



Meeting of the EBSA Executive Committee via Zoom

Saturday 22nd January 2022

Present online:

Elena Pohl (President); Jesus Perez-Gil (Past President); Maria Sunnerhagen (Vice President); John Seddon (Secretary); Tony Wilkinson (Treasurer); Rob Gilbert (EBJ); Sarah Köster; Arwen Pearson; Dejan Žikić; Nuno Santos; Ilpo Vattulainen (EBSA Newsgroup); Primoz Zihlerl; Jacqueline Cherfils (Co-opted: Bursaries); Helmut Grubmüller (co-opted: future congresses); László Mátyus (co-opted: EBSA Webmaster); Pierre-Emmanuel Milhiet (co-opted: EBSA Workshops Coordinator); Anthony Watts (Co-opted: International Societies).

Guests online: Mauro Della Serra; From 14.30 CET: Klaus Gerwert (University of Bochum); Valentina Mussi (CNR, Rome); Giancarlo Ruocco (Univ. La Sapienza, Rome); Velia Minicozzi (Univ. Tor Vergata, Rome)

The meeting was recorded for the purpose of taking Minutes.

Minutes

1. Welcome and Apologies (EP)

Elena Pohl welcomed the Committee and reported that there were no Apologies.

2. Minutes of the two meetings of the EC in Vienna (JMS)

The Minutes were briefly reviewed by John Seddon. The possibility had been raised that Avanti would no longer sponsor the EBSA/Avanti Award, as they have been taken over. However, Tony Watts is optimistic that this will continue, and he will update the EC when he finds out more.

The other Actions are all on the Agenda of the current meeting.

Both sets of Minutes were Approved.

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3. Minutes of the EBSA General Assembly in Vienna (JMS)

The Minutes were briefly reviewed by John. He reminded the EC of the voting procedures followed at the GA, and listed the outcomes.

The Minutes were Approved.

Elena thanked John on behalf of the EC for his Minute-taking.

4. EBSA Presidents' meeting in Madrid (JMS)

A copy of the President's presentation by Jesus Perez-Gil was made available to the EC.

5. Treasurer's report (TW)

Tony Wilkinson reported that EBSA's balance at 20 Jan 2022 was €139,950 (£116,625). This is healthy, but has halved since 2015, and we should ideally not allow it to go any lower. He pointed out that €50K has been give out in support for meetings and bursaries, including €33K for Vienna Student Bursaries (this is somewhat higher than the more usual amount of €25K). A further cost of €11.5K was incurred for Committee expenses at the Vienna Congress. Going forward, our anticipated Springer-Nature income is €55K per year, plus €6K from subscriptions. Thus on a two-year cycle we can expect €122K in income. Once our expected commitments of €96K are deducted, we will have €26K left, giving €13K per year for discretionary spending on Meetings' and Satellites' support, Travel Bursaries, and Summer Schools.

Tony Watts made a number of points: a) we could consider stepping down from a 3-vote member of IUPAB to a 2-vote or a 1-vote member, reducing significantly the €4,500 cost per year of our subscription fee; b) he pointed out that we could leave Springer-Nature, and move EBJ to a different publisher; c) he mentioned that the Charity Commission does not like us to hold a too large financial reserve; d) since Barclays bank is reluctant to allow us to continue operating a Euro account, we could consider moving to Santander or HSBC, who may be more flexible.

John mentioned that we get a lot back from IUPAB, and Tony confirmed that the amount was normally more than we pay in. Helmut Grubmüller agreed, but asked how often have we actually needed to take advantage of our 3 votes. Tony replied that it was very useful at the IUPAB General Assembly in 2017, to help with restructuring IUPAB in a positive way.

Elena opened a discussion on the income we receive from the National Societies, and whether there are discrepancies with the way EBSA Bursaries are awarded. Tony Watts pointed out that the Fees we receive from the National Societies are rather nominal. Elena asked why should we give Bursaries to people from non-paying societies. Tony pointed out that funding visits can be a way of helping societies who are not currently

