



Draft Minutes of the 17th EBSA General Assembly

Hall C and online (platform OnAir), Austria Centre Vienna, 18.30 – 20.00, Tuesday 27th July 2021

The Executive Committee: Jesus Perez-Gil (President); Elena Pohl (Vice President); John Seddon (Secretary); André Matagne (Bursaries); Mauro dalla Serra (IUPAB cross-representative); Sarah Köster; Nuno Santos (ISE); Dejan Žikić; László Mátyus (co-opted: EBSA Webmaster); Helmut Grubmüller (co-opted: future congresses); Pierre Emmanuel Milhiet (co-opted: EBSA Workshops Coordinator).

The Executive Committee attending online: Anthony Watts (Past President); Maria Sunnerhagen (co-opted: 2023 EBSA Congress); Tony Wilkinson (Treasurer); Rob Gilbert (EBJ); Ilpo Vattulainen (co-opted: EBSA Newsgroup).

Representatives of the National Societies: Austria (Birgit Plochberger); Croatia (Tom Vuletic); Czech Republic (Josef Lazar); Finland (Elena Ikonen); France (Isabel Alves); Germany (Gerhard Hummer); Greece (Efstratios Stratikos); Hungary (Péter Závodszy); Italy (Anna Moroni); Slovak Republic (Alzbeta Chorvatova); Slovenia (Jure Derganc).

Representatives of the National Societies attending online: Belgium (Savvas Savvides); Denmark (Daniel Otzen); Poland (Piotr Bednarczyk); Portugal (Armindo Salvador); Russian Federation (Oleg Batishchev); Serbia (Ksenija Radotic); Spain (Douglas Laurents); Switzerland (Radenovic Aleksandra); Turkey (Beki Kan); United Kingdom (Syma Khalid); Iran (*Non-voting*) (Ali Moosavi-Movahedi).

There were 37 voting delegates present, 22 in person, and 15 online. Voting slips were handed out to the in-person delegates, and the online participants were instructed to vote using the platform OnAir. The meeting was recorded for the purpose of Minutes taking.

1. Welcome

The General Assembly was opened by the President of EBSA, Prof. Jesus Perez-Gil, who welcomed all present. He explained that Agenda items 2 – 5 and 7 - 9 need to be Approved, by a majority vote of those present (in-person and online).

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted by 28 votes in favour, none against.

President	Prof. Anthony Watts, Biochemistry Department, Oxford University, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3QU, UK. ☎ +44 1865 613219, fax +44 1865 613201, ✉ anthony.watts@bioch.ox.ac.uk
Vice President	Prof. Jesús Pérez Gil, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Complutense, C/ José Antonio Novais 12, 28040 Madrid, Spain. ☎ +34 91 394 4439, fax: +34 91 394 4672, ✉ jperezgi@ucm.es
Past President	Prof. Helmut Grubmüller, Max-Planck Institut für biophysikalische Chemie, Theoretical and computational Biophysics, Am Fassberg 11, 37077 Göttingen, Germany. ☎ +49 551 201 2301, fax: +49 551 201 2302, ✉ hgrubmu@gwdg.de
Secretary	Prof. John M. Seddon, Department of Chemistry, Imperial College London, Exhibition Road, London SW7 2AZ, UK. ☎ +44 20 75945797, ✉ j.seddon@imperial.ac.uk
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

3. Minutes from the General Assembly meeting in Madrid in 2019

The Minutes were approved by the Assembly with 26 votes in favour, one abstention, and none against. They will be published on the EBSA website after approval by the EBSA EC.

4. Report of the President

Jesus Perez Gil reported on EBSA activities since 2019, and gave a brief verbal report on the 12th EBSA Congress held in Madrid in 2019.

The EBSA Executive Committee has met 4 times since the 2019 Congress, in Vienna (Jan 2020), via Zoom (July 2020), via Zoom (Jan 2021), and in Vienna (July 2021). In addition, a Special meeting of the EC was held via Zoom in Feb 2021, and two further meetings of a subset of the EC were held via Zoom in June 2020 and April 2021. The purpose of these additional meetings was to discuss the format of the Vienna Congress (in-person, fully online, or hybrid) in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Springer-Nature contract for the European Biophysics Journal (for which EBSA holds the copyright) has been renewed; this provides the bulk of EBSA's income. We have obtained a reasonable agreement, with EBSA ensuring €55,000/year for the next 2 years.

