

MINUTES OF THE EUROPEAN BOATING ASSOCIATION
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SPARTE TOURISMUS- UND FREIZEITWIRTSCHAFT, VIENNA
21 – 22 October 2016

There were present:

EBA President / KNWV	NL	DEKKER	Willem
Cruising Club of Switzerland	CH	ROESCH	Marc
Danmarks Fritidssejler Union	DK	HANSEN	Bent
Dansk Sejlunion	DK	PEDERSEN	Henrik
Dansk Sejlunion	DK	NIELSEN	Peer Bent
Danske Tursejlere	DK	JAKOBSEN	Poul Erik
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
Deutscher Segler-Verband	D	KUPPERS	Mona
Fédération Française de Voile	F	BAZILE	Michel
Federazione Italiana Vela	I	OLIMBO	Giancarlo
Irish Sailing Association	IE	HERMON	Harry
Kongelig Norsk Baatforbund	N	SOLVANG	Endre
Koninklijk Belgisch Yachting Verbond	BE	HUYGE	Jean-Pierre
Koninklijke Nederlandsche Motorboot Club	NL	SMIDT	Harm
Motorbootsport u. Seefahrts Verband Österreich	A	LUX	Hans
Norges Seilforbund	N	LARSEN	Peter
Österreichischer Hochsee-yachtsport-Verband	A	PISA	Alfred
Österreichischer Segel-Verband	A	GRIESSLER	Markus
Royal Yachting Association	UK	PAXMAN	Giles
Suomen Purjehdus ja Veneily ry	FI	ANTAS	Gunilla
Suomen Purjehdus ja Veneily ry	FI	EK	Tom
Svenska Båttunionen	S	GARDE	Bengt
Svenska Båttunionen	S	HOLST	Kjell
Svenska Båttunionen	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:

Landelijke Bond Waterrecreatie Beoefening Motoryachting	BE
National Boating Federation (Observer)	USA
Siglingasamband Íslands	IS

Absent:

Yacht Club Regal Roman	RO
Polski Związek Żeglarski	PL
Professional Yachting Association	FR
Asociación de Navegantes de Recreo	ES

1 President's opening address

1a Welcome, introductions, apologies for absence

The President opened the meeting, welcomed those present to Vienna and thanked the hosts Markus Grießler and Österreichischer Segel-Verband.

The President noted apologies and welcomed those who were new to the EBA; Mona Koppers – Deutscher Segler-Verband and Tom Ek - Suomen Purjehdus ja Veneily ry Segling och Båtsport I Finland

The President extended a very warm welcome to Michel Bazile on his return after surgery.

The President then gave a short presentation reflecting on EBA performance noting that there was good teamwork within the Executive Committee, good support provided by RYA staff and that the EBA was dealing with a number of valid issues. However, he noted that response to actions and emails could be improved and reminded those present that the purpose of the EBA is to represent the mutually agreed common interests of national recreational boat user organisations in Europe. Without input that was not possible.

Markus Grießler welcomed all present and Mona Koppers introduced herself to the Assembly.

Link: [EBA-2016-GA2-A01a-Opening-address](#)

ACTION 1: All members to respond to actions and requests for input

1b Future of the EBA Secretariat

Gus Lewis stated that the EBA was a European organisation not simply a European Union organisation. The RYA was committed to Europe and to the EBA and was delighted to provide the Secretariat for as long as the members were happy for the RYA to continue in that role.

DECISION A: The RYA would continue as the secretariat

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

No additional items were requested under Any Other Business.

DECISION B: No items were added to the Agenda

1d Presentation by host country (Austria) on water sports

This item was taken at the start of the 2nd Plenary Session.

The President of the Österreichischer Segel-Verband gave a presentation on watersports in Austria concentrating on the facilities that were due to be visited on the Friday evening and the Austrian medal success at the Rio Olympics.

2 Minutes of the last General Assembly

The [minutes of the EBA General Assembly held in Palma 15 – 16 April 2016](#) were approved by the President as a true record of the meeting and were published on 16 May 2016 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 30 May 2016.

