FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE L'ART PHOTOGRAPHIQUE
The International Federation of Photographic Art

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Minutes of the FIAP Board of Directors
Rio de Janeiro - Brazil, 31st. July / 01st. August 2026

PRESENT: Riccardo BUSI, Joan BURGUES, David PC TAY, Herbert GMEINER, Ioannis LYKOURIS, Romain NERO, Luis FRANKE, Payl Stanley (Board Members).

1. Introduction by the President

President R. Busi welcomed the members of the Board and conveyed the apologies of Mr. Batschinski, who was unable to attend for personal reasons. He subsequently referred to the forthcoming Congress in Rio de Janeiro, emphasizing the particular significance of hosting an event of this scale in Latin America for the first time.

2. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Mr. H. Gmeiner, presented an overview of FIAP's current financial position. He reported that the previous year's income had contributed to an increase in FIAP's balance. With regard to the first half of the current year, the final financial statements had not yet been completed and were expected to be finalized in September 2026. Nevertheless, a modest deficit was anticipated for the current year, owing to existing obligations and outstanding invoices.

Mr. Gmeiner further explained that a budget for the following year had been prepared on the assumption that the financial situation would remain broadly at comparable levels. He underlined that payment of annual membership fees constitutes a prerequisite for participation in, and the exercise of voting rights at, the FIAP Congress.

The situation of members with outstanding annual membership fees was then examined. Attention was drawn to the fact that, pursuant to the FIAP Statute and the applicable regulations, the United Arab Emirates, Brunei, Colombia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Panama and Uruguay, having failed to meet their financial obligations, do not hold voting rights.

In accordance with the Statutes, membership was terminated for Colombia, Iraq and Panama, as the prescribed two-year period of non-payment had elapsed. In view of the ongoing conflict in Iran, an extension was granted for the settlement of Iran's outstanding membership fees.

Finally, with respect to ILFIAPs, Mr. Gmeiner informed the members that 30 ILFIAP Clubs had not yet paid their fees for the current year. A further 10 ILFIAP Clubs had failed to pay their fees for two consecutive years; consequently, their affiliation was terminated.

3. Relations with members

Additional criteria introduced by certain National Federations were examined in relation to the rules governing the granting of FIAP Patronage. Consideration was also given to the need for an effective procedure for verifying applicant clubs, with a view to preventing cases involving fictitious or inactive organisations. It was acknowledged that certain requirements introduced by National Federations may relate to the need to ascertain the authenticity and legal status of organisers. Given that FIAP does not have the capacity to verify independently the hundreds of organisers and competitions active worldwide, particular importance was attached to the role of Operational Members, which serve as the principal source of information and verification in each country.

It was considered appropriate that, where a National Federation possesses specific information suggesting that an organiser or club may be acting in breach of national legislation, FIAP should be formally informed, so that it may carefully examine the situation and determine, in accordance with its own Statutes and Regulations, the most appropriate measures to be taken.

The same approach applies to applications for ILFIAP affiliation, in respect of which the position of the relevant National Federation was regarded as particularly significant, especially where national or fiscal legislation is involved. Where an official negative recommendation is submitted by the relevant National Federation, the available information should be examined and, where necessary, additional documentation or clarification requested.

With regard to the FIAP Red List, certain issues concerning the interpretation and application of the regulations governing Nature competitions were reviewed, particularly in relation to requirements established by other associations which have historically applied somewhat different standards, allowing a limited degree of image manipulation in their internal competitions. It was nevertheless reiterated that, when images are submitted to international competitions held under FIAP Patronage, entrants confirm that they have read, understood and accepted the applicable regulations and undertake to comply with them. Consequently, the applicable FIAP Regulations must be fully observed and shall prevail over any national regulations.

