

MINUTES OF THE EUROPEAN BOATING ASSOCIATION
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
TRYP PALMA BELLVER HOTEL, PALMA DE MAJORCA
15 – 16 April 2016

There were present:

EBA President / KNWV	NL	DEKKER	Willem
Asociación de Navegantes de Recreo	ES	DE CORDOBA	Ignacio
Cruising Club of Switzerland	CH	ROESCH	Marc
Danmarks Fritidssejler Union	DK	DAMSGAARD-LOVMAND	Henrik
Danmarks Fritidssejler Union	DK	HANSEN	Bent
Dansk Sejlunion	DK	PEDERSEN	Henrik
Dansk Sejlunion	DK	NIELSEN	Peer Bent
Danske Tursejlere	DK	NIELSEN	Leif
DBA - The Barge Association	UK	SOPER	Andy
Deniz Ticaret Odasi	T	NALBANTOĞLU	Gündüz
Deutscher Motoryachtverband	D	HAENDEL	Dieter
Deutscher Segler-Verband	D	JAHNKE	Uwe
Federazione Italiana Vela	I	OLIMBO	Giancarlo
Irish Sailing Association	IE	HERMON	Harry
Koninklijk Belgisch Yachting Verbond	BE	HUYGE	Jean-Pierre
Koninklijke Nederlandsche Motorboot Club	NL	SMIDT	Harm
Norges Seilforbund	N	LARSEN	Peter
Royal Yachting Association	UK	PAXMAN	Giles
Suomen Purjehdus ja Veneily ry	FI	ANTAS	Gunilla
Svenska Båtunionen	S	GARDE	Bengt
Svenska Båtunionen	S	HOLST	Kjell
Svenska Båtunionen	S	KARLSSON	Peter

In Attendance:

Secretariat (Royal Yachting Association)

EBA General Secretary	UK	CARRUTHERS	Stuart
EBA Environmental Secretary	UK	BARTON	Emma
EBA Regulatory Secretary	UK	LEWIS	Gus
EBA Secretariat	UK	PADDISON	Carol

Apologies for absence:

Fédération Française de Voile
Kongelig Norsk Baatforbund
Landelijke Bond Waterrecreatie Beoefening Motoryachting
Motorbootsport u. Seefahrts Verband Österreich
National Boating Federation (Observer)
Österreichischer Hochsee-yachtsport-Verband
Österreichischer Segel-Verband
Polski Związek Żeglarski
Professional Yachting Association
Siglingasamband Íslands
Yacht Club Regal Roman

1 President's opening address

1a Welcome, introductions, apologies for absence

The President opened the meeting and welcomed those present to Palma.

The President noted apologies and welcomed those who were new to the EBA. He then read a farewell letter from Lars Hongelin who was being replaced by Gunilla Antas. The President then introduced Giles Paxman who was the new RYA Representative and asked him to say something about himself.

In particular, the president noted that apologies had been received from Michel Bazille who was unable to attend as he was recovering from illness and also from Bob and Doris David who had decided not to travel to Palma this time.

The President then gave a short presentation on the relevance of EBA activities, what the EBA had achieved, its challenges and the importance of the EBA going forward. He drew particular attention to the EBA position papers which had proved to be of real use.

The President asked all to speak if they wanted to make a point and not to let the use of English be a barrier.

Link: [Presentation President's Opening Address](#)

1b KNWV Representative

The President spoke briefly about the lack of a KNWV Representative, his regret with this situation and proposed that he had a double role, both as the President and as a non-voting representative for the KNWV.

DECISION A: The Assembly accepted the proposition without exception. The president will act as a non-voting representative for KNWV until such time as a replacement KNWV representative is found.

1c Confirmation of items to be raised under Any Other Business

ISA asked for a short discussion on VHF operator licencing which was agreed.

DECISION B: VHF operator licencing to be discussed under AOB

2 Minutes of the last General Assembly

The minutes of the EBA General Assembly held in Berlin 16 - 17 October 2015 were approved by the President as a true record of the meeting and were published on 17 November 2015 and circulated to members for comment. In accordance with the EBA Constitution Members had the opportunity to propose amendments to the minutes for 2 weeks after publication. No proposed amendments were received and therefore the minutes were taken as approved on 1 December 2015 at 2359.

