



FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE L'ART PHOTOGRAPHIQUE

The International Federation of Photographic Art

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Minutes of the FIAP Board of Directors

Naples, Italy 14-15 April 2025

PRESENT: Riccardo BUSI, Joan BURGUES, David PC TAY, Herbert GMEINER, Ioannis LYKOURIS, Kurt Batschinski, Romain NERO, Luis FRANKE, Paul STANLEY (Board Members).

1. Introduction by the President

The President R. Busi welcomes all the members and thanks them for the work accomplished in recent months.

2. Treasurer's report

Statement of accounts and balance 2024

H.Gmeiner reported that the 2024 balance was better than expected but this will be not the case for the year 2025. This is due to the many projects still being defined and the others already planned for 2025. Updates to the myfiap.net platform were completed later than planned, reducing development costs in 2024; however, regular payments of €2,000 per month to the developer will resume this year. To this we must add the safeguarding and archiving of the entire vast photographic and documentary heritage, which will soon be centralized in the new FIAP Collections Service. R.Busi noted that while the current financial situation is sound, costs will likely rise due to increased travel and accommodation expenses. He also highlighted that the Photo Academy budget allocates €15,000 annually, although this amount is rarely spent in full. In contrast, platforms like Zoom are becoming increasingly expensive.

Membership Fees (O.M. and ILFIAP)

H.Gmeiner confirmed that several countries still need to pay their 2025 fees, with payments due by the end of the month. Problematic cases include Algeria, Colombia, Myanmar, Malaysia (Sabah), and Pakistan. Coordinators were designated to follow up with each of these countries. The situation with ILFIAPs is more critical: 18 clubs have not paid for two consecutive years. The Board acknowledged that many clubs had previously paid only to participate in the World Cup for Clubs, which in 2024 was exceptionally and temporarily open to all for free. While this strategy increased participation, it also reduced incentives for ILFIAPs to maintain membership. Several members raised concerns about the limited benefits currently offered to ILFIAPs and suggested exploring new engagement strategies such as inviting winning clubs to FIAP events or organizing exclusive exhibitions.

Cost analysis of external collaborators

An overview of current collaborator expenses was presented.

3. Review of Internal Rules for Board Members

I. Lykouris circulated a draft update of the internal rules for the Board Members.

4. Relations with members

The Board of Directors reviewed recent developments concerning FIAP members. The Principality of Monaco has joined FIAP as a new Operational Member. A contest has already been submitted for FIAP Patronage, and discussions are underway for the creation of a new Exhibition Center in Monaco. This development is seen as strategically valuable due to the country's international profile and potential for wider cultural collaboration. Following a letter received from the National Union of Photo Artists of Ukraine, highlighting concerns about the current local representation, the Board has undertaken a review to ensure continuity, stability, and effective oversight of FIAP activities in the country. The Board also acknowledged the letters received from Slovenia, Mauritius, the United Kingdom and the United States regarding their experience at the FIAP Congress in India. To avoid such issues in the future, FIAP confirmed that greater attention will be given to verifying locations and services in advance, starting with the upcoming Photo Meeting in China. In Iran, the current Liaison Officer has relocated abroad, and no recent activity has been reported at the Tehran Exhibition Center. FIAP is currently reviewing the situation and has initiated discussions to identify a solution that ensures adequate national representation. A joint letter from Sweden and Norway expressed concern regarding the revised nature photography guidelines. While these rules have been developed in cooperation with PSA and remain broadly consistent with previous editions, the matter will be further discussed by the relevant internal bodies and shared with PSA for evaluation. In addition, Sweden submitted a separate letter suggesting that FIAP re-examines its position on AI-generated photography. Given the rapid evolution of AI tools, the Board agreed that this topic requires further analysis and possible revision of current policies, eventually in collaboration with other international organizations. Lastly, the Board addressed two pending situations involving unawarded prizes from the 2024 FIAP University World Cup. FIAP is actively working with the winners from Sri Lanka and Iran to resolve the matter and ensure proper delivery of the awards.

