



FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE L'ART PHOTOGRAPHIQUE

The International Federation of Photographic Art

INFO 276 / 2024 E

Minutes of the FIAP Board of Directors

Yerevan - Armenia, 26 October 2023

PRESENT: Riccardo BUSI, Joan BURGUES, Freddy VAN GILBERGEN, Herbert GMEINER, Ioannis LYKOURIS, David PC TAY, Romain NERO, Luis FRANKE (members of BD).

1. Introduction by the President

The President expresses regret about K. Baschinski's absence due to personal issues and discusses the logistics and challenges of the upcoming board meeting and General Assembly of FIAP. He notes that many events have taken place worldwide, especially in China and Spain, to increase FIAP's visibility. The General Assembly has around 50 participants, mostly from Cyprus, with fewer FIAP liaison officers than expected.

R. Busi and R. Nero discuss the feasibility of holding future meetings online via Zoom, given a new Luxembourg law allowing virtual meetings for nonprofits. They ponder the benefits of online participation and the need to ensure more inclusive representation from various countries. The conversation also touches on the responsibility of FIAP liaison officers to be more proactive in participating or sending proxies when unable to attend. The speakers emphasize the importance of fulfilling obligations and consider sending reminders about these responsibilities to improve engagement and decision-making in future assemblies.

2. Review of tasks

All tasks had been duly accomplished.

3. Treasurer's report

The Treasurer reports on FIAP financial status. He mentions there has been an increase in savings with LALUX, resulting in a total of 101,000 euros, and an increase in the main bank, Volksbank, to 1,240,000 euros, bringing the total funds to 1,540,000 euros. The mid-year profits show a significant increase from the previous year, with

a plus of 52,000 euros compared to last year's 3,000 euros. I. Lykouris and H. Gmeiner mention the need to invest in new projects next year, including publishing a book, the University project, and FIAP Academy. H. Gmeiner discusses financial and membership issues. He notes that Kuwait hasn't paid its dues for two years without any communication, and Iran, though promising to pay by year-end, hasn't specified a date, which affects its voting rights. The board also discusses the status of operational members, deciding not to remove any countries this year and to revisit Kuwait's situation next year. Concerns are raised about the ILFIAPs, with 19 members at risk of cancellation for non-payment over two years and low participation in the FIAP World Cup. The conversation shifts to the broader challenges facing photography clubs and associations, such as declining participation post-COVID, the ageing demographic of members, and the digital shift reducing the need for physical club interactions. The board discusses strategies to make club membership more appealing, like publishing an almanac of the best photos, inviting contest winners of the FIAP World Cup for Club to Congress, and offering special awards. They acknowledge the need for brainstorming and gathering ideas to attract more clubs and members and plan to further discuss these initiatives in the next meeting. The speech concludes with a focus on the need to adapt and engage with younger audiences, as evidenced by successful youth initiatives in China.

4. Relations with members

Slovenia - Proposal for FIAP Distinctions

R. Busi brings to the attention of the Board the request made by Mr. V. Doberlet, the Liaison Officer from Slovenia, concerning a proposal for FIAP distinctions. Despite prior communications clarifying that the Congress, driven more by administrative and economic considerations, is the preferred venue for such discussions rather than the General Assembly, the Board agrees to Mr. Doberlet's request to present his prepared materials. Nevertheless, the Board commits to revisiting this significant topic in a more thorough manner in the near future.

France – Relations with Unesco

R. Busi and J. Burgues highlight to the Board the crucial importance for FIAP of appointing a permanent FIAP representative in Paris at UNESCO. Likely with the assistance of the President of the French Federation (FPF), it appears that a FPF member in Paris suitable for fulfilling this vital role for FIAP has been identified. R. Busi underscores the paramount importance of maintaining a strong rapport with UNESCO, considering that FIAP is the sole photographic organization recognized by UNESCO, having held membership since 1960 - a recognition of substantial significance globally. R. Busi further emphasizes that this designated contact person will also be responsible for supplying the Board with all necessary information for the submission of diverse project sponsorship requests to FIAP/UNESCO, and for the annual payments that FIAP has to make to UNESCO. R. Busi also recalls how often in the past FIAP has faced significant challenges in obtaining UNESCO sponsorships due to various bureaucratic obstacles and how having a contact person in Paris can be crucial to streamline the different procedures. H. Gmeiner confirms the need to ensure the timely payment of membership fees to UNESCO. R. Busi requests that the contact person's details be shared with all members as a result.

Bahrain – Problems for obtaining a FIAP Distinction

F. Van Gilbergen highlights the challenges faced by a candidate seeking a Diamond 2 distinction in Bahrain. The individual is unable to submit the application due to a lack of response from their country's Liaison Officer. The board recalls that during the 2022 Photomeeting in Oman there was considerable interest expressed by the new organizational structure of the Bahrain Photographic Society in hosting significant FIAP events in the country. However, despite this initial enthusiasm, the Board has yet to receive any constructive feedback from the Bahrain Photographic Society.

