



FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE L'ART PHOTOGRAPHIQUE

The International Federation of Photographic Art

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Minutes of the FIAP Board of Directors

Asturias, 30 November 2022

PRESENT: Riccardo BUSI, Joan BURGUES, Freddy VAN GILBERGEN, Herbert GMEINER, Ioannis LYKOURIS, Kurt BATSCHINSKI, David Tay, Romain NERO, Luis FRANKE (members of BoD).

1. Introduction by the President

The President R. Busi welcomes all the members of the BoD, happy to start the first board meeting in presence after many video conferences via Zoom. He greets K. Batschinski and D. Tay who were not present at the last Photomeeting. The President reminds everyone that the next day they will sign the agreements with the PSA President.

2. Review of tasks

Insurance – The President invites R. Nero to discuss the first point, which concerns insurance to cover all FIAP events. They need a package to cover them annually for every event (example: 3-4 events to cover at least 100-150 people - if there are more people, it must be declared).

I. Lykouris states that the broker was going to give them a notice according to which the insurance covers also the members of the FIAP BoD as “Society Directors” for the legal liability they have. He understands that insurance companies are not willing to change their general conditions but can add special conditions if the client is willing to pay for this. R. Nero would like it to be ready by the end of the year so that they can be covered by insurance from next year. H. Gmeiner reminds the BoD that, unlike in the past, if you do not use the insurance, you will not get any reimbursement.

Professional video for the FIAP presentation – R. Busi says that he will try to find a professional studio to realize it, as soon as possible.

Exhibitions Centres – J. Burgues states that there are 24 Exhibition Centres (18 in Europe, 5 in Asia and 1 in South America). Another FIAP EC will soon be opened in China, two in Türkiye, one in Spain and one in Panama.

World Cup Trophies – J. Burgues confirms it is all done.

F. Van Gilbergen states that his tasks have been completed.

R. Nero has asked the IT company to review the proposed contract including preparation, hosting and support and to make any observations.

Procedure for the registration of the FIAP name and trademark at international level: I. Lykouris states that it has already been done. They received a certificate of the registration, so now they are registered in about 45 countries + the European Union but in some countries, there is a second step to follow.

L. Franke confirms that FIAP has a contract with the company Fotogenius in Spain, and he is working with them.

R. Nero is preparing a draft of the updated Patronage regulations that will be ready by the end of the year. Not many things need to be changed, but those that are concern the judges, the percentage and the elimination of the travel section. At the moment we have a definition of Best of the Best.

3. Treasurer's report

a. Statement of accounts and current situation

Gmeiner reminds the BoD members of the meeting in May in Oman where he showed how FIAP's financial situation had improved. His first balance in 2009 was around € 350,000, while last year's was € 1,500,000. In this way, he made for the first time in FIAP half-year balance on 30 June this year. This was also verified by professional financial auditors in Luxembourg. His idea for this year's budget was very similar as they all decided the year before, but he is not sure how much the Congress will cost for FIAP. Right now, FIAP has a total of € 1,610,000 and this includes investments. In the Congress book there is a short version of the two balances (year-end and mid-year) and all members have received all information with all details (the information was sent both in English and French so that it was clear to everyone). R. Busi asks about the auditors, who are not present. The internal auditor (Norbert Heil) will be present and will make a statement. He also wants to know if there are names for the external auditors for next year. H. Gmeiner states that he needs an assistant who can be reached by all members. He will not receive any money; he works in the bank and is also engaged in the Austrian Federation. R. Busi believes that each BoD member should need an assistant, to ensure continuity of service if needed.

b. Payment of membership fees (OM and ILFIAP)

H. Gmeiner states that there are two operational members that must be cancelled as they have not paid in the last two years: Bhutan and Mexico. There has also been no feedback from Haiti, so the three countries to be cancelled are: Bhutan, Mexico, and Haiti. Kuwait has not paid this year, so it is not a problem now, but I. Lykouris adds that in this case they would not be able to vote in Congress. As far as ILFIAP memberships are concerned, some situations need to be analyzed. H. Gmeiner sent the President and the SG a list of 13 clubs that have not paid for three years. During the pandemic they decided to wait another year even though these ILFIAPs are normally cancelled after two years. In addition to these, there are 7 others who have not paid for two years (this year and last year). Therefore, 20 clubs must be cancelled. After the World Cup, in mid-December, H. Gmeiner will send the updated list. This year, 27 ILFIAP clubs have not paid their membership fee, so in total we have 47 clubs. However, there are 10 new clubs.

c. LALUX Safe Invest investment.