4. World Cup for Clubs Service

The proposed amendments to the World Cup for Clubs Regulations, submitted by the Director, Mr M. Macinai, were examined. It was agreed that the club representative shall be responsible for providing any evidence, documentation or supporting files requested by FIAP within a strict deadline of ten days from the date of the request. This deadline is mandatory and no extension shall be granted. Should the requested documentation or files not be received within this deadline, or should the documentation provided be deemed insufficient at FIAP’s sole discretion, the image or images concerned shall be automatically disqualified and, consequently, assigned a score of zero.

It was further agreed that image files should follow a standardized naming convention to facilitate their identification, processing, and subsequent inclusion in the FIAP archives. The approved format shall be as follows: Title of Work – Author's First Name – Author's Last Name – Country. The same requirement shall apply to the FIAP Biennials.

A specific provision concerning artificial intelligence will also be included in the Regulations. With regard to artificial intelligence, participants shall comply with the provisions of FIAP Document 050/2025, "Artificial Intelligence (AI) in FIAP Salons", the relevant provisions of which are reproduced below.
1. Permitted AI-enhanced editing: 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, are permitted.
2. Prohibited AI editing: any AI-assisted process involving synthetic image generation or the introduction of external image data, visual elements, textures, objects, or scenes not originally present in the author's photograph is prohibited.

It was decided that, starting with the next edition, the World Cup for Clubs shall be open to all clubs worldwide free of charge, with no participation fee. This decision is intended to encourage a considerable increase in the number of participating clubs, while at the same time strengthening FIAP's international visibility and fostering broader participation, particularly from countries and regions where FIAP's activities and representation can be further developed. The Board considered this initiative an important opportunity to promote FIAP's activities, expand its international presence and further extend its worldwide network.

It was further decided to establish a specific award reserved for ILFIAP clubs participating in the World Cup for Clubs. The overall winner of the World Cup for Clubs shall continue to receive the World Cup trophy, regardless of whether or not it is an ILFIAP club. Among all participating ILFIAP clubs, the club achieving the highest position in the overall ranking shall receive the award specifically reserved for ILFIAP clubs, regardless of its position in the overall ranking and irrespective of whether it has received any of the awards granted to the highest-ranked clubs in the competition. This award shall consist of the participation of one representative of the club in the next FIAP Congress or FIAP Photo Meeting, with all related costs covered by FIAP, including flights, the participation fee, accommodation, meals and the other services included in the official programme. Should the highest-ranked ILFIAP club also be the overall winner of the World Cup for Clubs, it shall be entitled to both awards: the World Cup for Clubs trophy and the award specifically reserved for ILFIAP clubs. The award must be used in the year for which it is granted, in connection with the FIAP Congress or FIAP Photo Meeting taking place during that year, and may not be postponed or transferred to a subsequent event or year. Should no representative of the winning ILFIAP club be available or able to attend the relevant event, the award shall automatically lapse, with no possibility of postponement, transfer or compensation of any kind.

This measure is intended to provide an additional incentive for ILFIAP clubs to participate in the World Cup for Clubs, while encouraging them to maintain active membership and engagement within FIAP.

5. Biennials Service

Potential host countries for forthcoming Biennials were considered. The next Youth Biennial is scheduled to take place in Egypt in conjunction with the Board meeting in April 2027, while Montenegro will host the 32nd Colour Biennial, the opening of which is envisaged for September 2027. Oman was identified as a possible host for the next Nature Biennial, Poland is interest in organizing one of the future Biennials, and Indonesia for a future Black and White Biennial.

It was further considered appropriate, where relevant, to extend to the Biennials the general improvements adopted for the World Cup for Clubs Regulations.

The Board discussed the practical difficulties of shipping photographic prints internationally, particularly the ongoing problems with customs clearance. Possible alternatives included replacing some print sections with digital sections and introducing a portfolio-based format. No decision was taken, and the existing print sections of the Biennials will remain unchanged for the time being.

