

The Sustainability Commission met virtually at 1400 UTC on 9th April 2025

All files can be found on this shared folder: [2025-2028 commission](#) any access issues please reach out to rebecca.videlo@sailing.org.

Members Present:

Sigrid Beckmann	Ferran Muniesda	Heiko Thoelmann
Lara Poljsak	Marianna Douka	Nuno Gomes
Peina Chen	Vaclav Bravec	Maja Lesny
Irina Perez	Beatriz Gonzalez Luna	

1. Opening of the Meeting
a. Chair's Opening Remarks

SB opened the meeting, thanked members for joining. A minute's silence was observed in memory of Line Markert, our board liaison who sadly passed away since our last meeting.

b. Apologies for Absence

No apologies were noted.

c. Minutes of the meetings on previous meeting

No objections to the minutes of the previous meeting were raised.

d. Matters Arising

No Matters were raised by members.

2. Update from office
a. 11th Hour Racing

AR outlined and reminded members that the 11th Hour Racing contract for the Sustainability Award has expired but are keen to continue sponsoring the award and conversations have started around this. It was noted that the previous format of the award had issues, mainly around staff having to spend an inordinate amount of time reaching out to the community to get applications. The objectives of the award will be to recognise and reward excellence, promote sustainable practices, increase awareness and encourage collaboration.

AR outlined the new proposed format of the award, instead of going out to the general public, we would like to take this to our membership, our MNAs and Classes. This format will allow the members to benefit from the award. For example the MNA would receive a minimum of 25% of the \$10,000 prize. With this format, we hope the MNA will actively go

out to the community to find projects to apply with since they have the incentive of benefitting financially.

AR hopes this will benefit the members along with increasing entries and geographical spread. The proposal document will be shared with the commission for further feedback. Document here: [New Version of the World Sailing 11th Hour Sustainability Award.docx](#)

FM commented that involving the members is a good move and will hopefully motivate them further to act around sustainability. SB agreed that the new format is a good idea and progression for the award.

MD asked if case studies of previous award applicants can be shared so members have some inspiration for the award and the type of projects they can work alongside.

AR confirmed that this can be produced and will be useful for our members.

b. Online learning platform

RV announced that World Sailing will be releasing an Online Learning Platform in the next month or so. This project has been led by the Development Department to allow for educational resources and courses to be delivered online. Within the platform, we will have a Sustainability Hub where our resources will be housed. Alongside this a specific sustainability education course is in development, allowing a foundation level of knowledge in sustainability, the work World Sailing does in the area and why it's important.

AR confirmed she has submitted a grant application to 11th Hour to get funding to build the modules for Sustainability on the platform, which would also include making the Youth Education materials digital and more interactive. However, the platform itself is super easy to use, so even without funding, Sustainability Courses will be made. This is an area the commission would be ideal to feed into, potentially a project for the Engagement Working Group.

c. Princesa Sofia Regatta

RV provided an update on her recent trip to visit the Princesa Sofia Regatta in Palma. This is part of the wider project supporting the Sailing Grand Slam with their Sustainability efforts. FM and RV met on the ground and spoke around key areas RV was looking at.

RV outlined that she visited all the venues, got a better understanding of the event operations and logistics. Key areas were looked at with the foundation being the Clean Regattas Programme. A report is being developed which will be shared with the commission.

FM thanked RV for coming to visit, confirming that it was productive for Rebecca to be at

the event and should provide a good starting point for the next three years to measure baseline and allow achievements for Princesa Sofia and the wider SGS.

BGL asked if there was any intervention from WS around sustainability at Princesa Sofia, or was it more a visit to capture information? And will there be a report for the visit or was it just to gain better knowledge?

RV replied that it was a mix of both. WS and SGS are working together to collaborate around Sustainability and their strategy. Since there wasn't a long lead up into Palma, this trip was to understand the operations, understand the baseline and how they operate currently and provide recommendations from there with the idea to see improvement year on year. RV also confirmed that a report will follow which will be shared with the commission. For example, their Clean Regattas level this year may be at Silver but over time Palma can move towards achieving Platinum.

AR also noted that by working with the SGS it will a lead into the evolution of the World Cup Series. So, this work can allow us to test everything and allow standardisations across the events. This should then trickle down to the Olympic Classes events. It was also noted there has been little interaction with Palma before compared to other events in terms of time on the ground.