paying members to come together, and see the advantages of joining EBSA. For example at the moment he is talking with the Bulgarian Society, and trying to persuade them to join. Arwen Pearson stated that she feels uncomfortable about 'holding a society to ransom' by refusing bursaries. Tony and Sarah agreed, and Sarah suggests sending an email to the Society involved, informing them of the benefit someone from their country has obtained. Maria Sunnerhagen also agreed, and thinks we should be open and encourage students from outside Europe. She also pointed out that Norway doesn't actually have a proper Biophysics Society. László Mátyus felt we should slightly change the status of Societies who can't afford to pay the EBSA subscription, whereby their students can still apply, whereas those from wealthier societies who are in significant arrears should be disqualified. Jacqueline pointed out that Bursaries are on the Agenda later in the meeting, but mentioned that we should consider the image of EBSA in these considerations. Helmut felt that the Fees situation was not too bad, with 22 countries being up to date with their subscriptions. Tony Watts requested a list of Bursary winners with their affiliations, so he could chase this up with the National Societies

Action: Elena to send Tony Watts a list of Bursary awardees from Vienna 2021, with their current countries of residence.

There was a brief discussion about the new Privacy Notice which John and a number of EC colleagues prepared, and which was approved by the General Assembly. John pointed out that we must be compliant with GDPR, and for example that it is good practice when mass-emailing groups to put the email addresses into *bcc*, so they remain invisible to others. Rob confirmed that an underlying principle of GDPR is to ask the question: 'do people need to know that information? If not, do not make it available'. Tony Watts suggested that attendees at the BSA Congress should be asked to tick a box confirming whether they want to opt out of the EBSA Newsgroup; if they do not do this, it can be taken as tacit consent.

Elena asked whether it would be sensible to remove National Society Presidents' and Secretaries' email addresses from the EBSA website, and only have links to the individual Society websites. However, most societies do not have Society email addresses, and can only be reached via their Presidents or Secretaries. Arwen wondered whether it might be useful to have a mailing list of the EBSA EC.

Action: John to send the Privacy Notice document to László to put on the EBSA Website, along with the revised EBSA Constitution and the revised Rules of the Association, both of which were also approved at the GA.

Finally, Tony Wilkinson reminded the EC to try to keep their travel and accommodation costs as low as practicable. He also reminded EC

members who are out of pocket from switching the Rome EC meeting to online, that EBSA will reimburse reasonable losses.

6. Report on 13th EBSA Congress in Vienna (EP)

Elena gave an overview of the Vienna 2021 Congress. The location was moved from the initially-planned Hofburg, to the Austria Centre Vienna. The decision was taken in April 2021 to run it as a Hybrid Congress. The programme was based closely on the model from the Madrid 2019 Congress.

The Congress ran from Saturday lunchtime on the 24th, until the evening of the 28th July 2021. There were 13 Sponsors and 10 Exhibitors (one virtual), and the feedback has been very positive. There were 32,462 visits to the Congress website, of which 20,085 were unique visitors. The Congress Programme app had 10,706 views. At the Congress, there were 436 in-person and 262 virtual participants, and there were 579 Abstracts submitted. The breakdown of participants by country included: 121 Austria; 164 Germany; 55 Italy; 37 UK; 33 France; 29 Spain; 25 Russia; 24 US; 24 Czech Republic. In terms of speakers, there were 8 Plenaries (3 online), 105 onsite Invited Speakers and 77 online), and 2 EBSA Award Speakers (Avanti-EBSA Award: Elina Ikonen; EBSA Young Investigator: Yaser Hashem). Elena thanked Tony Watts for organizing the EBSA Award Medals. There were 44 onsite Chairs, and 12 online. There were 423 Posters presented, 266 onsite and 157 online.

The Fees ranged from €620 (€330 online) for an Early Bird member, to €310 (€275) for students. The Abstract submission fee was €55. There was some discussion about whether the amounts charged for online attendance were too high, too low, or about right. There were diverse views expressed about this, with some EC members thinking that the amounts were reasonable given that online participants save a lot of money in travel and accommodation. Others felt that the online fee should be just a nominal amount, to encourage many people to attend, and to make it easier for people from less-developed countries to participate.

There were 81 applications for Student Bursaries, from which 60 were selected; more than 50 of these were able to attend. There were 12 Biophysical Society Poster Awards, and these were presented by Jennifer Pesanelli. In addition, Biophysical Austria sponsored 3 Poster Awards, which were presented by Birgit Plochberger. 9 Reports were received from Bursary Awardees, and all were very positive.

Two Satellite meetings were held, one on Proton Transport (Peter Pohl), and the other on Research Data Management (Carsten Baldauf and Hans-Guenther Döbereiner).

