



# European Triathlon Union (ETU)

## Minutes of Annual General Assembly

19 June 2014, Kitzbühel, Austria

### Part I: 14.00-15.45

#### Welcome and opening remarks

The President of the ETU Renato Bertrandi (RB) opened the Annual General Assembly and welcomed the delegates and guests. A special welcome was extended to Marisol Casado (MC) the President of the ITU. A special thank you was extended to the Austrian Triathlon Federation.

The Austrian Triathlon Federation President Walter Zettinig addressed the Assembly and welcomed all delegates to the beautiful city of Kitzbühel. He was very pleased to be hosting this Assembly and the European Triathlon Championships.

MC thanked RB for the invitation and went on to advise the Assembly about a number of current issues including her participation in an IOC Governance working group on governance, the establishment of a closer relationship with Ironman, and the new coaching initiative in partnership with British Triathlon.

#### a. Admission and resignations of National Federations

Kathleen Smet (KS) advised the meeting that four new members namely, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Iceland having now become full members of the ITU could become full members of the ETU as well. Assuming Romania were admitted to full membership of the ITU in the next twelve months, they too would follow on at the next Annual General Assembly.

There had been one resignation namely that of Monaco.

It was unanimously resolved that the National Federations of , Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Iceland be admitted to membership of the ETU such membership to take effect from the end of the meeting in accordance with the Articles of Association.

#### b. Confirmation of register of voters and appointment of scrutineers

KS reported that there were 33 National Federations present, of which 27 were entitled to vote. They were:

Armenia  
Austria  
Belgium  
Great Britain  
Croatia

Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Germany  
Estonia  
Finland  
France  
Greece  
Hungary  
Israel  
Italy  
Latvia  
Liechtenstein  
Lithuania  
Luxembourg  
Malta  
Netherlands  
Norway  
Portugal  
Romania  
Serbia  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
Turkey  
Ukraine

KS went on to say that this number of countries was sufficient to constitute a quorum.

It was unanimously agreed that Mojmir Ocvirk (SLO) and Sally Lockyer (GBR) would act as tellers and Aldo Lucarini (ITA) and Ria Damgren (SWE) would act as scrutineers.

#### **c. Confirmations of the minutes of the preceding Annual General Assembly (Alanya)**

The minutes of the last meeting of the Congress held in Alanya, Turkey, were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

#### **d. President's report**

After being elected at the 2013 Alanya General Assembly the ETU Executive Board had formulated a mission statement for the next 4 years consisting of 4 main goals: maintain European athlete leadership, help new countries to join the Olympics, create a viable and vibrant community of stakeholders and seek out all potential funding and sponsorship opportunities.

RB gave background information on how the Executive Committee had succeeded in turning around the ETU in 2012 and 2013 after a few difficult years of losses. The ETU had managed to reduce the costs of administration, there was a no waste policy and the treasurer in cooperation with the other EB members had kept all processes under control.

Our goals for 2012 had been to rebuild economic reserves and recover credibility and to focus on the development of our sport in Europe. Both had been realised.

Our goals for 2013 were to consolidate our account, to customize the ETU development programme and to increase the overall prize money pool from 20,000€ to 25,000€.

For 2014 our goals will be to continue working with low administrative costs, continue and improve our development plan, focus more on events and to find other economic resources.

For 2015 our goals are set on a review of our administrative structure, continue and improve our development plan, focus again on races and our participation at the inaugural European Games.

For 2016 we will continue and improve our development plan, keep our focus on races and evolve to a sustainable administrative structure.

Events represented 80% of our income and was the only product we had leverage on. Unfortunately our ETU cups are only the 3<sup>rd</sup> level of triathlon races but nevertheless are a way for our athletes to reach the top. We saw our races moving East. We have to take care as races are more and more expensive to organize. Unfortunately we saw some LOCs dropping out because of the difficult economic situation Europe is in. After identifying these trends the ETU EB had been looking for solutions. We created a race commission that is fully operative, we have compulsory meetings for the LOCs that are having an ETU sanctioned event for the first time, we reviewed the existing event contracts, we created a strategic partnership with professional LOCs like Challenge (2014-2016), TNatura (2014-2015) and Powerman (2014). Furthermore we are looking forward to our participation at the inaugural European Games in Baku (2015) and the European Sport Championships (2018) in Glasgow.

