



Minutes of the FIAP Board of Directors
Sofia, Bulgaria 6-7 December 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 Mr. R. Busi welcomes all the members in Sofia, Bulgaria.

2. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Mr. H. Gmeiner, presented the financial statement for the previous fiscal year, reporting a closing balance of €92,000. For the first half of 2025, the accounts show a positive result of €52,000. During the second half of 2025, several expenditures were incurred, amounting to approximately €40,000 in total. Mr. H. Gmeiner also underlined that it is currently not possible to provide a financial forecast for 2026, as the costs associated with the Brazil Congress are not yet known. Mr. R. Nero further reported a slight decrease in income from patronage fees compared to the previous year. These elements suggest that 2026 could potentially be a year with a financial deficit; however, the overall funds currently held in FIAP's accounts remain solid and appropriate for a non-profit organization.

Mr. H. Gmeiner also informed the Board of Directors (BoD) that several operational members still have outstanding payment obligations, with some countries having not paid their membership fees for the past two years. It was further reported that 14 ILFIAP members have not paid their fees for the past two years; consequently, their membership will be cancelled in accordance with the applicable regulations. A further 22 ILFIAP members have not paid their fees for the past year, and a final decision regarding their status will therefore be taken next year. It was also noted

that a significant number of payments have recently been received in connection with the World Cup for Clubs.

3. BoD Members' Participation in FIAP International Events

Mr. Busi presented a letter from the PSA President outlining a formal Reciprocity and Invitation Agreement approved by the PSA Directorate Board. The agreement provides for an annual invitation for the FIAP President and one designated member of the BoD to attend the PSA Photo Gathering and the PSA Photo Festival, limited to two reciprocal invitations per year, thereby ensuring full reciprocity between PSA and FIAP. The Board noted that this agreement reflects the spirit of cooperation and mutual support between the two federations and may facilitate the development of future joint initiatives.

4. UNESCO Award Ceremony and Related Procedures

Regarding the forthcoming UNESCO Award Ceremony in China, Mr. Busi informed the Board that the Chinese organizers will cover all travel and accommodation expenses for all members of the FIAP Board of Directors. Concerning the UNESCO competition procedure, FIAP must submit the official application form to UNESCO, await formal approval, then launch the contest and receive all photographic submissions by the end of September.

5. Relations with Members

Mr. I. Lykouris noted that four new applications for Operational Membership had been received from Ecuador, Libya, Jordan and Tunisia. The BoD unanimously decided to provisionally affiliate these organizations until the forthcoming General Assembly (GA) grants them the status of Operational Member. The BoD was also informed about certain claims for compensation related to the FIAP Congress held in India. It was clarified that FIAP bears no responsibility in this matter, and the concerned parties were advised to address their claims directly to the Indian Federation. At present, FIAP is reviewing the overall situation concerning its activities in Iran. In particular, both the effective role and activity of the FIAP Liaison Officer and the current management and operational status of the FIAP Exhibition Center still require further clarification. A clearer assessment of the situation is expected by April 2026. A request was received from Ukrainian authors for reimbursement of a payment related to FIAP distinctions, possibly arising from the

assumption that the temporary suspension of the national federation's annual membership fee also extended to the fees payable by individual authors for FIAP distinctions. Mr. H. Gmeiner clarified that Ukraine has not paid the operational membership fees, in accordance with a previous decision of the Board of Directors taken in consideration of the ongoing war in the country. The Board therefore proposed that a formal letter be sent to the Ukrainian authors clearly explaining the distinction between the operational membership fee — which, under the most recent FIAP regulations, is currently set at zero — and the separate fees applicable to FIAP distinctions. It was considered likely that a misunderstanding exists between the individual authors concerned and the national federation regarding these different categories of fees.

6. Biennials Service

The Biennials were reaffirmed as one of FIAP's key institutional activities, requiring structured representation, careful planning, and coordinated supervision by the Board of Directors. Following the announcement of the results of the FIAP Colour Biennial, the Director of the Biennials Service, Mr. L. Franke, raised concerns regarding recurring technical issues related to image file submissions on the FIAP platform. Several countries reported difficulties in uploading images containing EXIF metadata. In some cases, following Mr. Franke's request for compliance with the regulations, national organizers contacted the authors and were able to successfully re-upload the files with the required EXIF data included.

