



## International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity and metabolic disorders European Chapter

IFSO-EC Executive Council  
May 5<sup>th</sup> 2026, 19:00 – 22:00 (Malaga in person)

### MINUTES

**Voting:** P. Salminen, D.M. Felsenreich, C. Copaescu, N. Di Lorenzo, C. Parmar, V. Moize, L. Ocana

**Non-voting:** A. Casajoana, G. Prager, R. Zakeri, J. Himpens, R. Peterli, C. Borg, M. Bueter, C. Stier, E. Arts

**In attendance:** M. Mazzarella (IFSO)

- 1. Apologies:** M. Fried, T. Pintar, R. Liem
- 2. Minutes of previous meeting** - the minutes are approved
- 3. IFSO Updates**

-A new Hungarian society has been established by Peter Vasas, they applied to join IFSO and were approved. So now we have 32 societies.

-The world congress in 2030 will probably be held in Barcelona, so we will not do an EC congress in that year.

-Luigi Angrisani would like to do again the Survey to collect data from countries that don't have national registries. The project needs to be improved and coordinated within the IFSO Registry committee to make sure that data - even if not official - are reliable.

#### **4. New bidding guidelines for IFSO-EC congress**

The new guidelines provide a two-step decision process: the tentative choice of the venue made by the Executive Council and ratified by the General Council will have to be confirmed after a site inspection with the PCO. The cost of the site inspection will be included in the budget of the congress. The site inspection will be done only in the city that has been selected as the favorite one. An exception will be made only this year for Cracow in order to check the viability of the venue for future bids. So, this year two site inspections will be done: Porto which is the 1<sup>st</sup> choice and Cracow that is the second choice.

*The new revised guidelines are approved.*

#### **5. IFSO-EC Congress 2029 election: Baku, Cracow, Porto**

After a careful examination of the 3 bids submitted for 2029 the chosen one is Porto. Baku is not viable due to the current geopolitical situation and also because the sponsors told us that it would be very challenging and they won't be able to guarantee the same level of support if we do the congress there.

Cracow is a good option but the congress venue seems to be too small for our needs, considering the growth of our congress in recent years.

Porto seems to be the best option, also because the congress in 2027 and 2028 will be in Northern and Eastern Europe so it's better to opt for a southern country in 2029.

## **6. IFSO-EC 2028, Bucharest, Romania**

Paulina, Manuela and Sari did a site inspection to Bucharest a couple of weeks ago to visit the House of Parliament that will be the congress venue. Despite some technical challenges (very big venue, passport control at the entrance) the venue appears to be viable, so the congress is confirmed to happen in Bucharest on April 26-28<sup>th</sup>. The event manager reassured us that the passport check will be done only once on the first day, so it should not cause too much trouble.

The headquarter hotel will be the 5-star Marriot which is walking distance from the House of Parliament.

Sari will identify the spaces we need at the venue and Catalin will help with the negotiations to get the best rate possible. The support of a local PCO might be needed. Catalin to provide contacts to Sari.

## **7. Joint EASO and IFSO-EC congress 2027 Munich, Germany**

Ralph and Carolina Pape will be the two co-presidents of the congress. Mirko Otto, current president of the German society, and Carolina will be not voting members of the EC.

The joint program committee with EASO will be a small group of 9 people: Paulina, Ralph, Catalin, Chetan, Marco, Erik, Violeta, Gerhard, Moritz. The first two online meetings will be in June: 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> for 3 hours each.

The only sponsors that will overlap with theirs are Novo, Lilly, Fitforme and Boheringer. The exhibition area will be separate from EASO so we will have to find a solution for these companies.

## **8. IFSO-EC Malaga 2026 update**

Total registrations: 1432 from 61 countries. 497 abstracts submitted.

SECO course: 145 people; endoscopy: 11 people; Robotic: 22 people; IH: 13 people; OAGB: 27 people.

The endoscopy course's low attendance may be influenced by the free course that Boston did 2 weeks ago in Madrid. We should tell the companies to refrain from offering free courses close to the dates of our congress.

We should not do the pre-application that may discourage people from registering.

We should accept all delegates and then split them in two groups: one for the beginner and one for the experts.

Courses should be designed by the program committee, just like the congress.

