addition to this, the event itself would have to be spread over 3-4 days and the participants reduced to only 1 per country, to make it possible to accomplish.

During the discussion, it was made clear that there are a lot of different opinions in the federation. However, most could agree that the membership federations should keep organising the events and no more categories should be added at the present time (except parachute, see item 11.A). The discussion mainly centred around how to include as many athletes, teams and clubs as possible, whilst keeping the competition itself relatively manageable, both in considering time and economy.

In the end the assembly voted on a proposal to reduce the number of teams per category per country to 1 as a temporary solution.

The proposal was approved – the ECU Europeans 2019 will include 1 team per country per category.

C. Application for Europeans 2019

The ECU Board had received one bid for hosting the Europeans in 2019. This bid was from Russian Cheer Union, wanting to host the competition in St Petersburg. The Russian delegate was asked if the RCU wished to retract the bid considering the new competition format for 2019, and answered no.

The ECU European Championship 2019 will be held in St Petersburg, Russia.

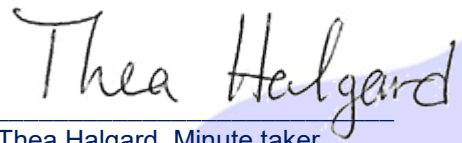
11. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The ECU Ordinary General Assembly 2018 will be held on Friday the 29th June in Helsinki, Finland.

President Aljaž Britvič thanked all delegates present for coming and a photo was taken in front of the Olympic Games Logo in celebration of the International Olympic Day.



Aljaž Britvič, ECU President



Thea Halgard, Minute taker