



Minutes of the 14th General Assembly of EBSA

ICCD Plenary Hall, Dresden, Germany, 20th July 2015, 19.00 – 20.00

The Executive Committee: Manuel Prieto (President), Helmut Grubmüller (Vice-President), John Seddon (Secretary), Tony Wilkinson (Treasurer), Anthony Watts (Managing Editor of EBJ), László Mátyus (Past President), José Carrascosa (member), André Matagne (member), Pavol Miskovsky (member), Ilpo Vattulainen (co-opted member), Manuela Pereira (co-opted member).

Representatives of the National Societies: Austrian (Thomas Stockner), British (Tim Dafforn), Croatian (Tomislav Vuletic), Finnish (Elina Ikonen), French (Muriel Delepierre), German (Claudia Steinem), Hungarian (László Zimányi), Israeli (Elisha Haas), Italian (Carlo Musio), Lithuanian (Saulius Šatkauskas), Polish (Krzysztof Bryl), Portuguese (Nuno Santos), Romanian (Ioan Turcu), Serbian (Dejan Zikic), Slovakian (Daniel Jancura), Slovenian (Janez Strancar), Spanish (Antonio V. Ferrer Montiel), Swiss (Horst Vogel), Turkish (M. Can Akyolcu).

Observers.

Agenda

1. **Welcome**
2. **Adoption of the Agenda**
3. **Minutes from the General Assembly meeting in Lisbon in 2013**
4. **Report of the President, including Secretary's report**
5. **Treasurer's report**
6. **Report from the Managing Editor of the European Biophysics Journal**
7. **Modification of the Statutes**
8. **Election of members of the EBSA Executive Committee**
9. **New Member Societies**
10. **Next Congress: Edinburgh 2017**
11. **Future Congresses: 2019 and 2021**
12. **Closing remarks**

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| Treasurer | Prof. Anthony Wilkinson, Structural Biology Laboratory, Department of Chemistry, University of York, Biosciences Building, York, YO10 5YW, UK. ☎ +44 1904 328261, fax: +44 1904 328266, ✉ ajw@ysbl.york.ac.uk |

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1. Welcome

The General Assembly was opened by the President of EBSA, Prof. Manuel Prieto, who welcomed all present.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted by a unanimous show of hands.

3. Minutes from the General Assembly meeting in Lisbon in 2013

The Minutes were approved unanimously by the Assembly. They will be published on the EBSA website after approval by the EC.

4. Report of the President, including Secretary's report

- Manuel reported on EBSA activities since 2013, and gave a brief verbal report on the 9th EBSA Congress held in Lisbon in 2013. There were 835 participants, compared to 865 at Budapest in 2011. There were 24 Symposia, with 3 sets of sessions in parallel. Of the 150 Oral presentations, 9 were Plenaries, 72 Invited, and 78 selected short talks. There were 615 Posters presented. The different Sessions varied from 7 – 71 submitted Abstracts. EBSA provided €61,205 total financial support, including the registration fees of the EC members and speakers, students bursaries and secretarial support of which €13,389 was returned. 60 EBSA Bursaries were awarded. The American Biophysical Society awarded 12 Poster prizes 6 of \$500 each as travel awards and 6 as registration award for the next Biophysics Congress.
- The EBSA Executive Committee has met three times since the 2013 Congress, in Dresden (Feb 2014), Helsinki (July 2014), and Liège (Jan 2015).
- The Springer contract runs until 2018; this provides the bulk of EBSA's income, but the amount EBSA receives is reducing, due to changes in the publishing world.
- EBSA only provides support for other congresses in alternate years when there is no EBSA Congress. It also provides support for Biophysics Schools, and will consider applications for support of scientific visits to other laboratories (the rules are on the EBSA website).
- The 3rd EBSA Membranes Workshop was held in La Grande Motte, Southern France in September 2014; the local organiser was Pierre-Emmanuel Milhiet.
- EBSA is an adhering member of IUPAB with full 3-vote rights.
- The Avanti Polar Lipids / EBSA Prize, with a monetary value of €3,000 has been awarded for the second time in 2015, to Prof. Antoinette Killian, Netherlands.
- The EBSA Young Investigator's Medal and Prize for 2015, with a monetary value of €2,000 has been awarded to Dr. Iva Tolić, Croatia.
- The EBSA Newsgroup is now live. National Societies should inform their members and encourage them to enrol.
- Prof. José Carrascosa represents EBSA within ISE, the Initiative for Science in Europe, which is a lobbying group.
- The report of the President and the Secretary was approved unanimously.

