

MINUTES

Presentations and documents referred to in these minutes can be viewed and downloaded from EFLM's website: <https://www.eflm.eu/site/page/a/1058/>

1. Opening and welcome

The EFLM President, Sverre Sandberg (SS), greeted the audience and welcomed delegates to the General Meeting (GM) in Athens. SS pointed out that IFCC proposal shall not be discussed, because it will first be elaborated in more details within IFCC. Once EFLM receives a well elaborated proposal, it will be discussed among EFLM members. SS announced a small break before the elections, to allow all delegates who were out at other meetings, to come for voting.

SS reminded all attendees that EFLM is 10 years old and that one of the founders of EFLM was Vic Blaton, who sadly passed away earlier this year and who had the idea that there should be one organization within Europe and that therefore EC4 and FESC should be merged.

SS called for one minute of silence to memorize the legacy of Vic Blaton.

2. Approval of the minutes of the previous GM

No matters arising from the minutes of the last GM in Paris, June 2015.
Minutes were approved.

3. President's report

SS provided an overview of the recent EFLM activities, since the last GM in Paris. SS said that EFLM is representing laboratory medicine in Europe and that EFLM is doing what NSs wants it to do. SS called all participants to send their proposals for future actions and activities to EFLM.

Furthermore, SS pointed out that the goal of EFLM is to include representatives from all EFLM NSs in different functional units. SS encouraged all NSs to engage more in the work of EFLM and invited all countries who are not represented yet within the EFLM, to send their nominations to various WGs.

SS again reminded NSs why there was a change in bylaws. He continued by emphasizing that EFLM is trying to make a new image. SS called all participants to let us know if there are some things which we need to do better.

The inclusion of EC4 into the EFLM structure was successfully managed and SS explained how it was done and why is it important. Furthermore, he gave a brief overview of the ongoing and future projects within EFLM.

At the end of his presentation, SS thanked all EFLM officers who voluntarily contribute to EFLM for their hard work.

There were no comments. The report was endorsed.

4. Treasurer's report

Huib Storm (HS), EFLM Treasurer, gave a report on the following:

1. Audit
2. Balance sheet 2016
3. Internal budget 2016

Audit of the EFLM financial matters for 2016 had been done in accordance with GAAP (General Accountant Audit principles) by the certified auditor. The audit was successful and EFLM has obtain a certificate proving that EFLM accounts are maintained fully in accordance with the Belgian law and GAAP.

HS presented the Balance sheet for 2016 according to Belgian GAAP and invited EFLM NSs for its approval. GM has approved the accounts by General Meeting (which constitutes the discharge for EB members).

HS has also presented the Internal Budget 2017 and asked for its formal approval.

EFLM GM approved the Internal budget with 25/25 votes in favour.

5. Election Executive Board 2018-2019

Mauro Panteghini, the Past President (MP) has briefly explained the procedure of elections for the EB members. According to current EFLM membership, the quorum is 21 members. During the voting procedure there were 25 NSs present. Majority represents 13 votes.

All decisions are made by a simple voting (majority of votes present).

- Ana-Maria Simundic was the only candidate and was elected by acclamation as EFLM President-elect.
- Giuseppe Lippi was the only candidate and was elected by acclamation as EFLM Secretary
- Huib Storm was the only candidate and was elected by acclamation for a second two-years term as EFLM Treasurer (third term)

Candidates for 2 Member-at-large positions were:

- Prof. Tiago GUIMARAES (Portugal)
- Prof. Grazyna SYPNIEWSKA (Poland)
- Prof. Michel LANGLOIS (Belgium)
- Prof. Tomas ZIMA (Czech Rep)

Thus, for Member-at-large there were 4 candidates and a candidate needs more than 50% of votes. If nobody has the majority, the candidate who has the lowest number of votes is left out and there is another round of voting, until some candidate gets a majority of votes.

As there were 4 candidates for 2 Member-at-large positions, MP invited GM members to first vote for a first position.

