



## European Federation of Immunological Societies

### EFIS Board Meeting

March 25, 2017 – 9:00 - 16:00

Venue: [SANA Metropolitan Hotel](#)

Rua Soeiro Pereira Gomes, parcela 2  
1600-198 Lisboa - Portugal

### Minutes\_Draft (22.06.2017)

In attendance: René van Lier, Andreas Radbruch, Lorenzo Moretta, Pablo Engel, Winfried Pickl, Christina Helbig, Thomas Wiley, Arnd Hoeveler

Invited guests: Portuguese Society of Immunology, represented by Margarida Saraiva, Luis Teixeira and Nuno Alves.

1. Adoption of the agenda  
The agenda was adopted.
2. Adoption of the minutes of the previous Board Meeting.  
The minutes of the October 22, 2016, meeting (Athens) were approved, and had already been circulated to representative of EFIS Member Societies.
3. Matters arising  
R. van Lier updated the Board about the ongoing process to change the registered address c/o the Utrecht Chamber of Commerce as a step necessary to obtain exemption of withholding taxes on *European Journal of Immunology* royalties from German tax authorities. The request submitted to change the address from that of the EFIS Secretary General's to that of the officially recorded notarial deed (c/o the Utrecht University Medical Center) was acknowledged. The implications that this change might have on the need to modify EFIS' Statutes for purposes of harmonization was also recognized. W. Pickl advised that the recommendations received from the Dutch tax advisors (Deloitte) needed to be accurately documented in that respect.

The Board also examined and agreed to underwrite the proposed Memorandum of Understanding received from the European Federation for Immunogenetics (EFI) for future collaborative activities (promotion of visibility among respective members, joint symposia at respective meetings).

Adhesion to the BioMed Alliance "Future of Medical Education" Task Force was also briefly discussed. While the true benefits and impact of the activity were still unclear, the Board agreed that it was important to be kept informed about the action, and would invite its delegate (Anna Erdei) to learn of her availability to take part in the activity.

### EFIS BOARD 2016 - 2018

#### PRESIDENT

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#### 4. Meeting with representatives of the Portuguese Society for Immunology (SPI)

The Board then welcomed Margarida Saraiva, Luis Texeira and Nuno Alves, respectively, SPI Vice-President, Scientific Secretary and Treasurer.

SPI representatives briefly summarized the Society's current affairs and principal activities. One major difficulty the Society faced (and that impacted on financial resources) was the low number of active/paying members (only around 60), since many young scientists, after some years of active membership (at only 20 EUR/year), tended not to renew with the Society as they advance in their career. This clearly impacted on financial resources. W. Pickl pointed out that a possible source of funding could come from long-term industry sponsorship (corporate membership), in addition to what could be expected for national and other Society-related meetings. R. van Lier reminded SPI representatives of EFIS programs and benefits, about which it was acknowledged that the SPI needed to better inform its members. At a practical level, the SPI was encouraged to submit an application for an EFIS-IL Lecture Award for its upcoming annual meeting, and to evaluate requesting support for a planned 2018 SPI summer school. R. van Lier commented that EFIS was particularly enthusiastic about efforts of this last kind, explaining that EFIS already sponsored a select number of recurrent schools throughout Europe (the ENII Summer School on Advanced Immunology, the South-Eastern European Immunology School, the Tatra Conferences). He argued that Portuguese immunology was strong, and that EFIS would welcome a proposal from the SPI that complemented current commitments (in terms of location, training level, etc.) and that respected criteria for approval (European dimension, gender balance, bottom-up approach). To further engage in the European immunology landscape, A. Radbruch recommended that Portuguese institutes seek to join the European Network of Immunology Institutes (ENII); to a similar end, R. van Lier encouraged the SPI to more actively participate in the definition of the scientific program of ECI 2018. Finally, SPI representatives expressed a moderate interest in submitting a bid for a forthcoming ECI. In closing, there was agreement that both EFIS and SPI should be proactive in engaging with each other.

#### 5. Meeting with EFIS EU Liaison Arnd Hoeveler

Invited to share insight into what to expect in the EU's next Framework program (FP9) and how this might impact on the European immunology community, A. Hoeveler, opened by recalling that today marked the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Treaty of Rome. He also mentioned that the Prime Minister of the U.K. was not present at celebrations, which clearly sent a strong signal about Brexit. R. van Lier commented that EFIS had recently attempted to show its support to the British Society for Immunology (BSI), which understandably views the U.K.'s leaving the EU to be a very serious issue.