3 Actions from the minutes of the last General Assembly

The status of the actions from the last General Assembly were noted as follows:

Action	Status
ACTION 1: Secretariat to publish FIV letter nominating Giancarlo Olimbo for re-election on the EBA Web site	Complete
ACTION 2: Treasurer to implement the decisions to accept the Executive Committee proposals numbered 3.1 to 3.7 in the agenda paper.	Complete
ACTION 3: Treasurer to pay the Secretariat bill within the UK Financial year based on the average exchange for the calendar year.	Agenda Item 5b
ACTION 4: Secretariat to publish the EBA representation and expenses procedure on EBA website.	Complete
ACTION 5: Secretariat to circulate Committee Draft when it is approved by TC228.	Agenda item 12
ACTION 6: Secretariat to publish CCI guidelines on the EBA Website	Complete
ACTION 7: Executive committee to consider EBA representation at the RIS VTT WG meeting in Jun 2016.	Complete
ACTION 8: Secretariat to draft a position paper on aquaculture for discussion at the Vienna meeting.	Agenda item 7
ACTION 9: Proposal for an EBA guidance document (Template) for National Initiatives to Support Clubs and Increase Participation to be discussed by the Executive.	Complete
ACTION 10: Secretariat to contact DG MARE to arrange a meeting and invite a representative to the Vienna General Assembly.	Complete
ACTION 11: All members to forward national guidance on lifejackets if it exists to the Secretariat for consideration on the draft of an outline position statement on lifejackets	Agenda Item 10
ACTION 12: Secretariat to draft a position paper on the alternatives to the use of flares.	Complete
ACTION 13: Assembly members to pass any thoughts on improving the UNECE AGNP map to the Secretariat by 19 June 2016.	Complete
ACTION 14: Secretariat to pass on the suggestions regarding RIS to UNECE at the June meeting.	Complete
ACTION 15: SBU to prepare a draft position statement on the use of Antifouling and Biocides for consideration by the Executive and a decision at the next General Assembly (Vienna).	Agenda Item 6
ACTION 16: Secretariat to attend the Fitness Check of EU Nature Legislation Conference in Amsterdam.	Conference postponed
ACTION 17: Members to provide photographs and PowerPoint slides for the President's presentation to the ICOMIA Marinas Conference in November 2016.	Agenda item 13

4 EBA Membership

4a Applications & Resignations

There had been no applications for EBA membership and no resignations in the six months since the last General Assembly.

4b Members Contact Information & Delegates

A full list of Members and representatives was circulated. Members were asked to update their contact details including the details of their associations and representatives not present at the meeting as required.

5 EBA Finances

5a Status of Accounts

The Treasurer presented the status of accounts and noted that three members had not paid the membership fee for 2016, so far this year despite three reminders; however, they had also not resigned. It was anticipated that the account for the year would finish in credit rather than with the forecast deficit mainly because the meeting room in Vienna had been provided free of charge.

DECISION C: The General Assembly accepted the status of the account

5b Payment of Secretariat Fee

The President introduced the agenda paper and the need to review the exchange rate calculation, using the average exchange rate of the first 6 Months instead of the calendar year. After some discussion, it was agreed to accept the agenda paper proposal.

DECISION D: The General Assembly accepted the exchange rate calculation proposed in the agenda paper [EBA-2016-GA2-A05b-payment-of-secretariat-fee](#)

ACTION 2: Treasurer to pay EBA Secretariat bill based on the calculation proposal for the first 6 months of the Calendar Year [Afternote: Action Complete]

5c Proportional Subscription Rate

The President introduced the agenda paper and the decision to review the proportional subscription rate at the Vienna GA. It was proposed that given the effect of Brexit on the £/€ exchange rate and the fact that it was anticipated the 2016 accounts would be in the black there was no need to raise the proportional subscription rate for 2017. After some discussion on the desirability of an increase it was decided to further postpone a decision on increasing the proportional subscription rate (effective for 2018) until the General Assembly in Palma 2017.

DECISION E: The General Assembly deferred the decision on an increase to the proportional subscription rate until the EBA General Assembly 2017-GA1 in Palma.

5d Approval of 2017 Budget & Membership Fees

The General Assembly discussed the budget for 2017 presented by the Treasurer and approved it.

DECISION F: The General Assembly approved the budget for 2017 as presented in the agenda paper [EBA-2016-GA2-A05-accounts-status-and-2017-budget-proposal](#).

6 EBA Position Statement on Aquaculture

The draft position paper was approved by the Assembly without amendment.

DECISION G: The General Assembly approved the EBA Position Statement on Aquaculture as circulated in the agenda paper [EBA-2016-GA2-A06-Position-Statement-Aquaculture](#).

ACTION 3: Secretariat to publish the [EBA Position Statement on Aquaculture on the EBA website](#) [Afternote: Action Complete]

7 Invasive Alien Species

Emma Barton noted the second proposed EU list had dropped to 15 species with the removal of the American Bison and Box Elder. None of the species on the long list were identified as spreading on pathways as a result of recreational boating. Emma commented that the list may actually be of benefit to boating, such as addressing concerns over dense weed causing navigation issues.

