



Minutes of the FIAP Board of Directors

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, April 26-27, 2024

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

1. Introduction by the President

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

2. Treasurer's Report

- *Statement of accounts and present situation*

H. Gmeiner reports that FIAP closed the previous year with a positive financial balance and substantial reserves, which will support projects such as the biennial catalog. He mentions that auditors from Luxembourg have validated the accounts, and a meeting is scheduled to discuss necessary adjustments to the statutes in response to recent legislative changes in Luxembourg. He also emphasizes the importance of enhancing FIAP's social media presence and highlights the need to update the myfiap.net website due to technical issues, particularly delays in sending membership fee invoices. I. Lykouris explains the delay in signing the contract for the website update, citing the wait for an insurance policy from the provider as the main reason. He remains optimistic that the contract will be finalized soon.

- *Payment of membership fees (O.M. and ILFIAP)*

R. Busi notes that while 30 unpaid operational members is a significant number, many of these members have historically tended to pay between June and July, just before the congress. He emphasizes the importance of this year, particularly for the congress in India, as having a clear

financial situation for each country is crucial for their voting rights and for amending the statutes in accordance with Luxembourg's legal requirements.

3. Relations with members:

- *France – Relations with Unesco ; New Contact Person*

R. Busi announces that they have identified the appropriate contact at UNESCO, who will begin collaborating with them immediately. I. Lykouris needs to promptly send all the necessary information to request UNESCO's patronage for the upcoming events in China. R. Busi has prepared the contact information and suggests that this representative could arrange meetings in Paris with UNESCO to secure the desired patronage.

- *Türkiye – ILFIAP FOTON*

R. Busi addresses the situation concerning the Foton photographic club based in Istanbul, which is recognized as an ILFIAP club. This club has established additional branches under the same name in other cities, including Antalya and Mardin. These branches all use the FIAP logo, raising concerns. The discussion highlights the need to clarify FIAP's statutes to better define the rules regarding club branches internationally. The upcoming revision of the statutes, scheduled for the next few months, must address this issue clearly.

- *China – FIAP Coordination Office in Jinan - CPA – Invitation to Zhuhai*

R. Busi reports on FIAP's progress in China, highlighting the establishment of a coordination office in Jinan. This office, well received by our Operational Member in China (CPA), is expected to open within the year. He emphasizes the importance of this office as it marks FIAP's first official recognition by the Chinese government, facilitating the organization of events in the country. Additionally, R. Busi notes that FIAP has received several invitations for events in China in October. However, their participation is compromised by other commitments, notably the congress in India.

4. Patronage Service

R. Nero begins by noting that the number of FIAP salons has remained stable compared to the previous year. He observes that the salons are evenly split between individual salons and those grouped into circuits, with the latter maintaining high popularity. While a slight decrease in the number of salons is anticipated by the end of the year, he clarifies that this is due to organizational adjustments rather than changes in FIAP themes or rules. The discussion then shifts to the "People" section introduced by the PSA, where organizers must choose between monochrome or color images—a rule imposed by the PSA that does not apply to FIAP. R. Nero emphasizes the importance of clearly defining the criteria for being recognized as an

operational member of FIAP to preserve the integrity of salons organized under its patronage. He proposes implementing strict measures for countries without operational members, requiring these countries to provide proof of their representativeness and activity in the photographic field during FIAP congresses or general assemblies. This approach aims to prevent situations where countries organize salons primarily for awards without significantly contributing to the photographic community. Finally, R. Busi emphasizes the need to incorporate more explicit rules regarding the roles and responsibilities of liaison officers into the FIAP statutes. Unfortunately, in some countries, information sent by the Secretary General fails to reach many photographers and clubs, causing some significant FIAP initiatives to remain confined to a few individuals.

