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THE KENNEL UNION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE FEDERAL COUNCIL
 held on
TUESDAY, 8 APRIL 2025
 at 17h30 on MS Teams

In terms of Article 16.1 of the Constitution of the Kennel Union of Southern Africa, notice has been duly given of a Special Meeting of the Federal Council to be held at 17h30 on Tuesday, 8 April 2025, on MS Teams.

Item	Sub-Item	Sub-Item	AGENDA
1			<p>Welcome and Notice of the Meeting</p> <p>As unanimously requisitioned by the members of the Federal Council at the Fedco Discussion Forum (FDF) Session 3, on 25 February 2025, this meeting was held upon Notice having been appropriately given by the KUSA Secretary on Wednesday, 5 March 2025.</p> <p>To read the Notice of the Meeting.</p> <p>The Chairman opened the Special Meeting of the Federal Council, welcoming all present.</p> <p>She requested GR to read the Notice of the meeting, officially given by the KUSA Secretary on 5 March 2025, which was duly read out.</p>
2			<p>Attendance & Apologies</p> <p>To record attendance and any apologies.</p> <p>Attendance: Cllr JM Hubbard (Chairman of the Federal Council) – JH or “Chairman”, depending on context Cllr C Chelchinsky (Vice-Chairman – DOGSPC) – CC Cllr RB Jenkins (Chairman – Exco) – BJ Cllr RD Jukes (Chairman – FS&NCPC) – RJ Cllr CE Patience (Chairman – NAPC) – CP Cllr N Redtenbacher (Chairman – DOGSPC) – NR Cllr DC Sparg (Chairman – EC&BPC) – DS Cllr L Thornhill (Chairman – WCPC) – LT Cllr MW Vorster (Chairman – KZNPC) – MV</p> <p>Officials in attendance: Brig Gen (retd.) NJ du Preez – Legal Adviser to KUSA – NdP</p> <p>Staff in Attendance: Mrs PLE Midgley (General Manager) – PM Mr BG Robinson (KUSA Secretary) – GR</p> <p>There were no absentees.</p>
3			<p>Procedural matters proposed by the Chairman of the Federal Council, and <i>unanimously sanctioned</i> by the members of the Federal Council at the Fedco Discussion Forum held on Tuesday, 25 February 2025, to be placed on the Agenda for this Special Meeting:</p>
	3.1		<p>Members of the Federal Council who had vacated their seats on the Council since the Special Meeting of 12 February 2025</p> <p>To officially record the thanks and appreciation of the Federal Council for the services rendered to KUSA by former members of the Council who had recently surrendered their seats.</p>

		<p>The Chairman recorded her personal thanks, as well as the thanks of the members of the Federal Council, to Brig Gen (retd.) Nico du Preez, who had served the NAPC and the Federal Council so diligently over many years. She expressed the gratitude of the Federal Council for NdP's unwavering support of KUSA and the time and effort he had devoted to promoting and ensuring the sound governance of the organisation. On the one hand it was sad to lose NdP as a member of Fedco but, on the other, KUSA was fortunate and privileged to have retained his services as Legal Adviser.</p>
3.2		<p>Members who had joined Fedco since the Special Meeting of 12 February 2025</p> <p>To officially welcome new members of the Federal Council.</p> <p>On behalf of the Federal Council, the Chairman warmly welcomed the new *Chairman of the NAPC, Cllr Colleen Patience, to her first constituted meeting of the Federal Council. She was sure that all present were looking forward to working with CP.</p> <p>[Note: * The Chairman had inadvertently referred to CP as the "Acting Chairman of the NAPC". In terms of the Constitution of the NAPC, upon the resignation of NdP, CP automatically acceded to the office of Chairman of the NAPC for the unexpired portion NdP's term.]</p>
3.3		<p>Election of a Vice-Chairman of the Federal Council following the resignation of Brig Gen (retd.) NJ du Preez</p> <p>Article 16.2.1.1 provides, <i>inter alia</i>: <i>...Should the Vice-Chairman of the Federal Council resign, become ineligible to continue in the office in terms of Article 15, become permanently disabled or die in Office, the Federal Councillors shall within sixty (60) days elect from their number a person to serve as Vice-Chairman of the Federal Council for the remaining period of the Vice-Chairman's term of Office.</i></p> <p>To elect a Vice-Chairman of the Federal Council for the term ending 31.12.2025.</p> <p>The Chairman sought the approval of the Federal Council for the General Manager of KUSA and the KUSA Secretary to act as Scrutineers, should the office of Vice-Chairman of the Federal Council be contested. There were no objections.</p> <p>The Chairman proceeded to call for nominations for the office of Vice-Chairman of the Federal Council and received the following:</p> <p>MV, proposed by CP, seconded by CC. The nomination was accepted by MV. NR, proposed by RJ, seconded by LT. The nomination was accepted by NR.</p> <p>On a proposal from DS, fully endorsed by the Chairman, the two candidates were each given an opportunity to speak to their respective candidacies and apprise the Federal Council of their motivations to serve KUSA in the capacity of Vice-Chairman of the Federal Council. In turn, MV and NR motivated their decision to stand for election, focussing on the strengths they envisaged bringing to this exalted office.</p> <p>Following a round of open voting, the Scrutineers confirmed the following result:</p> <p>MV – 4 votes NR – 5 votes</p> <p>The Chairman congratulated NR on her election as Vice-Chairman of the Federal Council and assured her that, as Chairman, she was looking forward to working with her.</p> <p>NR thanked those who had supported her bid and assured MV that, as part of a cohesive team to take KUSA into the future, she was looking forward to assisting and supporting him in his various capacities, i.e. as Chairman of the JEC, member of the Budget Committee and FCI Co-representative.</p>

		There were general congratulations extended to NR and LT thanked both candidates for apprising the Federal Council of their respective strengths.
