Minutes of EMA General Assembly
Braga, POR – 28th February 2022 – 09:00h – 13:30h

(Forum Altice, Braga)

Present:

Jean Gracia	1st Vice-President European Athletics
Margit Jungmann	WMA President
Jorge Vieira	FPA President
Kurt Kaschke	EMA President
Gerardo Vaiani Lisi	EMA Vice-President Finances
Martin Roald-Arbøl	EMA Vice-President Competition
Helena Maria Pires de Carvalho	EMA General Secretary
Delegates of Affiliate Countries	(List of Delegates as attached)

1. Opening and formalities

1.1. Welcome words

At 09:00, EMA President Kurt Kaschke welcomed WMA President Margit Jungmann, EA 1st Vice President Jean Gracia, FPA President Jorge Vieira, and the delegates of the EMA Members. He declared the General Assembly in Braga open.
EMACI Braga 2022 was the first successful international Masters' Championship Indoor after the pandemic and Kurt Kaschke referred also to the impact of Covid 19 and the war between Ukraine and Russia on the Masters´ movement.

Welcome words were addressed by Margit Jungmann, WMA President, to all present. Margit said that when she had prepared her speech, she had hoped to talk about Covid and the impact it had had on our lives and on our sport movement. We all regret the influence the pandemic has had on all of us. It made it impossible for us to hold world championships for the last two years. EMA had led the region in Masters' Athletics, and we experienced the joy of athletes participating in BRAGA 2022. We could feel that they needed this challenge.
Sport helps to maintain mental balance and to point out the importance of friendship around the world in difficult times. Sport brings people together, develops friendships, keeps language barriers apart, ages and nationalities do not limit us across the world. We are shocked because of the war between Russia and Ukraine but we underlined the respect for one another during this championship. We all hope that peace will come back, and the next event in Tampere will take place in a peaceful environment. Her wishes went out to the team of EMA with the President Kurt Kaschke – that has been successful during the last years and has now transferred the duties to a new team.

Margit Jungmann said that the delegates have now the responsibility to select the best people among the candidates. The WMA Council, and I can promise that we will accompany the new president with knowledge, passion, and commitment to develop EMA.
She wishes all the best and thanks Braga and the LOC team for this championship.

Jean Gracia remembered that he was in Portugal several times and thanked Braga for giving the athletes the opportunity to compete at European level. He added that this GA was very important also because of the elections. He referred to the difficult times athletics went through: corruption, doping, and now the pandemic which influenced our sport. The importance belongs to the athletes, and we saw the pleasure of competing. After this difficult time, a war started to happen between Russia and Ukraine. Sport suffers again. An example of the situation is the absence of Jean Thomas because he was trapped in Kiev. Jean Gracia wished the best for the Ukrainian athletes and also wished the end of the war very quickly for the sake of humanity.
Coming back to the Braga and GA elections. Lausanne is the main address of the EA and of the EMA. Jean Gracia has worked very well with all EMA Council members and will be pleased to welcome the new team in Lausanne. The new Council will be in a good position to continue and improve the work done by the old Council team. Good luck with your discussion, which I will moderate during the EMA GA elections. And wished the best to all athletes as well.

Jorge Vieira, President of the Portuguese Athletics Federation, said that he was very proud to have the Europe hosted here and to be part of a sport that is number one of the Olympic Sports, and to be part of a sport that is an example of "sport for life". The masters are the best example for having a fit society - from childhood to the masters.
He thanked the athletes for being a good example of life balance and health.
A word that cannot be avoided. It must be given to our friends from Ukraine, the situation is painful for the people in Ukraine and as well for our sport and society.
He hopes we can solve the case of war in the near future.

EMA President Kurt Kaschke received a couple of apologies from those who were unable to attend this meeting. The apologies were given by members and country representatives.
It was very sad that good friends and supporters could not be with us: Svein Arne Hansen - EA president; Frank Hensel – EA Executive Board Member; Maurice Doogan - BAMAF – Stadia Manager; Karel Matzner – CZE President´s Master, Patricia Zuger - Vice-President of France Federation and President of National Commission of Masters.
There was a minute's silence for those who had passed away.