- *Modifications to the Patronage Service Rules Following New FIAP Decisions on Online Jury Verification Procedure and New Selection Criteria for the "Best of the Best" Author*

R. Nero explains that to refine the new rules for the "Best of the Best" contest, it is essential to have the photos of the most awarded authors on the platform. This approach will enable a comprehensive analysis of the submitted works by country, ensuring a fair competition. The goal is to focus on those with the highest number of top distinctions while also considering the diversity of the submitted works. D. Tay adds that including multiple countries in the evaluation is crucial to avoid biases. R. Busi emphasizes the importance of diversity in submitted works, criticizing the practice of some authors who submit minor variations of the same image in different categories. F. Van Gilbergen raises a practical issue: the difficulty of verifying originality among thousands of submitted images. He questions the organizers' capability to perform rigorous checks on a large volume of submissions, highlighting the logistical challenges of enforcing the rules. R. Busi proposes that the board of directors take an active role in selecting the finalists for the "Best of the Best" contest, choosing from the three authors who have accumulated the most distinctions and admissions over the year. He plans to offer rewards to these three finalists, including an invitation to a congress or a photographic meeting where the best of the three will be crowned. R. Nero supports this idea, affirming that a thorough analysis of the applications is essential to stimulate engagement and interest in the competition. A specific issue regarding the inclusion of judges from various geographic regions was discussed to ensure a fair evaluation of the works. I. Lykouris proposed including L. Franke, a board member residing in Latin America who speaks Spanish, to participate in the online judging, facilitating the organization of sessions across different time zones. This follows a prior decision to exclude board members from the jury to avoid conflicts of interest. However, R. Nero

suggested reconsidering this decision, arguing that L. Franke could bring valuable expertise and objectivity, given his thorough knowledge of FIAP rules and salon organization. In line with the proposal to include L. Franke to ensure balanced geographic representation in the jury, R. Busi recommends further enhancing this diversity by integrating members from various regions. R. Nero also suggests that board members actively participate in monitoring all the salons they judge to ensure transparency and integrity in the evaluation process. This approach aims to eliminate any potential bias and maintain high standards in the organization and evaluation of FIAP competitions.

- *Obligation to keep Exif Data unaltered, Current status of FIAP salons in 2023/2024, Issues with ILFIAPs having undue power in countries without operational members. Proposals and solutions. - Final decision regarding the Competition Control Commission*

R. Busi emphasizes the need to incorporate the requirement to preserve EXIF data into the competition patronage rules, as an increasing number of authors are removing this data from their photos. He reports that during the last World Cup for clubs, FIAP had to request photos from the top 12 clubs because 70% were submitted without EXIF data. I. Lykouris suggests that to enforce this rule effectively, EXIF data should be verified for all awards, particularly honorable mentions and medals. R. Busi supports this idea, stating that if the Ethics Commission requests to verify the EXIF data and it is not available, the author should lose their medals. R. Nero expresses concern about the potential reluctance of organizers to adopt this new rule but acknowledges its necessity due to the frequent manipulation of images. R. Busi proposes that authors be required to send the original files with EXIF data to the Ethics Commission if necessary. I. Lykouris questions the feasibility of this requirement for composite works made up of many elements, suggesting that in such cases, the author should provide the EXIF data for all the source images. To address these issues, R. Busi recommends close collaboration between R. Nero and P. Rizzato, who is in charge of ethics, to ensure that the rules are clear, enforced, and included in the terms accepted by authors during their registration.

5. AI – Artificial Intelligence

- *Request from Sweden - Letter from Finland*

Regarding Sweden's request to hold a Zoom meeting about FIAP's rules on Artificial Intelligence, the Board of Directors believes that the rules are already very clear and that an open discussion on Zoom is not appropriate for this topic at this time. In relation to Finland, Petteri Mussalo suggested a software tool for image verification. R. Busi and R. Nero, after discussing this, acknowledged that such software can sometimes identify a photo as original and other times

as a synthetic image, raising questions about their reliability. They plan to study these software programs to determine if they can recommend reliable ones to their members. Additionally, they have reached out to Adobe to join a group of brands dedicated to exploring authentic photography.

