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## Wind and Watersport Vlaanderen – National Authority for IRC in Belgium

### 1. Certificates issued:

In 2021 the number of certificates was stable but still low - a little over 40 – no revival yet for obvious reasons as more than half of the local IRC regatta's were cancelled. The fleet choosing for international events somehow saved the season with 12 Belgian boats appearing at the startline of the Rolex Fastnet Race. The biggest Belgian event was the Open Belgian Sailing Championships IRC in Ostend where up to 30 boats will be mobilised. Some owners could be motivated to participate by proposing an Single Event Rating (SER). We presume number would have been stable in a normal year with some beautiful new IRC boats in the Belgian fleet.

75% of the certificates are issued by the Belgian National Authority, WWSV. 11 out of 46 certificates came through Belgians who demanded their certificate directly at UNCL (9) or RORC (2). It is the policy that all Belgian demands come through WWSV, some boats ask a certificate without valid sailnumber – this is issued by Belgian Sailing.

### 2. Comments:

2021 was a difficult IRC year, in Belgium and countries around us though the interaction between owners and WWSV was intense. Belgian boats like to compete in foreign waters too. The 2021 races in the UK (RORC) and races in France and Holland were often inaccessible for foreigners. Only the Fastnet Race had 12 Belgian boats at the start. The racing in the Med attracted some Belgian teams, four this year. Some of them will participate in the Middle Sea Race, the Spi Ouest France and Les Voiles de Saint-Tropez. The Halfton Class was active in Belgium with 10 to 15 teams but mainly on the level of club racing. IRC fleets in Belgium suffer from competition of local measurement systems (Cruiser Rating). The number of certificates in Cruiser Rating in 2021 has more than tripled as compared to 2020 due to popular local racing. 160 (and counting) as compared to 60 in 2020, 170 in 2019 and 250 in 2018. This year we launched a project in IRC Go with UNCL in testclub KYC Nieuwpoort but due to less races (only four in 2021) it's hard to see the effect – globally 60 boats raced in IRC Go. We hope to convince more sailors this way to go for IRC as a fair and accessible system.

Local races have more success than championships or series. The number of boats in the local championship Open North Sea Championships is stable but low. People tend to stay in their club for informal racing and events with higher numbers in participation. The end of the season race "the Antwerp Race" hopes to have 150 participants with between 25 and 30 racing in IRC.

### 3. General situation in Belgium

A lot of boats qualify to ask for an IRC certificate but prefer to use other local systems (Cruiser Rating, IRC Go, unmeasured, SER). Regatta's in clubs use the alternative rating formula's and gather bigger fleets – up to 50 and more. Regatta's in IRC attract specialised fleets. These boats also compete in international competitions in the UK, France, Netherlands. Only few Belgian boats are known to have an ORC certificate or do compete in this system (for example Scheveningen, Breskens, Stellendam – Holland).

BEL IRC is the organisation of the IRC owners and keeps a yearly information session. This year we saw more activity in boats looking for optimisation of their rating. More boats were weighed (6), a number of test certificates were issued and the number of modifications was stable. The informative sessions are good but only attract confirmed IRC sailors, even though they were held online. The formula of the Open North Sea Championships has been reviewed but didn't generate the desired effect yet. The Open Belgian Championship and the Antwerp Race will have to save the season but are on a later date.

A confirmed trend is the fleet of J/80's in Nieuwpoort with up to 15 boats appear for local racing. Some of them are looking for participation in international regatta's. Dutch Open, Spi Ouest, Crouesty. A lot of sailors look at this formula, rather than handicap sailing in IRC. These sailors are crew "lost" for IRC teams. The advantage is that one-design boats attract more youngsters and talented sailors. A trend which we welcome too in IRC Boats.

The need for national IRC measurers is obvious. We'd like to attend or organise a clinic with UNCL or RORC in 2022.

The contact with UNCL is of excellent quality and we'll continue to promote IRC with our sailors.