There were no questions or remarks on the President' report which was therefore accepted.

#### **e. Secretary General's report**

KS's Report reflected her activities as ETU Secretary General since the last ETU Congress held in Alanya, Turkey.

KS started with thanking everyone for their cooperation: the EB, ITU, the Committees, the National Federations and the Local Organisers' Committees off ETU sanctioned events. KS continued by saying that the world of triathlon is one big family and that in all good families not everything always runs as planned. She therefore wanted to underline the importance of respecting deadlines for payments or other items and to respond to emails from the ETU office at your earliest convenience.

KS pointed out that her focus as Secretary General had been on administration, events and development, including Erasmus+.

## **f. Treasurer's report**

Alicia Garcia's (AG) report had been sent out with all the other Annual General Assembly papers.

AG started with highlighting the ideas on the general management:

- continue with the process we have in place and that have proved to be successful
- working as a team with low expenditures while running the organization with the help of the attitude of all EB members involved and with the help of National Federations
- the entire board and the responsible persons for projects have been involved in the financial situation
- looking into a change of the main bank ETU is using from UBS Switzerland to Fortis Luxembourg

On the 2013 budget situation AG explained that the expected results has been a 31,700€ loss but at the year end the final situation was a +32,224.83€. At the end of 2013 ETU had reserves of +206,167.68€.

AG showed an overview of the income over the years (2011-2014). The overall income increased due to an increase in the amount of affiliation fees, event fees and ITU development grant. On the costs side the biggest decrease has been on office costs and TD travel, even with a small increase of the amount of events.

AG then talked about the 2014 budget which showed expected total income of 295,000€ and total expenditure of 355,000€ which made for an overall loss of 60,000€.

## **g. Audit Committee's report**

Martin Breedijk (MB) presented the Audit Committee's Report in the name of all Audit Committee Members.

As an advisory committee, the Audit Committee had made an analysis of the accounts that are submitted for the approval by the General Assembly. It had had free access to the data it requested from the ETU office and especially appreciated the help and contribution from Alicia García and Stefano Mondello.

1. Accounts 2013. The 2013 financial statement showed a surplus of 60 k€ which is for the second year in a row a positive balance. He wanted to express the Committee's appreciation for the on-going solid financial policy of the board.
2. As to the 2014 budget: it shows a loss of 60 k€. The board wants to invest this amount in development and take it out from the reserve. The committee agrees with this. At the same time the committee also advises the board to propose a standard for what the minimum required equity should be.  
The Committee also appreciated that the budget and financial overview of 2012 and 2013 have been incorporated in the 2014 budget so the meeting can see the developments in the last two years
3. From the spot-checks on the accounting records, no deviations resulted from the actual books.
4. After the advice from the audit committee the ETU has opened a saving account in Luxembourg, we appreciate this.

After having offered the comments above, we would conclude that annual accounts over 2013 show a fair view of the financial situation of ETU.

Finally the Audit Committee, composed of Halil Kilicoglu, Herwig Grabner and Martin Breedijk recommended the Assembly to approve the accounts over 2013.

There were no questions on the Audit Report.

After this report, AG asked to vote for approval of the Treasurer Report presented earlier.

Both the audit report and the treasurer's report were unanimously approved.

#### **h. Executive Board Report**

This report was given by Eugene Kraus (EK). The report had been circulated previously as part of the Annual General Assembly papers.

EK started with showing some picture on the screen of the ETU Executive Board meetings which are listed below.

- 14.06.2013 Alanya, immediately following the ETU Annual General Assembly
  - 13.09.2013 London, during the World Championships Grand Final.
  - 15.-16.11.2013 Brussels, table officers meeting.
  - 17.01.2014 Frankfurt, before the President's Conference supported by the Deutsche Triathlon Union.
  - 05.-06.04.2014 Palma Peguera, accommodation offered by Challenge Peguera race organiser.
  - 19.06.2014 the morning before the Annual Assembly in Kitzbühel an EB will be held.
- Monthly Skype Calls were held to supervise and control the progress of all commission works and projects.

#### **Remembering Gabor MARKUS:**

Unfortunately in 2013, the tragic and sudden death of Gabor MARKUS overshadowed the Hungarian and our European Triathlon organisations. We lost a great race organizer, committee and Federation member and especially a good friend.