6. Biennials Service

- *Current status - Selection of future judges*

L. Franke reports that the two biennials this year are proceeding smoothly. He expresses his pleasant surprise at Poland and Canada's participation in the nature biennial, bringing the total number of participating countries to 21. D. Tay confirms that the date of August 11 has been set for an event in India. L. Franke adds that the judges for this event will include Francis Nicole and Pandula Bandara from Sri Lanka. Regarding the publication of the FIAP yearbook, L. Franke compares the design and printing costs in Argentina and Spain. While Argentina offers lower rates, there are significant delivery cost issues. A print shop in Spain could assist with the design. L. Franke also raises concerns about book distribution, particularly the high costs of international shipping. The discussion then shifts to the quantity of books to print and distribute, especially how many to send to the congress in India. It is suggested to provide a book to each liaison officer present and to discuss the logistics of sending the remaining books. The printing cost is estimated at €11,600, excluding VAT and shipping fees, with the total budget potentially reaching €22,000 to €23,000. Finally, there is a discussion about making the book available as a PDF on a platform, allowing participants to download it. This approach could ensure that the book is accessible to a wider audience.

7. World Cup for Clubs Service

- *Proposed changes to the regulation*

R. Busi addresses the suggestions received by email from Director M. Macinai concerning the new competition rules. A key point is the preservation of metadata, in response to various issues that occurred the previous year. To increase participation, M. Macinai proposes making the competition free for one year for clubs, noting that the maximum number of participating clubs (210-218 clubs) is consistently reached every year. He also suggests revising the points allocation system to encourage greater participation and increasing the number of jury members from three to five to diversify perspectives. Regarding the medals, it is proposed to reduce the number distributed to one gold medal, one silver medal, and two bronze medals, awarding the remaining as special prizes. This change aims to encourage the submission of more varied works. L. Franke emphasizes the importance of the number of participants and

photos. He prefers to maintain the current rule, which allows each club to submit 20 photos created by two different authors, arguing that a higher number of photos allows for better representation of the clubs.

- *FIAP World Cup Organisation - Clubs Award Ceremony – Toledo - June 2024*

R. Busi informs the board that the upcoming World Cup for Clubs award ceremony will take place in Torrijos, near Toledo, coinciding with the inauguration of the new FIAP Exhibition Center. He requests board members to confirm their attendance. The discussion also covers the planning of FIAP activities, highlighting the need to organize major events for the coming year before June due to commitments in China and to publish the new competition forms. R. Busi mentions the possibility of holding the general assembly and board meetings in April, or alternatively in October-November, and emphasizes the need to assess the feasibility of modifying the statutory rules that currently restrict planning. He expresses a preference for organizing the general assembly in October-November, as this period would be ideal for combining it with the board meeting and other important activities. Since the general assembly must be held in the second half of the year, this timing would allow for more flexible and effective planning of FIAP activities.

8. New FIAP Logo

- *Presentation of the new FIAP Logo - Future production*

R. Busi presents the board with the prototype of the new FIAP pin, featuring a more visible FIAP logo and significantly higher quality than the previous design. The new pin is one millimeter larger to enhance the visibility of the logo. After reviewing the prototype and the production costs, the board decides to proceed with final production.

9. 1st Universities & Academies Phot. World Cup – Jinan / Beijing

R. Busi presents to the board the agreements made with the cities of Lishui, Jinan, and Beijing for the implementation of a project dedicated to young people from Universities, Academies, and Photography Schools. The majority of the costs, including transportation and accommodation, will be covered by the three municipalities. FIAP will send several large-scale exhibitions to these cities, along with two exhibitions on UNESCO, specifically requested by the Chinese municipalities. Zeng Yi, the head of the FIAP Coordination Office in China, will be responsible for all on-site organization. R. Busi requests all board members to promptly confirm their attendance at this event to facilitate advance hotel bookings. He also asks them to promote the event in their respective countries. Regarding the participation of board members in the Congress in India, R. Busi specifies that they should arrive in Jaipur on October 30 for a

meeting scheduled on October 31. The second meeting will take place on the morning of the first day of the Congress, November 1.