EBSA only provides support for other congresses, visiting fellowships, bursaries and workshops in alternate years when there is no EBSA Congress.

EBSA provides support for other congresses, visiting fellowships, bursaries and workshops. Typically this is focused in alternate years when there is no EBSA Congress. Exceptionally, the support granted for meetings scheduled along the last year was extended to attend events postponed to 2021, provided that overlapping with the Vienna Congress was avoided. However, most of the postponed events were again postponed/cancelled or celebrated in virtual modes.

EBSA also provides support for Biophysics Schools. We had approved support for two schools in 2020: *Greta Pifat* International School of Biophysics in Split (Croatia); EBSA Course on Membrane Biophysics in Bilbao (Spain). Both were postponed, first to 2021, then *sine die*. Under negotiation for 2022. Also cancelled was the EBSA Summer School associated to the 13th EBSA Congress.

The Avanti Polar Lipids / EBSA Prize, with a monetary value of US\$3,000, has been awarded this year 2021, to Prof. Elina Ikonen, Finland.

The EBSA Young Investigator's Medal and Prize for 2021, with a monetary value of €2,000 has been awarded to Dr. Yaser Hashem, France.

The EBSA Newsgroup disseminates information associated with biophysics such as biophysics conferences, summer schools and workshops, and positions and research funding that can be applied for. <http://ebsa.org/portal/newsgroup>

In 2021 the Newsgroup reached 1500 users.

The report of the President was approved by 26 votes in favour, none against.

5. Treasurer's report

Tony Wilkinson provided 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 EBSA Accounts for the year ending 31 March, 2021 have been submitted to Sam Rogoff & Co., Chartered

Accountants. These accounts, once approved, will be submitted to the UK Charity Commission where they (and past accounts) may be viewed at:

<http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/registerhomepage.aspx> by typing the Charity Registration Number 1059024 into the Search Box.

Current balances of the EBSA Bank Accounts are given in the Table with comparative figures from earlier times. EBSA's current financial position is healthy. In the Jan 2020 report, we noted 'we need to take account of the fact that our balance in Euros halved over the five years 2015-2020'. There has been a recovery as a result of COVID-19 shut-down. The March 2021 balance is up by €90,000 on March 2020 – though note we have had all of our Springer Verlag income for this financial year.

31 Mar 2021	31 Mar 2020	31 Mar 2019	31 Mar 2018	31 Mar 2017	31Mar 2016	31 Mar 2015
€216,874	€124,578	€163,031	€209,487	€228,187	€212,624	€262,561
£186,960	£106,477	£141,767	£183,760	£190,913	£163,557	£190,261

Meetings / Scientists Supported

Note: Due to Covid, most meetings, workshops and travel visits have been cancelled or postponed since March 2020.

EBSA has contributed €31,120 to meetings and bursaries this year dominated by €25,000 to this year's Congress in Vienna.

We have also contributed €1,800 to an Ionic Liquids session at this Congress.

We contributed €2,400 to an Italian Biophysical Society (SIBPA) meeting in Perugia and €1,920 for a Spain to Portugal travel bursary.

This year's outlay compares with sums in the last five years of €79,228, €86,306, €66,963, €40,200, and €74,723.

A sum of €33,000 has just been made (July 2021) to the Vienna Congress for 60 EBSA Bursaries.

The Subscription status of the National Societies was reviewed. Israel and Switzerland are well behind with their payments.

Histograms of the annual Income and Expenditure for the last decade were also presented.

The report of the Treasurer was approved with 30 votes in favour, and none against.

6. Report from the Managing Editor of the European Biophysics Journal (RG)

Rob Gilbert gave a brief report on the current position of the European Biophysics Journal.

