

Minutes of Lightning Class European Meeting 2018 (MoM)

Agenda: Lightning class

The meeting was held at Yacht Club of Greece during the last day of the Lightning European championship 2018. Every lightning sailor was invited. The meeting was held at YCG started at Saturday June 30 at 17.00 and lasted about 2 hours.

Participants:

- G. Andreadis – Lightning class Vice President Commodore in Greece
- B. Hayes – North Sails US Lightning class representative
- L. Hemming – Lightning class Commodore in Europe
- E. Dedes – Parthenon fleet 286 captain
- N. Vazakas – Lightning sailing academy fleet 525 captain , Meeting chairman
- A. Vasilas
- G. Vasilas
- E. Kafetzidakis
- D. Petikides
- V. Papadakis
- L. Pesola
- S. Pesola
- G. Argyropoulos
- S. Sotiriou
- D. Gerontaris
- I. Pangakis
- A. Kalpakas
- K. Bastianos

All European championship participants were invited. Among them were also newly formed teams:

- Team Romania – A. Teodoresku
- Team Turkey – S. Sanus
- Team Germany – G. Ernst
- Team Spain – E. Carrasco

Topics:

- 1) Development of lightning fleets in Europe with the support of International lightning Class Association
- 2) Next major events calendar

Discussion:

1. Nick Vazakas opened the European meeting reminding to everyone that lightning sailor's goal is to have fun and sail while Brian Hayes agreed to that. Both said that the European championship was very well organized and the newly formed teams responded excellent. Nick Vazakas also made a short review of the development team since 2014 when the ILCA scheme boats arrived in Greece and shared with the participants that the class since then has an upward course, something that was concurred by everybody in the room.

All participants agreed that lightning class in Europe needs to be developed and according to Mr. George Andreadis, ILCA vice president, our main development strategy must be implemented through the structure of the International Lightning Class Association (ILCA). This structure is the main reason that lightning class is one of the best sailing classes in the world. Mr. George Andreadis always helped lightning class and he will continue to do it as much as he can.

For first time in the European level, Greece suggested and implemented a new scheme for the European Championship in order to invite sailors from non-existing Lightning Fleets that wish to charter boats at a reasonable price. The proposal consists of:

- a) Qualification round on the Host Country
- b) Elimination of the boats from the last positions, the number is defined according to the verified entries from non-existing ILCA fleet, e.g. Germany, Romania, Turkey, Spain etc.
- c) Requirement of boat owners who have been eliminated from the qualification round of the host country to charter their boats to the teams of b)

Therefore, the new format is OPEN for the European countries but CLOSED for the Host Country and the number of qualified boats is variable which depends on the number of the registered foreign teams.

Consequently, everyone agreed to set 2 goals. 1st goal is to keep Italy and Switzerland inside lightning class and try to reboot their lightning sailing activity. 2nd goal is to create at least one lightning fleet to close countries next to Finland and Greece like Estonia and Romania. The way to make it happen, is to find the key-person to each country. Lauri Hemming responded that he will try to find the right person in Estonia in order to make it happen. Andrei Teodoresku from Romania responded positively in trying to find the right person in his country. Lightning regattas will be held in places that hold active lightning fleets.

George Argyropoulos pointed that the Greek lightning fleet is equipped with newer boats but there is lack of boat equipment or is very old. Eleftherios Dedes added that the main problem for Greek fleet are the masts and there is already shortage rendering boats inoperative as the cost to purchase new, exceeds 5500 euro per boat. In addition he underlined that the fleet has severe needs of consumables and used sails for training. Brian Hayes explained that ILCA is

willing to support European lightning sailors and will try everything to develop the class worldwide. Furthermore Brian asked a list of boat equipment, that Greek lightning fleets are in need, to be sent to ILCA US as well as an updated European fleet report.

2. 2019 European and world championship will be held in Espoo, Finland. We discussed about the possibility of 4 Greek teams to attend both championships.
 - 2020 European championship country is to be confirmed. It would be nice to be held at central Italy to a nice sailing venue.
 - Eleftherios Dedes finally pointed the necessity the next Host Countries to implement the same European Scheme or equivalent, in order new Countries to be always possible to attend and thus, the European fleets to eventually increase the forthcoming years