Link: [Minutes of the EBA General Assembly held in Berlin 16 - 17 October 2015](#)

3 Actions from the minutes of the last General Assembly

Action	Status
ACTION 1: Secretariat to remove PZWNW membership details from the active members' database.	Complete
ACTION 2: President to contact the YCRR Secretariat to remind them that their fees were still outstanding.	Complete
ACTION 3: Executive to discuss alternative methods and produce proposals for reducing the annual deficit for General Assembly discussion and decision in Palma in 2016.	Complete see item 6
ACTION 4: Secretariat to publish the results of the FRWG Questionnaire in the Members' area of the EBA website.	Complete
ACTION 5: Secretariat to publish the EBA Position on ELB on the EBA website.	Complete
ACTION 6: None in minutes	N/A
ACTION 7: DSV was again asked to respond to the FRWG questionnaire.	No Response
ACTION 8: Markus Grießler to invite representative from the Living Ocean Society to the Vienna General Assembly to give a short presentation.	Outstanding
ACTION 9: Emma Barton to finalise the draft Invasive Alien Species Code of Conduct and forward it to the Council of Europe.	Complete
ACTION 10: Secretariat to amend and republish EBA Position on Skipper Licencing.	Complete
ACTION 11: Secretariat to update all EBA position papers in line with the definition for recreational boating proposed by the Secretariat.	Complete
ACTION 12: RYA to give a short presentation on 'Push the Boat out' at next meeting.	Completed by item 11
ACTION 13: Executive to discuss the topics raised in the presentation and to select a number of important topics for future debate in the Assembly.	Complete
ACTION 14: Peer Bent Nielsen to produce short report on HELCOM matters for the next Palma meeting.	Completed by item 10a
ACTION 15: Secretariat to publish EBA Position Statement on AIS Virtual Aids to Navigation on EBA website.	Complete
ACTION 16: Andy Soper, Peter Larsen and Alfred Pisa to submit articles for members' news.	Complete
ACTION 17: Secretariat to add AIS to the Palma meeting agenda.	Complete see item 17

4 EBA Membership

4a Applications & Resignations

There had been no applications for membership or resignations since the General Assembly held in Berlin 2015.

4b Members Contact Information & Delegates

The list of contacts was passed between those present with the usual request to ensure that all details were correct.

5 Vice President Election in Vienna

It was noted that the FIV had nominated Giancarlo Olimbo to be re-elected for a second term of 4 years. The President then read out the FIV letter.

The Assembly was reminded that there was still time for additional nominations should member associations be so minded.

Link: [FIV letter nominating Giancarlo Olimbo for re-election](#)

ACTION 1: Secretariat to publish FIV letter nominating Giancarlo Olimbo for re-election on the EBA Web site

6 EBA Finances

6a Approval of final accounts for 2015

It was noted that the final accounts for 2015 showed a small profit of €347.70 where a deficit had been predicted. This was mainly the result of reduced expenditure on the various budget lines.

The auditors approved the accounts which were then signed by the President and Treasurer.

Link: [Signed accounts](#)

Link: [Signed auditors report](#)

DECISION C: The Assembly accepted the accounts as presented.

6b Appointment of auditors for 2016 financial year

The Assembly approved the appointment of Marc Roesch and Peer Bent Nielsen as auditors for 2016.

DECISION D: Marc Roesch and Peer Bent Nielsen appointed as auditors for 2016

6c Executive Committee proposals for reducing the financial deficit

There was considerable discussion concerning the Executive Committee proposals to reduce the anticipated year on year excess of expenditure over income and its 'line by line' detailed proposals for each item of the budget. This concluded with a proposal to leave the standard subscription rate unchanged and to raise the proportional subscription rate from €1.70 to €1.80 per 100 members per year.

The proposals to raise the proportional subscription rate drew a number of comments that fell into two broad lines of thought:

- i. Continue with an overspend until the cash in hand (Bank) was reduced to 50% of the annual expenditure.
- ii. Ensure the balance in the bank was sufficient to cover Secretariat and all known costs.

Following further discussion the Secretary suggested that the Assembly be given time to consider the step by step analysis that was set out in the paper, the recommendations to the Assembly for the construction of the budget and therefore why the Executive Committee had come to the decision to propose a modest increase in the proportional budget. This was accepted and the Assembly approved recommendations 3.1 to 3.8 unanimously.

DECISION E: The Assembly endorsed the Executive Committee proposals set out in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.7 in the proposals and accepted the proposal at 3.8 that the standard subscription rate should not change (see agenda paper).