Mr. L. Franke confirmed that the forthcoming cycle of the FIAP Nature Biennial and the FIAP Black and White Biennial has already been organized. Mr. P. Stanley will serve as FIAP judge in February 2026 for the 23rd FIAP Nature Biennial in South Africa. Mr. L. Franke will attend the opening of the same Biennial in South Africa as FIAP Representative and will also serve as FIAP judge for the FIAP Black and White Biennial in Rio in March 2026. The official opening ceremony of the Black and White Biennial will take place, as usual, during the FIAP Congress. Regarding future Biennials, the 2027 FIAP Colour Biennial will be hosted by Montenegro, with Mr. R. Nero acting as FIAP judge. For the 2027 Youth Biennial, Turkey, Oman and Egypt have submitted applications to host the event. The Board noted the strategic importance of encouraging new countries to undertake such institutional responsibilities.

Mr. Franke informed the Board that the second FIAP Biennial Book is expected to be printed around March or April 2026. The estimated printing cost will be approximately 5% higher than that of the previous edition for a print run of about 500 copies. Postal expenses have not yet been determined. Mr. Franke also proposed the production of a special multifunctional bag bearing the FIAP logo to accompany the book when presented as an official gift. The proposal was unanimously approved, with a planned quantity of 200 pieces. Mr. Franke will request quotations from printing companies in Argentina.

Mr. Tay reported on his recent visit to Bahrain, where he served as a juror for the Youth Biennial hosted in the Kingdom of Bahrain. During his stay, he had the opportunity to meet numerous photographers and visual artists. Mr. Tay also reported meeting Mr. Ahmet Al Busaidi, Director of the FIAP Youth Service, with whom he discussed the potential for expanding youth-oriented initiatives in the Sultanate of Oman. Given the strong engagement of young photographers in the region, it was suggested that Oman could be encouraged to organize additional international youth events under FIAP patronage. The Board acknowledged the strategic importance of strengthening youth activities and expanding FIAP's presence in regions demonstrating active development and institutional interest.

7. Patronage Service and FIAP Platform myfiap.net

The Director of the Patronage Service, Mr. R. Nero, reported on the projected activities for the year 2025. FIAP anticipates organizing approximately 600 events in total. Of these events, nearly half were organized as circuits, while the remainder were held as individual salons.

Regarding the new PFIAP Distinction, FIAP is currently organizing and strengthening its team of reviewers responsible for the portfolio distinctions. The following timeline was established: the submission of photographs via the platform will remain open until mid-January, the platform will then be closed, the results of the first evaluation round will be announced on 15 March, the platform will reopen for the subsequent session on 1 May. Each judging round requires approximately 15 days for evaluation. In cases where the vote results in a 3–2 decision, a second evaluation round will be conducted, with the involvement of three members of the

FIAP Board who meet the same requirements as the other judges (international portfolio reviewers).

Mr. Busi proposed that, in the future, operational members organize a “FIAP Distinction Day.” During this event, successful applicants would be formally invited to receive their distinctions and pins in an official ceremony.

8. FIAP Newsletter and Landing Page for “FIAP Partnership Agreements”

Mr. R. Nero proposed the creation of a FIAP Newsletter, separate from FIAP News, to be distributed monthly to FIAP photographers in order to keep them more promptly informed about the most important events and developments concerning them. The Newsletter would also include direct links to specific documents issued through FIAP INFOs or FIAP DOCs, as well as to selected articles published in FIAP News.

Current Status of the Development of the Landing Page for “FIAP Partnership Agreements” and Definition of the Implementation Timeline

Mr. R. Busi emphasized the need to create a dedicated landing page on the fiap website, so that FIAP members can easily find information about available discounts. He suggested that each partner with whom FIAP has an agreement should have a separate section containing the relevant information and appropriate data access.

9. Print competition FIAP / PSA 2026

Mr. P. Stanley referred to discussions he had with the President of the Photographic Society of America (PSA), Mr. John Andrew Hughes, regarding the support of photographers who continue to participate in print photography competitions, as well as the organizers who continue to conduct such salons. The aim is to evaluate, showcase, and reward the best printed photographs through an annual competition among images that have received awards in FIAP and PSA salons, following a format similar to the “Best of the Best” title. The awards could include free participation in FIAP events or valuable photographic equipment.

10. Print Amendment to the FIAP/PSA Regulation on Photography and AI

Following consultations with the relevant PSA services, the BoD agreed on the following common statement regarding the use of AI in salons held under their joint patronage. This statement must be included in the regulations of salons or events applying for FIAP patronage : “**Permitted AI-enhanced editing**: includes editing tools that perform transformations, enhancements, or corrections based exclusively on the existing pixel data captured in the author's original photograph without introducing externally sourced content. **Prohibited AI editing**: includes any AI-assisted processes for synthetic image generation that incorporate external image data, visual elements, textures, objects, or scenes not originally present in the author’s photograph are prohibited”.