At the end of the year, it was € 51,000. These investments were made three years ago and in May they decided to invest up to € 50,000 but not more. Based on the current situation, it will probably be € 40,000. The investment will be made after the Congress, when H. Gmeiner knows about all the payments that need to be made.

d. Congress: FIAP Expenses

R. Busi says that the evening prior to this meeting they decided to pay for the bus for the participants (about 30 people) in the Avilés excursion.

4. Relations with members

Montenegro: current situation

Montenegro's operational membership was contested by an ILFIAP, which sent a letter stating that they are not represented in their country. I. Lykouris sent an official letter asking for explanations. The OM replied that they had joined about 7 ILFIAP clubs and had submitted list. The contestant, on the other hand, sent a letter signed by himself and 5 other ILFIAP clubs mentioned in the OM's list. R. Busi suggests sending an email to all these ILFIAP clubs and asking them directly whether they support the OM above. R. Nero suggests a Zoom meeting with the OM to understand what is going on. R. Busi suggests sending a letter to the OM asking for an answer as soon as possible, before the Congress.

Iceland, Guatemala

Guatemala has been an affiliated country since 2021. There is a travel agency in this country which organizes circuits for FIAP, but FIAP has no OM there. L. Franke suggests not allowing them to organize a salon if we do not have an OM. The situation in Nicaragua is worse: there is an ILFIAP member who does not live in Nicaragua but has organized 4 salons there. We do not have OMs in Nicaragua. R. Busi states that now that the FIAP regulations say nothing about this so nothing can be done unless we change the FIAP Patronage regulations. R. Nero says that in 2022 there were 587 salons organized in OM countries and 86 contests organized in non-affiliated countries. There are 12 in Nicaragua. New ILFIAP clubs could provide references on their activities in a country, so that we have something in writing. F. Van Gilbergen states that all ILFIAP clubs must present or provide proof of their operation, such as photo clubs, etc. According to R. Busi, more fields should be added to the ILFIAP forms to obtain more information. He also adds that, as already decided in the past, a committee of 2-3 people could be created to participate in the jury section and supervise. Regarding the ILFIAP forms, I. Lykouris suggests that they send the rental contract with the club's name and the address or send several bills from telephone or electricity companies to prove that there is a certain address in the club's name, to make sure it is not fake.

Azerbaijan: R. Busi received an email by Azerbaijan. They would like to organize an event under the Patronage of UNESCO. We cannot support them financially and they have to organize it directly with UNESCO. R. Busi suggests a Zoom meeting with them for more details. If they already have an organization behind them and a good relation with UNESCO, perhaps we can re-examine the project.

R. Busi says we need a representative in Paris to help us with UNESCO, but so far, we have not received a name from Jean Saleilles, President of the French Federation.

5. Biennials Service

The software house has been changed to Fotogenius. They are developing the system for the Biennials, to judge individual images, collections and put together both scores. All under the same conditions as the other competitions, at no extra cost.

Nature Biennial in Türkiye: the winner in prints was GB and in digital images the Russian Federation.

Jury members for next year's Biennials - someone from the BoD must be present at the opening ceremony in Türkiye on 21 January. L. Franke says that Sefa Ulukan, President of the Turkish Federation, is planning to open another Exhibition Centre in another city of Türkiye during the same period. At least one board member must attend each award ceremony.

Upcoming Biennials:

Youth Biennial in Norway: the competition judging day in Bergen was proposed for 6 May. It would be better to move it a week later.

Colour Biennials: Greece proposed 18 June as the judging date.

The choice of the two board members for the FIAP biennials falls on Mr. H. Gmeiner for Greece and Mr. D. PC Tay for Norway Biennials.

R. Busi says that it was decided in May that juries would be online for those who wished, otherwise it could also be done in person.

Nature Biennials: there will be one in two years, but so far no country has contacted L. Franke.

