

Minutes of the General Assembly of Club Arc Alpin (CAA) on 08.09.2012

Location: Hotel Suisse, Poschiavo
Duration: 09:00- 10:35, 11:00-12:30, 13:30-14:45

Present:

AVS	Gislar Sulzenbacher Luis Vonmetz
CAI	Umberto Martini Andreina Maggiore
DAV	Josef Klenner Olaf Tabor Jörg Ruckriegel
FFCAM	Georges Elzière Hélène Denis
OeAV	Dr. Christian Wadsack
PZS	Bojan Rotovnik Zdenka Mihelic Damjan Omerzu
SAC	Frank Urs Müller Peter Mäder

Apology: LAV, Caroline Egger

Executive Board: Klaus-Jürgen Gran
Danilo Škerbinek
Gianna Rauch
Dr. Oskar Wörz
Franco Capraro

Minutes: Veronika Schulz

Welcome + start of meeting

Gran starts the meeting and welcomes the participants. He confirms that the documents have been sent in a timely manner and that the General Assembly is quorate.

TOP 1

Approval of the agenda

The FFCAM announced change requests in advance: TOP 13 (languages) should be dealt with immediately after TOP 9, TOP 12 (approach to position papers) before TOP 11 (proposals by the Executive Board). This was unanimously approved.

TOP 2

Approval of the minutes of the Annual General Assembly of 10.09.2011 in Bergamo

The minutes of the General Assembly on 10.09.2011 is unanimously approved.

TOP 3

Executive Board's report

Gran refers to the report which was sent and has been provided at this meeting, stating that the Alpine Convention was the focus of the CAA's work last year. He adds that the CAA's re-

quest to forward the suspected non-adherence to the Alpine Convention to the Compliance Committee regarding the Windpark Sattelberg project in April 2012, the first of this kind in the history of the Alpine Convention, was generally accepted positively.

There are no questions about the report.

TOP 4

Report by the Commission of Mountaineering, Training and Safety

The minutes of the Annual Meeting in June are available and serve as a report. Mäder asks the LAV a question about the licence enquiries by DAV and OeAV ice climbing athletes, which cannot be clarified as the Chairman of the Commission is absent. Mäder will contact Larcher directly.

TOP 5

Report by the Commission of Nature Protection and Alpine Spatial Planning

The report is available; there are no questions for the Chairman of the Commission.

TOP 6

Report by the Commission of Huts and Trails

There are no questions about the submitted report.

TOP 7

Annual accounts 2011

Rauch explains the new presentation of the annual accounts, which is available during the meeting. The Executive Board has decided that reserves need to be created. In order to proceed in accordance with German tax and association law, a tax consultant was appointed, who prepared the new presentation. The CAA has created operating fund reserves and free reserves.

The revenues and expenditures are on the second page, as in the previous presentation.

Müller has asked for the association's assets and the budget to be included in the presentation next year to provide a better overview.

TOP 8

Auditors' report

Vonmetz explains that the auditors Vonmetz and Seeger prepared the audit on 28 June 2012 at the CAA office and that the audit found that cash management had been carried out correctly and free of errors. He requests the approval of the annual accounts 2011.

Resolution: The annual accounts 2011 are unanimously approved.

TOP 9

Discharge of Executive Board

Vonmetz requests that the Executive Board be discharged.

Resolution:

The CAA Executive Board is unanimously discharged.

TOP 13 (prioritised)

Languages in the CAA

Gran explains that while using German as the main language is beneficial to five of the CAA member associations, it presents something of a problem for the other three (PZS, CAI, FFCAM). He already requested in his letter of December 2011 that English should also be used. A table with several proposals for solutions has been submitted as a basis for discussion. Gran's request is to pass a resolution valid for the next few years and asks those present for their opinion.

According to Klenner it would be logical for English to be the main language in an international organisation, but this would not be a good solution for all of the associations either. Elzière clearly argues in favour of using English as the CAA's main language, particularly as an increasing number of young people are learning English rather than German. Wadsack would welcome a solution which is equal and consistent for everyone, irrespective of those involved. He has had good experience with English in his career.

Müller explains that from the point of view of SAC, which itself uses a range of languages, the language should not be changed on the basis of the majority of members' interest, as this would lead to translation problems and significantly higher costs. Position papers would have to be translated from English into the individual native languages, which would increase the risk of errors.

In the "Associations of International Reciprocal Agreement", which also include Spanish and Dutch members, English was chosen as the preferred main language the day before, but the material is much less complex and mainly involves figures, so it therefore cannot be compared with the CAA. Müller is against using English as the main language at the CAA.