The Board reviewed the latest edition of the FIAP publication and confirmed that copies had been sent to Exhibition Centres and the relevant FIAP representatives. Copies could not yet be sent to several Liaison Officers and Directors who had not confirmed their postal addresses. The Board stressed the need to respond promptly to FIAP requests for information, including postal details, to ensure the timely and efficient distribution of publications and other materials. The Board also noted that FIAP had received several enquiries about the publication's availability and how to purchase it. Additional copies may be made available as needed, including for use as gifts or prizes at FIAP events.

6. Organization of the 36th FIAP Congress - Meeting with the Organizer

A meeting was held with the Congress organizers to assess the current situation and consider possible measures and adjustments. Among the proposals examined was the organisation of a special photographic contest during the Congress, open to all registered participants and comprising two sections: Congress Souvenir Photography and Artistic Photography.

Participants would submit their photographs through a dedicated online platform. It was reported that the first prizes would be provided by the local OPPO organisation as sponsorship, at no cost to FIAP. FIAP would complement these prizes with additional awards, such as SD cards and FIAP publications. For the first section, all Congress participants would be invited to view and vote for the submitted photographs, while the second section would be judged by a panel comprising representatives of the sponsor, OPPO, and the organizers. The winners of both sections would be announced during the award ceremony, at which the winning images would also be projected.

It was considered that the contest could offer participants an enjoyable activity and an opportunity to create photographic memories of the Congress. It could also provide FIAP with valuable material for future collections, as well as for its communication and promotional activities. Before implementation, the rules, participation conditions, and all other relevant provisions should be reviewed, completed, and formally approved.

Particular attention was also given to the privacy policy and the terms and conditions governing the online platform through which images would be submitted. It was considered essential for FIAP to obtain the necessary rights and permissions to include submitted photographs in its collections and to use them in connection with future FIAP events, activities, communications, and promotional purposes. The relevant privacy notice, terms of use, and intellectual-property provisions applicable to the online platform should be reviewed by the platform provider and, where necessary, amended and finalized by it before the contest is launched, in accordance with European and Brazilian legislation.

7. Print competition FIAP / PSA 2026

Mr. P. Stanley presented a proposal for the establishment of a joint FIAP/PSA Print Grand Prix, prepared following consultations with representatives of the Photographic Society of America (PSA), and subsequent discussions with representatives of both organizations.

The proposed framework was examined, covering the organisation and hosting arrangements, eligibility criteria, judging procedure, trophy, financial implications, provisions on the re-use of images, and implementation arrangements.

A discussion took place relating to the frequency of holding this event. The initial proposal was that this would be held biennially. However, following the discussion it was agreed that it would be held annually. Participation would be by invitation only and free of charge. Eligible photographers would be required to register through the designated system, submit a digital version of the qualifying print, and provide the corresponding physical print for judging. Eligibility would be restricted to prints that have received qualifying awards, such as medals, in an eligible salon. Ribbons, certificates, and Honourable Mentions would not qualify. The competition would produce one overall winner only. As this competition will be held under FIAP Auspices acceptances and awards gained in it will not count towards FIAP Distinctions. The winner will receive the principal prize, together with an invitation to attend the relevant FIAP or PSA event, with the applicable expenses covered.

It was agreed that the trophy should be jointly designed and approved by FIAP and PSA and should bear the logos of both organizations. Its final design and specifications would be determined jointly by the two organizations.

A photograph submitted to one edition of the Print Grand Prix would not be eligible for submission to any subsequent edition, irrespective of whether it had received the Grand Prix award. This restriction would apply to the image rather than to the photographer. An appropriate database and verification mechanism would be required to ensure compliance with this provision. The possible use of image-recognition or AI-assisted tools was also considered, although the appropriate technical solution remains to be identified.

Participation would be limited to authors who do not appear on the applicable FIAP or PSA red/black lists. This requirement would be expressly included in the Regulations. Given that this is contest is being organised by FIAP, Directory Board members cannot participate, even if they have eligible prints.