A. Hoeveler then briefly reviewed three major trends impacting on the development of FP9.

- Firstly, the continued transition to a full open access policy and the FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable, reusable) principal for the management of data resulting from funded projects. Discussion of this point centered principally on the unanimously held perception that open access fees were too high and financially unsustainable for research groups.
- Second was the possible establishment of a European Health Council or a European Institute of Health, a direction being pursued by the Horizon 2020 Scientific Panel for Health (SPH), which includes two EFIS-nominated scientists, former EFIS President Catherine Sautès-Fridman and Steffen Gay. A. Hoeveler raised the question of EFIS' position in the BioMed Alliance, which was viewed as a complementary but increasingly effective lobbying organization. R. van Lier confirmed EFIS' commitment, and confided that he would put the question of what EFIS could share with the SPH to C. Sautès-Fridman, with whom he would soon meet.



- Finally, A. Hoeveler related on the Commission's intentions to more effectively engage the EU 13 nations (i.e., countries joining the EU after 2004) in research actions, prospecting that this might provide a viable occasion for EFIS to promote certain activities in the region.

A. Hoeveler concluded by mentioning what will likely become to be known as the European Innovation Council, an institution which would regroup all ongoing programs, with the exception of the European Research Council (ERC), in the context of economic development and jobs growth. Collaborative research was seen to be increasingly unpopular, with proponents opting for ERC programs (single-institute projects, no consortia or IPR constraints, etc.). Also illustrated were key scientific areas where immunology-based research could have impact, chief of which were in infectious diseases and medical-technological applications. W. Pickl enquired on the status of the review of the EU Directive on animal experimentation. A. Hoeveler replied that the Directive will likely remain as it is for the moment.

It was agreed, in closing, that C. Sautès-Fridman would be invited to ECI 2018 to present on the SPH and its work, and that A. Hoeveler would be asked to submit a brief article (max. 500 words) on prospects for immunological research in EU programs for publication in the News & EFIS section of the *European Journal of Immunology*.

#### 6. ECI 2021

R. van Lier opened discussion by summarizing the 15.05.2016 meeting he and W. Pickl had with the full Council of the Turkish Society for Immunology (TSI) in Istanbul. The unanimous decision reached was to organize ECI 2018 in Amsterdam and ECI 2021 in Istanbul. Following the meeting, EFIS Member Societies were asked to ratify the decision: 10 Societies formally approved, while 23 abstained. No objections were received. It was decided to invite TSI representatives to the next Board Meeting. R. van Lier would telephone the TSI President in advance to discuss the matter.

#### 7. EFIS Study Groups and EFIS Trans-European Symposia

The Board agreed to announcing the establishment of EFIS Study Groups on specific research areas of immunology. Study Groups – to be established with a view to creating European platforms in immunology on a topic-based, bottom-up level – would be characterized by the following:

- a proponent Group, composed of a core team of scientists from at least three European countries and with one individual serving as Group Coordinator/Spokesperson, would be required to submit a one-page synopsis describing the Group's focus and anticipated activities;
- Groups would be open to any scientist wishing to join;
- each Group will be expected to organize at least one meeting per year, either in the same location or on a rotating itinerary;
- meetings are low budget, with participants paying their own travel/accommodation costs and a minimal registration fee (if at all);
- scientific programs would be principally bottom up by design, with the opportunity given to participants to speak or just present a poster, and with the possibility to invite keynote or "surprise" speakers;
- groups would be expected to submit reviews of their work/activities for Special Issues of *Immunology Letters*.

The Board agreed to financing five Groups per year, allocating EUR 2.500 per Group per year (only two would be approved in 2017). The Board agreed to formalize the launch of a call for proposals for EFIS Study Groups: a draft of the call text would be prepared and circulated for approval. The agreed announcement to submit proposals would then be extended to Member Societies.



As for EFIS Trans-European Symposia – whereby representative delegations of one National Society would attend and represent their Society at another Society's annual meeting in order to stimulate bilateral communication, exchange and interaction – it was agreed to prepare a proposal to submit for discussion at the 2018 EFIS General Assembly and to postpone the eventual launch of the action until 2019.

#### 8. *European Journal of Immunology* (EJI) Affairs

- Formal acknowledgement of incoming EJI Ex-Co Chairman

The Board formally acknowledged, welcomed and applauded the appointment of James Di Santo as incoming Chairman of the Executive Committee of the EJI.

- Scientific figure editing proposal

Further to a proposal advanced during the EFIS-EJI Strategy Meeting (Weinheim, March 24, 2016) to provide an estimate of costs for the editing and curating scientific figures for EJI Reviews, the Board agreed that EJI should bear the majority of costs, but also acknowledged that any decisions reached in Weinheim on cost-sharing needed to be reviewed and confirmed.