Hélène Denis notes that translation work is constantly required at PZS, CAI and FFCAM at the moment for discussing position papers before they are submitted for approval. Furthermore FFCAM, for example, has had problems appointing members of the Commissions. At the Alpine Convention, numerous working groups worked in English without any major problems.

Rotovnik mentions that the PZS experiences disadvantages during discussions in German and that English is now spoken in many international organisations, e.g. the UIAA. He suggests that, as a compromise, English should be spoken as a second main language in the CAA in addition to German.

Schulz asks for a clarification as to what exactly this would mean. Gran imagines that the Executive Board could continue to hold meetings in German with its current members. Wörz draws attention to the fact that although English may now be the main language of the scientific community, he is sceptical about applying this to the CAA. Apart from that, two of the three Commission Chairmen are absent and are unable to express their views regarding the Commissions. It would also be impossible for Schulz to translate everything. He therefore asks for a compromise, including the outsourcing of translations.

Schulz indicates that she has written most emails in two languages (G, E) over the past few months, but it should be clear exactly which documents need to be translated.

Denis draws attention to the fact that an additional translation of the CAA from German to French is superfluous, because the FFCAM already has all important documents translated before they are approved. Wadsack asks for the Commissions to be included in the discussion.

Skerbinek asks for a transitional period with both German and English being used; especially as individuals can then be correspondingly selected and prepared for the Commissions.

Ruckriegel explains that in the KONSAR meetings the affected associations have provided with the translations from German they require themselves, but he thinks the flexible use of English during meetings could work, depending on who is present.

Elzière is of the opinion that as long as the Executive Board is made up of German-speakers, German will be the main language. However, the will to work together should be more important.

Rotovnik believes that PZS itself would provide the Slovenian translations if the CAA provided the documents in English. The discussions in the Commissions could take place in German and English, and then it would be easier to find better specialists for this purpose.

Sulzenbacher indicates that English is slowly becoming a third language in South Tirol. AVS would prefer to stick with German in the CAA, but would agree to a transitional period with both languages.

Tabor suggests that the Executive Board should add up the costs of translation into English for the CAA and then make a decision.

Gran summarises:

- From this point onwards, the CAA will have two official languages: German and English.
- An English section will be added to the website.
- The position papers and minutes (Executive Board, Members' Meetings) will be translated into English by the CAA or the CAA will arrange for them to be translated.
- Emails and letters will be sent in German and English. The member associations can also write to the CAA in English.
- Reports by Schulz about the bodies of the Alpine Convention will be prepared directly in English, depending on the time available.
- English can also be used during discussions in the Members' Meetings and Commissions.
- A test phase of 2-3 years is agreed for these plans.

Resolution: Six times approval and one abstention.

FFCAM, PZS and CAI agree to translate documents into their languages at their own expense.

TOP 10

Alpine Convention

A written report on CAA activities over the past year is available. The 50th Permanent Committee and 12th Alpine Conference took place during the Alpweek in Poschiavo on the two preceding days. Gran took part in both events, while Capraro, Denis and Schulz additionally were only present at the Permanent Committee. Gran describes the arduous discussion during the Standing Committee about the Task Force protected areas, the ALPARC office, for which no definitive solution has yet been found with regards to its status and financing despite numerous discussions.

The fact that the aim of reducing energy consumption was also included in the relevant resolution passed during the Alpine Conference can be viewed as a success. The original goal was to only establish an increase in efficiency as an initial measure to be dealt with by the new energy platform.

With regards to the macro-regional Alpine strategy, an "input paper" of the Alpine Convention was decided upon, which aims to introduce various topics to the ongoing discussion. Gran also reports that the observers had a discussion with the Swiss Environmental Minister Leuthard, during which the topics of integrating the regions and communities, collaborations with the observers and energy were discussed - as arranged between the observers in advance. In principle, there were barely any differences, apart from the fact that Leuthard was unable to provide a concrete reply to Gran's question about when Switzerland intended to ratify the Protocols of the Alpine Convention.

No decision was made about the successor for the departing General Secretary Onida. This decision is due to be made in November.

Gran considers the Alpweek and its numerous events and committed individuals to be a sustainable development and the collaboration between the observers generally positive.

Schulz also reported on the CAA's activities during the Alpweek, which the CAA participated in as one of the partner associations organising the event. In addition to a stand at the forum, the CAA arranged a "session", a moderated quiz with four experts with the topics "adventure installations" and "mountaineering and climate change", which was visited by around 30 participants. The response was generally positive. Schulz also mentioned that this substantial participation involved rather a lot of effort for the CAA and that in two years' time, when planning for the next Alp Week in 2016, we will need to consider whether a session

and stand would be sufficient and whether we should avoid participating as a partner organisation.