1.2 General Information
The ways and means of making elections and resolutions were mentioned by EMA President. Under Article 14.11 of the Constitution, votes shall be cast by show of hands unless a secret ballot is requested by one third of the members of the Assembly or by the President.
The election for new Members of the Council shall be by secret ballot.
The meaning of the cards is:
green card - Yes; red card - No; white card - Abstention.

1.3 Approval of the Agenda
Following the presentation of the EMA GA Agenda, and with the agreement of the Assembly, the GA agenda was approved without any objection.

1.4 Confirmation that the General Assembly has been properly convened and the number of the entitled voters has been properly recorded

The General Assembly had been duly convened by the EMA General Secretary. The agenda was sent to the Federations and the Members 45 days before the GA. The invitation letter stated the date, place, and time of the GA.

The GA booklet was sent via e-mail to all Members, candidates and distributed prior to the GA meeting.

Respecting the EMA Statutes, the number of Member Federations and the number of votes due for today's General Assembly were correctly presented and recorded by Helena Maria Pires de Carvalho, EMA General Secretary and Fennie van Osch – delegate of the Netherlands. There were 54 votes from delegates, EMA council has 4 votes for a total of 58. Jean Thomas, EMA Executive Vice-President, could not be present.

Regarding the total number of votes, 30 votes were needed for the absolute majority (half plus one vote).

Valeriu Rosetnic, Romania Delegate, referred the meaning of the special majority, that means two-thirds of valid votes (39) cast of those Members present voting at a General Assembly or Extraordinary General Assembly, such two-thirds to represent at least one half of the total (49) voting power of all Members of the EMA (on definitions at EMA Statutes).

The number of registered affiliates was 32, but only 26 were present at the GA (see attached copy of the official signed list of delegates).

It was reminded by EMA President that each delegate has one vote. The number of votes/countries is in accordance with point 13. of the EMA Statutes.

1.5 Appointment of 2 Delegates for the Certification of the Minutes

Proper Minutes of today's meeting (of the discussions as well as the resolutions) shall be certified by two delegates from General Assembly. KK proposed that the candidates for EMA General Secretary can be the delegates for the certification of the Minutes. Maria Clarisse Duarte (POR) and Valeriu Rosetnic (ROU) accepted and were nominated by the General Assembly's delegates for this task.

1.6 Appointment of two (2) Scrutineers for the Ballots

In accordance with Art. 6.5, the President requests two Scrutineers. Dr. Mathias Reick (GER) and Fennie van Osch (NED) volunteered to be the scrutineers of the present Assembly. No one objected.

1.7 Minutes of the previous General Assembly - Jesolo (see article 14.12)

The minutes of the previous General Assembly, Jesolo 2019, was sent to all Affiliates in time. EMA council did not receive feedback from the Affiliates.

The minutes passed and were published on the EMA website.

2. Presentation of the Reports

2.1 Report of the President

The EMA President's report was on page 9 of the GA booklet. Kurt Kaschke added that Sport is important to us, not colour, religion, or political issues – they do not matter.

He has worked for EMA since 2006 as Secretary and from 2012 onwards as elected President. He had to face the first political problem (San Sebastian) and said that EMA always tried to take the political

problems away from Sport. When athletes are in the starting blocks and the gun goes off, the most important thing is the race, it doesn't matter who they are or what they will be, so from that point of view he believes, he has done a good job over the years. 2014 (Izmir), it was a good experience for EMA and for the Turkish Federation. The Championships started getting more attractive in the following years: 2015 Torun, 2016 Ancona, 2017 Aarhus, 2018 Madrid, 2019 Jesolo. In 2020 we had Championships during the pandemic, Madeira 2021 and Val Tramontina 2021. He also mentioned that Tampere (EMACS 2021) was postponed to WMACS 2022, an agreement with WMA President Margit Jungmann and WMA Council.
Talking about the difficulties during the last years, he referred also to the work that had to be done previously "in the back", to convince the Organisers, not only the Federations, and more important is the involvement of the Cities, like Torun and Braga.
To end his speech, Kurt Kaschke pointed out, "we started as strangers, but today we are friends".