5. Treasurer's report

- Prof. Tony Wilkinson gave a report on EBSA finances. EBSA is a registered charity in the UK (Charity No. 1059024). EBSA revenues are not subject to UK taxation. The Accounts of the Association need to be audited in accordance with the rules of the Charities Commission. For this purpose, we seek the authority of the Association to renew the appointment of our Chartered Accountants in London. These are Messrs. Sam Rogoff & Co., of 167-169 Great Portland Street, London, W1W 5PF. Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2015 have been prepared for Sam Rogoff & Co., Chartered Accountants and will be filed with the Charity Commission. Copies will be published on the Association's website -<http://www.ebsa.org>.
- EBSA's most recent Return to the UK Charities Commission can be viewed at <http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/registerhomepage.aspx> and typing the Charity Registration Number 1059024 into the Search Box.
- For the period 1st April 2013 – 31st March 2015, the income was €189,034 (of which €149,892 came from Springer), and the expenditure was €270,945. The current balance is €262,561. EBSA contributions to activities such as Schools, Satellites, Workshops, Conferences, EBSA prizes, Speakers, and Bursaries (61 awarded in 2015) came to roughly €138,000.

- The EBSA subscription statuses of the National Societies for the period 2009-2016 was reviewed. Denmark, Egypt, Norway all have a number of recent missing years of payment. The subscription is €2 per member. For any National Society that is struggling to pay their subscription, EBSA will consider reducing or waiving it.
- The report of the Treasurer was approved unanimously.

6. Report from the Managing Editor of the European Biophysics Journal

Prof. Anthony Watts reported that there will be an EBJ Editorial Board meeting on 21st July. An easy way to access the EBJ website is via the Home page of EBSA (www.ebsa.org). The principal areas of interest include:

- Structure and dynamics of biological macromolecules;
- Membrane biophysics and ion channels;
- Cell biophysics and organization;
- Macromolecular assemblies;
- Biophysical methods and instrumentation;
- Advanced microscopies;
- System dynamics.

In terms of publishing ethics, EBJ is using iThenticate software, and is a member of COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics: <http://publicationethics.org>). The time from submission to acceptance for 90% of papers is 84 days, and the time to a first decision (only accepted papers) is 51 days. In 2014 there were 81,067 successful full-text downloads. The Impact Factor is 2.2. EBJ is receiving around 200 submissions per year, with approximately 600 pages published in 2014. Dr. Rob Gilbert (Oxford) will take over fully as Managing Editor of EBJ in January 2016.

7. Modification of the Statutes

Approval was requested from the General Assembly to modify the EBSA constitution to expand the Executive Committee to consist of the following members: President, Past President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Managing Editor of the European Biophysics Journal, up to 5 additional ordinary members and up to 5 co-opted members (to include Webmaster, Newsgroup Manager, and Workshops Coordinator) will be appointed by the Executive Committee at its next meeting.