ACTION 2: Treasurer to implement the decisions to accept the Executive Committee proposals numbered 3.1 to 3.7 in the [agenda paper](#).

In accordance with earlier decisions the EBA Secretariat remained with the RYA. Activities were discussed and approved by the Executive Committee and inserted in the EBA budget. Reimbursement to the Secretariat was made in UK pounds and involved some 70 % of the EBA budget. The Secretariat bill had been paid in accordance with the exchange rate on the 1st of January each year. This procedure was prone to possible severe exchange rate fluctuations. The Executive Committee proposed to use an average exchange rate. This was approved by the assembly

DECISION F: The Average exchange rate will be calculated according to the UK Calendar year in order to make a payment within the current UK financial year.

ACTION 3: Treasurer to pay the Secretariat bill within the UK Financial year based on the average exchange for the calendar year.

DECISION G: The decision to raise the proportional subscription rate from €1.7 to €1.8 per 100 members was delayed and will be discussed at the Vienna Assembly.

6d Approval of amended 2016 Budget

As a result of the decisions taken under item 6c the new budget proposal for 2016 covering changes was accepted and approved.

DECISION H: The amended 2016 budget was approved.

DECISION I: The Assembly accepted that the budget as amended for 2016 showed an overspend.

6e EBA representation and expenses procedure

The proposal submitted under agenda item 6e was approved by the Assembly.

DECISION J: The EBA representation and expenses procedure was approved by the Assembly.

ACTION 4: Secretariat to publish the EBA representation and expenses procedure on EBA website.

7 Secretariat Reports

This agenda item was delayed until after Agenda Item 10.

7a ISO TC188

The Secretary provided a short update on the work that was being done in the International Standards Organisation (ISO) Technical Committee (TC) 188 to update those standards that

needed amendment to provide a presumption of conformity for the new RCD (Directive 2013/53/EU) because of changes to the wording of the Essential Requirements that watercraft must meet before they are placed on the EU Market.

The work was going well with only those standards concerning Owner's Manual, Man Overboard and View from the Helm causing potential problems that might lead to a delay in their publication.

7b RCD

The Secretary reminded members that the old Recreational Craft Directive (RCD) was superseded by the new RCD on 18 Jan 2016. However the new RCD created provisions for the old RCD to be used together with the new RCD until 18 Jan 2017. From that date only the new RCD would apply.

7c World Sailing (formerly ISAF) / IMO

Since the last General Assembly there had only been one committee meeting of EBA interest and that was the Navigation, Communication and Search & Rescue (NCSR) which was held from 29 February to 4 March 2016. At the time of the Assembly, the minutes of that meeting had not been published. However, NCSR agreed that the Galileo proponents had provided the necessary information to advise the Maritime Safety Committee to recognize Galileo as a future component of the WWRNS.

The only other matter of interest was recognition of the Iridium mobile satellite system as a GMDSS service provider. After an in-depth discussion, NCSR had agreed that Iridium could be incorporated into the GMDSS subject to compliance with outstanding performance issues. As a result, NCSR invited the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) to endorse this view, with the understanding that based on the evaluation reports from International Maritime Satellite Organisation (IMSO), it would advise MSC on final recognition, when the non-compliance issues identified had been fulfilled.

The next Maritime Environmental Protection Committee (MEPC) was due to be held on 18 – 22 April 2016. The Ballast Water convention (International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004) had yet to be ratified. A matter of industry concern was that craft of less than 50m in length and which carry no more than 8 cubic metres of ballast water were not exempted by the convention as originally proposed by ISAF in 2003, instead the matter was left for individual flag states to decide.

Lastly, there was some interest in the number of leisure boats that might be visiting the polar regions of their own accord and the potential effect they might have on the polar environment. The Secretary would report back on the issue if it was felt relevant.

7d ISO TC228 – Tourism and related services

7d (i) WG8 Yacht Harbours

The original standard, ISO 13687 on Minimum requirements for yacht harbours was to be retitled as 'Tourism and related services — Yacht harbours — Part 1: Minimum requirements for basic service level harbours' following the approval of two further standards; 'Part 2: Minimum requirements for intermediate service level harbours' and 'Part 3: Minimum requirements for high service level harbours'. These were now at the stage where they would be circulated as Draft International Standards for comment.

7d (ii) WG11 Bareboat Charter

The UK was Convenor for this work stream and a Committee Draft of a bareboat charter standard was nearly ready for circulation for comment by all members of International Standards Organisation (ISO) Technical Committee (TC) 228. A copy would be circulated to EBA members when the Committee Draft was approved, which it was hoped would be in May 2016.