3.4		<p>New and returning members of the Executive Committee and newly elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee</p> <p>Article 14.4 provides: <i>On assuming office, the Chairman of the Federal Council shall instruct the Chairman of each Province and the Vice-Chairman of DOGSPC to obtain, within sixty (60) days of the receipt of such instructions, the name and written acceptance of a nominee elected by the Provincial Council to sit on the Executive Committee. Such nominee shall remain in Office until the termination of the period of office of the Chairman of the Federal Council and such further period contemplated in 14.5 below provided that the appointment is acceptable to all the Provincial Council Chairmen of the Federal Council. Further, nothing herein shall preclude the Chairman of the Federal Council from removing from Office any member of the Executive Committee at any time subject to confirmation of the Federal Council. Such members of the Executive Committee who terminate their period of office with the Chairman of the Federal Council shall be eligible for reappointment. Should, for any reason a member of the Executive Committee not be able to continue in Office a new Provincial nominee shall be appointed following the procedure detailed above.</i></p> <p>To officially welcome new and returning members of the Executive Committee.</p> <p>Article 14.6 provides: <i>The newly elected and confirmed Executive Committee shall, at its first meeting, from amongst themselves elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman. The Chairman shall represent the Committee at the Federal Council Meetings. In the absence of the Chairman the Vice Chairman shall represent the Committee.</i></p> <p>To congratulate the newly elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee.</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed the returning members of the Executive Committee by name:</p> <p>WCPC: Mr V (Michael) Alberts KZNPC: Mrs M (Margaret) Hancock FS&NCPC: Mrs YC (Yvonne) Jefferies DOGSPC: Mr RB (Bruce) Jenkins EC&BPC: Mrs GB (Glenda) Rossi</p> <p>She extended a special word of welcome to Mr L (Louis) Coetsee who would, in future, be representing the NAPC on the Executive Committee. She mentioned that Mr Coetsee had attended his first Exco meeting on 18 March 2025.</p> <p>The Chairman confirmed that Mr Bruce Jenkins had been re-elected as the Chairman of the Executive Committee, with Mr Michael Alberts elected as the Vice-Chairman. She congratulated both on their appointments.</p> <p>On an enquiry from the Chairman, GR confirmed that Mr Coetsee's Declaration of Interests had been received by the KUSA Office and that the document had been electronically filed.</p> <p>In conclusion, on behalf of the Federal Council and the KUSA Office, the Chairman thanked the members of the Executive Committee for being prepared to contribute their time and expertise in the service of KUSA for the ensuing period of four years.</p>
4		Extraordinary matters proposed by the Chairman of the Federal Council, and <i>unanimously sanctioned</i> by the members of the Federal Council at the Fedco Discussion Forum held on Tuesday, 25 February 2025, to be placed on the Agenda for this Special Meeting:
	4.1	<p>Appointment of an Administrative Assistant to perform specifically designated duties assigned by the Chairman of the Federal Council or the KUSA Office</p> <p>Proposed by the Chairman of Federal Council and the KUSA Office.</p>

		<p>Proposal: To immediately appoint a versatile and resourceful Administrative Assistant with superior language proficiency and excellent computer skills on a part-time, limited duration contract basis, till the end of the current financial year, renewable if deemed necessary.</p> <p>Motivation: The Budget approved by the Federal Council for KUSA's 2024-2025 Financial Year, made provision for the appointment of an Administrative Assistant to be deployed in various spheres of KUSA's business where capacity was under pressure, especially where certain mandatory projects had been undertaken to meet the expectations and requirements of external entities with which KUSA was either associated with, or affiliated to, e.g. the FCI (Judges Scheme), SAVA (HD & ED Scheme), the Department of Agriculture (DoA) (Breeds to be gazetted & INTERGIS), Royal Kennel Club (Breed Standards). Moreover, it has increasingly become evident that the Chairman needed assistance with mundane tasks such as transcriptions, proofreading and editing (for instance, getting KUSA's POPIA Privacy Policy publication-ready), but also with time-consuming, but nevertheless essential, research required to prepare for high-level engagements with structures like the FCI, the DoA and other groupings or bodies with which KUSA is obliged to meet in its capacity as the Registering Authority for Canines under the Animal Improvement Act. The general administration of the JEC has also become increasingly demanding with many hours spent by a volunteer to organise and coordinate the presentation of seminars involving foreign presenters, setting and attending meetings of the JEC, and producing Minutes. In the JEC's view, these services ought to be remunerated to some extent, in the same way as the services of the Judges Approval Procurement Officer is subject to the payment of a subvention.