2.2 Report of the Executive Vice-President
Unfortunately, Jean Thomas was not present, but his report was on page 12 in the GA Booklet. It was a short but a significant report.

2.3 Report of the General Secretary
Helena Maria Pires de Carvalho gave a summary of her hard work during the last 8 years, but with the support of all Council members, affiliates and friends, the work at the end had a good balance.
The last four years were a real teamwork between all the Council members, and the input from the affiliates were very important. They helped her to be better and better and to improve her duties.
She renewed her thanks to the EMA Council. She feels relieved and already "Saudades", a Portuguese word meaning "I miss you and you are in my heart" from my time on the EMA Council.
Thanks to all of this, the work of the Secretary General has become easier.
The new team will have her support and as we are a family, she hopes that the next Council will continue as an EMA family.

2.4 Report of Vice-President Competition
Martin Roald-Arbøl made his statement about his work during the last years, underlining that the EMA Council had worked as a real team. Development and increased income gave a good balance that attracts organisers and cities. His advice for the future was that the new Council should continue to work with the fantastic team of managers, officials, athletes, team leaders and LOC. He has had a good experience over the last 6 years with a lot of challenges and thanked everyone for their patience and support.

2.5 Reports Approval
The Council proposed to the General Assembly the approval of the reports that the Council Members presented.
The reports were unanimously approved. (No EMA Council Member voted on the approval of the reports).
(Yes - 42; No - 0; Abst - 0)
During the voting some delegates were not in the room.

3. Finances

3.1 Report of the Vice-President Finances: 2019, 2020 and 2021 Accounts

EMA's Vice-President of Finances presented the report to GA.
Gerardo Vaiani Lisi referred to an improvement in all key figures: profit and loss accounting, working capital and financial replacement. The reports had been verified and approved by a Swiss professional auditor (KPMG) of international standard.

3.2 Report of the External Auditor

The EMA's headquarter is in Lausanne, so the EMA needed the financial report to be approved by a professional and external auditor (KPMG) - as written in the EMA Constitution. The report indicated that the EMA accounts for 2019-2021 were done in accordance with international rules.

3.3 Approval of the 2019, 2020 and 2021 Accounts.

The accounts were unanimously approved.

3.4 Release of the EMA Council

Dr Mattias Reick, GER Delegate, proposed to the General Assembly to release the Council members. The release of the Council includes among others the release of the Vice-President Finances, and this means the approval of the annual statement of accounts for the last financial year.
The release of the Council members means furthermore that the General Assembly grants discharge to the Council members for their management of the association for the past financial period.
The release of the EMA Council was approved unanimously.

3.5 Presentation of the 2022 Budget

Gerardo Vaiani Lisi gave to EMA General Assembly an overview of the budget for the next two years. It was mentioned by Vice-President Finances the difficulties of having no incomes, but this year EMA had an increase in incomes related to competition EMACI Braga, EMORC Valtramontina, and EMACNS Grosseto.

3.6 Approval of the Budget 2022

The budget for 2022 was unanimously approved.
(Yes - 46; No - 0; Abst - 0)
During the voting some delegates were not in the room.

4. Proposals

4.1 Proposals from EMA Council to EMA Constitution

No proposals were proposed by the EMA Members.
On the proposals presented by the EMA Council, the delegate of Luxembourg (Claude Hemmer), Romania (Valeriu Rosetnic), and German Delegate Dr Mathias Reick proposed to postpone the discussion about the 4.1.1 to 4.1.6 to the new Council and the next General Assembly in Pescara 2023. Due to the lack of explanation and the necessary special majority to amend the EMA Constitution (point 11.3 and 15.5 of EMA Statutes), the General Assembly decided to postpone the EMA Council proposals to General Assembly - Pescara 2023.
Dr. Frank Koprik, the Austrian Delegate, agreed with the decision to postpone the above-mentioned

proposals 4.1.1 to 4.1.6 to the next General Assembly but noted that for item 4.1.7 the General Assembly could vote.