The Congress dinner was held on the last evening, with 220 guests.

In terms of finance, the Income was €366,760, of which €25,000 was a subvention from EBSA, and €76K was from Sponsors and Exhibitors. The Expenses came to €363,795 (of which charges by the professional organizer RAM came to €86K), leaving a small surplus of €965. EBSA also provided €33k to cover 60 student bursaries.

John, on behalf of the EC, expressed thanks to Elena and her team for organizing a great congress under very challenging circumstances. Helmut agreed with this, stressed that it was an extraordinary event, and stated that we can learn for future events from the good decisions that were made: a) moving from the Hofburg to the Austria Centre Vienna was an essential move; b) applying for the financial shield from the Austrian government; c) running it as a Hybrid event contributed to its success. This was contrasted with the Biophysical Society, who did not go for a Hybrid option. However, Nuno pointed out that there were particular issues with local unions in the US, who demanded an excessive payment for the online component, possibly to discourage hybrid meetings.

Looking ahead, Jesus noted that it is necessary to be very clear with Plenary Speakers what funding is being offered to them. Elena related that there was one issue at Vienna, but this was resolved following discussion. Tony Watts mentioned that at the Edinburgh 2017 EBSA Congress, Plenaries were offered a fixed amount of \$800, plus free registration and accommodation. Tony Wilkinson also noted that it is important to make clear to Award winners what expenses will be covered. Elena mentioned that 2 Plenaries in Vienna were sponsored, by IUPAB and by the Biophysical Society. She thinks there should be scope for more being sponsored in future. Maria asked for the EC's view on companies sponsoring speakers. It was pointed out that some speakers might be reluctant, but Elena thought a way round this would be to have the session, rather than the speaker sponsored. Nuno stated that some companies prefer to be associated with a specific speaker (e.g., Nobel Prize winner), but Maria felt it is more correct to go with the option of sponsored sessions.

7. **Good inclusive practices at online conferences (JMS)**

John circulated a document from the French Society of Physics, sent by Valerie Belle, concerning gender equality.

Arwen asked whether EBSA has an EDI policy. John confirmed that we don't. Elena asked Arwen if she would be willing to draft a policy, and she agreed.

Action: Arwen to draft an EDI policy.

8. EBJ (RG)

Rob Gilbert described the offer from Springer-Nature for the renewed EBJ contract. There will be a annual fee of €55K, Office Expenses of €20K, a potential bonus of €4K, and a one-off loyalty payment of €5K. However, there are various new clauses which S-N wishes to insert into the contract, such as:

- Consult Springer-Nature on appointment of Editor-in-Chief;
- EBSA will enter a formal agreement;
- An Editor-in-Charge will be appointed;
- The responsibilities of the Editor-in-Chief will be set out in detail;
- This person will not serve for more than 10 years;
- Contract can be terminated in case of legal jeopardy, or if the number of articles accepted in a year falls below 80, or if EBSA fails to cooperate with concerns raised.

Rob mentioned that there will need to be a closer relationship between EBJ and the EBSA EC, but that this is probably desirable anyway.

He proposes as follows:

- Editorial Board to be reviewed, and replace some members with 3-4 members of the EBSA EC;
- One of the EC members should be named as Editor-in-Charge. This could rotate annually or biennially;
- In principle, an EC member could become the next Editor-in-Chief

Action: EC members to inform Rob if they would be interested in joining the editorial Board of EBJ.

The number of papers submitted in 2021 was 141, compared with 236 in 2020. Since 1/1/2021 85 papers have been accepted, 17 rejected, and 86 transferred to other journals. The following Special Issues are planned: Nanoengineering for Mechanobiology (Silvia Caponi); Regional Biophysics Congress 2022; 25th International Analytical Ultracentrifugation Workshop and Symposium 2022.

Rob recommended that we stay with Springer-Nature, and asked the EC whether it approves the new contract, and the proposed changes in the Editorial Board's operation.

Helmut stated that the offer is better than we could have expected and we should go with it. Although the additional rules are probably ok, he wanted clarification on what is meant by 'consultation'? Would Springer-Nature have a veto?

This needs clarification. Rob suggested that 'inform' would be a better term and he will clarify. Helmut stated that S-N could make changes to standards, and we cannot agree now to future changes.