It was estimated that approximately 600–700 eligible prints per cycle could result from FIAP- and PSA-recognized competitions. Final judging would take place in conjunction with an appropriate FIAP or PSA event. The composition of the jury and the related expenses would alternate according to the organization hosting the respective edition. Participants would remain responsible for the costs of producing and dispatching their prints. FIAP's principal expenditure would relate to hosting the event, the expenses of FIAP-appointed judges, and the costs associated with inviting the winner to the relevant FIAP event.

The proposed implementation procedure was also reviewed, including the creation of a joint register of eligible images, the invitation of eligible photographers, the submission of digital and physical prints, joint judging, and the selection of the overall winner. It was further reported that PSA had examined the proposal internally, including with its relevant print division and legal representatives, and had expressed its readiness to proceed.

Following consideration of the proposal and the related matters, the establishment of the FIAP/PSA Print Grand Prix was approved. This approval is subject to the finalization of the detailed regulations and operational arrangements in cooperation with PSA.

8. Patronage Service

The information relating to FIAP Patronage activity was reviewed. A decrease in the overall number of salons, compared with the preceding year, was reported. This development was attributable, inter alia, to the application of limits on the number of salons permitted in certain countries.

Several countries that had previously organized substantially higher numbers of salons had subsequently been brought within the applicable limits. This reduction in activity was intentional and formed part of the measures adopted to promote a more balanced and sustainable level of activity.

The situation concerning salons organized in non-affiliated countries was also considered. The implementation of the new rules has resulted in a substantial reduction in the number of such salons.

9. Promotion and Partnership Service

Mr D. Tay reported on the progress of FIAP's relations with companies in the photographic industry, following contacts established at the 27th China International Photograph & Electrical Imaging Machinery and Technology Fair (China P&E), held in Beijing from 15 to 18 May 2026.

Potential partnerships and sponsorship opportunities with photographic equipment manufacturers were considered, including Godox, a leading manufacturer and distributor of photographic lighting, cinema, and broadcasting equipment, and Nisi, a manufacturer of photographic filters and lenses. Initial discussions focused on the possible introduction of a consistent discount scheme for FIAP members, as well as on the broader prospects for cooperation with FIAP, particularly in the fields of educational programmes, equipment demonstrations, competitions and events, and sponsorship through prizes or financial contributions for the World Cup for Clubs, the FIAP Biennials, or individual competitions. It was considered

appropriate that requests for sponsorship of specific competitions or events be addressed to the companies individually, through formal proposals and on a case-by-case basis.

An update was also provided on discussions with Insta360, particularly concerning the promotion and educational presentation of 360-degree and action-camera photography. It was observed that many photographers remain unfamiliar with 360-degree photography and its possibilities in comparison with conventional photography. Insta360 has expressed interest in participating in educational activities, including webinars, expert presentations, product demonstrations, and cooperation with local FIAP federations. The possibility of inviting Insta360 to become the principal sponsor of a dedicated action-camera competition was also considered, with a view to potentially establishing a new FIAP event connected with this photographic technology. The proposal will be further discussed with the company.

Other photographic equipment companies that may be interested in cooperating with FIAP were also identified, including Lowepro, a manufacturer of photographic bags and related products, Leofoto, known for tripods and photographic support equipment, and 7Artisans, a manufacturer of photographic lenses and related equipment. Contacts already exist with several of these companies, some of which have expressed willingness to explore cooperation with FIAP. The relevant contact details and correspondence will be circulated, and follow-up discussions will continue. A further meeting will also be arranged with the relevant FIAP representatives to examine possible cooperation with the FIAP Academy.

10. Distinctions Service

The latest figures relating to FIAP distinctions were reviewed. It was reported that the number of distinctions awarded has declined in recent years; however, based on the available data and current projections, more than 1,000 distinctions were expected to be awarded in 2026. The prospects for further growth were also considered, including a possible objective of approximately 1,400 distinctions for 2027, subject to subsequent developments.