- Discussion of bibliometric analysis

The Board welcomed the bibliometric analysis performed by EJI Editorial Staff for EJI's 2016 impact factor (IF) as part of the continuing conversation of EJI's health in terms of IF and flow of submitted manuscripts. The Board acknowledged the figures presented and committed to strengthening EJI's IF by promoting/inviting the publication of more reviews drawing on recognized European expertise.

#### 9. Acknowledgement and allocation of additional ACTERIA funds

The Board expressed its sincere gratitude for the willingness of the *Fondation* ACTERIA to further contribute to European immunology and allergology with additional funding of EUR 50.000 per year for 2017 and 2018. It was agreed that, since the *Fondation* had made no specific requests or posed any constraints regarding visibility, these additional funds would be allocated to compensate for existing EFIS programs.

#### 10. Invitation to DGfI 50th Anniversary

R. van Lier related on the exchange of e-mails with A. Radbruch and Hans-Martin Jäck regarding the possibility to organize an "EFIS Presidents' Reception" on occasion of the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the German Society for Immunology (September 12-15, 2017, Erlangen), which would mark the Society's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and to which H-M Jäck had already invited several National Society representatives. The Board enthusiastically welcomed this opportunity to stimulate communication and visibility of EFIS, and agreed to sponsoring the event. It was also agreed to invite representatives of *Immunology Letters* and *European Journal of Immunology*. Practical arrangements for the reception would be entrusted to local organizers, and EFIS would be invoiced for the related costs.

#### 11. DGfI-Translational Immunology School

The Board reviewed the exchange of e-mails between A. Radbruch and Reinhold Schmidt, in which the latter expressed his disappointment about being informed that an application for EFIS Meeting Support for the 2017 DGfI Translational Immunology School could not be evaluated. It was clarified that the meeting dates (March 16-18, 2017) would not have allowed a decision, as they did not coincide with the current Board Meeting. It was also affirmed that funding could not be awarded retroactively. At the same time, in view of R. Schmidt's commitment to EFIS in the past, it was agreed that amends had to be made. R. van Lier proposed to write to R. Schmidt to explain the circumstances,



and to invite him to a future Board Meeting (preferably June 2017) to discuss future joint efforts between EFIS and the DGfI Translational Immunology School.

#### 12. ECI 2018: update on preparations

C. Helbig briefly summarized the status of ongoing organizational efforts for ECI 2018, illustrating in particular the allocation of spaces and meeting rooms, and the development of the scientific program. It was remarked that more attention was needed to ensure the planning of joint symposia with other organizations. The Board agreed that ECI 2018 President, Marieke van Ham, and the Chairs of the Scientific Program and Local Organizing Committees be invited to the June Board Meeting to discuss preparations and, most importantly, budget and financial issues.

#### 13. Presentation of EFIS 2017 Budget

W. Pickl first reviewed EFIS accounts for fiscal year 2016, which had been duly audited and certified by the accounting firm Hackl Moser: income (royalties and editorial income from *Immunology Letters* (IL) and *European Journal of Immunology* (EJI), revenues from ECI 2015) amounted to nearly EUR 663.000, while expenditures totaled nearly EUR 604.000. He pointed out that this difference of EUR 60.000 was due to IL and EJI Editors' fees not being paid by 31/12/2016: he confirmed, nonetheless, that all IL and EJI Editors received their due compensation in January 2017, specifying that – on the recommendations of auditors – claim forms (rather than simple e-mails) were used to document payments. Overall, assets of EFIS at 31/12/2016 totaled EUR 1.400.000: to the concerns expressed by auditors that these could raise suspicions, he explained that nearly half of this spent each year, and that the EFIS reserve fund of roughly EUR 780.000 had to be retained as a guarantee for the European Congresses of Immunology that normally had a budget of approximately EUR 2.00.000.

W. Pickl continued by submitting to the Board's attention a provisional budget for 2017: revenues of nearly EUR 636.000 could be expected, from which expenditures amounting to slightly over EUR 656.000 could be anticipated. R. van Lier asked if compensation for C. Helbig for President's Office duties had been factored into the foreseen costs: W. Pickl replied no they had not. Asserting that he had a commitment with his institution to remunerate part of C. Helbig's salary, R. van Lier requested that the Minutes of past Board Meetings where the question had been discussed be reviewed to see what had been decided.

Costs related to the booth reserved at the upcoming annual meeting of the American Association of Immunologists to promote ECI 2018 were also briefly discussed. It was agreed that expenses (approximately EUR 5.000) were to be budgeted under public relations management.