The modified clause 2.3 of the EBSA constitution will read as follows:

- 2.3 The General Assembly shall elect an Executive Committee to serve for a term of office, normally two years and not more than three years. The Executive Committee shall consist of up to eleven voting members drawn from different member societies where possible, and including the following officers: President, Vice-President, Past-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Managing Editor of EBJ. The Vice-President will be the President for the next term. The President and the Vice-President cannot be elected for a following term. All other members of the Executive Committee shall serve for a single term, being eligible for re-election, but shall generally serve not more than three consecutive terms at most. The Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and, if necessary, the President, will be elected separately by a majority of the valid member votes cast. A valid vote is one which carries the name of one and only one of the candidates. In the case of a tie the acting President casts the deciding vote. None of the Executive Committee shall be a delegate of the Society of which he or she is a member. The Executive Committee has the power to co-opt up to five additional full members of the committee for specific purposes.

The proposed modification of the statutes was approved unanimously.

8. Vote for election of members of the EBSA Executive Committee

The procedure to be followed was explained by Prof. László Mátyus. Voting is by secret ballot.

The Executive Committee after the General Assembly automatically consists of:

- Helmut Grubmüller, Germany, EBSA President, EBSA Officer;
- Manuel Prieto, Portugal, ex-officio Past President;
- Rob Gilbert, UK, Managing Editor of the European Biophysics Journal, ex-officio.

The following members will leave the Committee after the General Assembly: Cathy Royer, France (co-opted member) and Manuela Pereira, Portugal (co-opted member).

According to the EBSA rules voting at the General Assembly was conducted with one vote for each National Society and one vote for each Member of the Executive Committee.

Voting took place for nominations of the following officers and members:

Nominations for Officers:

The Executive Committee proposed election of:

- Anthony Watts, UK, as Vice President, 2017 EBSA Congress Organizer in Edinburgh;
- Tony Wilkinson, UK, as Treasurer;
- John Seddon, UK, as Secretary.

All nominees were voted for unanimously.

Nominations for Members:

According to the new Rules of EBSA the EC may consist of five additional Ordinary members. Candidates, nominated by their National Biophysical Societies, were:

- José Carrascosa, Spain, ISE delegate;
- André Matagne, Belgium;
- Pavol Miskovsky, Slovakia;
- Jacqueline Cherfils, France;
- Mauro Dalla Serra, Italy;

CVs were circulated for the two new candidates (Cherfils and Della Serra) who were given 2 minutes to introduce themselves (Cherfils was represented in her absence). All five candidates were voted for nearly unanimously and were duly elected.

Manuel Prieto thanked Cathy Royer and Manuela Pereira for their outstanding service to EBSA. He also pointed out that the EC can co-opt up to a further five additional members for specific tasks.

9. New Member Societies

An application to join EBSA was received from ISOBC, the Iranian Society of Biophysical Chemistry (Prof. Ali A. Moosavi-Movahedi). The EBSA EC recommended deferring a decision on this until 2017, as the EC is planning to review the basis for membership of EBSA.

10. Next Congress: Edinburgh 2017

Anthony Watts (Congress Chair) gave a brief presentation to the General Assembly of the plans for the 2017 Congress in Edinburgh. It will be organized jointly by IUPAB, EBSA, BBS, and the IOP (Institute of Physics), and will take place at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC) from 16 – 20 July 2017. The Congress Co-Chair is Prof. Andrew Turberfield, Oxford, and it will be administered by the IOP. The EICC which can hold up to 4,000 delegates is already booked, as are 3,000 rooms for participants.

11. Future Congresses: 2019 and 2021

A decision as to the venue of the 2019 EBSA Congress will be made soon by the EBSA EC. Short presentations to the General Assembly of bids were made by:

- The Spanish Biophysical Society for organization of the 2019 Congress in Madrid from 20 – 24 July (Prof. Jesús Pérez-Gil);
- The Turkish Biophysical Society for organization of the 2019 Congress in Istanbul (Prof. Can Akyolcu);
- The Biobio Society, Finland for organization of the 2021 Congress in Helsinki (Prof. Ilpo Vattulainen).

12. Any Other Business and Closing remarks

Manuel Prieto thanked everyone present for their contributions, and formally handed over the EBSA Presidency to Prof. Helmut Grubmüller.