Nuno Santos asked where the number of 80 articles came from and expressed concern that this might be difficult to meet, especially as EBJ has slipped into the fourth quartile. Rob agreed, but stated that Special Issues are very helpful in bolstering numbers of articles. He mentioned that there have been fewer molecular dynamics articles recently. Tony Watts was also worried about the target of 80 articles and some of the legal issues. He proposed that Rob should have a discussion with Meran's boss to help resolve the issues, and that he would be happy to sit in on a conversation.

Tony asked whether the Editor-in-Chief could become Editor-in-Charge at the end of their 10-year tenure. This is unclear, and Rob stated that it is not defined whether the Editor-in-Charge could, or could not become Editor-in-Chief. Tony also asked whether Rob envisages a three-tier system of Editor-in-Chief / Editor-in-Charge; roughly seven active members, including some from the EBSA EC; and the Editorial Board. Rob confirmed that this was his intention, and they would meet regularly. Tony Wilkinson stated that he liked the idea of greater involvement of the EBSA EC, especially as the recently enlarged EC gives scope for more roles.

Maria asked what are the current links between EBJ and EBSA? Rob explained that EBJ publishes the Abstract book of the biennial EBSA Congress, and Springer-Nature pays for it (this is written into the contract).

Elena asked whether the EC agree with going along with the new Springer-Nature contract. Arwen expressed remaining concerns about the terms. Rob suggested the contract should be agreed in principle, subject to further discussions with Springer-Nature, and then Approved by the EC by email. This was agreed by the EC.

Action: Rob to have further discussions with Springer-Nature about the contract.

9. **Encyclopedia of Biophysics, 2nd ed. (AW)**

Tony Watts gave a brief update on the 2nd Edition of the Encyclopedia. There are 4 pending articles, 134 overdue, 195 unchanged, and 271 Published, out of a total of 621 articles. The published figure is 43% of the total, and it needs to reach 50%. The Encyclopedia brings royalties of approx. £4K to EBSA.

10. **EBSA Website (LM) and Newsgroup (IV)**

László reported that the visitor numbers to the site are steady, with the largest numbers from the US, Germany, UK, Italy, France and China. He noted that the link to the EBSA 2023 Congress website is not working. Maria explained that it is not yet active (due to Covid), but would be by early February. Jesus mentioned that the Bursary info still lists Andre Matagne. Sarah mentioned that she is still receiving a lot of spam.

Ilpo Vattulainen reported that the Newsgroup has been run up till now from Tampere, and that this can only continue until the end of 2023, after which a new hosting location will need to be found. He announced his intention to step down from the EC in 2023.

[Note added later by John: Arwen has volunteered to look into the possibility of her hosting and running the Newsgroup. Nuno is also willing to take on this task.]

11. Requests for EBSA support and reports (PEM)

Pierre-Emmanuel Milhiet reported that support for three meetings, to a total sum of €6K, had previously been agreed and these were being carried over:

Florescu (Brasov), Hildebrand (Druebeck) and Margeat (Les Houches).

Three new requests, amounting to €6,800, from Vassali (Genova), Berntsson (Taellberg) and Crowley (Galway) were received, and after considerable discussion it was agreed that all three should be funded.

A request from Schanda for a meeting in Aussois was ineligible since no more than one meeting will be supported in a given country per year. A further new request from Dehoux (Lyon) was also deemed ineligible.

Jesus reported that the possibility of holding a Membranes Summer School in Bilbao this summer, linked to the Spanish Society Congress, was under discussion. This would be sponsored jointly by the Spanish Society and the Basque Biophysics Institute, and could run as a satellite to the main Congress, with a second edition in 2024. However, he pointed out that it is a bit tight to organize for this summer.

Maria commented that there will be a large membranes presence in Sweden at the 2023 Congress, and that they would be keen to organize a Membranes School there as a Satellite. Tony Watts agreed that this would be a great idea. He noted that the Bilbao School would be very expensive, and that it is very late to organize for this year. If it goes ahead, he wondered whether EBSA could support it in a small way. Rob agreed with all of Tony's points, and also noted that EBSA has supported Schools in certain areas for a number of years, and it is perhaps time for a change. Jesus stated that a School in Bilbao would now be much cheaper than previously, and that EBSA could consider funding a reduced amount of €5,500. Tony mentioned that they can apply to IUPAB for €4K, so he feels it could be run at a minimal cost to EBSA. Tony Wilkinson stressed that we are already pretty much fully committed financially, and that supporting Schools is too expensive for us to consider for the time being.