5. Biennials Service

The Board of Directors reviewed the current status of the upcoming FIAP Biennials. The next judging sessions include the Youth Biennial in Bahrain, for which D. Tay has been confirmed as one of the judges, the Colour Biennial in Ireland, for which H. Gmeiner has been confirmed as one of the judges and the Nature Biennial in South Africa, for which P. Stanley has been confirmed as one of the judges. The Black and White Biennial, to be hosted by Brazil, is also confirmed. The judging is expected to take place around March 2026, with the aim of having results ready in time for the Congress, scheduled for early August 2026. Regulations and related communications will be issued no later than October 2025 to allow sufficient time for national participation. Regarding the Black and White Biennial, the Board reaffirmed the importance of maintaining the print format due to its symbolic and traditional value, especially since the winning works are exhibited during the Congress. It was noted that this category consistently receives the

highest participation across all biennials. While some federations have expressed a preference for digital-only formats, the Board emphasized that the physical exhibition remains essential for this particular event. The Youth Biennial in Bahrain is confirmed, with the award ceremony scheduled for 10 December 2025, in conjunction with Bahrain's national celebrations. FIAP is in contact with local organizers to finalize the program and explore the possibility of holding the Board meeting in Bahrain around the same time, likely between 5–10 December, ahead of the winter holiday season. For the next Color Biennial, three countries expressed interest: Montenegro, India, and Georgia. Montenegro submitted its application first and will be awarded the organization of the event. The other candidates will be considered for future editions. There was also a suggestion to explore the possibility of Georgia hosting a Youth Biennial. An update was provided on the status of the FIAP Biennial Book. Approximately 2,000 copies remain in storage with Mr. Casanovas in Spain, who has agreed to hold and manage distribution at no cost. He has also offered to ship books as needed, benefiting from a long-standing postal arrangement. FIAP will proceed with distributing copies to Exhibition Centers, prioritizing those currently active. A full list of directors and delivery details will be collected. Books destined for China will be consolidated and sent directly to Prof. Zeng Yi in our Coordination Office.

6. Youth Service

The Board of Directors discussed the current status of the Youth Service. At present, no concrete updates were available. Despite several attempts to reach out via email and messages—including one sent in early March requesting an urgent discussion—no substantial information has been received. The Board will continue efforts to re-establish contact and assess the continuity of the service, particularly with a view to strengthening FIAP's presence and engagement in the Gulf region.

7. FIAP Photo Meeting 2025

The Board of Directors examined the current status of the FIAP Photo Meeting 2025, scheduled to take place in China, with programs covering both Hunan and Inner Mongolia. The programs were received only recently and were judged to be of high quality, offering an extended itinerary at a reduced cost. Final confirmation is still pending due to administrative requirements from local authorities, and FIAP has requested support from the national delegation to help expedite the necessary formal approvals. The photo-meeting is expected to be held between the end of August and early September, a high-travel period, making timely publication essential for participants' planning. Some program adjustments have already been proposed, including eliminating formal events on the arrival day to accommodate long travel times. Given the full schedule, it was deemed impractical to hold the General Assembly during the meeting. The possibility of organizing the Assembly in Bahrain in December, in conjunction with the Youth Biennial, is currently under evaluation. This would allow for a short formal session focused on budgetary matters, without the need for elections. The Board also reviewed the list of official guests to be invited and hosted by FIAP. Confirmed guests include the Best of the Best winner for 2024, the 2023 Bretscher Trophy winner, and representatives of partner organizations. The Van de Wijer Trophy winner will be confirmed closer to the event. The awards ceremony for the FIAP World Cup for Clubs will take place during the meeting. The invitation of additional individuals will be considered based on available resources.

8. FIAP Ethics Service

The Board of Directors reviewed the cases submitted under the Ethics Service. Two dossiers had been received and one case was considered closed while for the other a formal letter is still pending from the Ethics Committee. Members of the committee were asked to follow up and ensure the necessary documentation is finalized. A separate question raised by P.Rizzato, Director of the Ethics Service, was discussed: whether an author who had been placed on the FIAP red list, but had never received a distinction, could later use previous acceptances (gained before the sanction) in a future distinctions application. The prevailing view among the Board was that such an author should start from zero, meaning all previous results would be excluded from future applications. This approach was considered necessary to maintain the integrity of the distinctions process, especially in cases where not all images accepted prior to the sanction had been subject to verification. It was also noted that further clarification should be introduced into the official distinctions regulations to explicitly address such cases and prevent ambiguity in future rulings.

9. Patronage Service and FIAP Platform "Myfiap.net"

The Board reviewed ongoing developments within the Patronage Service and FIAP platform, focusing on the status of salons, regulations, recognitions, and future strategic initiatives. The number of FIAP salons continues to grow across various regions. A proposal was made to establish a recognition system for the most active Operational Members, taking into account their contributions across biennials, distinctions, salons, and exhibition centers. This recognition could involve official invitations to FIAP events.

