



**MINUTES**  
**General Assembly of European National Rowing Federations**

**Poznan, Poland**  
**Saturday, 22 September 2007**  
**15:00 hrs Poznan City Hall**

1. Opening of the session

Mike Sweeney, Chairman of the European Rowing Management Board, opened the meeting, welcomed the delegates and thanked the authorities of Poznan for their excellent organization and kind hospitality.

2. Identification of the delegates and confirmation of their authority.

Matt Smith, Secretary of the ERMB, read the list of national federations present at the General Assembly. There were 29 European member National Rowing Federations represented.

3. Appointment of scrutineers for the period of the Meeting.

The Chairman nominated Peter Fajfar of Slovenia and Daniel Deweert of Belgium as scrutineers for the meeting. There were no objections so it was considered to be approved by the Assembly.

4. Approval of the Minutes from the Linz/Ottensheim meeting in June 2007

The Chairman asked if there were any questions or comments regarding these minutes which had been sent out in advance. As there were no objections or comments, the Chairman considered them approved unanimously.

5. 2007 Report of the European Rowing Management Board

This report had been sent out for information purposes in advance. There were no questions or comments.

6. Update on preparations for the 2008 European Rowing Championships in Marathon

Ioannis Karras, President of the Hellenic Rowing Association, presented information on the upcoming Championships and handed out the Bulletin No. 2 to the delegates.

7. Attribution of the venue for the European Rowing Championships in 2009  
(one bid received from the Belarus Rowing Association for Brest, Belarus)

The Chairman informed the delegates that the ERMB had received a detailed bid from the Belarus Rowing Association which the Board considered to be complete and correct. The delegates were shown a video with information about the new Brest International Rowing Course.

The delegates were asked to approve the recommendation from the Board that the Championships be attributed to the Belarus Rowing Association and Brest. The delegates voted unanimously in favour of this proposal. The 2009 European Rowing Championships were officially attributed to Brest.

8. Indications of interest in bidding for the 2010 European Rowing Championships (2010 ERCs to be attributed in September 2008)

The federations were asked to indicate their interest in bidding for the above mentioned Championships. The following indications were received:

Great Britain – Strathclyde  
Portugal – Montemor-O-Velho  
Lithuania – Trakai  
Germany – Duisburg or Hamburg  
Serbia - Belgrade

The Chairman then mentioned that, due to the September date of the World Rowing Championships due to take place in New Zealand, the European Championships could take place in the slot three weeks after the Lucerne Regatta, on the weekend of 31 July / 1 August. Alternatively, two weeks after the World Championships would make it the weekend of 2/3 October. Bidders are asked to indicate if one or both possible dates are acceptable for them.

9. Approval of European Rowing Constitution and related documents  
Proposed amendments received from ROU (attached)
  - a. Proposed Constitution
  - b. Text of ROU amendments
  - c. Proposed Rules for Coaches and Rowers
  - d. Proposed Rules for Event Organisers

There was a long discussion about this agenda item. In short, the delegates voted 16 in favour, 13 against to add one additional member from the national federations to the European Rowing Management Board making four from the national federations and three from FISA. In the next vote, the delegates voted not to change the rule that the FISA Council would appoint a chairman from one of the seven members of the Board (vote was 13 in favour of changing to a direct vote by the General Assembly, 16 against).

The third vote of the General Assembly was on whether to vote for all four national federation representatives now or just for the one new position. The vote was 4 in favour of voting for all

four now but with 24 in favour of voting for only the one new representative now, by postal vote. There was one invalid ballot in this vote.

The final vote on this subject was whether there should be rotating elections of the Management Board, or all voted for at the same time every four years. There was a very strong majority for rotating elections (based on a show of hands).

The Chairman then considered that these were the only modifications proposed to the document that had been circulated and considered all the rest to be acceptable. The Management Board has taken all these votes into consideration and now circulates an updated version of the Constitution which is attached for any final comments.

#### 10. Any other business

- a. European Junior Championships - The next discussion was on the topic of whether the federations favoured starting a European Junior Championships in 2008. Many delegates expressed their point of view on the subject. At the end, the consensus was that a questionnaire should be made to the coaches and federation leaders to assess all aspects such as interest, dates of such an event, financing, number of events, etc. The Management Board agreed to carry this out and report back to the delegates with the results by email. At the end, a non-binding vote to express interest was taken with 20 federations interested in having such an event at some point in the future against 7 not in favour.

#### 11. Conclusion

The Chairman thanked the delegates for the interesting and intense discussions. He again thanked the City of Poznan and the Organising Committee for their excellent work on preparing and presenting the Championships. The General Assembly was closed at 16:55 hrs.

On behalf of the European Rowing Management Board

Mike Sweeney  
Chairman

Matt Smith  
Secretary