Maria stated that they would love to share a Swedish Membranes School in 2023 jointly with the Iberian group.

There was a quite lengthy discussion as to what policy we should adopt going forward, for dealing with requests for meetings support. Tony Wilkinson suggested that the EC should decide on a budget for discretionary spending for meetings for the year, and divide it in two, with the first half being allocated at the January EC meeting, and the other half at the June EC meeting. Helmut proposed that we should have a ranking strategy for dealing with applications, and Pierre-Emmanuel agreed to develop a plan. It was agreed that we should operate in a financially sustainable way, and not cut any further into our reserves.

12. Student Bursaries (NS and JC)

Jacqueline Cherfils thanked Nuno for looking after Bursaries for the last six months while she was unwell. She stressed that Travel Awards not only help individuals, but also the community, and raise the profile of EBSA.

Funding of four Working Visits (Spain to Germany; Slovakia to Italy, 2 x UK to Denmark) were agreed for 2021, to a total of €6,500.

There was a general discussion about the annual budget, criteria, cut-off-dates, eligibility, etc. Jacqueline suggested that she and Nuno operate as a small team, but that they have to be careful that the amount of admin involved does not become excessive. She feels that the eligibility criteria on the website are clear. There were different views as to the requirement for membership of one of the National Societies, and how strictly this should be enforced. Tony Wilkinson suggested that we delegate how to run Bursaries to Jacqueline and Nuno, and Elena suggested that a third person from the EC should be added. Tony further suggested that we agree how much the annual discretionary budget should be (approx. €13K), and how to split it between Meetings Support, and Bursaries for Travel Visits. One suggestion was that the split should be €8,500 for Meetings Support/Bursaries, and €4,500 for Travel Visits. Elena suggested that all this should be discussed at the June 2022 EC meeting.

Maria commented that other organizations give travel grants; also that EBSA gives out other Student Bursaries, for attending the EBSA Congress. Laszlo felt that EBSA doesn't get much visibility from Travel Grants, but Nuno did not agree, and he felt they can have a large impact on the career of a young researcher. Maria wondered whether we should consider reducing the number of Congress Bursaries, and increasing Travel Visit Bursaries.

Action. Laszlo to change the Working Visit Bursary details and application form to specify Jacqueline as the contact person.

Action. Jacqueline and Nuno prepare a paper for the June 2022 EC meeting, with a suggested plan how to operate the Bursaries. They should use their discretion in dealing with applications arriving in the first half of 2022. A third person from the EC should join the Bursary Panel.

13. Future EBSA Schools / Biophysics Courses (EP)

Covered briefly under Agenda item 11.

14. EBSA 2023 Congress in Stockholm (MS)

Maria gave an update on the planning for the 14th EBSA Congress, which will be held in Stockholm, from 30 July - 4 August 2023. The lecture venue is the Aula Magna, which can hold 1,200 participants, and which can be split into two smaller halls. There will be a lunch at the City Hall and the Congress dinner will be held on the evening of 3rd August. Satellite meetings will be held on Friday 4th August.

IUPAB and the Biophysical Society will each fund a Plenary Speaker, and the Protein Society will fund a Plenary and 8 Invited Speakers (in 4 sessions). The Scientific Committee has members from the Swedish, Danish, Finnish, Norwegian and Polish Biophysics societies. There will also be involvement from ESS/MAXIV/LINXS (Trevor Forsyth), LUMI (Ilpo Vattulainen and Erik Lindahl) and ARBRE (Adriana Miele). There are two confirmed Plenaries so far: David Julius, UCSD (Nobel Prize 2021), and Lewis Kay, U. Toronto. Around 80 suggested Invited Speakers are currently being ranked, and more suggestions should follow.

Registration will be free for all Invited speakers.

The estimated budget based on 1,000 participants is:

Costs: €449K;

Income: €551K.

Even with only 500 participants, the Congress will still break even.

The planned Registration Fees are €525 (Regular) and #300 (Student).

Tony Wilkinson complimented Maria on how reasonable the Fees are.

