



European Boating Association  
Europäischer Sportschiffahrtsverband  
Ass. Européenne de Navigation de Plaisance

## Serving the interests of pleasure boaters in Europe since 1982

### Our work

### The voice of European boating

Founded in 1982, the EBA aims to ensure boat users are informed and consulted about EU legislation and to make their views known to relevant European Institutions. We work on a wide range of issues that impact upon boating within Europe and when necessary make appropriate proposals to national and European governmental organisations.

Our work embraces environmental, technical and regulatory issues together with specific projects such as the promotion of the International Certificate for Operator of Pleasure Craft (ICC) and representing the leisure interests of the inland waterways of Europe to the UNECE Inland Transport Committee.

With its membership of [national federations](#), which collectively represent the interests of more than 1.5 million recreational boaters and 20 million active participants, the EBA really is the voice for all leisure boat users in Europe.

The guiding aim of the EBA is to promote leisure boating throughout Europe and keep rules, regulations or restrictions to the minimum, in doing so looking after the interests of everyone that takes part in one of Europe's most popular outdoor leisure pursuits. The EBA also aims to ensure that recreational boating is at the forefront of the development of a number of European policies.

### Inside the EBA

The EBA is a civil, not for profit association of recreational boat users' organisations, founded in 1982 and established as an Unincorporated Association whose members agree to be governed by the articles of its [constitution](#).

The EBA is actively working to maintain boating freedoms for both inland and coastal boaters. It has contact with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe which is responsible for the ICC, the European Commission, the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine, HELCOM, OSPAR, and many other European administrations. The EBA is also involved in the development of European (CEN) standards and International (ISO) Standards.

The day to day work of the EBA is the responsibility of the EBA Secretariat and the EBA Executive

Committee. The EBA holds two General Assemblies a year. They are usually held over a weekend in April and October in differing locations around Europe.

Project Specific Working Groups are formed from time to time to ensure work on 'hot topics' continues effectively intersessionally. Working groups have studied subjects including boat recycling, LPG availability across Europe, regulations for boats visiting foreign shores, harbour safety and yacht charter.

Focus groups are a less formal mechanism by which new subjects are investigated outside the General Assembly to identify matters the General Assembly should be considering.

## **EBA Membership**

Given that everyone benefits from the work of the EBA whether they are officially represented at the association or not, you may be wondering why your organisation should become a member of the EBA.

- EBA members have the opportunity to direct the work of the EBA to ensure that the policies reflect the interests of their national clubs and recreational boat users;
- National Associations and Federations can be much more effective if they have prior knowledge of European policy initiatives and developments;
- By representing the interests of millions of boat users, collectively the EBA has the ability and strength to influence administrations – membership numbers and European scope are vital to the EBA's success;
- EBA Members have the right to use the EBA Member Logo (terms and conditions apply);
- There are 4 elected posts on the Executive Committee and each year full members have the opportunity to put forward a representative for election in one of these roles;
- General Assemblies provide members with the opportunity to raise and discuss issues, influence the EBA's policies and to network with likeminded delegates from elsewhere in Europe;
- Full members also have the opportunity to host the General Assembly and "show off" their country and all it has to offer;
- Without its members the EBA would not exist.

## **Cost of Membership**

The income of EBA is solely provided by its full members and is as follows:

- a standard subscription for each participating member of €540 per year; and
- a proportional levy based on the total number of organisation members of € 1.90 per 100 members per year.

## **How to join**

National recreational boat users' organisations in European states which are members in good standing of the World Sailing (formerly ISAF - the International Sailing Federation) and/or the Union Internationale Motonautique or which otherwise appear to the EBA to represent a substantial number of recreational boat users on a national basis within a European state are eligible to apply for full membership of the EBA.

Other national recreational boat users' organisations in European states which represent other water sports and which are members in good standing of their appropriate international organisation are also eligible to apply for full membership of the EBA.

However, a maximum of four Full Members are permitted from any single country.

International groups within Europe representing other relevant recreational boat users' interests are also eligible to apply for full membership of the EBA.

Organisations wishing to join the EBA should in the first instance send a letter to the EBA General Secretary on the organisation's letterhead (this can be sent by email), outlining the basis on which the organisation is eligible for full membership of the EBA and the number of members the organisation has.

The application will be submitted to the next General Assembly of the EBA after which the applicant will be informed whether its application has been successful.

## **Contact us**

Enquiries to the EBA should be made to the EBA Secretariat:

Email: [eba@rya.org.uk](mailto:eba@rya.org.uk)

By post: EBA Secretariat, Cruising Legal & Government Affairs Department, Royal Yachting Association, RYA House, Ensign Way, Hamble, Southampton, SO31 4YA, United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 23 8060 4230 (or 4100)

The EBA President can be contacted by emailing [president@eba.eu.com](mailto:president@eba.eu.com)