The Portuguese delegate made some remarks about the electoral procedure. The number of votes that are needed to approve the proposals should be pointed out before the General Assembly starts.

Jean Gracia added that the new Council members should work on the proposals. EMA must follow the Constitution: to change the Constitution it is required a special majority and not the number of delegates here at the GA.
The WMA President agreed as well. The new Council should study the proposals.
Jean Gracia pointed out that it was a special pandemic situation and suggested to postpone the discussion of Agenda points 4.1.1 to 4.1.6 to the new Council. They will have to analyse and to decide under the Swiss Law. This will avoid future disputes and problems.

EMA President agreed with the various opinions and continued to point 4.1.7. The GA may decide to honour the EMA Council as HONORARY MEMBERS and HONORARY PRESIDENT (Statutes -14.8; 14:9). This proposal was approved by the majority.
(Yes - 43; No - 0; Abst - 2)
During the voting some delegates were not in the room.

5. EMA Council Elections

EMA President Kurt Kaschke transferred the position of the Chairman of the General Assembly to EA's first Vice-President Jean Gracia to run the elections of the EMA Council.
Some information was given on the procedure of the elections and to do it correctly. All candidates were given two minutes to present themselves in front of the GA in alphabetical order before each secret ballot.

5.1 President

The candidates for President:
Jerzy Krauze, nominated by PAA (Polish Athletics)
Walentina Fedjuschina, nominated by ÖLV (Austrian Athletics)

Result of the voting:
Walentina Fedjuschina - 33 votes
Jerzy Krauze – 25 votes
New EMA President: Walentina Fedjuschina

5.2 Executive Vice-President

The candidates for Executive Vice-President:
Claude Hemmer, nominated by FLA (Luxembourg Athletics)
Francesco de Feo, nominated by FIDAL (Italian Athletics)

Result of the voting:
Francesco de Feo - 41 votes
Claude Hemmer - 16 votes

1 abstention.
New EMA Executive Vice-President: Francesco de Feo

5.3. Vice-President Finances
The candidates for Vice-President Finances:
Ercan Òzkan (TAF) (Turkish Athletics)
Francesco De Feo (FIDAL)
Francesco De Feo was elected for Executive Vice-President, so Jean Gracia kindly asked the General Assembly's delegates to vote by acclamation for Vice-President Finances Ercan Òzkan, he was the only candidate for this position.
New EMA Vice-President Finances: Ercan Òzkan

5.4. Vice-President Competition
The candidates for Vice-President Competition:
Giovanni Tracanelli, nominated by FIDAL (Italian Athletics)
Ivan Puksar, nominated by CAF (Croatia Athletics)

Result of the voting:
Giovanni Tracanelli - 41 votes
Ivan Puksar - 17 votes
New EMA Vice-President Competition: Giovanni Tracanelli.

5.3 General Secretary
The candidates for General Secretary:
Maria Clarisse Duarte, nominated by FPA (Portuguese Athletics)
Valeriu Rosetnic, nominated by FRA (Romanian Athletics)
Giovanni Tracanelli, nominated by FIDAL, was not considered because he was elected as Vice-President Competition.

Result of the voting:
Maria Clarisse Duarte - 48 votes
Valeriu Rosetnic - 10 votes
New EMA General Secretry: Maria Clarisse Duarte

The new Council will be represented by
Walentina Fedjuschina – EMA President,
Francesco de Feo - EMA Executive Vice-President,
Ercan Òzkan - EMA Vice-President Finances,
Giovanni Tracanelli - EMA Vice-President Competition,
Maria Clarisse Duarte – EMA General Secretary.

Jean Gracia thanked the whole GA very much and wished the new board good luck and asked for the first word to the new EMA President.

Walentina Fedjuschina asked those present to help and to participate with the new Council. It is not only the duty to ask questions, but also to present solutions. In the future it would be very important

to share the great experience of all masters, to share knowledge, comments, ideas, proposals and to participate as responsible in EMA for our sport so that teamwork will continue. "We are waiting for you. All your proposals count for me. Please be with us and help us, without you the Council will be nothing."