The President asked Emma Barton to produce guidance on which species could endanger boating based on her own expert opinion. In response Emma made it clear that the potential impacts could be found in the presentations she had previously given to the Assembly. However she needed input from other countries on the species that were of concern to them. Emma's current assessment was that Invasive Alien Species (IAS) had more impact on boating than boating did on IAS.

There then followed a wide ranging discussion on IAS during which Emma answered a number of questions and members made points about particular problems in their own countries. The point was made that the average boater could not identify the species on the list and therefore would not know if they were carrying them from one area to another. Emma Barton noted that the listing was a distraction to encouraging best practice by all boaters.

Link: Presentations on EU Species [Part 1 \(2015-GA2 Berlin\)](#) and [Part 2 \(2016-GA1 Palma\)](#)

DECISION H: Emma Barton to continue to represent recreational boating interests at MSFD and Working Group

8 EBA position statement on the use of Antifouling and Biocides

The Secretary introduced an agenda paper outlining a lack of progress on the draft position paper on antifouling and biocides. In summary, it was noted that Emma Barton would present the Code of Conduct on Recreational Boating and Invasive Alien Species, which had been written by the EBA for the Bern Convention, on 15 Nov 2016. The agenda paper also proposed that the Code of Conduct recognised the support, guidance and expert position of the member organisations of the EBA and for that reason it was thought that the EBA had achieved recognition for its position and that a position paper was not required.

Emma Barton provided a short presentation on the background to the legislation that was responsible for some of the changes that were taking place. It was important to understand that while the European Commission approved active substances, applications that contained those substances were approved at national level – this might have been leading to the confusion in some countries. Dieter Haendel pointed out that conditions for maintenance work on boat hulls to

avoid losses of substances into the environment, especially from work carried out on hardstandings in boat harbours, were approved at the national level. Nevertheless, most active substances used in antifoul paints were approved for use in the European Community.

The General Assembly was reminded that it was important for members to remain engaged with their own national administrations in order to influence the interpretation and implementation of the Regulation. Members were urged to take an active stance in this regard.

The Assembly then discussed a proposal made by the SBU to form a Working Group to monitor national legislation and decide whether there is a Europe wide issue. The Secretariat drew attention to the procedure for initiating a Working Group and recommended that it be followed so that it was clear what the Working Group was to do and achieve.

The Secretary stated that there had been a considerable discussion and he had no intention of recording it in detail in the minutes. Instead the Secretary intended to record that the environment was important to us all and that an action would be placed on the SBU to submit a project initiation document for the proposed working group to investigate whether there is a Europe wide issue regarding antifouling paints and biocides.

Link: [EBA-2016-GA2-A08-20160923 Antifouling PresentationCOM](#)

Link: To sign up to newsletter <https://echa.europa.eu/subscribe>

DECISION I: The need for an EBA position statement on the use of Antifouling and Biocides was held in abeyance.

DECISION J: The General Assembly agreed that the SBU should submit a project specific working group initiation document to allow the General Assembly to decide, at the EBA 2017-GA1 in Palma, whether a project specific working group should be formed.

ACTION 4: SBU to complete and submit a project initiation document for the proposed working group to investigate whether there is a Europe wide issue regarding antifouling paints and biocides to the Secretariat (eba@rya.org.uk) by 0900 on 24 February 2017

9 EU Commission Nautical Tourism Strategy

A supporting paper introducing the nautical tourism strategy and the scope of topics it covered was circulated as an agenda paper.

The General Assembly was pleased to welcome Thomas Strasser from Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries in the European Commission to give a presentation and to hear member views on the Nautical Tourism Strategy. Thomas Strasser is a policy officer and has responsibility for the Coastal and Maritime Tourism

After considerable discussion on each of the topics, it was agreed to summarise the main points made by EBA members and to send them to the EU Commission for further consideration.

Finally, the President thanked Thomas Strasser for attending and noted that it was an excellent example of what the EBA could achieve for its members in influencing legislation.

Link: [List of points sent to EU Commission](#)

Link: [EU Commission presentation](#)

DECISION K: A summary of the main points made during the presentation and discussion would be sent to Thomas Strasser

ACTION 5: All members that contributed to the discussion on nautical tourism to email eba@rya.org.uk their questions and comments to allow a summary list of point to be generated [Afternote: Action Complete]

ACTION 6: Secretariat to prepare a summary of the main points made by EBA Members during the EU Commission presentation and discussion and send to Thomas Strasser [Afternote: Action Complete]

10 EBA Position Statement on Lifejackets

An agenda paper was circulated outlining the progress that had been made. Regrettably there had been little reaction to the request for information from EBA members on national guidance on lifejackets. As a result the Secretariat had not started to draft a position paper. The action that was requested was for the assembly to decide if it needed a position paper in light of the lack of response.