11. Nature Guidelines

In October, the Nature Photography Guidelines were approved by the FIAP Director of Ethics, Mr. P. Rizzato. As a result, FIAP and the Photographic Society of America (PSA) now operate under a common set of guidelines for nature photography.

12. Distinctions Service

The Board reviewed the applications for the ESFIAP distinction and decided to award the ESFIAP title to Mr. Cenab Resad Mehdiyev from Azerbaijan, Mr. Alaa Elbasha from Egypt, and Mr. Gabriel O’Shaughnessy from Ireland.

13. Medal Service

Mr. K. Batschinski presented new design samples for the FIAP medals and FIAP Honorable Mentions.

14. Collections Service

Mr. R. Busi announced that the most important project for the coming year will be the safeguarding and protection of FIAP’s extensive photographic and documentary heritage. Currently, a significant part of this material is kept within the private archives of Board members and FIAP Service Directors. The objective is therefore to progressively centralize and secure this heritage within the FIAP Collections Service, under the direction of Mr. J. Flores, FIAP Liaison Officer for Spain. To achieve this goal, the Service will be further strengthened and equipped with the

necessary digital and technical resources to ensure the proper preservation and management of FIAP's historical archives.

15. World Cup for Clubs Service

The members discussed the current status. There are 208 participating clubs. Mr. R. Busi announced that this year's World Cup is now officially closed and that the results differ significantly from those of last year. However, a major problem remains regarding EXIF data, which is missing in many of the submitted files despite the rules requiring its inclusion. He also noted that in some countries FIAP remains relatively little known and that participation in FIAP events may still be considered expensive for photographers. The members of the Board therefore discussed the possibility of making participation in the World Cup free for every club (whether ILFIAP or not) in order to better promote the event and facilitate wider participation. The Board agreed to re-examine this proposal at its next meeting. They also discussed the possible organization of the World Cup for Clubs Award Ceremony 2025 at the end of May in Scotland, should the necessary arrangements be confirmed, in conjunction with FIAP meetings and related activities scheduled for that period.

16. Promotion and Partnership Service

Regarding partnerships with companies such as Luminar Neo, DxO and RCE Foto, it was agreed to begin by creating dedicated links on the FIAP website directing users to the respective pages of these companies. At a later stage, a dedicated article will be published in FIAP News, and special sessions may be organized within the FIAP Academy to present their services and the benefits offered to FIAP Life Card holders.

FIAP also confirmed its intention to participate in the Beijing Photo & Imaging Show (14–18 May 2026) in order to explore opportunities for strategic partnerships and cooperation agreements with leading Chinese companies in the photographic sector. Mr. Busi proposed that Mr. Tay represent FIAP at the event, given his proficiency in Chinese, together with three additional representatives to be appointed by the BoD.

17. FIAP Exhibition Centers

At present, FIAP has a significant number of Exhibition Centers around the world; however, some of them are currently not operating at their full potential. In order to strengthen coordination and support their development, the Board decided to establish a Coordination Office for all FIAP Exhibition Centers, under the supervision of FIAP Vice President Mr. Joan Burgues. This office will be responsible for maintaining regular contact with the centers and visiting them, when appropriate, in order to monitor their activities, better understand their needs, and, where possible, support their initiatives.

18. FIAP Photo Academy

Mr. P. Stanley, Director of the FIAP Photo Academy – Online Events, presented an overview of the current situation. He reported that five presentations were organized during 2025 and provided an update on the number of photographers who participated in these events. One of the presentations was delivered by a Spanish photographer in the Spanish language; however, participation from Spanish-speaking attendees was somewhat lower than anticipated. The most successful initiatives were the three Zoom meetings—two held in English and one in Spanish—during which the new FIAP Distinctions Regulations were presented and explained to the FIAP Liaison Officers. These meetings also proved to be an effective way to strengthen communication with the Liaison Officers. Mr. Stanley also presented the lectures scheduled for the first trimester of 2026.

19. IMPC “International Medical Photographers Club”

Mr. Busi reported on the development of the International Medical Photography Club, which held its inaugural exhibition in Hunan (Changsha). Since its foundation, the Club has expanded considerably and currently includes representatives from 16 countries.

A touring exhibition of the Club is scheduled to be held in Poland in January. Mrs. Dorota Kycia, our Liaison Officer in Poland, has invited Mr. Busi to inaugurate this exhibition. A second exhibition in Poland will be organized by Dr. Krzysztof Muskalski, Vice President of the Club, and will take place in Częstochowa from 14 to 17 January. Mr. Busi has also been invited to inaugurate this exhibition. In addition

to its exhibition activities, the Club has completed the donation of photographic works to hospitals as part of its educational and outreach initiatives.