TOP 12 (prioritised)

Approach to the processing/adoption of policy and position papers

On the basis of a written annex, Gran once again explains the proposals which he distributed to the associations in his letter dated December 2011. This is that the Executive Board, in whose responsibility the papers are transferred from the respective Commission after processing, makes smaller editorial changes to papers which are requested by the General Assembly itself, while the papers are resubmitted to the respective Commission in the case of larger changes concerning content.

Ruckriegel argues in favour of a circulation procedure with regards to changes to the papers after the General Assembly. However, feedback should be provided by the Commission members to their associations before the General Assembly, which would be handled very differently in each case.

Elzière and Denis admit that some papers are of no use to FFCAM, e.g. "Hiking in Safety", as FFCAM is not responsible for maintaining trails.

Mäder states that the processing of certain topics is currently included in the Commission's annual planning and it would therefore be necessary to intervene at this point, i.e. during the submission of the annual planning if there were any objections.

Gran summarises that, as proposed, smaller changes will be made by the Executive Board in the future, while larger ones will be implemented by the Commission, with the request that this be processed in a circulation procedure rather than waiting until the next Commission meeting.

TOP 11

Proposals by the Executive Board

11 a) Policy paper "Alpine sports and risks"

Resolution: The paper is unanimously approved in the current version.

11b) Recommendations "Safety on via ferratas"

Elzière also mentioned in this regard that FFCAM would have no use for these recommendations as it is not responsible for via ferratas.

Resolution: The recommendations are unanimously approved in the current version.

The pictograms provided for viewing are the result of an initiative by Larcher, who commissioned the caricaturist Georg Sojer for the assignment. Mäder suggested asking the Commission to initially always wait for the Executive Board or General Assembly before issuing such assignments. Gran agrees to pass this on to Larcher.

11c) Recommendations "Hiking in safety"

Elzière once again fundamentally questions the benefits of these papers. Klenner also does not consider communication to individual members to be a matter which concerns the CAA. Skerbinek explains that all Commission members agreed to Larcher's proposal to process these recommendations. The Commission previously dealt with the training programs. In this respect, such recommendations were also considered to be appropriate.

Denis comments that the recommendations are merely a matter of course. Müller is of the opinion that the paper could nevertheless be useful as an approved CAA opinion if it can prevent any form of damage. Wörz explains that the OeAV published the recommendations in a small brochure as part of its 150th anniversary celebrations.

Resolution: The paper was approved in the existing version with six votes and one abstention.

11 d) Policy paper "Energy Policy in the Alpine region"

Elzière has objections relating to the formulation with regards to nuclear energy; Müller asks what "storage facilities" means. The relevant section of text will now be additionally revised by the Commission in a written consent procedure in lieu of a meeting, taking the French concerns into account. After the lunch break, however, a new formulation is presented by Ruckriegel at the meeting, which accommodates the FFCAM and which he can also advocate in the Commission.

Resolution: The paper is unanimously passed in the amended form. (Annex)

11 e) Policy paper "Adventure installations"

Ruckriegel explains that the present version has been already largely approved, as the paper was sent to the associations after the Commission meeting before the July Executive Board meeting and responses have already been implemented.

Klenner anticipates that there will be problems with the term "Jahrmarktsattraktionen" ("fun-fair attractions") during translations.

Resolution: The paper is passed in this form with six votes and one abstention.

11 f) Recommendation for the reservation and cancellation policy on huts

The SAC has established binding regulations and wants similar ones to be implemented by the other associations too in order to avoid disadvantages for their own guests staying at SAC huts.

Gran drew attention to the fact that the CAA can only give the associations a recommendation regarding the introduction of such regulations, but without detailed contents.

Vonmetz clarifies that the regulations aim to provide hut keepers with options but that they can act at their own discretion.

Klenner believes that the SAC's proposals would be difficult to implement, DAV and OeAV will establish their own regulations in October.

It is agreed that the CAA Hut Commission will try to come up with the most standardised regulation possible, which recognisably serve the purpose of supporting the hut keepers. The provisions of the CAA associations which have already been established should be taken into account.

11 g) Working group "Barcodes on member identification cards"

Gran explains that the Commission for Huts and Trails has requested that a group of specialists be formed to deal with the topic of "standardising barcodes".

The request has mainly been made by FFCAM. Elzière adds that FFCAM would like to know more about the people who use the huts than is currently possible. For this reason, technical options should be considered. Klenner notes that the purpose needs to be slightly more concrete.

Tabor draws attention to the fact that the barcodes currently used by DAV and OeAV do not include any information about the ID holders, a chip is required for this and it therefore needs to be readable across the entire Alps region, i.e. huts need to be equipped with a reading device. This is a large project and very expensive.