China – FIAP Coordination Office

D. Tay presents to the Board the significant changes agreed upon with the Chinese Photographic Society during his joint visit with Mr. Busi and Mr. Lykouris to China. Recognizing China's important role within FIAP and the historical bureaucratic challenges in managing Distinctions, Sponsorships, and FIAP Clubs, a decision has been made, in agreement with the Operational Member, the Chinese Photographers Association, to establish a FIAP Coordination Office in Jinan. This office, under the guidance of Prof Zeng Yi and Mr. Lu Ming, aims to assist the operational member in more effectively disseminating FIAP activities in the country. Specifically, Mr. Tay underscores how the forthcoming FIAP Coordination Office will play a crucial role in supporting CPA for the organization of the upcoming significant events scheduled in China throughout 2024-2025. These events encompass the award ceremony for the university project, the FIAP World Photographers' Conference in Lishui, the FIAP participation in Photobeijing, and the FIAP Photomeeting in 2025.

5. FIAP General Assembly

I. Lykouris stresses the crucial importance of receiving proxies well in advance for the smooth proceedings of various FIAP Assemblies. Consequently, beginning from the upcoming FIAP Congress, proxies must be submitted one month before the event; otherwise, it will be not possible to be considered.

6. PSA new Agreements

R. Busi reports to the board the outcomes of his meeting in Williamsburg during the PSA Festival, emphasizing a deep atmosphere of friendship and collaboration. He also expresses gratitude to the President of PSA, Mr. JR Schnelzer, for the exquisite hospitality and welcome. R. Busi expresses satisfaction that PSA has endorsed FIAP's decision to exclude images created with artificial intelligence from all their competitions and that there is unanimous agreement to impose severe penalties, including a lifetime ban, for any violations. Concerning the signed agreements, R. Nero underscores the importance of clearly delineating the final, binding decisions from discussions still in progress to prevent confusion among FIAP and PSA members.

7. Patronage Service

R. Nero discusses key changes and suggestions for improving fairness, authenticity, and participation in FIAP salons. He highlights issues with ILFIAPs having undue power in countries without operational members. To this end, he proposes to the board to revisit the matter as soon as possible, studying possible solutions. Observing that most salon entries occur in the final weeks before deadlines, R. Nero proposes more realistic submission

timelines to ease pressures on participants and organizers.

After discussion the BoD decided to keep for youth salons the old system with 2 youth categories (as in the Biennials). Salon fees and 2 set of medals are free if the event is exclusively run for youth. This approach ensures only youth participate, with organizers required to verify ages to maintain this integrity.

Upon R. Nero's proposal, the Board has approved the creation of the "World in Focus" section, distinguishing it from the PSA's "Travel" section. This distinction became necessary as the rules characterizing the two sections are entirely different. The name "World in Focus" aims to authentically capture the essence and spirit of places and cultures.

A new awards policy should limit participants to one award per section, broadening recognition among entrants. To enhance personalization and recognition, awarded medals should be engraved or at least bear a sticker with the participant's name and the awarded picture's title. FIAP emphasizes language consistency across translations and GDPR compliance, requiring minimal personal information from participants. A rule against AI-created images in salons is reiterated, ensuring all image parts are photographed by the author, with violators facing lifetime bans.

R. Busi and R. Nero discuss the need to monitor photography contests more effectively. They talk about establishing a commission of five persons to oversee contests and how the rules for FIAP Patronage contests must be respected within the various member states. The Board aims to revisit the topic for a final decision at the next meeting in April 2024 after studying possible solutions. The same applies to the "Best of the Best" Award, as the Board deems it important to analyze possible future changes regarding the criteria for awarding this significant prize. There is an agreement on the idea of forming a small commission and revisiting the topic in the next meeting with any proposed improvements.

Regarding the myfiap.net platform, where the Provider was unable to provide a professional insurance Policy, I. Lykouris was charged to check whether a potential clause ensuring that the contract is void if the Provider does not provide such a policy in a specified timeframe after the signature of the contract would be possible.

8. Biennials Service

During the meeting, L. Franke and R. Busi discuss the upcoming biennials for nature and black and white photography. It is agreed, as usual, to assign the management of the Black and White Biennial to India, as the organizer of the upcoming FIAP Congress. Regarding the Nature Biennial, it is agreed that the jury for this Biennial must be completed before September 2024 to avoid overlaps with other FIAP events. R. Busi emphasises the need for information by the end of the year to plan adequately and suggests H. Gmeiner as a backup judge for both biennials in case of any unavailability.