Jesus stated that it all looks terrific, but that although it was good that the conference has a regional flavour, there were no representatives from southern countries. Maria responded that there were only 5 or 6 suggestions returned when she wrote to the National Societies in

November, but that she is happy to take input from the EC. Jesus stated that he hadn't received any request in November, and neither had the Portuguese Society (confirmed by Nuno, who feels that the Congress should have a broad geographical distribution of invited speakers, both North-South and East-West). Tony Watts stated that the UK Society had received and responded to the request.

[Note added later by John: the email address list used was incomplete; Maria is now contacting all of the National Societies who were missed in November.]

Maria confirmed that although the intention is to anchor the meeting locally, it should have a geographical diversity and the Invited Speakers will come from all over Europe. She has been supplied by Ilpo with a list of sessions which were well-attended at previous Congresses.

Elena asked whether there will be an online mode at the Congress. Maria confirmed that this is already covered (it may incur an additional €10K in costs). Elena also asked whether there will be daycare for young families. Maria responded that this is possible and can be assessed after Registration has opened in October.

Maria mentioned that Abstract Submission will open in January 2023. She also asked for suggestions of speakers – especially women - for the other remaining Plenary Lectures.

15. IUPAB/ISC report (AW)

This report was simply tabled for info, due to a lack of time.

14.30 (CET):

Elena welcomed Klaus Gerwert (Bochum), Mauro Della Serra and Alberto Diaspro (Genova), Valentina Mussi (CNR, Rome), Giancarlo Ruocco (Univ. La Sapienza, Rome), and Velia Minicozzi (Univ. Tor Vergata, Rome) to the EC meeting.

16. 23rd IUPAB Conference in Berlin, Germany, 2027 (EP)

Klaus introduced himself and his background, and gave a presentation on the current plans for the 23rd IUPAB Congress in 2027. He confirmed that it would run from Sunday 10th – Thursday 14th October, 2027, in Berlin. The venue will be the Messe Berlin – Hub 27, west of the city centre and well-served by the U-Bahn. He is the Congress Chair, and the main organizer is the DGfB (German Society for Biophysics). The theme of the Congress is "Biophysics for Health and Disease". It is hoped to highlight many new biophysics techniques. He reminded the EC that there have already been two successful joint IUPAB/EBSA Congresses: in Montpellier in 2005, and in Edinburgh in 2017.

The cost is estimated at €837K (€530K) based on 2,000 (1,000) participants. The Registration Fee is planned to be €400 (regular) and €200 (student), based on 1,000 full-paying, and 500 students. It is planned that sponsorship should cover 50% of the costs.

Sarah noted that she is active in the German Physical Society (Biological Physics Division), and will be happy to help with the Congress. This was welcomed by Klaus. Sarah suggested that Cellular Biophysics should feature in the Programme, even though scientists in this area do not all use novel biophysical techniques. Tony Watts endorsed Sarah's view. He also stated that the plans seem to be quite generous to Plenary and Invited Speakers. Klaus confirmed that the 8 Plenary speakers will have all costs covered, and the level of support will diminish for Invited Speakers. He confirmed that he would like EBSA to join with IUPAB in holding the Congress in Berlin jointly. Jesus agreed that this is a nice possibility, and asked how many participants are expected. Klaus estimates 1,000 – 1,500 (the Messe can hold up to 5,000). Elena queried whether it was realistic to generate 50% of the income via sponsoring, and that this figure seemed challenging. Klaus thinks it is doable – he has previous experience, and is optimistic. Helmut suggested leaving companies alone this year while they recover from Covid damage; Klaus stated that companies should anyway only be contacted two years before the Congress, i.e. in 2025.

Elena asked about the local Berlin organizing team, and Klaus confirmed that a suitable person (e.g., Peter Hegemann) would have to be found, as well as a Chair from EBSA. Helmut reminded the EC that remote organization can work well, for example the Dresden 2015 EBSA Congress was organized from Göttingen.

Elena thanked Klaus, and invited him to leave the meeting so that EBSA's position on the Congress can be further discussed by the EBSA EC.

17. Future EBSA Congresses (EP)

15th EBSA Congress, Rome, 2025

Mauro confirmed that he is Chair of the Organizing Committee, and gave thanks to the Rome Organizing group, as well as to Alberto Diaspro, for all the hard work already done. The proposed venue is the Auditorium at the Parco della Musica, which is some 15-20 minutes from Termini station by bus. The suggested dates are Friday – Tuesday of 4 – 8 April, 16 – 20 May, or 20 – 24 June 2025. He reminded the EC that 2025 is a Jubilee year in Rome. The costs are estimated as:

April / May: €604K - €721K (for 800 – 1,200 participants);

June: €723K - €840K;

Income is estimated as being in the range: €617K - €821K.