Young IFSO should be more involved in the courses.

The registration fee should probably be a bit cheaper for the courses to encourage higher attendance.

## **9. Revision of MOPP on Committee chairs and members**

We should add a Vice-Chair to all the committees, not only SC.

Current term is 2+2 for Chair and members.

New term: 2+1 for Chairs, 2 for Vice-Chairs, 2+2 for members.

The Vice-Chair is chosen by the Chair and approved by the Board.

Each committee should have max 10 members including Chair and Vice-Chair. The SC and MNAC are exceptions to the rule and can have max 15 members.

Members are appointed by the Chair, after the Board's approval.

**Action:** Manuela to circulate the new version of the MOPP with the changes.

#### **10. Committee chairs and members 2026, application period**

The call for applications for open positions will be done at the end of May until end of June.

Action: Each Chair to provide Manuela with a job description and requirements.

Applicants will provide their CV, motivation letter, publications.

Applicants can candidate themselves for more than one committee, but they can be appointed only for one position.

#### **11. Committee reports – see in appendix links to the relevant reports**

**Communication:** Anna has finished her 3 years term. Ana Marta Pereira is the new Chair. Targets: increase social media followers. **Action:** Manuela to provide metrics of the podcasts to decide whether to continue this project or not.

**Scientific:** SOP to be circulated soon. Some members will be replaced. A survey will be circulated soon to identify which are the learning tools that our members prefer.

**Endoscopic:** TORE metanalysis (1 RCT). The pre-congress course should be reconsidered due to the low attendance: reconsider the target and diversify the offer.

**IH:** - guidelines on pharmacotherapy after MBS (Carmil) – Systematic review – IH Survey

**Corporate:** Bariatric News should pay for their booth starting from next year. Novo didn't support our congress this year. We should involve more the pharma companies.

**YOUNG IFSO EC:** - increase education (Naples, Madrid) "How to become a bariatric surgeon" course. 1<sup>st</sup> endobariatric course with Boston's support.

-increase membership and awareness – Bucharest meeting in November (700€ for 3 days)

-Medtronic wants to become the main sponsor for "How to become a bariatric surgeon" program. To avoid dilution of sponsorship, we could do this course as a pre-congress course in Munich instead of competing with our own Congress.

-We should add an IH representative in YOUNG IFSO EC.

-The Scopinaro foundation committee could sponsor some young members to attend these courses.

**UEMS:** 16 examinees this year; min. 70% of correctness to pass the exam. The fee is 1,000 Euros to be paid to UEMS. About 550 Euros are transferred to the UEMS bank account, managed by Daniel Gero who is the treasurer. This money should be transferred to IFSO EC bank account, because no committee should have financial autonomy.

**Action:** Moritz to put this topic on the agenda for the June meeting.

## **12. Treasurer's report**

Current balance: 94,000 Euros. The profit from Venice was 48,000 Euros. The share to IFSO and to SICOB was transferred by Kenes. The expected profit from the Malaga congress is 41,000 Euros, but it will be confirmed after the Congress.

## **13. Next EB zoom meeting: 10.06.2026 16:30 – 18:00 CET**

July: Monday 13.7. 13:00 – 14.30 CET

August: No meeting

September: 16.9. 15:30-17:30 CET

October: in-person meeting in Rome 22.-23

November: 18.11. 15:30-17:00 CET

December: 16.12. 15:30-17:00 CET

## **14. No other business**

## **APPENDIX**

**COMMUNICATION C.** <https://www.ifso.com/pdf/1853-casajoana-hall-a-thu.pdf>

**ENDOSCOPY:** <https://www.ifso.com/pdf/1851-stier-hall-a-thu.pdf>

**INTEGRATED HEALTH:** <https://www.ifso.com/pdf/1850-moize-hall-a-thu.pdf>

**MNAC:** <https://www.ifso.com/pdf/1847-borg-hall-a-thu.pdf>

**YOUNG IFSO:** <https://www.ifso.com/pdf/1849-zakeri-hall-a-thu.pdf>

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** <https://www.ifso.com/pdf/salminens-report-ifsoec2026-activities.pdf>

**CONGRESS PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** <http://www.ifso.com/pdf/ocanas-report-malaga-congress.pdf>