The Board also considered whether judges contributing regularly to FIAP salons should receive formal recognition. A consensus emerged around awarding the ESFIAP distinction to judges who have consistently served FIAP salons. The suggestion was to define a minimum threshold, potentially 30 salons, to qualify for this recognition, with the retroactive start date proposed as 2014. Parallel distinctions or recognition methods for salon organizers were also discussed, including enhanced plaque systems for long-term contributors. With respect to FIAP Life Cards, discussions reaffirmed their essential role for event participation. To address future growth and communication needs, the Board proposed implementing a simplified landing page on *FIAP web site* (www.fiap.net) enabling easier access to Life Cards, and discussed possibilities for sending newsletters ensuring GDPR compliance and providing information about key FIAP events as well as new agreements and exclusive discounts reserved for FIAP members. Amendments to the Patronage Service Rules were also discussed. A key clarification will specify that authors are entitled to receive more than one award across multiple sections within a single salon. This ensures that salon organizers align their practices with FIAP's regulations, particularly in light of past inconsistencies. The Board also reviewed the evolution of print-only salons, in light of the recent referendum that abolished the requirement of print acceptances for obtaining FIAP distinctions. The possibility of allowing organizers to print images on behalf of participants was discussed. After lengthy discussion, the Board nevertheless decided to maintain the current rules and to revisit the matter in the near future. In a proactive effort to support print salons, the Board approved a proposal to co-organize, in partnership with PSA, a prestigious annual competition dedicated to printed photography. The initiative will

involve all print salons recognized by one or both organizations and will culminate in an international award ceremony. Strategic planning and adequate financial support — including significant camera prizes and invitations to major FIAP and PSA events — will help enhance the visibility and prestige of the competition. Therefore, it was decided to establish a working group tasked with defining the operational details, with the aim of launching the initiative in 2026. Lastly, the Board agreed to prioritize communication tools and outreach. A new newsletter will be developed, distinct from FIAP News, to ensure members are regularly updated. The myfiap administrative platform will continue to evolve to enhance and improve existing services, as well as to deliver new ones in support of the activities planned for development in 2026.

10. FIAP / PSA

The Board discussed the growing urgency of updating the current regulations on artificial intelligence (AI) in photography. The rapid development of new AI-based tools, including recent changes in widely used software such as Adobe Photoshop, has rendered parts of the existing FIAP regulations outdated. It was noted that the distinction between generative and non-generative edits is becoming increasingly blurred and difficult to detect without access to original RAW files. Given these technological advances, the Board agreed that a revised approach is needed, emphasizing flexibility and clarity. A proposal was made to establish a joint FIAP–PSA commission to study the issue and draft a shared set of updated rules on the use of AI in photographic works submitted to salons and contests. Both organizations face the same challenges and a coordinated response would ensure consistency across international events. The Board also welcomed the news that PSA will now include the "World in Focus" section, a positive step in harmonizing category structures between FIAP and PSA. Developments regarding the Travel section were noted, and further alignment is expected to follow. Finally, the Board addressed the issue of print salons, particularly PSA's allowance for external printing by organizers. While FIAP maintains a more cautious approach—emphasizing author control and quality—the idea of a common regulation on this matter remains under discussion. The matter will likely be revisited in future meetings, in parallel with the new project of a joint initiative (annual competition) in support of print-only salons.

11. Distinction Service

The Board reviewed the updated FIAP distinction regulations, the first major revision since 2014. The revised rules will be published in early May, and explanatory sessions are planned in multiple languages. A clarification was requested regarding the use of acceptances obtained between an application and the granting of a distinction. The discussion then moved to the design and production of medals and pins for new distinctions. The Grandmaster title, while already defined, will not be awarded before at least five years, but a prototype of the pin may be produced in the meantime. The Lifetime Achievement Award will be marked by a large, prestigious medal to be handed out during major FIAP events, and possibly accompanied by a subtle, symbolic pin. The Board agreed that this distinction requires prior HonEFIAP status, which in turn requires ESFIAP, although this was never officially written and may be clarified in the regulations. Board members discussed possible symbols for the Honorable Member medal, including the idea of using the infinity sign, although concerns were raised about clarity and recognition. Production costs were also considered, especially for early prototypes needed ahead of upcoming photo meetings.

The Board then reviewed the applications for the ESFIAP distinction. Concerns were raised regarding the limited participation of some candidates in FIAP events, with several members agreeing that a more active involvement in international activities is important for this level of distinction. It was also noted that, unlike the process for the MFIAP distinction, FIAP does not usually provide feedback to unsuccessful ESFIAP or HonEFIAP candidates, and some members suggested offering a reasoned response in such cases as well.