20. Photo Beijing 2026 and Lishui FIAP World Photographers Conference 2026

Mr. Zeng Yi, Director of the FIAP Coordination Office in China, was requested to contact the organizers of Photo Beijing in order to clarify the expected involvement of FIAP in the event. In particular, clarification is required regarding the type of exhibition that would be of interest to the organizers and the possible representation of the FIAP BoD at the opening ceremony. The BoD will decide on the type of exhibition to be presented and on the possible participation of FIAP in the event only once complete and detailed information has been received. In order to allow the BoD to respond in a timely manner, it is essential that all relevant information be communicated to the FIAP BoD by the end of March 2026.

A similar requirement applies to the Lishui FIAP World Photographers Conference, scheduled for late October–early November 2026. As the event foresees the participation of the entire Board of Directors, as well as an extended invitation to approximately 200 FIAP photographers, it is necessary that all relevant information be received by the end of March in order to properly prepare the materials to be sent and to publish adequate information about the event through FIAP’s media channels.

21. FIAP Photo Days

Mr. Busi presented the draft regulations for the new project “FIAP Photo Days” and invited the Board Members to review them so that they can be officially announced in the near future. FIAP Photo Days will consist of photographic events organized under the Auspices of FIAP and intended as a service exclusively for FIAP authors holding a FIAP Life Card. These events are designed to offer high-quality activities and are clearly distinct from the usual workshops or photo tours commonly available on the market. The aim of the FIAP Photo Days is to provide FIAP photographers with a dedicated, high-level service while ensuring a high-quality photographic experience. Each event will be carefully designed in every technical and organizational aspect, thereby contributing to the visibility, recognition, and reputation of FIAP. The duration of these events should not exceed ten days, and they should be organized on an all-inclusive basis. In addition, they should not take

place during the same month as FIAP Congresses or FIAP Photo Meetings. During the discussion, Mr. P. Stanley noted that, in Ireland, federation members often lack the necessary resources and time to organize such initiatives. In response, Mr. Busi clarified that FIAP does not impose any financial requirements and that the promotion of FIAP Photo Days through the FIAP website and FIAP News may even generate economic benefits for the organizers.

22. FIAP Photo Meetings

Considerations of the 2025 event

Mr. Busi reported that, despite some initial difficulties, the event ultimately proceeded successfully. He also noted that he received numerous emails from participants and members expressing their appreciation for the opportunity to take high-quality photographs during their stay in Inner Mongolia. Concerns were also raised regarding the potentially high number of local photographers present. It was explained that this situation was unavoidable, as the organization of the locations, settings, and props required the involvement of a significant number of local participants. It was generally acknowledged that China offers unique and high-quality photographic opportunities and that the photographic sessions were of exceptional value. In order to better manage future Photomeetings and to ensure consistently high-quality standards for all participants, the members agreed to limit the number of participants in future Photomeetings to no more than 150 photographers, all holding FIAP distinctions, thereby returning to the standards originally established for participation in a Photomeeting.

After a formal vote, the Board approved that future Photomeetings shall be open exclusively to holders of FIAP distinctions. It was further decided that partners and children of FIAP distinction holders may also participate, provided that all participants hold a valid FIAP Card.

Photomeeting 2027

With regard to the Photomeeting scheduled for 2027, the Board of Directors has so far received only the candidacy of Montenegro. However, the organizational rules proposed for the event do not yet fully comply with the requirements set out in the FIAP Agreement. Consequently, FIAP will request the Montenegrin organizers to

review the program and bring it into compliance with the provisions of the FIAP Agreement.

23. FIAP Congress 2026, Brazil

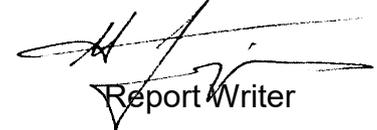
Mr. Busi also informed the Board of Directors that, at present, the only confirmed information regarding the forthcoming Congress in Brazil concerns the provisional dates, which are expected to be between 1 August (opening day) and 8 August (closing day). All events are planned to take place in Rio de Janeiro. Further details are expected by the end of December. The indicative participation cost has been estimated at approximately EUR 1,800. Regarding the Congress in Brazil, it was decided that the total number of participants must not exceed 150 persons. In the event of oversubscription, priority will be allocated on a per-country basis, first to national presidents and directors, followed by other participants, with the aim of ensuring balanced representation among the participating countries.

24. Next FIAP Board Meeting

It was suggested that the next Board meeting might be held towards the end of May in Scotland, subject to confirmation and further organizational arrangements

Athens, March 9, 2026

Ioannis LYKOURIS



Report Writer