10 – 11 : World Photographic Conference 2024 – Lishui (CHINA) - Photo Beijing 2024

R. Busi reminds the board that in 2021, FIAP signed an agreement with Lishui, wherein the city committed to inviting 200 FIAP photographers to an international conference organized biennially by the municipality, covering their accommodation for one week. Unfortunately, due to various organizational and logistical issues, as well as the temporal proximity to the FIAP Congress, the duration of the stay in 2024 has been reduced to four days. During the discussions, it was noted that few people would be willing to travel to China for a conference lasting only four days. In response, Lishui has agreed to reduce the minimum number of participants. This amendment also allows for the inclusion of the winners of FIAP's youth competitions (Universities, Academies, and Photography Schools), with their travel expenses covered by the city of Jinan or by FIAP, ensuring their attendance. Regarding the renewed agreement with Photo Beijing last October, R. Busi informs the FIAP board that the organizers have committed to providing FIAP with greater visibility compared to 2023. Several prestigious FIAP exhibitions will be featured in the new edition of Photo Beijing, scheduled for October 2024.

12. FIAP Photo Days

- *“Body Painting Festival” proposal*

FIAP Photo DAYS: After the meeting in Villach, Austria, in May 2023 between R. Busi, K. Batchinski, and H. Gmeiner and the organizers of the World Bodypainting Championship, H. Gmeiner was assigned to personally oversee the event in September 2023 and evaluate the feasibility of including it in the list of "FIAP Photo Days," a short-term event recognized by FIAP. Following the positive feedback from our Treasurer, an agreement was signed in May 2024. The program will start on September 18 and end on September 22. The first day will feature a photo session, followed by photography workshops and shooting sessions with various artists over the next few days. Participants will have privileged access to a FIAP lounge with an impressive view of the stage, accommodating six people. I. Lykouris notes that the special price for this event is €528, excluding flight and accommodation costs, which is half the normal cost for the same services. R. Busi emphasizes the importance of presenting this event under the name "FIAP Photo Days." Information about the event will be shared on the FIAP website and social media, featuring the respective logos. This promotion could potentially attract more participants, including those willing to pay the full price, thereby extending the recognition of

the event. Everyone agrees to finalize this agreement and consider other events under the auspices of FIAP in the future. Given that this is the first agreement related to FIAP Photo Days and that the deadlines for participation in the 2024 edition are extremely tight, the board hopes that some photographers will be able to attend. Moving forward, the board commits to communicating such opportunities well in advance to allow a greater number of FIAP members to participate.

13. Promotion and Partnership Service:

- *« FIAP Photo Jacket » - Delivery decision*

R. Busi announces that the FIAP photographic vests, which have been in the works for a long time, are finally ready. The next step is to establish an efficient system to manage the 200 vests stored in China, taking into account the potential logistical and customs challenges associated with international shipping. H. Gmeiner proposes distributing some of the vests at a university event in China and the rest at the congress in India, where the majority of participants will be present. R. Busi suggests producing an additional 200 vests to ensure that each participant at the congress in India receives one as a gift. He also considers coordinating with the office in Jinan to facilitate the distribution of the vests, taking into account the necessary sizes, and to cover the needs for the next FIAP Photo Meeting in China. To prepare the shipments, it will be necessary to request the sizes of each participant from the organizers of both the Youth Project in China and the Congress in India.

- *DXO Agreements*

Following a request from DXO to sign a partnership agreement with FIAP, D. Tay analyzed the offer, which provides FIAP members with a 25% discount on DXO product prices. The discussion focused on the technical aspects of obtaining this discount and establishing a cross-check system between FIAP and DXO for the requests. R. Nero added that implementing such offers is not straightforward, as many members might be reluctant to share their personal information with third parties.

He proposes to make the link accessible only through members' profiles on the FIAP website, ensuring that only members can access and use it. D. Tay suggests that this system would not only benefit members with discounts but also attract more traffic to the FIAP website. He also considers using this approach as a model to attract other partnerships with software companies. The FIAP Board proposes to analyze the issue in more detail and to discuss it further with DxO to find a viable solution and finalize the partnership agreement.