ACTION 5: Secretariat to circulate Committee Draft when it is approved by TC228.

7e UNECE

The European Commission and the River Commissions were taking a much bigger role in regulating commercial traffic. Therefore the focus of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) was moving away from commercial traffic and towards recreational boating. Members of UNECE who were not members of the EU were showing an interest in expanding recreational boating opportunities.

It was hoped that at its next meeting there would be more topics of interest to recreational boating and the EBA could continue to make a valid contribution.

7f Nautical Tourism Strategy

In December 2015 ICF International was commissioned by DG MARE to undertake a study on more detailed aspects of the nautical tourism market. The purpose of the study was to provide evidence on the performance of specific aspects of the market and opportunities to aid development of maritime tourism through additional EU support. Specifically this study was to cover:

- Recreational boat recycling
- Professional and private skipper licences
- Boat safety equipment standards
- Satellite applications
- Boating and marina development
- Marinas as hubs for regional development
- Combined nautical and coastal tourism products

These were considered important components of the nautical tourism sector, with the potential to provide many benefits, while marinas could also provide wider impacts by acting as catalysts, or hubs, for regional development. However, there were perceived to be numerous trends and challenges that faced the sector, including changing demographics and an ageing population, volatile demand, a lack of innovation and environmental pressures/regulation.

The study hoped to identify the key challenges facing marinas and boating activities in particular and to determine specific actions that the EU could take to address these challenges.

These particular topics together were matters of concern if they were not handled intelligently; as a result the RYA on behalf of the EBA had made contact with ICF International and had already been consulted on a number of the topics including boat recycling, marinas, licences and safety equipment.

8 Other Reports

This agenda item was delayed until after Agenda Item 10.

8a Report from NBF

Bob David was not present at the Assembly having sent his apologies; his report was available on the EBA Website.

8b Report on 27th World Canal Conference at Ghent

Jean-Pierre Huyge gave an interesting presentation on the World Canals Conference that took place in Ghent from 7-10 September 2015.

Andy Soper reported that the DBA intended to submit a paper to the World Canals Conference in Inverness in 2016 and would report to EBA in due course

Link: [27th World Canals Conference in Ghent](#)

The WCC 2015 Abstract Book is available via the website [2016-GA1-Palma meeting page](#)

9 Communities of Common Interest Guidelines

The text of the guidelines was approved as proposed.

DECISION K: The Assembly approved the guidelines unanimously.

ACTION 6: Secretariat to publish guidelines on the EBA Website

10 Community of Common Interest (CCI) Meeting Reports

The CCIs met separately to discuss matters of mutual interest and to identify any issues for forthcoming Assembly meetings. It is not the intention to record these meetings in these minutes, however, where a CCI Chair has produced a report or discussion papers, these will be uploaded to the relevant CCI page on the EBI website.

The purpose of this agenda item is to record actions arising from CCI meetings that are accepted for further discussion by the Assembly.

10a Baltic Sea CCI Report

A verbal report on topics discussed by the Baltic Sea CCI was presented by Henrik Pedersen. No items were presented for inclusion on the Assembly agenda.

10b Inland Waterways CCI Report

A verbal report on topics discussed by the Inland Waterways CCI was presented by Dieter Haendel. Attendance at the RIS Vessel Tracking and Tracing (VTT) was considered important in the light of emerging electronic navigation carriage requirements and the possible impact of regulation on the recreational boating sector. The CCI recommended that the Executive Committee consider including this in the budget.

DECISION L: The Assembly referred the CCI recommendation for EBA attendance at the RIS VTT WG meeting to the Executive Committee.

ACTION 7: Executive committee to consider EBA representation at the RIS VTT WG meeting

in Jun 2016.

10c NE Atlantic / North Sea CCI Report

A verbal report on topics discussed by the NE Atlantic / North Sea CCI was presented by Willem Dekker. There was a discussion on the increase in aquaculture and whether the EBA needed a position paper on this. As a result, Willem Dekker proposed to the Assembly that it should develop a position on aquaculture on the lines of the one developed by the RYA.

DECISION M: Assembly approved the drafting of an aquaculture position paper for discussion at the Vienna Assembly.

ACTION 8: Secretariat to draft a position paper on aquaculture for discussion at the Vienna meeting.