6. Honorary Ceremony

The European Best Masters 2020 and 2021 were honoured during the opening ceremony.
Kurt Kaschke said goodbye to all the managers who have helped to develop EMA the last years. He felt very happy to remember and to honour all those who have worked in front of and behind the scenes.
Fennie van Osch helped the leaving President to honour those who deserved it.

EMA **Honorary Plaque**:
Janusz Krynicki (POL) - Stadia and Indoor Manager
Dr Vesna Repic-Cujic (SRB) – Non-Stadia and Road Manager
Giovanni Tracanelli (ITA) - Mountain Running Cross and Relay Manager
Bill Courtney (GBR) and Christine Courtney (GBR) - Safety Officer Manager
Dr Martine Prévost (FRA) - Medical Board and Safety Officer
Manuel Cortés (ESP) - Law and Legislation Manager
Kalle Glomsaker (NOR),Valentyna Krepkina (UKR), Fennie van Osch (NED) - Athletes and Coaches

Working Group (Advisers)
Ivar Söderlind (SWE), Fernando Marquina (ESP) – Statistician and Record Working Group
Dr Michael Häusler (GBR) - Marketing Manager
Alfred Hermes (GER) - Media Manager

The President gave the floor to Jean Gracia, who honoured the **former Members of EMA Council**:
Jean Thomas (FRA)– EMA Executive Vice-President (2008 - 2022)
Helena Maria da Silva Pires de Carvalho (POR) – EMA General Secretary (2014 - 2022)
Gerardo Vaiani Lisi (ITA) – EMA Vice-President Finances (2017 - 2022)
Martin Roald-Arbol (DEN) – EMA Vice-President Competition (2014 - 2022)
Kurt Kaschke (GER) – EMA President (2012 - 2022)

Some words were said by each EMA former Council Members to thank for to all the support.
WMA President Margit Jungmann thanked Kurt Kaschke and his team by offering him a personal souvenir and wished him good luck for the future.
Wacław Krankowski also gave an award to KK from Poland Masters' Athletics to thank for all the work that Kurt Kaschke has developed over the past years.

7. Presentations

7.1 The EMA Non-Stadia (EMACNS) 2022 Grosseto (ITA), was presented by the delegates of Grosseto.
7.2 EMA Mountain and Trail (EMAMORC) 2022 La Feclaz (FRA) was not presented.

7.3 The WMA Stadia (WMACS) 2022 Tampere (FIN) was presented by the delegates of Tampere.
7.4 The Mountain/Trail/NW (EMAORC) 2023 Adelboden (SUI) was presented by President of Swiss Masters Running (Réne Fürst)
7.5 The EMA Stadia (EMACS) 2023 Pescara (ITA), was presented by the delegates of Pescara.
7.6 The Marathon Championships (EMMC) 2023 Funchal (POR)
7.7.Mountain/Trail/NW (EMAORC) 2024 Madeira (POR)
7.8. The Non-Stadia (EMACNS) 2024 Porto Santo (POR).
The points7.6., 7.7. and 7.8. were presented by the President of AARAM.
7.9. The Indoor (EMACI) 2024 Torun (POL) was presented by the delegates of the LOC of Torun.

8. Closing of the General Assembly

On behalf of the Council, the former President - Kurt Kaschke - thanked the delegates for their trust in the management of the EMA Council.
His thanks were also addressed to Jean Gracia, and Margit Jungmann, who have always been partners and who have supported the EMA movement.

Kurt Kaschke declared the 2022 EMA General Assembly closed and invited the Delegates to come to Pescara for the upcoming European Masters Athletics Championships Stadia.

Braga, 27th March 2022

Kurt KASCHKE
EMA President

Helena Maria PIRES DE CARVALHO
EMA General Secretary

Delegates for certification of the General Assembly Minute

Maria Clarisse DUARTE
GS Candidate

Valeriu ROSETNIC
ROU Delegate

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