12. Medal Service

The Board discussed the current state of FIAP medals, trophies, and awards. A key issue raised was the need to standardize prizes for events like the World Cup, which until now have varied widely. R. Busi stressed the importance of consolidating production in a single country to reduce costs and ensure consistency, as current manufacturing is spread across several countries including Belgium, Spain, Austria, and Luxembourg. The design and practicality of trophies were also debated. Some members advocated for elegant, lighter, and more transportable trophies—possibly crystal with wooden or golden elements—while others raised concerns about cost and fragility. H. Gmeiner's prototypes were reviewed, but members agreed to continue exploring alternative options and to make final decisions at a later date. For the upcoming meeting in China, the Board will provide a trophy, with the understanding that a more refined and unified solution should be developed for future events, including the Nature Biennial.

13. Collection Service

The Board discussed the urgent need to secure FIAP's photographic and administrative archives, which are currently stored across various personal devices by Board Members or Service Directors such as R. Busi, I. Lykouris, Kurt Batschinski, R. Nero, L. Franke, J. Lemmens. The goal is to centralize and safeguard this data, especially given its volume and value to FIAP's history as soon as possible. This initiative has the dual objective of safeguarding the personal archives held by each Board Member or Service Director involved, and subsequently centralizing and archiving all the data within the FIAP Collections Service, under the responsibility of the new Director, Jesús Manuel García Flores, and his team. Initial solutions involving commercial cloud services were found to be too costly and limited in capacity. An alternative proposal from an IT consultant in Luxembourg recommended setting up individual NAS systems for members managing large data volumes, each equipped with a reliable UPS and a small cloud backup for essential files. The consultant provided cost estimates, though prices and equipment would vary by country, by the specific needs of each Board member, and by the amount of data to be archived, which differs from member to member. It was agreed that each Board Member or Service Director should carefully assess their own storage needs. Those managing large archives will need to equip themselves with a NAS system, complemented by a UPS and a Mini Cloud solution. The Board also established that each archive must include at least two data copies, favoring the use of traditional hard drives over SSDs due to the latter's higher current costs. Portable SSDs, however, may be used by those who do not require a NAS system, as they handle smaller archives that can be easily stored and transferred using such devices. Although a shared cloud-based system remains a long-term goal, the immediate solution involves localized storage with the potential for progressive synchronization over time. The Board emphasized that

this is an absolutely necessary and urgent investment to safeguard the federation's data heritage. The goal is to secure the entire FIAP archive completely by no later than 2026.

14. World Cup for Clubs Service

R. Busi reported on the current edition of the FIAP World Cup for Clubs, which was opened this year to all participants free of charge. While the initiative led to positive results, it also generated some resistance—particularly from English clubs—regarding the new rule requiring member profiles. Several UK and Irish clubs chose not to participate, citing either disagreement with the rule or lack of time to comply, though some expressed interest in joining future editions. Despite these concerns, 90% of clubs accepted the new conditions. As a precautionary measure and to confirm compliance, the organizers requested original files from the top three clubs and individual award recipients. The materials were submitted promptly, and the awards were reconfirmed without issue. The awards ceremony will take place in Hunan, China, during the Photo Meeting in August 2025. The Board also extends its thanks to the jury, composed of M. Deghati, Photojournalist (for Time, Life, Newsweek, Paris Match, Geo, and National Geographic), Iran/France; A. Di Tommaso MFIAP - France; Mr. J. M. G. Flores — EFIAP/b, FIAP L.O. Spain,; Mr. B. H. Pedersen MFIAP, Denmark; and Mr. P. Sabol MFIAP, Croatia, for the excellent work carried out. Starting next year, the standard entry fee of €50 will be reinstated, while ILFIAP members will continue to participate free of charge.

15. Promotion and Partnership Service

R. Busi and D. Tay provided updates on recent and ongoing partnership initiatives. Two agreements have already been finalized: one with DxO and another with RCE Foto. These partnerships will offer benefits to FIAP members, with access managed through MyFIAP profiles. A newsletter will inform members, but under GDPR regulations, individuals must explicitly consent to be contacted about these benefits.

A dedicated section will be created on the FIAP website to present all active agreements. R. Busi noted that some brands already have similar arrangements with national federations (e.g., DxO with the French Federation), and in such cases, it's advisable that federations formalize parallel agreements to ensure broader access and visibility. Looking ahead, FIAP aims to further expand its partnerships, particularly with leading brands such as DJI, Luminar, and others, and is actively seeking new collaborations to develop agreements that can deliver real added value to its members worldwide.