Report / Carl Sabbe – BEL IRC – Luc Geirnaert – WWSV

Number of boats found for ALL is 38

|                |                      |            |       |       |       |     |      |
|----------------|----------------------|------------|-------|-------|-------|-----|------|
| <b>BEL007</b>  | <b>BLACK SOUL 2</b>  | 13/07/2021 | 45298 | 1.196 | 11.96 | FRA | 2021 |
| <b>BEL10</b>   | <b>BELLA DONNA</b>   | 29/07/2021 | 47437 | 1.289 | 15.23 | FRA | 2021 |
| BEL13          | ALEXANDRA            | 30/06/2021 | 42508 | 1.107 | 11.98 | BEL | 2021 |
| BEL145         | COUP DE TETE 6       | 19/07/2021 | 44247 | 1.106 | 14.99 | BEL | 2021 |
| BEL212         | DESIREE              | 20/04/2021 | 44295 | 1.033 | 11.8  | BEL | 2021 |
| BEL222         | GENTE DI MARE        | 11/05/2021 | 47297 | 1.020 | 12.12 | BEL | 2021 |
| BEL231         | FAIR ISLE            | 29/01/2021 | 45713 | 0.861 | 10.72 | BEL | 2021 |
| <b>BEL291</b>  | <b>STERAVI</b>       | 02/06/2021 | 47335 | 1.056 | 11.47 | FRA | 2021 |
| BEL555         | ANDANTE IV           | 06/09/2021 | 45089 | 1.156 | 12.98 | BEL | 2021 |
| BEL629         | LECAS                | 20/04/2021 | 44438 | 0.864 | 9.66  | BEL | 2021 |
| BEL733         | MORPHEUS             | 30/06/2021 | 42733 | 1.165 | 13.1  | TUR | 2021 |
| BEL798         | CARAMEL              | 27/05/2021 | 47327 | 1.075 | 14.19 | BEL | 2021 |
| <b>BEL1030</b> | <b>EXPRESSO</b>      | 18/05/2021 | 46480 | 1.029 | 10.34 | FRA | 2021 |
| BEL1082        | MONAQUA              | 11/05/2021 | 11284 | 1.070 | 11.6  | BEL | 2021 |
| BEL1401        | Y-KNOT               | 29/06/2021 | 40358 | 1.033 | 11.92 | BEL | 2021 |
| BEL1633        | FARTHER BRUIN        | 01/07/2021 | 123   | 0.906 | 9.14  | BEL | 2021 |
| BEL1966        | ALICE                | 02/06/2021 | 41525 | 1.139 | 16.96 | BEL | 2021 |
| BEL2109        | JULIETTE             | 11/05/2021 | 30292 | 1.011 | 10.74 | BEL | 2021 |
| <b>BEL2731</b> | <b>BELLE ETOILE</b>  | 28/06/2021 | 41992 | 0.981 | 9.78  | BEL | 2021 |
| BEL3100        | TASMAN               | 29/06/2021 | 45091 | 0.994 | 9.55  | BEL | 2021 |
| <b>BEL3470</b> | <b>MISFIT</b>        | 16/06/2021 | 46507 | 0.994 | 9.99  | FRA | 2021 |
| BEL3537        | TONTIN               | 29/06/2021 | 34237 | 1.022 | 10.58 | BEL | 2021 |
| <b>BEL3707</b> | <b>SPYRYS</b>        | 17/06/2021 | 16455 | 1.052 | 14.15 | BEL | 2021 |
| BEL4343        | ANTILOPE             | 02/07/2021 | 35220 | 1.071 | 12.92 | BEL | 2021 |
| BEL4701        | MOANA                | 08/06/2021 | 28572 | 1.113 | 14.5  | BEL | 2021 |
| <b>BEL4707</b> | <b>SUN SET</b>       | 04/03/2021 | 32565 | 1.086 | 14.5  | FRA | 2021 |
| BEL5211        | BELLAQUAINE II       | 14/01/2021 | 33695 | 0.992 | 10    | BEL | 2021 |
| BEL5355        | PINTA 42             | 30/06/2021 | 38923 | 1.121 | 12.4  | BEL | 2021 |
| <b>BEL6669</b> | <b>BLACKFISH #02</b> | 28/04/2021 | 45695 | 1.120 | 11.9  | GBR | 2021 |

|          |                 |            |       |       |       |     |      |
|----------|-----------------|------------|-------|-------|-------|-----|------|
| BEL7548  | GENERAL TAPIOCA | 16/08/2021 | 22333 | 0.956 | 9.6   | BEL | 2021 |
| BEL7712  | ZARAFa          | 25/06/2021 | 9179  | 0.998 | 10.64 | BEL | 2021 |
| BEL8250  | NORTH SEA 3     | 18/08/2021 | 35643 | 0.949 | 9.11  | BEL | 2021 |
| BEL8990  | X-BIE           | 29/06/2021 | 42420 | 1.016 | 9.99  | NED | 2021 |
| BEL9009  | PICSOU          | 18/08/2021 | 34338 | 0.932 | 8.75  | BEL | 2021 |
| BEL9852  | RAGAZZA IV      | 27/07/2021 | 17195 | 1.082 | 11.12 | BEL | 2021 |
| BEL16500 | SNELLE VLIET    | 11/05/2021 | 38619 | 1.085 | 12.92 | BEL | 2021 |
| BEL31416 | BLUE BERRET PI  | 23/02/2021 | 38303 | 0.958 | 9.08  | GBR | 2021 |
| BEL35080 | NJORD           | 25/06/2021 | 34909 | 1.024 | 10.59 | BEL | 2021 |

Missing Belgian boats in this list – as well as the SER in progress.

Ciao (numero FR – certB), Magic Wind (numero NED – cert B), Propaganda 3 (BEL)