10d Mediterranean CCI Report

A verbal report on topics discussed by the Mediterranean Sea CCI was presented by Giancarlo Olimbo. No items were presented for inclusion on the Assembly agenda but the CCI will continue to discuss items of concern that might then be put forward at the Vienna Assembly.

Following the CCI reports there was a general discussion on how members should engage with their own authorities to represent their concerns on offshore renewable energy installations development. This was not something that the EU took a harmonised view on. The secretary drew attention to the EBA position paper on offshore wind which was written and approved for the purpose of supporting members when discussing offshore wind issues with their authorities to show that there was a collective EBA view.

The President concluded by reminding members to provide more input into their respective CCI interests to generate further discussion at the next meeting.

11 National Initiatives to Support Clubs and Increase Participation

11a Presentation by the President

The President acting as the representative of the KNWV gave a presentation on initiatives in the Netherlands to encourage people to try boating as membership numbers had been dropping and a number of people only went boating a few times per year. The aim was to develop new concepts to attract people to the sport and appeal to children from the age of eight and to offer a free sailing lesson through clubs (Optimists on tour was an example). The end message was that if the Netherlands Watersports Union does not attract young people to its clubs then it will never get them. This was followed by a general discussion between members on a range of ideas and problems.

Link: [Presentation KNWV initiatives to support clubs](#)

11b Presentation – RYA Push the Boat Out

The RYA gave a presentation and showed a short video on the RYA “Push The Boat Out” programme designed to make people welcome and to get them on the water and interested in sailing. In particular, the programme was intended to generate awareness of clubs and RYA training centres and their facilities within the local community; increase the number of members and to give events an extra boost from the regional and national promotional campaign for Push

the Boat Out, run by the RYA. The programme was in its fourth year.

The RYA provided various guides for participating clubs including a nine page essential guide that provided advice on running a successful Push the Boat Out event and to help clubs identify their audience. The essential guide took organisers through the whole process from initial planning, through detailed organisation and media support, the day itself and finally follow up actions.

Key factors for success of a Push The Boat Out event were good preparation, good publicity locally and nationally, no cost or minimal cost to participants, good supply of well trained volunteers that matched the target audience, it had to be fun and finally a strategy to get people to sign up and carry on was essential.

The presentation was followed by general discussion. ISA pointed out that they had a similar programme called 'Try Sailing' based on the RYA model. However, it was pointed out that such a programme needed considerable resources in terms of budget, volunteer and professional manpower and promotion; it did not just run itself. The return was an increase in membership. ISA was willing to share the 'Try Sailing' toolkit with anyone who wanted it.

FIV proposed that the EBA provided a similar toolkit for its members and the president invited comment on this. ISA agreed in principal but pointed out that it would be difficult to provide a general template suitable for everyone because we all operate in different ways. What would be better would be to have access to the information that would allow individual organisations to set up their own programmes.

The RYA suggested that at a future meeting, the Assembly might like to discuss strategies to stop people dropping out of boating.

Link: [Presentation RYA Push the Boat Out](#)

Link: ISA information <http://www.sailing.ie/clubs/trysailingeventplanning/>

DECISION N: Proposal for an EBA guidance document to be discussed by the Executive.

ACTION 9: Proposal for an EBA guidance document (Template) to be discussed by the Executive.

12 Invasive Alien Species (IAS)

The Secretariat gave an update about the European regulation on IAS and the requirements for Member States. The species list discussed in Berlin was adopted in Dec 2015, and the Commission had since been working on extending the list. A draft of possible additions had been produced.

In general the list of species discussed was not seen as a particular problem for boaters.

Link: [Presentation EU list of species part 2](#)

13 Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)

The Secretariat provided an update on the MSFD and work that had been going on in the navigation task group (NAVI) of which EBA was a member. The Secretariat attended the 16th meeting held at the PIANC offices in Brussels. This covered:

- a workshop on licencing and permitting procedures in order to contribute to a contract that DG Environment had with Arcadis to understand, map, compare and analyse the use of licencing, authorisations and permitting for human activities in the marine environment at

national level in relation to the MSFD and the attainment of GES by 2020.

- Possible improvements of the cost benefit analysis for the Program of Measures
- TG underwater noise was consulting with ICOMIA, to see whether ICOMIA could handle the status of the ISO standards for measuring underwater noise.

Members were advised to check their national MSFD documents and procedures as the obligation to reach a Good Ecological Status in 2020 was a national commitment.