Brief discussion followed about A. Radbruch's observation that EFIS invests significantly in the ECI. W. Pickl clarified that EFIS contributions should not be considered subsidies to the Congress. It was, nonetheless, agreed to evaluate submitting a proposal to EEIG ECI-EFIS stakeholders on the possibility of increasing EFIS' share of ECI-generated revenues in order to compensate investments made by EFIS for new European initiatives.

Discussion closed with unanimous agreement to R. van Lier's motion to approve the 2017 EFIS budget.

#### 14. EFIS at AAI 2017

R. van Lier related that since ICI 2016 in Melbourne, exchanges had taken place with Michele Hogan, CEO of the American Association of Immunologists (AAI) regarding an AAI commitment of support to ECI 2018, adding that a meeting with AAI representatives to continue discussions had been arranged during the upcoming AAI Annual Meeting in Washington D.C. He added that he had also been contacted recently by Alberto Mantovani, IUIS President, regarding candidates for the election of the next IUIS Executive Committee: the Board consented to R. van Lier's proposal to discuss with AAI



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leadership the possibility of identifying nominees that could be mutually supported by Europe and North America.

On another IUIS-related matter, A. Radbruch commented favorably on the newsletter that IUIS had recently circulated to individual immunologists, and asked whether EFIS could do similarly to raise visibility about the Federation's programs and activities. It was recalled that members of EFIS were national societies and not individuals, and that it was incumbent on the former to inform respective membership ranks about EFIS-related news. It was nonetheless agreed that EFIS should approach the IUIS Central Office in Berlin to request the mailing list of Europeans immunologists.

## 15. Secretary's Report

Based on discussion of applications submitted for EFIS-EJI Meeting Support, PhD Course Support, EFIS-IL Lecture Awards and EFIS-EJI Short-term Fellowships Decisions on applications for EFIS-EJI Meeting Support and EFIS-IL Short-term Fellowships, the Board decided on the following allocations:

### 15.1 EFIS-EJI Meeting Support Applications - Traditional Support

Title	Dates	Location	Request (€)	Comments/Decision
19th International Conference on Lymphatic Tissues and Germinal Centres in Immune Reactions	14-17/09/2017	Venice	5.500	€ 2.500 approved for bursaries
EACR Conference - Defence is the Best Attack: Immuno-Oncology Breakthroughs	9-11/10/2017	Barcelona	4.000	€ 2.500 approved for bursaries
Development of Tissue- and Pathogen-specific Cellular Innate Immunity	27-29/09/2017	Freiburg	8.000	€ 5.000 approved for bursaries
European Phagocyte Workshop	17-19/05/2017	Genova	10.000	€ 7.000 approved for bursaries
31st Conference of the European Macrophage & Dendritic Cell Society The Myeloid family reunited in Biology and Disease	21-23/09/2017	Madrid	8.000	€ 5.000 approved for bursaries
2017 EFIS-EJI Ruggero Ceppellini course - Tumour Immunology: from tissue microenvironment to immunotherapy	16-18/10/2017	Naples	20.000	€ 8.000 approved for bursaries; € 3.000 for management costs
9th EuroMAbNET meeting	5-6/10/2017	Pécs	7.000	€ 5.000 approved for bursaries
12th ENII Summer School on Advanced Immunology	6-13/05/2017	Porto Cervo	18.000	€ 10.000 approved for bursaries; € 5.000 for management costs
FOCIS European Advanced Course 2017	16-18/10/2017	Prague	10.000	€ 4.000 approved for Bursaries



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## 15.2 PhD Course Support

Title	Dates	Location	Request (€)	Comments/Decision
Food, Microbiota and Immunity For strong immunity - feed your microbiota well	7-10/06/2017	Trest (CZ)	3.000	€ 2.000 approved
23rd PhD Day	18-20/05/2017	Budapest	5.000	€ 5.000 approved
3rd PhD Conference in Immunology	14-16/10/2017	Svaty Jan pod Skalou	2.236	€ 2.000 approved

## 15.3 EFIS-IL Lecture Award

Proposed Lecturer	Proponent Society	Dates - Location	Request (€)	Comments/Decision
James Di Santo	SIICA	28-31/05/2017 - Bari	1.700	Approved

## 15.4 EFIS-IL Fellowship Applications

Applicant	Society	Destination	Request	Start Date	Decision
BAOS MUÑIZ, Selene	SEI	London	3 mo.s	01/04/2017	Approved
STANIEK, Julian	DGfl	Prague	3 mo.s	17/04/2017	Approved
TORIBIO FERNÁNDEZ, Raquel	SEI	Oslo	3 mo.s	20/08/2017	Approved
NINKOV, Marina	ISoS	Dijon	3 mo.s	01/09/2017	Approved
MAZZOTTI, Chiara	SIICA	Madrid	3 mo.s	17/04/2017	Approved
VILLA ALVAREZ, Monica	SEI	Birmingham	2 mo.s	01/06/2017	Approved
ESPAÑOL, Marta	SEI	Copenhagen	3 mo.s	02/01/2018	Approved