9. Distinctions Service

Following the analysis of requests for organizational merit distinctions (ESFIAP and honEFIAP), R. Busi highlights how many of these come in without meeting the minimum requirements. He suggests that it is necessary to inform the various Liaison Officers about the concrete actions in favor of FIAP that those who wish to be

considered for future distinctions must take. Often, candidates believe that organizing FIAP salons is sufficient to request an organizational distinction. R. Busi emphasizes that there is probably a need for a clearer reformulation of FIAP's requirements for such distinctions to avoid repeated and unqualified requests.

The BoD decided to award the EsFIAP distinction to Mr. P.N. Marxer (Liechtenstein) and Mr. F. E. Larsen (Denmark), and the HonEFIAP distinction to Mr. J. Lemmens (Belgium)

R. Busi emphasizes the significant importance of providing MFIAP candidates with clearer reasons for any rejections of their portfolios. The Director of the Distinctions Service, F. Van Gilbergen, will work together with the Board Members to devise a more comprehensive method for such communications.

10. Collections Service

R. Busi proposes a reorganization of the FIAP Collections Service, coordinated by Mr. Jef Lemmens, to give it more momentum and to create a more significant FIAP image bank on the cloud. This bank aims to facilitate future collaboration with marketing agencies capable of effectively managing various FIAP social media platforms. In the immediate term, R. Busi suggests that all Board Members together with Mr. J. Lemmens conduct an analysis of existing cloud services to build a database accessible to all FIAP Directors. This database would store all images of particular relevance to FIAP, such as distinctions, biennials, congresses, photomeetings, Best of the Best, memories, etc. In the April 2024 meeting, the choice of the best archiving system will be decided based on the various analyses conducted. R. Busi also proposes giving more visibility to the annual selection organized by the Collections Service, "The Artistic Patrimony of FIAP," published on the FIAP website's "Collection Service" page. For this purpose, he suggests that the FIAP Board and the Director J. Lemmens explore ways to further promote this event by offering potential rewards, FIAP admissions, etc. The topic will be revisited for further analysis in the next April 2024 meeting.

11. FIAP Exhibition Centres

J. Burgues reports that currently there are 18 FIAP centers in Europe, 5 in Asia, and 1 in South America, with plans to open new ones in Spain, Turkey, and Morocco during 2024 - 2025. Unfortunately, due to the untimely death of the director of the Exhibition Center in Montevarchi, the first FIAP Exhibition Center opened in 2014, the Center had to be closed. The Montevarchi Center also contained all the materials from the FIAP Historical Archive received after the closure of the FIAP offices in Paris in 2014 and the Historical Archive of President E. Pamies received from Reus after his death. The entire documentation, thanks to the work of Mr. V. Bardossi, Mr. V. Berdardeschi, and Mr. M. Cioni, coordinated by R. Busi, has been transferred in 58 boxes to the Center of the Italian Federation of Photographic Associations (FIAF) in Bibbiena (AR), Italy and stored on a pallet in its warehouse. A special thanks to the Italian Federation is due for their selfless and immediate assistance. J. Burgues also regrets to highlight that his letter addressed to all FIAP exhibition centers, requesting them to organize special exhibitions for young photographers, did not receive responses from various directors. Only the Director of the Dublin Exhibition Center, P. Stanley, has shown full willingness to cooperate.

12. World Cup for Clubs service

R. Busi expresses sincere gratitude to the Director of the FIAP Exhibition Center of Smethwick, Mr. Roger Parry, and all its members for the impeccable organization of the 17th FIAP Club World Cup Award Ceremony. However, he regrettably observes that, despite the delightful presence of the winning club, Rolls Royce Derby Photographic Society, very few other winners attended the event. Given that the decision to organize the Award Ceremony in the country of the winning club aimed for substantial participation from all involved clubs, there will be a careful consideration in the future regarding the selection of the venue, potentially organizing the ceremony concurrently with another significant FIAP event.

13. Promotion and Partnership Service

Mr. Tay informs the Board of Directors of his suggestion to appoint Mrs. Bing Zeng as his assistant within the Promotion and Partnership Service. The Board supports him in his decision.

The Board, in an attempt to find a supplier capable of producing higher-quality FIAP pins and medals, analyzed the samples brought by Mr. D. Tay produced in Guangzhou, finding them to be far from the required quality. J. Burgues emphasizes the importance of quality over price, stating that even if it's free, a poor-quality logo or medal is unacceptable as they are the image of FIAP itself.