14 Water Framework Directive (WFD)

The Secretariat provided a brief update on WFD and a review of river basin management plans. There were no questions but the President reminded those present that they should keep an eye on developments. He reminded those present that Germany had successfully defended recreational boating from being charged for use of a waterway.

The Secretariat undertook to circulate more information, when available, particularly on the good navigation status project.

15 End life of (FRP) Boats

15a Presentation on the Amsterdam Boat Recycling Conference

The President updated the Assembly on the End life of (FRP) Boats (ELB) conference held at METS, Amsterdam on 16 Nov 2016. The conference was organised by a private conference company which invited a cross section of stakeholders including the EBA as a user.

Clearly cost effective recycling of composite material is key to this problem, not boat registration so you know where to send the bill! The EBA presentation made it clear this was not the solution as the last owner is not the richest and that industry must share responsibility. Feedback from the day had been published on the [EBA website](#).

The most important next step was to work out how the process would be funded. ICOMIA had the opinion that legislation would follow in the not too distant future. Also creative funding schemes were required to kick start recycling schemes and present facilities needed to be expanded. A follow up conference was to be held at METS 2016.

The President summed up by stating there was a surprising amount of agreement on the issues that concerned the EBA and that he was pleased to present the EBA position. The EBA had been approached by ICOMIA to work together on the issue and the President had written to the ICOMIA Secretary General but was waiting for a response.

Link: [Presentation Future of Yacht Recycling Conference](#)

15b Action taken and future activity

The Secretary made the observation that the EBA was talking to the industry and the consultants who were undertaking the DG MARE study into nautical tourism which was due to report in June 2016. He noted that a representative from DG MARE had spoken at the Paris Boat Show on end life of boats and proposed that an invitation should be made to the Commission to present their thoughts to the EBA at its meeting in Vienna. The UK (RYA) supported this proposal believing it was essential to make contact and to make your point early.

After further discussion it was proposed to take up an invitation to discuss the EBA's concerns with DG MARE by visiting them in Brussels and to invite them to present their thoughts at the Vienna Assembly and to hear the thoughts of Assembly attendees.

DECISION O: The Assembly agreed that the Secretariat should follow up on the invitation to discuss the issue with DG MARE and to invite a representative to the Vienna Assembly.

ACTION 10: Secretariat to contact DG MARE to arrange a meeting and invite a representative to the Vienna General Assembly.

16 EBA position statement on lifejackets

The Secretariat introduced this item following discussion at the last Assembly and a decision to introduce topics of significant interest and importance. The requirement for an EBA position statement on lifejackets was one such issue. The agenda paper was intended to stimulate conversation on whether a position paper was required or simply guidance and what it should contain.

A number of views were exchanged, but it was generally agreed that this was a skipper responsibility and that a position paper should not lead to the creation of new laws. ISA made reference to the law in Ireland and the unintentional consequences. Compulsory wear should only be while underway and there should be some obvious exemptions such as divers. Any such paper should avoid leading to the same mistakes.

The RYA suggested that it would be useful to understand the position in each country represented at the EBA and suggested that those present send any national guidance they might have to the secretariat.

DECISION P: The Assembly agreed that a final decision would be deferred until the next meeting in Vienna and that in order to inform such a position, all present were asked to forward any national guidance to the Secretariat.

ACTION 11: All members to forward national guidance if it exists to the Secretariat for consideration on the draft of an outline position statement on lifejackets

17 Using AIS

This topic was introduced by Finland with a supporting paper. The proposition was that Automatic Identification System (AIS) Class B sets should be able to screen out Class B transmissions so that Class A targets could be seen better.

There was some discussion during which it was recognised that this was a potential problem, but it was generally thought that the solution was to 'look out of the window'. Both arguments had their merits, however, the Secretary made the point that it might be useful to be able to select AIS targets in order to judge their intentions particularly as they might have filtered out class B targets.

18 Flares

The Secretariat introduced the agenda paper which proposed alternatives to flares for initiating a distress alert and provided an opportunity to discuss the position in different states.

During the discussion the problems of disposal and visibility for helicopter crews was discussed. Equally there were no confirmed cases where the alarm had been raised by the use of pyrotechnic flares. Others believed that flares had merits because they did not rely on specialist equipment for

detection. Others thought modern aids took the search out of search and rescue which had to be a benefit.

During further discussion it was made clear the EBA like World Sailing (formerly ISAF) was not seeking to ban flares but to make their carriage none mandatory in the light of modern devices. As a result the Assembly favoured a position paper on the carriage of flares and their alternatives.