He mentioned that we could consider moving to a different venue, such as La Sapienza (only available out of term time). John feels that the Parco della Musica would be a more suitable venue than La Sapienza, and Mauro agreed with this. Giancarlo confirmed that La Sapienza would cost much less, but would need to be at the end of July when the temperatures can be uncomfortably high. Helmut supports the proposed location, with the earlier dates. Arwen had some concerns about timings, but Friday – Tuesday is less of a worry from a teaching point of view. Sarah confirmed that she is used to dealing with this; her preference is for the April/May dates. This was also the preference of Nuno and Elena, and Arwen prefers May or April. John pointed out that Easter will be on Sunday 20th April in 2025, and asked when the dates need to be chosen. Giancarlo confirmed that they need them as soon as possible. It was agreed that Valentina will go back to the venue to compare the costs of April versus May, and then let the EC know the preference of the Organizing Committee for the two dates. The EC will then endorse both the dates and the venue.

Action: Valentina go back to the venue to compare the costs of April versus May, and then let the EC know the preference of the Organizing Committee for dates and location of the Congress.

Elena asked whether the proposal to raise €150K in sponsorship is achievable? Mauro is optimistic about this. She also asked whether a lower price could be negotiated for the venue, but Mauro feels this is unlikely. Alberto pointed out that although it is expensive, it is attractive to companies. Another factor which may be affecting prices is the Jubilee.

It was felt that the Congress should have a Hybrid option so that some participants could choose to attend online. Helmut and Elena agreed with his, but Pierre-Emmanuel felt that Speakers should be required to attend in-person, and this was supported by Nuno and Alberto. The issue of registration fees was discussed. It is planned to charge €620 (regular) to €300 (student) for in-person attendance, and €150 for online attendance. Mauro confirmed to Primoz Zihelr that the costs of supporting online participation are already included in the €80K for technical support. Primoz wondered whether the proposed €150 online fee is too low; Nuno felt it was about right, and would help people from less-developed countries to attend. Arwen on the other hand felt that the online fee should be set very low, which will encourage a large number of people to attend virtually.

It was noted that the 2025 Biophysical Society meeting in 2025 will be held in Los Angeles from 15 – 19 February.

16th EBSA Congress, 2027

Following on from the presentation and discussion with Klaus, the possibility for EBSA to combine with IUPAB to organize a joint IUPAB/EBSA Congress in Berlin in 2027 was debated. Jesus felt that it is an excellent opportunity, and it is better not to have two large biophysics Congresses in Europe in the same year. Maria expressed a worry about EBSA's voice. John mentioned that EBSA had played a major role in organizing the 2017 joint Congress in Edinburgh. Jesus agreed that the only structure we have seen presented so far is the IUPAB part, and asked how things were done in Edinburgh. Tony Watts stated that the 2017 Congress was largely organized by himself (EBSA) and by Andrew Turberfield (Institute of Physics). For 2027, he is confident that we have good connections into the process via Helmut and Sarah (and Klaus). Helmut confirmed that he and colleagues are already looking into a suitable person in Berlin to serve as the Local Organizer of the Congress. Tony Watts stressed that good cross-representation on the Organizing Committee is important.

Elena asked the EC whether it agrees to holding a joint Congress with IUPAB in 2027, and there was no dissent from this view. An EBSA Chair of the Congress will have to be identified within Germany, and this person will become the President of EBSA in 2027 at the end of the EBSA General Assembly at the Berlin Congress.

Action: John / Elena to write to Klaus confirming that EBSA wishes to join IUPAB in organizing the 2027 Berlin Congress. An EBSA Congress Chair from Germany will need to be identified and appointed to work alongside Klaus and the Chair of the local Organising Committee in Berlin.

18. Any other business

None

19. Next EC meeting: The date agreed for the meeting in Stockholm was Saturday 18th June 2022, with a visit to the 2023 Congress venue on the previous afternoon of Friday 17th June from 15.00 – 17.00.

The meeting closed at 18:05 CET.

20. Sub-Meeting of EBSA Trustees (AW, TW, RG and JMS)

This meeting was postponed until June 2022.