Again there was considerable discussion about the need for a position paper and what the delegates, as experience boaters, would recommend to governments if asked. If a paper was to be drafted then it needed to reflect the thinking of the Members but the Secretariat had not been given that information. It was important that a position did not conflict with national rights as explained by the DSV.

After further discussion, Peter Larsen proposed that the assembly should draft an interim recommendation for agreement until a position paper could be developed and agreed. This was approved by the assembly.

DECISION L: All members should provide the Secretariat with the information on the national guidance on lifejackets so that a position paper could be drafted in time for the next General Assembly (2017-GA1) in Palma.

DECISION M: As an interim measure the following recommendation was agreed:
“The EBA recommends that everyone on board a recreational craft has an appropriate personal floatation device. Anyone on board a recreational craft may wear a personal floatation device whenever they choose and should wear one when instructed to do so by the skipper.”

ACTION 7: All Members to submit national information on lifejackets to the Secretariat (eba@rya.org.uk) by 0900 on 24 February 2017

ACTION 8: Secretariat to draft a position statement on lifejackets for consideration by the General Assembly in Palma (2017-GA1)

11 EBA Position Statement on alternatives to the use of flares

The draft position was accepted with one correction.

DECISION N: The General Assembly approved the EBA Position Statement on alternatives to the use of flares as published in agenda paper [EBA-2016-GA2-A11-draft-position-statement-on-alternatives-to-flares](#) with one agreed amendment, to remove the reference to the UK in the table on page 4.

ACTION 9: Secretariat to amend the draft and publish the [EBA Position Statement on alternatives to the use of flares on the EBA website](#) [Afternote: Action Complete]

12 ISO TC228 – Tourism

The Secretary introduced the draft bareboat charter standard for information only. He made it clear that the standard was going through the international standards process and comments should be forwarded through national standards bodies.

This work was the culmination of the EBA desire to have a standard following on from the guidance it published on its web on its website.

13 President's presentation to the ICOMIA Marinas Conference in November 2016

The President gave his proposed presentation to the General Assembly and asked for comments on how it could be improved. Several suggestions were made and incorporated into the presentation. The presentation was due to be delivered on 18 November 2016.

DECISION O: The assembly approved the presentation as an accurate reflection of recreational boaters needs

ACTION 10: President to provide feedback from the ICOMIA Marinas Conference of 15 November 2016 at the General Assembly in Palma (2017-GA1)

14 President's presentation to the Sustainability in the Marine Industry Conference in November 2016

The President gave his proposed presentation to the Assembly and asked for comment on how it could be improved. Several suggestions were made and incorporated into the text. The presentation was due to be delivered to the conference on 14 November 2016.

DECISION P: The assembly approved the presentation as an accurate reflection of the EBA position

ACTION 11: President to provide feedback from the Sustainability in the Marine Industry Conference of 14 November 2016 at the General Assembly in Palma (2017-GA1)

15 Community of Common Interest Meeting Reports

The CCIs met separately to discuss matters of mutual interest and to identify any issues for forthcoming General Assembly meetings. It is not the intention to record the discussions from these meetings in these minutes. Report or discussion papers, where produced by the CCI Chairman, are made available on 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.

15a NE Atlantic / North Sea CCI Report

A verbal report on topics discussed by the NE Atlantic / North Sea CCI was presented by Willem Dekker . Most topics that were discussed were to share information.

The CCI discussed the collection and sharing of accident data and intended to consider in the future if the EBA needed do more to examine the statistics.

Two points were raised which might be of interest to the EBA at some time in the future. The first

was BREXIT and whether it might result in limitations on sailing to the UK. The second was that the RYA had a position paper on Tidal Energy and Tidal Impoundments which might be of interest to some Members.

No items were presented for inclusion on the next General Assembly agenda.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

15b Baltic Sea CCI Report

A verbal report on topics discussed by the Baltic Sea CCI was presented by Henrik Pedersen. HELCOM was discussed and Peer Bent Neilsen reported on HELCOM matters and what was important looking to the future. These were discussed and included underwater noise, pollution, water quality and biocides in antifouling.

No items were presented for inclusion on the next General Assembly agenda.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

15c Inland Waterways CCI Report

Dieter Haendel provided a verbal brief on the topics raised during the meeting.