Yearbook 2023: They all need to decide the size of the book and where to print it. The original format could be kept. I. Lykouris suggests one photo per page (except for the collection). 4 biennials x 7 sections x 11 individual awards per section x 10 world cup in prints x 20 world cup in digital. L. Franke proposes putting the collection together, with smaller pictures instead of one by one, and for each biennial a picture of the judges could be added.

R. Busi says that we need to have a person in the country to check and design the printing, follow the procedure and send the books to all of our countries. The books could also be sold if someone wanted to buy them, so blurb could be an additional option.

6. Distinctions Service

Official position of the FIAP BoD on developments in Distinctions regulations

After the signing of the agreements with PSA, some changes will be made, such as reducing the number of prizes per section. The number of participants is the same, but the number of contests has increased. R. Busi suggests keeping the same rules as at present and presenting the new distinctions regulations in 2025, which will be the result of merging of the ideas of the Board, the agreements with PSA and the suggestions made by the General Assembly. F. Van Gilbergen agrees on this idea. As some changes were made during the pandemic, R. Busi suggests a return to the pre-covid rules.

List of judges for next MFIAP selection:

F. Van Gilbergen does not yet have a list but will send the five names to R. Busi in the first week of February.

China:

Last year, in 2021, 18 applications never made it to the end, never got paid. There is probably the same list for this year too, but instead of 18, there are 19 applications. I. Lykouris says that F. Van Gilbergen's team will collaborate with our new team of coordinators in China to prepare everything. If there are no objections from the CPA, within a week to ten days, it will be considered officially approved.

Distinctions awards ceremony rules:

The distinctions are simply sent to the authors, without involving the FIAP liaison officer. But it is up to the FIAP liaison officer: each FIAP liaison officer is responsible for personally presenting the distinction at a public event. If it is not possible to organize public events in person, a public zoom event can be organized where the liaison officer virtually presents the distinctions. This is important also for FIAP's visibility. New guidelines on this topic will soon be drawn up by D. Tay and J. Burges and published as soon as possible as FIAP INFO.

The fee reduction (from € 70 to € 60) ends on 30 June 2023 and then reverts to the previous price. All board members approve the extension of this reduction until 1 January 2024, instead of 1 July 2023.

ESFIAP/HonEFIAP distinctions: The BoD decided to award the EsFIAP distinction to Alfredo Sotelo Matos (Spain), Luis José Vigil Escalera (Spain), JR Schneltzer (USA) and Lorenzo De Francesco (Italy) and the HonEFIAP Distinction to Lewis Choi (Hong Kong), L. Franke (Argentina) and Raimon Moreno (Spain).

7. World Cup for Clubs service

17th FIAP World Cup for Clubs; the Spanish software house has already prepared everything. The judging ceremony will take place via Zoom at the beginning of December.

8. FIAP Exhibition Centres

The new FEC in Lishui opened in November. Upcoming openings in Guangzhou and Panama. China wants to make the plaques and flags itself, due to lack of time. It is decided to accept this request on condition the plaques and flags are approved by the BoD.

9. Audiovisual Service

New projection

Lorenzo De Francesco has published and sent to all FIAP Exhibition Centres the new "FIAP Microcosm" projection. In six months' time, it will be available for everyone on the FIAP YouTube channel.

10. Patronage service

2020: 535 salons, 2021: 582 salons, 2022: 675 salons (nearly 600 organized in affiliated countries and 78 in non-affiliated countries). For 2021, India, Montenegro and Serbia are the 3 leaders, followed by Italy, Spain, Türkiye, and Greece. In 2021, there were 82 Auspices events - leading countries: Romania, Türkiye and Spain

Integrations Patronage Regulations:

There is a maximum number of times people can judge per year; creation of a registry: each judge will have a specific profile; maximum acceptance rate of 30%; adaptation, together with the PSA, of the existing text that participants must accept before participating; adaptation of the required size of the digital images; common definition with PSA for Photojournalism and Nature.

Meeting with the Director of FIAP Website Branislav Brkic and Ana Brkic (both computer and software experts) about the software company running fiap.net. They analyzed the proposal made in Oman and said to enter into a contract with the company that runs the platform, with the possibility of evaluating other prices. The platform has been in existence since 2014-15, and an update of the system will be necessary next year. R. Nero suggests asking Ana and Branislav Brkic to contact the company directly for us and R. Busi agrees.

New criteria for selection Best of the Best.