16. FIAP Exhibition Centers

The Board reviewed the current status of the FIAP Exhibition Centers. Unfortunately, according to the information received, the beautiful Center in Negova, Slovenia, has been reclaimed by the regional authorities for other purposes. In China, the Jinan center has relocated within the city, moving from the University of Art and Design to the FIAP Coordination Office. New centers are scheduled to open soon: Sulmona (Italy) in April 2025 and La Palma (Spain) in October 2025. New openings are expected soon in Málaga (Spain), Montevideo (Uruguay), San Marino, and the Principality of Monaco. The Board also discussed the potential to allow multiple centers in large metropolitan areas. Currently, regulations stipulate that exhibition centers must be at least 100 km apart. However, this is proving restrictive in cities like Buenos Aires or Istanbul. The Board agreed in principle to revise the rule, proposing to allow more

than one center in major cities, although the specific population threshold or criteria for such exceptions will be determined later.

17. FIAP Photo Academy

The Board discussed the current challenges facing the FIAP Photo Academy. P. Stanley noted two main issues: the difficulty in securing speakers for online events, even after persistent follow-ups with renowned photographers, and the limited attendance despite high registration numbers. For instance, while 250 people registered for a recent Spanish-language event, only 90 attended. Efforts are being made to improve outreach, including a potential monthly newsletter sent through the FIAP member profiles, pending GDPR consent. P. Stanley suggested creating more engaging promotional material beyond standard emails to boost participation. Attendance rates were shared: typically between 43% and 65%, with higher figures for better-known photographers like Marco Gaiotti. YouTube views of the recorded presentations have surpassed 5,500, reflecting a broader interest beyond live participation. However, concerns were raised about low engagement from Spain in Spanish-language events. It was suggested to involve the Confederación Española de Fotografía to help promote such initiatives more effectively. R. Busi also encouraged greater global involvement and proposed delegating hosting responsibilities to regional contacts.

18. IMPC “International Medical Photographers Club”

The Board confirmed that the International Medical Photographers Club will hold an exhibition during the next FIAP Photo Meeting. The exhibited works will then be donated to a medical center in Hunan. R. Busi also shared that this initiative may help FIAP pursue recognition as an NGO by the World Health Organization (WHO) in Switzerland. He recently established contact with a key person connected to WHO, and intends to request a meeting in Geneva. This approach mirrors the process that led to FIAP's engagement with UNESCO. Gaining recognition from WHO, following that of the UN and UNESCO, would represent a significant advancement for FIAP's international standing.

19. FIAP Congress 2026 – Brasil

The FIAP Congress 2026 has been officially confirmed and will take place in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, from August 9 to 16. The president of the Brazilian federation is expected to attend the upcoming FIAP Photo Meeting, where further details will be discussed. Estimated participation costs currently range around €1,800 for single rooms and €1,700 for double rooms, though more accurate pricing is expected closer to the event. Looking ahead, Indonesia has submitted a preliminary candidature for hosting the 2028 FIAP Congress.

20. Photo Beijing 2025– Beijing (China)

The FIAP presence at Photo Beijing 2025 was confirmed necessary. R. Busi emphasized the importance of ensuring FIAP is represented. The event is expected to take place around late October, although the exact dates are still unconfirmed. A representative needs to be identified and confirmed soon. FIAP should also work closely with the organizers to define the exhibition content. Suggested proposals include presenting the World Cup for Clubs, the Nature Biennial, and selected works from the Masters Collection.

Last year, five Masters series and two biennials were sent, totaling approximately 100 photographs. The Board discussed coordinating the shipment of these materials via Hunan, where another exhibition is scheduled, to facilitate logistics. J. Lemmens, the Director of the Distinctions Service, will be asked to provide access to the post-2017 Masters collections currently in his custody.

21. FIAP Photo Days

R. Busi presented the current situation and asked for more information specifically adapted to FIAP for the Body Painting Festival in 2025. He emphasized the importance of publishing some rules controlling the events organized by different entities, under the name of FIAP and the promotion of these events to FIAP members, always following GDPR regulations.

22. Vitality Shandong project

R. Busi presented this project, aiming to promote the Shandong region during the four seasons of the year. In December 2024 the first session was held with great success and with the participation of a big number of important international photographers. The second session is scheduled for May 2025 and two more sessions will follow.

23. Analysis of MFIAP Portfolios

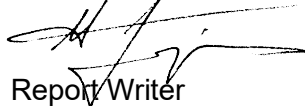
The Board Members approved the suggestions of the MFIAP advisers for 2025 and decided to award the MFIAP distinction to Mrs. Jennifer Willis from Northern Ireland and to Mr. Yousuf Tushar from Bangladesh

24. Next FIAP Board Meeting

The next board meeting is scheduled for December 2025 in Bahrain

Athens, July 12, 2025

Ioannis LYKOURIS



Report Writer