The Board also reviewed improvements in the administration of the FIAP Distinction Service. The current system provides an extensive database of verified salon acceptances and distinctions awarded, making it easier to assess whether applicants meet the requirements for each distinction. The database and associated procedures have considerably streamlined the Service’s work and simplified the verification of photographers’ achievements. Photographers can also access their verified results directly through their personal profiles.

It was considered that an efficient and transparent application process could facilitate and encourage further applications for distinctions. The possible contribution of offering the first distinction free of charge, combined with active promotion by Liaison Officers, was also highlighted as a means of increasing participation.

The Board then reviewed the results of the new FIAP Portfolio initiative. The first session received 149 entries, of which 118 were accepted, while the second received 137 entries, of which 104 were accepted. The initiative has attracted considerable interest and offers a distinct way to participate in FIAP activities,

assessing a coherent body of photographic work built around a specific theme rather than the salon acceptances or awards achieved by individual images.

The Board discussed featuring a broader selection of portfolios in future presentations and promotional materials to showcase the diversity and quality of the work and encourage wider participation. It also highlighted the value of identifying the countries represented, to demonstrate the initiative's international reach. The Board emphasized the key role of Liaison Officers in promoting the Portfolio initiative and other FIAP activities in their countries. Further promotion will take place through the FIAP Newsletter and other suitable communication channels. Selected portfolios should be featured in the Newsletter to show photographers what a thematic body of work can achieve and encourage them to participate.

Finally, honorary distinctions will be awarded to delegates attending the Congress during the farewell dinner. In particular, the HonEFIAP distinction will be conferred on Cecilia Vong (Macao) and Sefa Ulukan (Turkey), while the EsFIAP distinction will be conferred on Milan Veliky (Slovakia), Helen Hanafin (Ireland), John Hughes (USA), Tate Howard (United Kingdom), Rashid Usmanov (Russian Federation), Koichi Sato (Japan), Tran Thi Thu Tong (Vietnam), Clovis Arthur Marchesin, Emiliano Fernandez, Renata Xavier and Carlos Gandara (Brazil).

11. Collection Service

President Busi emphasized the importance of archiving all photographic documentation relating to the Congress in the new FIAP Collection Service. He also recalled the substantial organizational and financial commitment made by the Federation to establish the Service, equipping it with NAS storage systems and the equipment needed to preserve FIAP's photographic and documentary heritage.

He therefore urged all Board members to promptly transfer to the Collection Service the photographs and documents in their possession relating to Congresses, Board meetings, official events and other important FIAP activities. These valuable records should be collected and preserved to safeguard FIAP's history. Mr. Busi reiterated that regular use of the Service is essential to preserve this heritage and ensure that it remains accessible in the future.

12. FIAP Web Site

The Board reviewed progress on the new FIAP website with Mrs and Mr Brkić, the latter being the Service Director. Following the closure of the company previously responsible for the website, FIAP sought a suitable software company to develop and maintain its replacement.

Interested software companies had been invited to submit proposals for the development of the new website. Mr. Brkić presented a proposed solution, together with alternative design concepts. These concepts constitute initial visual proposals based on the existing functional requirements and the indications previously provided by the Board. The principal differences between the proposals relate to visual design and presentation, rather than to the underlying content and structure.

The developers confirmed that the information and data currently available on the FIAP website and database will be migrated to the new website, which will be accessible and properly displayed on desktop computers, laptops, tablets, and mobile telephones. As the current website makes it difficult for users to locate information quickly, the new website should include a clear and comprehensive main navigation menu. The possibility of introducing a Google-style internal search function was specifically considered, enabling users to enter keywords and retrieve relevant pages and documents.

The possibility of authorizing FIAP officers or Service Directors to upload or update specific documents and information directly was also examined. The development team confirmed that this would be technically feasible through an appropriate system of user roles and permissions.