R. Busi discusses potential collaborations with two companies. First, he mentions K&F, a well-known Chinese brand that approached him in 2019. Although initial discussions were positive, they were disrupted by COVID-19. Efforts to reestablish contact have been challenging, but with D. PC Tay's assistance, they hope to explore opportunities for cooperation. Secondly, I. Lykouris introduces an initiative by Adobe designed to address AI manipulation in images. Adobe's software can embed content credentials into the metadata of pictures, indicating whether AI was used. This system is part of a larger collaborative effort with various organizations, and I. Lykouris suggests that FIAP could become one of Adobe's partners to gain global exposure. The group agrees this could be beneficial and plans to investigate further to ensure the offer's legitimacy and potentially negotiate a partnership. In this case as well, Mr. D. Tay, in his role as Director of the Promotion and Partnership Service, is tasked with getting in touch with Adobe.

14. Medal Service

The Board expresses concerns over the increasing customs fees and taxes imposed on medals sent from outside Europe. They highlight the frustration of authors who have to pay extra to receive their medals and discuss various strategies to address the issue. There is a consensus that the current situation is problematic and could deter authors from participating in contests. Some suggest finding a central service in Europe to manage medal distribution. The board considers creating a centralized location for medal production and distribution within Europe to avoid taxes on shipments from outside Europe.

15. FIAP Projects

“Our Future ... in their eyes” – University / Academy Project

R. Busi outlines the current decisions regarding this strategic project for the youth. The award ceremony will take place in Jinan in October 2024, and agreements to this effect have already been made with the state governor. The winners will be invited to China, and their flights and hotels will be provided, along with a camera and a workshop conducted by two international photography masters, Tom Ang and Manoocher Deghati. Their portfolio will be exhibited in Jinan and Beijing and then sent to all FIAP Exhibition Centers. The dean of the winner's photography faculty/academy will also be invited to the award ceremony in Jinan. Once the Entry Form is finalized, it will be sent to all liaison officers to secure the participation of all photography faculties/academies of member countries. A detailed agreement will be signed soon between FIAP and the Chinese government.

IMPC “International Medical Photographers Club”

R. Busi presents the final project of the "IMPC" (International Medical Photographers Club) to the Board for final approval before its publication on the FIAP website. The project, initially introduced at the FIAP Congress in Durban, South Africa, in 2018, and later during the Photomeeting Assembly in Oman in 2022, has reached its final draft, thanks to the outstanding work of Dr. Sefa Ulukan, President of Turkiye's Federation-TFSF, Dr. Krzysztof Muskalski, President of PhotoArtMedica (Poland), and Dr. Franco Ameli, Italian Association of Medical Photographers (AMFI). The new FIAP Club for medical and paramedical photographers will provide an incredible opportunity for all FIAP Doctors for professional exchanges and offer unprecedented visibility for FIAP in all its member countries. This includes the possibility of developing specific photographic projects for hospitals and Medical Care Centers.

“Immigration: a reality of our time”

The FIAP Board acknowledges that, unfortunately, this project, initially launched during the Photomeeting in Oman in 2022 and entrusted to Mr. Sefa Ulukan, President of Turkiye's Federation-TFSF, has been definitively abandoned due to various organizational reasons.

“FIAP Photo Days”

R. Busi presents to the FIAP Board the initial results of surveys conducted for this new FIAP project aimed at creating photographic opportunities for FIAP photographers through "recognized" events with FIAP Auspices. These are events organized by third parties but verified by FIAP, acknowledging their seriousness of organization and undeniable photographic opportunities. At the moment, efforts are underway to understand how to better promote these events and identify them in the vast global landscape. A preliminary survey has been conducted with the organizers of the World Body Painting Championship. After an initial meeting in May between the organizers and R. Busi, H. Gmeiner, K. Batshinski, our treasurer was able to participate at the end of September in the event to make initial agreements for the participation of FIAP authors. The Board hopes to provide further information on this important project as soon as possible.

16. FIAP Congress 2024 and FIAP Photo Meeting 2025

For the FIAP Photo Meeting 2025, discussions are ongoing, with a high likelihood that it will be hosted in China from late June to early July 2025. The plan is for a two-week program, similar to previous ones, with the first week in Tianjin, North China, and the second in the South, potentially in Fujian, known for its large, unique houses atop mountains. The final details, including exact locations and itinerary, will be refined over the next year. The plan is to decide by September to be ready to present to the General Assembly in November.

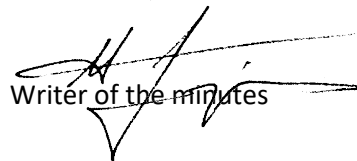
The FIAP Congress in India is scheduled for November 2024 to coincide with the Pushkar Camel Fair, which is expected to occur from November 9 to 16. If plans for India don't solidify, alternatives will be sought.

17. Next FIAP Board Meeting:

The next board meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2024. The location will be determined based on costs and planned projects/meetings.

Athens, 5 March 2024

Ioannis LYKOURIS


Writer of the minutes