The author must have the maximum number of acceptances. Medals must also be counted.

11. Medal Service

Start of shipping in January – 3620 medals: 2680 for gold medals, 470 for bronze medals. Shipping problems for India and Türkiye. Europe stopped shipping to Russia. R. Busi asked the Director of the Service, K. Batschinski, to organize the shipment of medals and plaques via an external service to better meet the needs of the various organizers.

12. Insurance coverage

Insurance for all activities (approx. 100-150 persons) and legal protection insurance for BoD members must be taken out as soon as possible.

13. PSA agreements

Following numerous online meetings over the past two years, FIAP and PSA agreed on several points on which an agreement in principle will be signed on 1 December 2022. Limit of acceptances, i.e. 30% and the definition of Photojournalism (work is still in progress on updating the definition of Nature). Common principles in ethics because a common approach is needed. A shared red-black list - the list is not common but only shared to help the organizers. There is currently no agreement on a common definition for the Travel section.

14. Projects 2023

To give FIAP greater visibility, two new projects can be organized. The first is "Immigration, a reality of our time". It is not a contest but a big exhibition. We can ask our Exhibition Centres to present this exhibition around the world. We need someone to manage this project. R. Nero suggests making it a contest as well, but R. Busi reminds everyone that "Sense of Humanity" was on this topic. The exhibition could be made by selecting the best photos on the topic worldwide. J. Burgues suggests asking the directors of the Exhibition Centres which date is best for them, so that it can be organized on the same day all over the world. "Our Future...in their eyes" (the other project for 2023/2024) is the first project of the Photo Academy training area. It is important to do something for young people through such a large project involving many universities around the world. In 2020, R. Busi and D. PC Tay had the first meetings with 21 Chinese universities, but the project has since expanded. So, we need to involve universities from different member countries. The project has different steps: Step 1 - a contest at institute level only for them, which they will organize themselves. In this case, we can help them obtain some prizes at national level. Step 2 - the first 10 authors from each institute (universities, photography schools, academies) will be able to participate at national level in a large contest run by FIAP. Some important prizes and workshops will be offered. At least the first 10 authors will have the opportunity to prepare a portfolio that will be presented in all our Exhibition Centres. This

is a good start to collaborate with universities and photography schools in the future and ask them for support for our members (courses with professors). An age limit must be set. Institutions must be contacted directly by FIAP through Zoom meetings. If necessary, with the help of liaison officers for photo brand contacts.

15. Etiquette

J. Burgues and D. PC Tay agree that when the BoD represents FIAP, we must give an image of coherence in the presentation. In official ceremonies, the President should be in the centre, the two vice-presidents on either side, then the Secretary General on one side and the treasurer on the other, and then the remaining members divided into the two sides (according to seniority). If there is an important authority in the activities in which one participates, the President must be at his/her side. There should also be a dress code for these ceremonies.

16. FIAP Photo Jacket

FIAP has had for years an agreement in principle with China to produce several photo jackets but at the moment only one sample has been sent to the BoD for approval. R. Busi requests a final decision on the matter. D. Tay will contact the manufacturers by sending a fabric sample (already in his possession) and requesting a quote on the design already prepared by R. Busi, to produce 500 photo jackets in various sizes.

17. FIAP Photomeeting

There are two nominations for the organization of the next FIAP Photomeeting: Spain (end of June 2023 in Asturias) and Armenia (end of September 2023). The decision will be taken by the General Assembly at the 35th FIAP Congress.

18. 36th FIAP Congress

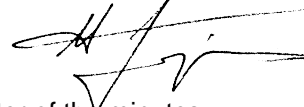
The 36th FIAP Congress will be probably organized in India in November 2024. Again, the final decision will rest with the General Assembly. This is the Congress postponed in 2020 and there are no other candidates.

19. Next FIAP BoD meeting in Santo Domingo

The proposition was presented by J. Burgues at the previous board meeting in May. He sent the programme to all board members. The final decision will be made after new contacts with our operational member "Fotogrupo Inc". Should it be possible to organize this important meeting, it would be the second time in FIAP's history (the first was in Buenos Aires - Argentina in December 2013) that a FIAP board meeting has been held in South America. An important opportunity to meet the various Operational Members of this continent.

Athens, 19 February 2023

Ioannis LYKOURIS



Writer of the minutes