The proposed timetable was considered. Development is expected to commence after the end of the current year, followed by a testing period of several months. On the basis of the timetable presented, completion and implementation could take place in approximately June of the following year. Given the substantial development period involved, it was agreed that the progress of the project should be appropriately monitored. It was emphasized that the new website should materially enhance FIAP's capacity to communicate information internationally.

The inclusion of multilingual functionality was also considered, including the possible use of automated or AI-assisted translation technologies for the website interface and general content. A distinction was drawn between the translation of general website content and that of official FIAP documents and regulations. Official documents, including regulations, should continue to be maintained in their officially approved languages, whereas automated translation technologies may be considered to improve access to general website information.

The priority functions and information requiring immediate accessibility should be confirmed, the required search functionality further defined, and consideration given to which FIAP officers or Services should be granted administrative or content-management rights. Any additional requirements should also be communicated for incorporation into the final specification.

13. Photo Beijing

The Board received an update on FIAP's participation in Photo Beijing 2026, scheduled to take place from 4 to 13 September. FIAP will contribute a visual presentation introducing the Federation and promoting its activities. The Board appointed Vice-President David Tay to represent FIAP at the event.

14. Lishui FIAP Conference and Anhui International Photography Season

The Board reviewed the invitation concerning the photographic events planned in Lishui and Anhui, received following the FIAP delegation's visit to China in May. FIAP had previously signed an agreement with the Municipality of Lishui for the regular organization of the FIAP World Photographers Conference, accompanied by an international photographic symposium. The main theme of this year's edition will be travel photography. It was proposed that the President of FIAP open the conference with an introductory address and that the programme include several speakers delivering presentations of approximately 20

minutes each. The Board emphasized the need to give speakers sufficient advance notice to allow them to prepare their presentations adequately.

The events are provisionally scheduled from 23 October to 4 November and are expected to include exhibitions, photographic projections, photographic activities and excursions in both Lishui and Anhui, with approximately 40 FIAP photographers participating. According to the information received so far, the Chinese organizers are expected to cover the international travel and accommodation costs of the invited participants. As FIAP is not directly responsible for organizing the events, all participation arrangements remain subject to confirmation by the respective Chinese organizing authorities. Their final decisions and detailed organizational arrangements are therefore awaited.

15. Candidatures for the 2027 FIAP Photo Meeting and the 2028 FIAP Congress

For the FIAP Photo Meeting 2027, the Board welcomed the candidatures submitted by the Operational Members of Montenegro and Sri Lanka. Both Members have yet to submit their complete and final dossiers. Discussions are ongoing with them to finalize the documentation and enable the Board to select the destination, hopefully at its October meeting. For this reason, no decision can be taken during the Congress. The dates of the Photo Meeting will subsequently be agreed upon, taking into account the other FIAP events scheduled for 2027.

For the FIAP Congress 2028, the Board welcomed the candidature of the Operational Member of Indonesia. However, the final dossier has not yet been submitted, and the candidature therefore cannot be presented to the General Assembly. The Indonesian Operational Member has been asked to submit the complete and final dossier by the end of October. Once the dossiers have been completed and the relevant decisions taken, all member countries will be informed of the venues, dates, programmes and costs of the FIAP Photo Meeting 2027 and the FIAP Congress 2028.

The Board thanks all Operational Members involved for their active cooperation and willingness to host these important events, helping to strengthen friendship and exchange among FIAP member countries.

16. Next FIAP Board Meeting

The next FIAP Board meeting will take place in Anhui, China, in October 2026, during the photographic events scheduled in the region. The ADASA Photography Club has formally expressed its willingness to host the first Board meeting of 2027 in Egypt. The proposed period is late April 2027, possibly in conjunction with a Photo Camp organized by the Federation itself. Discussions with the Egyptian Operational Member will continue to finalize the exact dates and programme. The Board thanks the O.M. in advance for its willingness to host the meeting and for its cooperation.

Athens, October 2, 2026

Ioannis LYKOURIS



Report Writer