DECISION Q: The Assembly supported the drafting of a position paper for its consideration at the Vienna Assembly.

ACTION 12: Secretariat to draft a position paper on the alternatives to the use of flares.

19 Map of the European Recreational Inland Navigation Network (AGNP)

The Secretariat introduced this item and showed a map that was produced by UNECE. It was not thought to be particularly useful, but UNECE was keen to provide a better service to recreational boaters and had asked the EBA for its views on how it could be made more useful.

After discussion, the Assembly took the view that the map was of little benefit and that there were better commercial products on the market. The Secretariat noted the comments and would take them to UNECE at its next meeting in June. If members or the CCI had further thoughts they were asked to let the secretariat know either now or in the future.

ACTION 13: Assembly members to pass any thoughts on improving the UNECE AGNP map to the Secretariat by 19 June 2016.

20 River Information Services (RIS)

The Secretariat introduced the item which was based on a request from UNECE for the EBA's views on RIS from the recreational boater's perspective. If there were any major concerns these could be notified to the UNECE Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3) Secretariat with a view to this information filtering through to the many authorities involved with RIS.

It was noted that one of the greatest difficulties was accessing different national systems and formats and knowing what to sign up to. Numerical had failed to make information accessible to recreational boaters moving across Europe and therefore a common method of access was highly desirable and this work was invaluable.

ACTION 14: Secretariat to pass on the suggestions regarding RIS to UNECE at the June meeting.

21 Pollution of the seabed and hard standing areas

Sweden (SBU) introduced this agenda item. The SBU proposed a new working group with the objective of compiling information from all members regarding any regulations connecting to boating's impact upon the environment and how the regulations are met by boaters and boating organisations. The information compiled by the working group would be used for best practice and for "tactical" spread of information and decisions.

SBU showed a short introductory film which was followed by discussion on pollution from antifouling and the problems on nutrients. A number of members outlined specific problems they had to deal with and the pressures on antifouling containing biocides.

As the discussion was leading into the next item, the President suggested moving onto the next

item and combining the two in discussion.

Link: Presentation [SBU-Pollution](#)

22 Antifouling and Biocides

The SBU continued on from the previous item and introduced their agenda paper. The proposition was that the message to recreational boaters was confusing in that the European Commission has introduced regulation concerning invasive alien species (IAS), but at the same time appeared to be prohibiting the use of effective biocides in antifouling to inhibit growth on boat hulls. This was counterproductive and made it harder for recreational boaters to keep their boats clean.

As a result, SBU suggested that the EBA should consider a position paper on the use of antifouling biocides. DBA questioned what the EBA was trying to do, because there was a considerable amount of best practice advice available on all of these topics and went on to list a number of them.

There was considerable discussion about the problems faced by members in their own countries. However, the secretariat made it clear that the legislation that was being discussed was already in place, how it was implemented in different member states was another issue; this was leading to some confusion in the discussion and misunderstanding, antifouling was one such example. The reason the RYA had set up the Green Blue project 10 years ago was to advise and educate boaters on best practice and how to operate within the rules by doing the best they could.

The President summed up by stating that there appeared to be no clear way forward at this stage as the situation differed from country to country. This meant that the EBA needed a statement to remind regulators that if the contamination of sediment in boat harbours with hazardous substances is to be prevented, then recreational boaters needed some form of application (avoiding the word paint) to prevent growth on hulls of pleasure craft increasing the risk of transporting IAS.

Link: Presentation [SBU-Antifouling and Biocides](#)

DECISION R: The Assembly agreed that items 21 to 24 were all linked and that more time should be given to environmental issues at the next Assembly and the topic should be earlier on the agenda.

ACTION 15: SBU was asked to prepare a draft position statement for consideration by the Executive and a decision at the next General Assembly (Vienna).

23 Best Practice for Pollution Avoidance

This item was linked to items 21 and 22 and no separate discussion took place.

Link: Presentation [SBU-Pollution-Avoidance](#)

24 Future Environmental Issues

SBU proposed that the Assembly should consider where the recreational boater was having an impact on the environment which in the future could be considered to be an intolerable threat to the environment and where regulation of other matters might inadvertently have a detrimental impact on recreational boating.