- Committed to publishing excellent biophysical science. IF 2020 = 1.73.
- Open and inclusive; interdisciplinary and diverse in content
- Welcomes suggestions for articles, special/theme issues, and editorial contribution
- Serving the European and international biophysical community
- Supporting EBSA: your journal, supporting and championing your science.

2019 summary: 185 papers submitted. 8 issues published plus congress abstract book. 7 regular issues and 1 Special Issues (RBC2018).

2020 summary: 236 papers submitted. 7 issues published (issues 3&4 combined), 6 regular issues and 1 Special Issue (AUC2019).

2021 summary: 69 papers submitted. 4 issues published so far, plus the congress abstract book. Issues 3&4 were combined due to the number of articles in the ARBRE-MOBIEU Special Issue, in addition there has been a Multicomponent Lipid Membranes Special Issue associated with an SFB (Collaborative Research Centre) at Göttingen.

7. **Revision of the EBSA Constitution and Rules of the Association, and introduction of a Privacy Notice (JPG/JMS)**

The Executive Committee requests Approval from the General Assembly for:

- **The revised EBSA constitution;**
- **The revised Rules of the Association;**
- **The new Privacy Notice.**

These document were previously circulated to the National Societies

These changes were approved with 30 votes in favour, and none against.

8. **Election of members of the EBSA Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee after the General Assembly will consist of:

1. Elena Pohl, EBSA President, EBSA Officer
2. Jesus Perez-Gil, Spain, UK, ex-officio Past President
3. Rob Gilbert, UK, Managing Editor of the European Biophysics Journal, ex-officio

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 was by secret ballot, in-person or online.

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

Nominations for Officers:

The Executive Committee proposed election of:

- Maria Sunnerhagen, Sweden, as Vice President, 2023 EBSA Congress Organiser in Stockholm, Sweden.

The Executive Committee proposed re-election of:

- Tony Wilkinson, UK, as Treasurer, EBSA Officer
- John Seddon, UK, as Secretary, EBSA Officer
- Sarah Koester, Germany, as ordinary member
- Nuno C. Santos, Portugal, as ordinary member
- Dejan Žikić, Serbia, as ordinary member

New candidates, nominated by their National Biophysical Societies, were:

- Arwen Pearson, Germany, as ordinary member
- Ilpo Vattulainen, Finland, as ordinary member
- Primož Zihlerl, Slovenia, as ordinary member

Before the election took place, the new candidates gave brief introductions and explained to the General Assembly how their election will further the aims of EBSA.

There were a total of six Ordinary Member positions available.

All Officers and Ordinary Members were elected by 27 or more votes in favour, and none against.

Prof Perez Gil thanked the retiring members of the EC for their valuable services to EBSA:

- André Matagne (Belgium);
- Mauro dalla Serra (Italy);
- Jacqueline Cherfils (France).

It was noted that Co-opted members of the EC do not require election by the GA.

9. New Member Societies

There was a Presentation by Professor Efstratios Stratikos, on behalf of HeCrA (Hellenic Crystallographic Association) requesting to join EBSA as a full voting member. This was approved by 28 votes in favour and none against.

10. Next EBSA Congress: Stockholm 2023

Prof. Maria Sunnerhagen gave a brief presentation to the General Assembly of the plans for the 2023 Congress in Stockholm. Prof Perez Gil thanked her and her team for all their hard work in organizing the 2023 EBSA Congress.

11. Future EBSA Congresses

Short presentations to the General Assembly of bids for the 2025 EBSA Congress were made by:

- Italy (Prof. Mauro Della Serra)
- Serbia (Mr Igor Kovacevic - online).

12. Any Other Business and Closing remarks

Prof. Jesus Perez Gil reminded the Assembly that The National Societies can help EBSA in the following ways:

- With planning congresses, for example by suggesting speakers for congresses. EBSA wishes to encourage participation of younger scientists, and to maintain a gender and geographical balance;

- By nominating candidates for:
 - EBSA Young Investigator's Award
 - Avanti/EBSA Award

<http://ebsa.org/portal/prize-and-medal>

He thanked everyone present for their contributions, and formally handed over the EBSA Presidency to Prof. Elena Pohl.