- *K&F Agreements - Adobe Agreements- Adobe / Microsoft Membership Application for C2PA (Coalition for Content Provenance and Authenticity)*

R. Busi asks D. Tay for updates on the agreements with the company K&F and inquires about the progress of the coalition for the authenticity of syntography and photography. He emphasizes the importance of actively engaging in this initiative.

14. Youth Service:

R. Busi addresses the topic of the youth service, acknowledging that while the current ideas presented by the new director, A. Albusaidi, are promising, the challenge of ensuring these initiatives reach the youth in all member countries still persists. Effective dissemination of information within the member countries and to the various FIAP directors is a crucial issue that needs to be resolved quickly to enable the various FIAP initiatives to achieve real and global success.

15. FIAP Exhibition Centers

- *Current Situation -Upcoming Openings: Spain, Türkiye, Brazil*

Joan Burgues reports that FIAP has 27 exhibition centers worldwide, including 19 in Europe, 6 in Asia, and 2 in South America, with a new addition in Brazil, the Cinephoto Club Amparo. He also informs the FIAP Board of Brazil's interest in hosting the FIAP Board meetings and the FIAP Congress in 2026. Additionally, Joan Burgues mentions a second exhibition center in Brazil, the Bandeirante, located near São Paulo. R. Busi suggests using major events, such as congresses or board meetings, to officially inaugurate these centers, thereby enhancing their importance and visibility. The discussion then broadens to the general policy regarding exhibition centers. R. Busi mentions the requests received for opening a second exhibition center in major cities. The conversation concludes with a consensus on the need to wait for more formal requests before making significant changes to the exhibition center policy.

16. Distinctions Service:

- *New Method for Reporting MFIAP Portfolio Results*

F. Van Gilbergen presents the report on FIAP distinctions, detailing the process of rejecting applications and the current wording of the letters sent to unsuccessful candidates. He notes that the current letters appear very formal and distant. It is suggested that the correspondence with candidates should clearly state that the final decision is not subject to appeal.

- *Reformulation of the ESFIAP Distinction*

R. Busi and F. Van Gilbergen discuss the need to clearly define the contributions required for honorary distinctions (ESFIAP, HonEFIAP). They emphasize that these activities must promote

FIAP at an international level and should not be limited to national achievements or the organization of salons.

17. FIAP Administrative Platform Myfiap.net

R. Busi emphasizes that they have analyzed the issues with the myfiap.net platform and recognize the need to resolve it quickly.

18. FIAP/ PSA

- *Email from P. Rizzato - Nature Section*

R. Busi discusses an email sent by P. Rizzato regarding the definition of nature in photography, intended as a response to the Photographic Society of America (PSA). He emphasizes that, as noted by P. Rizzato, the Director of the Ethics Service, there are still some points of divergence in the definition of nature that need to be clarified as soon as possible. He provides the example of the inclusion of small man-made roads in wilderness areas, without major interference with animal life. R. Busi stresses that once an agreement is reached, it must be communicated simultaneously by both organizations, and they must commit to maintaining it without modifications for several years. Frequent changes can only create confusion for both organizers and authors.

- *New "World in Focus" Section / Travel Section*

R. Nero reports the success of the new "World in Focus" section, noting that 95% of salons have adopted this change. He suggests setting standardized rules to avoid any ambiguity and to protect the integrity of competitions under FIAP patronage. I. Lykouris proposes that FIAP establish a standard set of rules for all salons to use, thereby facilitating management for R. Nero and enhancing security for FIAP.

19. FIAP Insurance Coverage

R. Busi emphasizes the importance of keeping all FIAP insurance policies up to date, particularly those related to FIAP's legal activities. R. Nero will be responsible for monitoring and addressing any potential changes.

20. IMPC « International Medical Photographers Club »

R. Busi reports that information has been disseminated by the president, Sefa Ulkan, in the FIAP member countries. The club is starting to receive several membership requests, as well as requests for new FIAP life cards. An exhibition was organized on May 30, and it is likely that new activities, particularly in support of certain health centers worldwide, will be announced at the next congress. R. Busi emphasizes the importance of this collaboration and mentions the

creation of a WhatsApp group that strengthens the ties between the two vice-presidents and the club president.