</p> <p>For decision.</p> <p>The Chairman read out the motivation above and called upon PM to inform the Federal Council of the preferred candidate she had identified from CVs which had been submitted for previously advertised positions.</p> <p>PM explained that, for various reasons, the midlevel position budgeted for had not yet been filled, but it had become increasingly evident that the Chairman required assistance to meet her various commitments to the JEC, the DoA, the FCI and the Federal Council. In assessing the requirements of the Chairman and those of the KUSA Office, it was envisaged employing a suitable person on half-day basis (i.e. four hours per day) on a limited duration contract, initially on a trial basis until the end of August, after which the situation could be reassessed.</p> <p>Since the most recent appointments of people with a sound working knowledge of KUSA's structure and operations had proved extremely beneficial to the organisation, this was one of the criteria applied in the quest to identify a suitable candidate. Another was a known record of capability and performance experienced through either freelance or ad hoc assignments, or voluntary duties performed on a <i>pro bono</i> basis to assist the Chairman and KUSA. Coupled with availability, computer literacy, tertiary education, home office with internet reliability, PM suggested the appointment of the preferred candidate, Miss Djaki Kern.</p> <p>A protracted discussion ensued on KUSA's recruitment policy, advertising of available positions, KUSA's organisational structure and the possibility of appointing a Recruitment Committee, to which PM, NdP and certain Federal Councillors contributed.</p> <p>With several views having been aired and noted, the Chairman urged the Federal Council to take a decision on the matter tabled, additionally motivated and thoroughly interrogated. She was prepared to propose the employment of Miss Djaki Kern on a limited term contract basis as mooted by PM, with immediate effect. The proposal was seconded by MV.</p> <p>In the absence of any counterproposals, or objections, the proposal carried unanimously.</p>
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5		Extraordinary matter <i>unanimously sanctioned</i> by the members of the Federal Council at the Fedco Discussion Forum held on Tuesday, 11 March 2025, to be placed on the Agenda for this Special Meeting:
	5.1	<p>FCI Junior Handling World Championships Final Competition 2025 – Helsinki, Finland – 10 August 2025</p> <p>On or around 5 February 2025, KUSA received the following letter from the Suomen Kennelliitto - Finska Kennelklubben ry (Finnish Kennel Club):</p> <p><i>Junior Handling World Championship 2025 Final Competition</i></p> <p><i>The Finnish Kennel Club has the pleasure to invite your representative to the Junior Handling World Championship final competition in Helsinki on August the 10th. Junior Handling World Championship competition will be held in connection with the FCI World Dog Show 2025. It is held at the Expo and Convention Centre Helsinki (Messuaukio 1, 00520 Helsinki, Finland).</i></p> <p><i>Every country (national organisation) is entitled to designate one participant who may compete only in the Junior Handling final held on Sunday. The representative of each country has to be a national citizen of the country that he/she is granted to represent. If the country does not have junior handling activity, it is not allowed to send a candidate to FCI World and Section Junior Handling finals. National representatives cannot compete in the daily competitions.</i></p> <p><i>The national representatives must be less than 19 years of age on the date of the Junior handling final at the World Dog Show which is Sunday 10th of August.</i></p> <p><i>The final competition will be judged by Mr. Thomas Wastiaux, BE.</i></p> <p><i>The representatives or their Kennel Clubs must cover travelling and other expenses. Entering the World Championship final is free of charge for the national representatives.</i></p> <p><i>Please fill in the entry form and send it to us by 9th of July at the latest. The entry must be sent to us by the National Kennel Club, not the representative. More information will be sent closer to the event to the email address of the Junior Handler and to the person of contact on behalf of the Finnish Kennel Club.</i></p> <p><i>Please note that the competitor's dog does not need to be entered to the World Dog Show.</i></p> <p><i>An open junior handling competition is held every day at the World Dog Show 2025. We welcome you to encourage your other young talents to compete in Helsinki, too.</i></p> <p><i>All junior handling competitions at the World Dog Show will follow FCI guidelines for junior handling competitions.</i></p> <p><i>In case you would require any further information or have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us!</i></p> <p><i>More information: https://www.wds2025.fi/junior-handler/</i></p> <p><i>Contact person & entry forms: Laura Lehdistö – Event coordinator and Junior handling</i></p> <p><i>e-mail: laura.lehdisto@kennelliitto.fi</i></p> <p><i>We will be glad to welcome your representative at the World Dog Show 2025!</i></p> <p><i>Kind regards,</i> <i>Laura Lehdistö & Finnish Junior Handling committee</i></p>