One issue that was mentioned was the name of the CCI; members of the CCI preferred the title Inland CCI and the Assembly was asked to approve this.

Harm provided a short brief on a meeting that he and Willem had attended on the network of Inland Waterways on 12 October to judge whether the EBA should become an associate member. The network was involved in projects whereas the EBA was involved in navigation and there was little in common. It was therefore recommended that the EBA should not become an associate member.

The CCI recommended that it draft a position paper on the transfer of inland waterway away from the state sector

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The CCI should be called Inland CCI to make the name more generic.

The EBA should not become an associate member of the Network of Inland Waterways

The CCI should draft a position paper on the transfer of inland waterways from the state sector for consideration in Palma 2017.

DECISION Q: The Assembly approved the recommendations above

ACTION 12: Inland CCI to draft a position paper on the transfer of inland waterways from the state sector for consideration at the General Assembly in Palma (2017-GA1)

ACTION 13: Secretariat to change all reference to the CCI to Inland CCI [Afternote: Action Complete]

15d Mediterranean CCI Report

A verbal report on topics discussed by the Mediterranean CCI was presented by Giancarlo Olimbo.

No items were presented for inclusion on the next General Assembly agenda.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

16 Report from NBF

Regrettably, Bob David was not present at the Assembly meeting. A written report had been submitted and circulated as agenda paper [EBA-2016-GA2-A16-nbf-report-to-eba](#) for all to read.

17 Proposal for an EBA guidance document for National Initiatives to Support Clubs and Increase Participation

The President introduced this item and the template for promoting watersports circulated as an agenda paper and asked for reactions.

In discussion, the General Assembly agreed the template was a good idea and provided a useful guide. NSF suggested that the template should also consider the new ways of boating such as the sharing economy and changing priorities afforded by the budget airlines. The template should recognise that the younger generation wants to boat in different ways.

ACTION 14: Willem Dekker to update template for promoting watersports to incorporate remarks made by NSF concerning different ways of boating

ACTION 15: Secretariat to publish the template for promoting watersports in the Members Area of the EBA website once received from Willem Dekker

18 Presentation: Prognosis on the development of Recreational Water Sports

The President gave a short presentation on predictions of the development of recreational watersports in the Netherlands. Giles Paxman gave an update on the RYA "Push the Boat Out" event. Harry Hermon and Mona Koppers reported on similar initiatives in their countries.

Link: [KNWV presentation](#)

Link: [Scenario's of yachting development in the Netherlands in 2030, 2040 and 2050](#)

19 Proactive discussion on attracting new members to the EBA

The Executive at its meeting in Palma (April 2016) recognised that steps could be taken to attract new members. As a result, the Secretariat had prepared an information document for potential members to explain the work of the EBA. This was available on the EBA website. The intention was that it could be sent to anyone wanting information on the EBA and what it was doing.

The ÖSV had also written to neighbouring countries asking them to participate in the Vienna Assembly, regrettably none had accepted.

The Secretary had approached EuroSAF and suggested the EBA give a presentation on its activities to their general assembly. The Secretary would continue to follow this up.

The President outlined ongoing discussions with Greece which he hoped would be fruitful.

It was proposed that the EBA members in the Baltic countries try to encourage Baltic organisations that are not members of the EBA to join.

Link: [EBA Membership Information Document](#)

ACTION 16: EBA Members in the Baltic countries to encourage organisations in states not currently represented at the EBA to become members

ACTION 17: Secretary to follow up on giving a presentation on EBA activities to EuroSAF

20 Any Other Business

The Secretariat asked for information (by a show of hands) on which countries had a theory test for the ICC before candidates took the practical test, which countries had a practical test that was not connected with the national test and finally which countries issued an ICC against a national licence.

21 Forthcoming meeting dates and locations

Next meeting

- 28-29 April 2017, Palma, Mallorca, Spain organised by the Secretariat

Future meetings

- 6-7 October 2017, Stockholm, Sweden organised by the SBU
- 20 – 21 April 2018, Ghent, Belgium organised by LBWB
- 19 – 20 October 2018, Helsinki, Finland organised by SPV
- 5 – 6 April 2019, Location to be confirmed

ACTION 18: Members were invited to send offers to host meetings in 2019 to the Secretariat

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

22 Confirmation of Vice President Appointment

Giancarlo Olimbo was elected unanimously for a second four year term as Vice President of the EBA.

DECISION R: The Assembly unanimously elected Giancarlo Olimbo for a second four year term as Vice President of the EBA.

23 President's closing remarks

The President thanked everyone for their attendance and for a productive meeting. Finally, he thanks Marcus again for hosting the meeting.