21. Medals Service

Kurt notes that the service generally operates smoothly, but there have been challenges with some countries not responding to communications. R. Busi discusses the idea of centralizing medal distribution for Europe and Asia to streamline the process, although he acknowledges the logistical challenges due to the high number of salons and medals involved. He proposes centralizing medal production to cut costs and boost efficiency, with Austria as a potential central location. He also emphasizes the importance of maintaining control over production to ensure the quality and consistency of the medals distributed by FIAP.

22. Collection Service

- *New organisation of the Service - New Cloud System – « BOX »*

R. Busi underscores the crucial importance of centralizing FIAP's archives, including photographic archives and all documents, which are currently dispersed among various FIAP Board members and service directors. After a careful review of available Cloud platforms, he proposes using the "BOX" Cloud. This storage system is trusted by some of the world's largest companies, such as Olympus, AstraZeneca, Morgan Stanley, Dubai Airports, Amazon, and even the Luxembourg government, due to its ease of use and advantageous cost of 40 US dollars per month for unlimited collaboration. R. Busi emphasizes the importance of centralizing all FIAP documents to facilitate access and management, thereby protecting FIAP's archives. This new system will also enable much faster access to FIAP's vast photographic heritage. The FIAP Board decides to carefully examine the different opportunities, costs, and implementation modalities.

23. Analysis of Potential ESFIAP & MFIAP Candidates

The Board of Directors awards the EsFIAP distinction to Mr. Jan Standal (Norway), Mr. Davor Dolenčić (Slovenia), Mr. Milan Vukicevic (Serbia), Mr. Garcia Flores Jesus Manuel (Spain) and the MFIAP distinction to Mrs. Laurie Campbell (UK), M. Pedro Luis Ajuriaguerra Saiz (Spain) and M. Giulio Montini (Italy).

24. FIAP Photo Meeting 2025

R. Busi states that the situation regarding the next FIAP Photo Meeting in 2025 is now clear. During their visit to Asturias, the Chinese representatives proposed organizing the next photographic meeting in Tianjin, a city of 12 million inhabitants located between Beijing and Shanghai. Zeng Yi and Liu Ming are currently evaluating the type of organization they could propose. They are also considering an optional extension of the photo meeting in southern

China, in the Fujian region, which is renowned for its large round houses in the mountains. Regarding the period, as previously mentioned, the event would take place after June 15 and could last around 14 or 15 days. R. Busi expects to receive more information or possible variations during the award ceremony of the Universities and Photography Academies Contest scheduled for next October. For now, no other country has requested to host the Photo Meeting.

25. FIAP Congress 2024 – Jaipur, INDIA :

R. Busi explains that the organization of the FIAP Congress in Jaipur, India, in 2024 is progressing well. Initially planned for 2020, the congress was postponed due to the pandemic. As a result, the organizers had to adapt the event to a significantly altered context, including a considerable increase in hotel costs. Despite these substantial changes from the original plan, the organization of the congress has begun with the utmost satisfaction of all FIAP members.

26. Miscellaneous

As usual, before the end of the meeting, R. Busi asked all the Board members up for election if they wished to renew their candidacy. Vice-President F. Van Gilbergen communicated his intention, for personal reasons, not to seek the renewal of his mandate from the Assembly and to hand over the position of Director of the Distinctions Service to Mr. Jeff Lemmens, effective June 1, 2024. The Board of Directors, acknowledging Freddy's decision, thanked him for his long and fruitful service to FIAP and confirmed the appointment of J. Lemmens as the new Director of the Distinctions Service. D. Tay also announced his intention to run for the vacant position of FIAP Vice-President left by F. Van Gilbergen.

27. Next FIAP Board Meeting

The next board meeting is scheduled for October 31, 2024, in Jaipur, India.

Athens, July 15, 2024

Ioannis LYKOURIS



Report Writer