The meeting was also asked to remember Thomas Tittel, a young German athlete who died while competing at the 2013 ETU Cross Triathlon European Championships in Strobl Am Wolfgangsee in Austria.

#### **i. Reports of the Standing Committees**

##### **1. Development Committee (DC)**

This report had been circulated with the Congress papers and was taken as read.

BSJ explained that the Committee organise through skype a monthly meeting with all members and a weekly "follow up" meeting with the Secretary, Development Coordinator and the ITU Development Department. The same process has been in place last year when grants had been given

to NFs of Category 2 and 3 for development projects within their country. The Presidents of both ITU and ETU recently signed the 2014 development agreement.

The goals of the Committee are to listen to and understand NFs plans and expectations, to try to meet their financial needs and to improve their relationships with the NFs every year.

The total budget for 2014 is 180,000€. Money has been spent or will be spent on NFs project, coaches and TO courses, coordinator fee and travel, 2 development camps, athlete scholarship to attend at races and travel grant to travel to Frankfurt Presidents' Conference.

There were no questions and remarks.

## 2. Technical Committee (TC)

This report had been circulated with the Annual General Assembly papers and was taken as read.

Committee Chair Jorge Garcia (JG) explained the Committees' working pattern: 2 ETU Technical Committee members are as well member of the ITU Technical Committee, which makes communication easier. The Committee helps, in cooperation with ITU, the EB on the assignment of the TD and assistant TD and all assigned TD receive a liaison person within the Committee. The Committee meets monthly through skype. During that skype they follow up the event pre-reports and reports of all ETU sanctioned events. The 2013 assigned TDs were from 13 different countries, while the assistant TD's were from 10 countries of which 6 did not have a TD assigned.

JG presented the goals for the Committee for the future:

- Consistency in support of TDs, with continuous follow up, focusing on technical, branding and image issues.
- Involvement in Baku 2015 European Games, where a strong team of TOs will be required to support the event
- Support the EB and other Committees, with whatever is requested.

There were no questions or remarks.

## 3. Medical & Research Committee (MRC)

This report had been circulated with the Annual General Assembly papers and was taken as read.

The Committee chair Reinout Van Schuylenberg (RVS) proposed a research project on high performance youth and juniors at risk. He identified those risks as: cardiovascular risk during training/racing on short (sudden death) and long term (exercise induced), eating disorder, extreme climatic conditions (while training/racing), overuse injuries, mental stress, drop out, (ab)use of food supplements and social environment school, peers,...

RVS explained the research goals and methodology, the timing and the budget. Partners for the research are the National Federations, European Federation and various universities.

There were no questions or remarks and the proposal has been accepted by the meeting.

#### 4. Paratriathlon Committee (PC)

The Paratriathlon Committee chair was not present at the Annual General Assembly. His report had been circulated with the Annual General Assembly papers and was taken as read and there were no questions on the report.

#### 5. Race Commission (RC)

The ETU Executive Board had decided to put together a Race Commission to increase the participation in events and raise profile. Within the Commission were LOCs, NF members, coaches and EB Members.

Race Commission chair Denis Jaeger (DJ) explained the purpose of the Commission:

- examine the race candidacies (E-Champs and E-Cups);
- discuss with private event organizer (Challenge, IPA, T-Natura, etc.) to develop collaborations;
- review ideas for new races and formats to improve and develop Triathlon under for example marketing aspects.

To increase the level of our events, the EB has decided to work with Private Organisations like IPA Powerman (since 2012), Challenge (since 2012, contract till 2016) and TNatura (since 2014, agreement till 2016). All events organised by these organisations had been very successful which consolidated the Commission's will to continue to cooperate with private organisers in the future.

Questions the Race Commission posed itself were:

- Do we need new races?

Yes, but only on highest level, and manageable for top athletes, with TV, media and other attention, creating main ETU platforms and promote Olympic Triathlon

- For what purpose and for whom?

One main stakeholder is currently missing on international level racing: clubs !

- Realistic chance of feasibility?

Feasibility: timing is crucial (close to WTS event or to a national league race)

- Opportunities and risks?