3. Working Group Proposals and Workplan

AR outlined that for committees and commission a workplan for the year is required to be submitted to the board by 17th April. For our commission this is not specifically in the Terms of References, but SB and AR agreed that it was good to follow the same framework and provide direction to our work going forward. This will be formed based on the different working groups that are created.

AR noted that in the last meeting working groups were touched on and when members introduced themselves, most mentioned they were keen to see more engagement and activation with the athletes and MNAs. This would be an area we suggest a working group focuses on.

SB suggested that once the groups are formed, others are invited to join since the commission is a relatively small group. This can initially use the MNA database that RV has been working on expanding, along with member suggestions. SB encouraged members to bring names forward for the working groups of individuals they know.

RV confirmed that she will share the [MNA Sustainability Contacts.xlsx](#) with the commission, which is now fairly well compiled of sustainability specific contacts for MNAs. For some regions we have asked specific people to help us out, such as NG for Africa.

NG confirmed that he can get contacts for all of Africa and he is currently compiling this list.

RV showed the commission [Work Plan Sustainability Commission.docx](#) and AR outlined the various areas, with links to the different strategies and setting out objectives for the year with key activities, responsibilities and how this can be reported on.

AR suggested that a working group could be focused on the award since the award change will need to have time spent on developing it, bringing it to life and working with our comms team too.

AR suggested that an engagement Working Group could look at our membership, athlete and ambassadorship since this is likely to be key moving forward to LA 2028 and athletes using their platform.

RV noted that the previous commission had working groups on decarbonisation, looking at work around our carbon footprint. Engagement looked at engagement with athletes and the wider community. Nature was mainly centred around marine megafauna interactions. Technical group focused on the technical objectives in Agenda 2030 and the LCA project.

FM confirmed that an engagement and events working group is needed along with a technical group too.

HT agreed that a technical group that looks at carbon footprint reduction too. HT noted that measurement is key in order to reduce impact.

RV also reminded the commission that experts can be brought in on certain areas. For example, a specialist in carbon footprint reduction can be invited to join the working group alongside other commission members.

AR suggested that a working group on biodiversity would be good. Since this is a key part of WS focus at the moment.

RV confirmed that a poll will be sent in the group WhatsApp asking members which working groups they would like to be a part of. Engagement, Events, Technical/carbon and Biodiversity.

RV also confirmed that this is an initial indication and groups are not set in stone so members can belong to more than one and join other groups as they progress.

AR confirmed that once these are set out we will be in contact around the progression of the workplan.

SB also suggested that members start to think about anyone they would like to invite to these groups so an initial list can be shaped, and work start before the next meeting.

MD asked if those what are invited who would be valuable for working groups, have to

be from federations or MNAs?

AR responded that anyone can be put forward if they would be valuable in helping to drive things forward. AR confirmed that experts don't need to necessarily come to every meeting.

BGL asked if the time frame for the working groups can be confirmed in terms of how long the commitment will be.

AR responded that these working groups will apply for this year's annual plan and when go on for longer than a year it allows a level of permanence in their work. They will be reviewed towards the end of the year to see if change is needed. But after a year this will solidify the groups further.

RV confirmed that commitment wise at a minimum around 3 to 4 meeting a year is expected, this may be vary depending on the work of the groups.

4. AOB

RV provided a quick update on the Sustainability Sessions. It was noted they are gaining more and more traction and encouraged members to register for the next session on April 16th by Ballena Alegre, a Spanish Sailing Club that hosted the Optimist World Championships in 2023 and integrated the SDGs into all aspects of the event. Register here: <https://bit.ly/4eaRNTb>

RV encouraged commission members to put forward suggestions for future sessions as we wrap up Season 2 and look towards Season 3 starting again in September/October.

SB echoed that it is really important to push these sessions and it's great to see numbers rising. It would be interesting to understand where this increase is coming from. The sessions are powerful tools and have had great reviews.

RV confirmed that the most success is when the session is pushed far and wide by all involved into their own networks. It was noted that information recorded in the registration process is recorded and analysed. Once Season 2 is finished, this will be delved into more and a report created that will be shared with the commission.

The next meeting will be held on May 14th at 1500 BST.