1. Member-at-large position

Candidate	number of votes (1 round)	number of votes (2 round)
Grazyna SYPNIEWSKA	5	left out
Tiago GUIMARAES	9	14
Tomas ZIMA	6	11
Michel LANGLOIS	5	left out

Two candidates had the same lowest number (5) of votes (SYPNIEWSKA and LANGLOIS). MP said that according to the procedure there should be another voting round, but he said that NSs could also decide to exclude two last candidates with the least number of votes.

NSs voted for the preferred choice and 20/25 NSs were in favour of dropping last two candidates. As Tiago Guimaraes had received the majority of votes, out of the two remaining candidates, he was elected for the first Member-at-large position.

2. Member-at-large position

Candidate	number of votes
Grazyna SYPNIEWSKA	3
Tomas ZIMA	13
Michel LANGLOIS	9

As Tomas Zima had received the majority of votes, he was elected for the second Member-at-large position (third term).

6. Membership - National Societies

- Application of the Kosovan Association for Clinical Chemistry as Full IFCC Member

Kosovo has been accepted as IFCC Full Member. Therefore their membership is, in accordance with the EFLM bylaws, automatically upgraded from Affiliated to Full membership. AMS has briefly informed the NSs about that.

- Slovak Society for Laboratory Medicine (SSLM) has requested to become an Provisional Member

Slovak Society for Laboratory Medicine has applied for Provisional membership and has submitted all necessary documents. This is a subject to voting by the EFLM NSs.

This decision has been voted for by 25/25 votes.

7. Reports from Committee chairs

Reports about the past and ongoing activities within the EFLM functional units were given by the Science Committee (E. Kilpatrick, C-S Chair), Profession Committee (G. Wieringa, C-P Chair), Quality & Regulations Committee (W. Huisman, C-Q-R Chair), Education & Training Committee (R. Lichtinghagen, C-ET Chair) and Communication Committee (M. Graziani, C-ET Chair). Power point presentations with reports can be viewed and downloaded from EFLM's website: <https://www.eflm.eu/site/page/a/1058/>

There were several questions asked from the audience.

Q: Hans Janssen (NL) asked how C-S chair is seeing the necessity to have internationally acceptable standards and documents. How do we plan to work with the rest of the world?

C-S chair replied that producing standards and recommendations is viewed as an important activity within EFLM. He stated he was due to meet Philippe Gillery, Chair of the IFCC Scientific Division, later during the Athens meeting to ensure a co-ordinated approach to these activities and where there was any overlap that this be approached jointly. The EFLM will hopefully also be able to 'adapt or adopt' some existing excellent guidelines from its constituent national societies..

Q: Ian Young (UK) – asked about the position of C-P and EFLM regarding the Brexit?
GW: replied that we should stop talking about EU and start talking about Europe.

Q: Ferruccio Cerriotti (IT): asked whether EFLM Syllabus is published.

C-P chair replied that version 5 is almost complete and shall soon (within not more than 4 months) be made available to all NSs. It will be submitted for publication by the end of 2017.

Q: Ferruccio Cerriotti (IT): reiterated the request to NSs to respond to surveys. SS added that EFLM needs feedback from its members. EFLM NSs members are kindly requested to respond to various EFLM requests and share with EFLM their views and needs.

No further questions were raised.

8. Report from IFCC

Maurizio Ferrari (MF) has given a report about the past and ongoing activities within the IFCC. Power point presentation with this report can be viewed and downloaded from EFLM's website: <https://www.eflm.eu/site/page/a/1058/>

He emphasised the intense activity of various IFCC units and difficulties in managing and supervising their work. The number of Task forces has increased and they are not under strict control. It was therefore decided to maintain very few task forces and move all other under the divisions. To achieve that, some new divisions shall be created. One new division shall be Emerging technology division. The chair will be Sergio Bernardini. IFCC shall communicate all these changes with its members in a timely manner.

No questions were raised.

9. Date and place of the next EFLM GM

The next GM shall take place in October 2018 in Antalya.
The exact time and date shall be communicated soon.

GA was closed at 18:00.

Minutes taken by Ana-Maria Simundic, EFLM EB Secretary