		<p>The Federal Council is required to decide on whom the honour of representing KUSA as its “designated participant” at the Junior Handling World Championship 2025 Final Competition should be bestowed, i.e. to the KUSA National Junior Handler 2024, or to the KUSA National Junior Handler 2025 (to be so awarded at the KUSA Classic in May 2025 in Cape Town).</p> <p>Once the “designated participant” has been identified, the Federal Council needs to rule on steps to be taken should the “designated participant” decline the offer/invitation, bearing in mind that the procedure approved for Finland ought to serve as a guide for the appointment of “designated participants” at future Junior Handling World Championship Final Competitions.</p> <p>For decision.</p> <p>The Chairman informed the Federal Council that GR had researched the dates of the World Dog Show (WDS), both retrospectively and prospectively, and had set the information out in a table, citing year, city and dates. The table was screen-shared and, from the information presented, it was evident that there was no consistency in the dates on which this event was held in different years in various cities of the world.</p> <p>Should the Federal Council be intent on setting a policy which would hold for the future, there could be no doubt that the honour of representing KUSA as its designated participant should be bestowed on the previous year’s winner of the KUSA National Junior Handler Competition. Although it might seem feasible for the current year’s winner of the Competition to be invited to represent KUSA in Finland in August, if this were to become the policy, it would fail in 2026, 2027 and 2028, when the starting dates of the WDS were 4 June 2026 (Bologna), 27 May 2027 (Wels) and 11 May in 2028 (Mexico City).</p> <p>There was general agreement that, under the circumstances, the previous year’s winner of the KUSA National Junior Handler Competition was the only sensible way forward and LT stressed the importance of the invitation being extended to the handler in question before the KUSA Classic in Cape Town, thereby avoiding any possibility of doubt or confusion.</p> <p>Proposed JH, seconded DS Effective immediately.</p> <p>With the age of a handler capped at nineteen (19) years on the day of the Junior Handling World Championship Final Competition, CC raised concern that a designated handler might “age out” in a particular year. RJ agreed and said that, depending on the date of the WDS in a particular year, it was possible that KUSA’s designated participant might not be within the age limit on the day of the Final Competition.</p> <p>PM reminded the Chairman that the Federal Council also needed to rule on the eligibility of the second-placed KUSA National Junior Handler to be invited, should the designated participant decline the invitation.</p> <p>Further discussion ensued on whether the second-placed KUSA National Junior Handler should be invited if the designated participant was unable to accept the invitation and, with one dissenting vote, it was decided that only the KUSA National Junior Handler would be eligible to receive the invitation to represent KUSA as its designated participant in the Junior Handling World Championship Final Competition.</p> <p>NR enquired whether the above decisions should be incorporated into the governing Schedule(s), which the Chairman and the Federal Council thought would be appropriate. NdP said that, if the Schedules were destined for amendment, Fedco might as well deal with the “aging-out” possibility, raised by CC and RJ earlier, in the Schedule(s) at the same time.</p> <p>The Schedules which might possibly have a bearing on the issue were identified as:</p>
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		<p>Schedule 05E(12) – Regulations for KUSA National Handler of the Year Competition Schedule 05K – Regulations for Handler Classes Schedule 03A – Regulations for FCI International Dog Shows</p> <p>The “ageing-out” issue was briefly discussed, and it was decided that should the designated participant “age out” of the Competition in any year, the runner-up, i.e. second-placed KUSA National Junior Handler of the Year, should be invited. Should the latter handler also “age out”, the invitation would not devolve on any lower placing.</p> <p>At the request of the Chairman, NR agreed to scrutinise mentioned Schedules and identify the appropriate place for slotting in the decision on participation in the <i>Junior Handling World Championship 2025 Final Competition</i> and, conceivably, also in the <i>Joe Cartledge Memorial International Junior Handling Competition</i> at Crufts. The amendments to any Schedules would be tabled for consideration at Fedco 06-2025.</p>
6		<p>Close of meeting</p> <p>As there were no further matters to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 19.09.</p>