Resolution: Overall, the General Assembly does not consider there to be sufficient advantages associated with the involvement in such a project and has unanimously voted against the project.

TOP 14

Project Energy efficiency in mountain huts, status

A written interim report by Peter Büchel, the project manager, has been received. Wadsack merely asks whether the schedule is up-to-date, which was generally confirmed. There are no further questions.

TOP 15

EU strategy, confirmation of the previous resolution of 2010

Gran recapitulates that around a year ago there was the impression that CAI and PZS would prefer to pursue paths outside of the CAA with regards to the EU. Since then, both associations have confirmed that they would like to continue to contribute to the CAA resolution of 2010. The invitation to create a "European Mountaineering Forum" (EMF) was sent by PZS and CAI last winter to approx. 50 mountaineering associations, of which 14 want to support the initiative.

Rotovnik explains that PZS is firmly behind CAA, but this is only a regional association relating to the Alps. The EMF will be continued as an internet forum. Rotovnik wants there to be a stronger lobby for mountaineering in Europe and in EU documents. Secondly, an increasing number of EU Directives - such as the obligation to use the public waste disposal services - also affect the mountaineering associations, e.g. with regards to the huts. Furthermore, the EMF supports the improvement of networking within the EU.

Gran mentions a new contact with the EU representative Robert Flies (GD Environment) at the Alpine Conference. The contact with Marco Onida, who will be returning to Brussels at the end of the year, may also be useful for the CAA to take the first steps towards the implementation of the strategy.

Resolution: The strategy agreed upon in 2010 by the Annual General Assembly in Munich is unanimously approved.

TOP 16

Approval of the annual plans of the Executive Board and Commissions

All plans are available in writing.

- **Executive Board**

Müller asks about the implementation of the 2010 climate strategy. Schulz explains that the part of the CAA in the implementation mainly involves the establishment of an information platform on the CAA website, and that this was initiated after the resolution was passed in 2010. Unfortunately, only three associations sent best practice examples to the CAA, even though multiple reminders were sent. Over the past few months, Schulz has not been able to pursue the issue due to other priorities, but will come back to it and send another letter to the associations. The platform should be set up by the end of 2013.

- **Huts and Trails Commission**

The 3rd point regarding the "Barcode" working group will be removed from the annual plan.

- **Mountaineering, Training and Safety Commission**

The development of recommendations for safety during high-altitude alpine tours is rejected by several participants, as it interferes with mountain climbers' own responsibility to too great an extent. This should instead be strengthened in the core business of the associations.

The use of CAA recommendations for mountain bike tours is also discussed. Ruckriegel asks for the inclusion of environmental problems, which PZS has in any case requested as a TOP for the next KONSAR meeting. Sulzenbacher also thinks this may affect the Huts and Trails Commission, as path liability issues are involved.

Wadsack and Wörz request a clarification of the associations' stance on the topic of mountain biking, as the OeAV code of conduct is also internally disputed. The Mountaineering Commission should be assigned the task of dealing with this, with the involvement of the other Commissions.

- **Commission for the Protection of Nature and Alpine Spatial Planning**

Ruckriegel indicates that in particular the point regarding "environmental education" has required further investigation for some time, which now appears possible due to the completion of points 3 and 4.

Resolution: The annual plans are unanimously approved with the described amendments. (Annexes)

TOP 17

Approval of the 2013 budget

Rauch explains the budget at hand with suggestions for minor changes: she proposes that the item for translations should be increased to EUR 5000 and the item for the homepage to EUR 2000, i.e. an increase of EUR 1000 in each case. This would take into consideration the resolution to make English a second main language. The reserves could be used for financing. Overall, the budget would then amount to EUR 97,000.

Resolution: The budget is unanimously approved with the proposed amendments. (Annex)

TOP 18

Other

- The PZS suggests that the General assemblies should be held in low-cost huts rather than hotels. As long as this is easily achievable and favourably located, there are no objections.
The next General Assembly, hosted by PZS, will take place on 14 September 2013 near Bovec, and partially in Mojstrana.
- Gran asks DAV and OeAV if they intend to return to the UIAA.
Klenner explains that there are contacts and positive signals, but the DAV Board will not make a decision until in November after the UIAA General Assembly. Wadsack confirms this for the OeAV.

Gran ends the meeting at 14:45 with special thanks to the SAC for the hosting and organising the General Assembly.

Signed Klaus-Jürgen Gran
CAA President

Minutes: Veronika Schulz, 02/10/2012
CAA Office Manager

Annexes changed from the original:

11 d) Policy paper Energy Policy in the Alpine region

16) Annual plans for the Mountaineering Commission, Protection of Nature and the Alpine Region, Huts and Trails, Executive Board

17) 2013 Budget