Opportunities might be:

- media attention from world class athletes
- stand-alone event for ETU to increase visibility and value
- involving of the clubs on the ETU playground as multiplication for crowd funding and media

According to DJ and the Commission the event has 2 options regarding the race format:

- Option 1: team relay, maximum 2 teams per country. Teams consist of 3 women or 3 to 4 men;
- Option 2: mixed relay, maximum 2 teams per country. Teams consist of 2 women and 2 men

The race will be open for (inter)national club teams. Prize money will be provided and/or free accommodation for all teams competing.

What still has to be looking at: a perfect time slot in terms of other races, the right event-organisers and sponsors

DJ invited all delegates to a round table on this subject on 20 June at 10:00 at the Kitzhof hotel.

## Part II: 16.00-18.00

### **j. Proposals of resolution to the Annual General Assembly**

#### **k. Elections**

Elections are by secret ballot. The ballot will be put in 1 of the 2 boxes. The tellers will do the telling and the scrutineers will control the telling. All have been appointed at the beginning of the AGA. There are 27 NF who are entitled to vote.

#### Executive Board

At the elections in Alanya there had not been any women who had been nominated by her NF to be a member of the ETU Executive Board, so 1 spot had been left empty. The elected EB members co-opted a women member, Nina Blakkisrud (NB) from Norway, to seat at the Board till the next AGA. There had been one candidate nominated by her NF for this function was Nina Blakkisrud. KS explained that even if there is just one candidate, the AOA requires more than 50% of the votes cast in favour in order for this person to be elected.

Nina was elected as EB member with 27 votes.

#### Committees

##### a. Development Committee

At the elections in Alanya there have not been any women that has been nominated by her NF to be a member of the ETU development, so 1 spot has been left empty. The Executive board co-opted Maria Cherkovskaya from Belarus to be seated at the Committee until the next AGA. The ETU office received 2 nominations: Maria Cherkovskaya (BLR) and Eva Potuckova (CZE).

Maria won the vote against Eva and was elected as ETU Development Committee member with 23 votes against 4.

##### b. Medical & Research Committee

At the elections in Alanya ETU only received 4 nominations for 5 spots, so 1 spot has been left empty. The Executive board co-opted Carsten Damm from Luxembourg to be seated at the Committee until the next AGA. The ETU office received 3 nominations: Carsten Damm (LUX), Antonio Gianfelici (ITA) and Patrick Wheeler (GBR).

Carsten Damm was duly elected as a member of the M&R Committee.

##### c. Paratriathlon Committee

At the elections in Alanya ETU only received 4 nominations for 7 spots, so 3 spot has been left empty. The Executive board co-opted Guzel Idrisova from Russia, Grega Nahtigal from Slovenia and Stéphanie Kraus from Luxembourg to be seated at the Committee until the next AGA. The ETU office received 3 nominations: Géraldine Heinen (BEL), Guzel Idrisova (RUS) and Grega Nahtigal (SLO).

All 3 were elected to be part of the Paratriathlon Committee.

d. **Audit Committee**

At the elections in Alanya ETU only received 2 nominations for 3 spots, so 1 spot has been left empty. The Executive board co-opted Martin Breedijk from the Netherlands as provisional member of the Committee until the next AGA. The ETU office received 1 nomination: Martin Breedijk (NED). Martin was elected to be part of the Committee.

**I. Dates and venues of European Championships 2015**

The 2015 ETU Triathlon European Championships will take place in Geneva (SUI) from 10 till 12 June. The Geneva LOC showed a presentation of the Geneva 2015 European Championship.

2015 ETU Aquathlon European Championships will take place on 27 June in Cologne (GER).

2015 ETU Duathlon European Championships will be held in Alcobendas (ESP). The date of the event need be confirmed and will be announced later on.

The bid for the 2015 Winter Triathlon is still open and the ETU Executive board is hoping to receive a bit within the next 2 months. Date and venue will be announced in due time.

**m. Date and Venue of the 2015 ETU Annual General Assembly**

RB announced next year's AGA will be Geneva (SUI) on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July 2015. The exact venue will be confirmed later.

**n. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

Minutes were prepared by Kathleen Smet (ETU Secretary General) and edited by Renato Bertrandi (ETU President) and Ian Howard (ETU Executive Board Member)