There was a short discussion, but no decisions were taken as this was also linked to agenda items

21 to 23 above

Link: Presentation [SBU-Future Environmental Issues](#)

25 Fitness Check of EU Nature Legislation

The Secretariat introduced the agenda paper and gave an update on a conference that was held on 20 November 2015 to discuss draft emerging findings – presentations were available on the European Commission website. It was obvious that the Commission had a strong commitment to nature protection and biodiversity. They saw the need for a health and fitness check on the legislation as some of it dated back to 1975, however their priority was to keep high standards of environmental protection in place. Better regulation was not about lowering standards. The Commission would ensure that the legal framework was adequate and sufficiently future-proof. There was no obvious desire to update the Directives themselves, although it was likely that there would be recommendations around their implementation.

A further conference was to be held in Amsterdam to launch the results which would be published in the second quarter of 2016; the EBA had received an invitation to attend. The conference would focus on optimising the directives with a number of recommendations to member states

DECISION S: The Assembly agreed that the Secretariat should attend the Amsterdam conference.

ACTION 16: Secretariat to attend the Fitness Check of EU Nature Legislation Conference in Amsterdam.

[Afternote: Due to diary clashes the conference will be attended by the President]

26 Presentation of the Swedish Boating Survey 2015

The SBU presented a report on the Swedish Boating Survey 2015. The survey report was circulated to the EBA members before the meeting.

Link: [Survey Report](#) (circulated prior to the meeting).

Link: Presentation [SBU-Survey](#)

27 EBA view on the use of Yacht Harbours

The President had been invited to give a presentation at the ICOMIA Marinas Conference in November 2016. The presentation would demonstrate how different recreational yacht harbours were to the large scale marinas the Marinas Conference usually represented. The President hoped that this might also be an opportunity to present the EBA's expectations of harbour facilities and sought the views of EBA members.

The presentation to the ICOMIA Marinas Conference was due to take place after the Vienna GA and the President asked members to provide photographs and PowerPoint slides that would be useful to show a selection of EBA Member's boating facilities.

There was a short discussion and exchange of ideas. The President concluded that he would shape the presentation to the ICOMIA Marinas Conference on the basis of the discussion at the Vienna General Assembly.

Link: Presentation [Use of yacht harbours](#)

ACTION 17: Members to provide photographs and PowerPoint slides for the President's

presentation to the ICOMIA Marinas Conference in November 2016.

28 Any Other Business

ISA raised concerns about the content and time set aside for the CEPT VHF operator licence syllabus in Ireland which was a two day course that cost €200-300. After a brief discussion ISA was invited to speak to the RYA about their model and to see if this was of assistance. Several members made the point that it was the test/exam that was important, not the length of the course. This meant that it was possible to study/learn in your own time.

SBU asked for time in the agenda for proactive discussion on unplanned topics that arise from time to time. The Secretariat made it clear that as a result of the SBU suggestion at a previous assembly, members were asked to submit topics for discussion together with a supporting paper for inclusion in the agenda; this would enable members to prepare for discussion. The current agenda was the result of this decision.

29 Forthcoming meeting dates and locations

Next meeting: 21–22 October 2016, Vienna, Austria organised by the ÖSV

Conference Hotel: Courtyard by Marriott Vienna Prater/Messe, Trabrennst. 4, 1020 Vienna.

- Single room - EUR 110,00 per room & night incl. breakfast
- Double room - EUR 130,00 per room & night incl. breakfast

Conference Meeting rooms: Sparte Tourismus- und Freizeitwirtschaft Judenplatz 3-4 1010 Vienna.

A short presentation about the next assembly in Vienna was shown by the Secretariat in Marcus Griebler's absence. Details for online booking at the hotel would be circulated shortly.

Link: Presentation [Vienna GA](#)

Future meetings

- 28-29 April 2017, Palma, Mallorca, Spain organised by the Secretariat
- 6-7 October 2017, Stockholm, Sweden organised by the SBU
- April 2018, Palma, Mallorca, Spain organised by the Secretariat
- October 2018, Helsinki, Finland organised by SPV

The programme of meetings was discussed and attention was drawn to the guidelines for hosting an Assembly. Members were happy to return to Palma in Spring 2017 were invited by the Secretariat to offer to host meetings in 2019.

Link to: [Guidelines for hosting a General Assembly](#)

30 President's closing remarks

The President closed the meeting by saying he was pleased with the level of input and the exchange of thoughts that had taken place. He observed that some topics needed more time at future meetings, but he also hoped that those present would go back to their own organisations with the view that the EBA was acting positively for the benefit of recreational boaters.