## 16. Treasurer's report

Based on decisions on funding, as well as on considerations/observations raised earlier in the meeting, W. Pickl informed the Board that allocations approved for the current meeting amounted to EUR 287.625. He recalled that this total spending included approximately 50% of what was expected to be earmarked for ECI 2018, as well as costs already incurred for *Immunology Letters* and *European Journal of Immunology* editors' fees for 2016. In his view, with these cost categories removed, the remaining allocations were in line with EFIS spending parameters.

The breakdown of budgeted expenditures follows below.



APPROVALS BOARD MEETING Lisbon, Portugal, March 25, 2017		287.625,00		
APPROVALS BOARD MEETING Lisbon, Portugal, March 25, 2017	EJI		IL-MAIN	
	Plan figures		Plan figures	
	Plan - before Meeting	Plan - approved	Plan - before Meeting	Plan - approved
	198.425,00		89.200,00	
<b>Prizes and Scholarships</b>				
Fellowships		38.500,00		38.500,00
4_BAO SMUNIZ, Selene, SEI to London, 3 Mo		5.750,00		5.750,00
4_STANIEK, Julian, DGFI to Prague, 3 Mo		5.750,00		5.750,00
4_TORIBIO FERNANDEZ, Raquel, SEI to Oslo, 3 Mo		5.750,00		5.750,00
4_NINKOV, Marina, ISOS to Dijon, 3 Mo		5.750,00		5.750,00
4_MAZOTTI, Chiara, SIICA to Madrid, 3 Mo		5.750,00		5.750,00
4_VILLA ALVAREZ, Monica, SEI to Madrid, 2 Mo		4.000,00		4.000,00
4_ESPANOL, Marta, SEI Birmingham 3 Mo		5.750,00		5.750,00
Lecture Award		1.700,00		1.700,00
4_James Di Santo, SIICA Meeting		1.700,00		1.700,00
<b>Fostering National Societies (Meetings)</b>				
Fostering National Societies		10.000,00		10.000,00
4_Board Meeting London, June 23-24, 2017		10.000,00		10.000,00
<b>Public Relations</b>				
Public relation activities		5.000,00		5.000,00
4_AA1 2017 visit/booth		5.000,00		5.000,00
<b>Support Conferences (Meetings)</b>				
Support Conferences	90.500,00	57.000,00		
4_19th Int. Conference on Lymphatic Tissues, Germ Centers, Venice	5.500,00	2.500,00		
4_EACR Conference, Barcelona	4.000,00	2.500,00		
4_Development of Tissue and Pathogen Spec. Innate Immun, Freiburg	8.000,00	5.000,00		
4_European Phagozyte WS, Genova	10.000,00	7.000,00		
4_31. Conf. Of Europ. Macrophage and Dendr. Soc, Madrid	8.000,00	5.000,00		
4_2017 EFIS-EJI Ruggiero Cappelini course, Naples	20.000,00	11.000,00		
4_9th Euro MAB net meeting, Pec	7.000,00	5.000,00		
4_12th ENII Summer School Advanced Immunol, Porto Cervo	18.000,00	15.000,00		
4_Focus Europ. Advanced Course, Prague	10.000,00	4.000,00		
<b>Support Congress</b>				
Support Congress	99.550,00	99.550,00		
4_ECI_2018 Poster Awards (Half of 3.600)	1.800,00	1.800,00		
4_ECI_2018 Bright Sparks (Half of 12.000,-)	6.000,00	6.000,00		
4_ECI_2018 Travel Grants (250*600,-) (Half of 150.000,-)	75.000,00	75.000,00		
4_ECI_EFIS_2018 Presidents Symposium (Half of 15.000,-)	7.500,00	7.500,00		
4_ECI_EULAR Symposium (Half of 12.500,-)	6.250,00	6.250,00		
4_ECI_EFIS_2018 Society Village (Half of 6.000,-)	3.000,00	3.000,00		
<b>Support PHD</b>				
Support PHD	10.236,00	9.000,00		
4_Food Microbiota Immunity, Trest, CZ	3.000,00	2.000,00		
4_32 PhD day, Budapest	5.000,00	5.000,00		
4_3rd PHD Conference in Immunology, Svaty Jan	2.236,00	2.000,00		
<b>Administration of Journals (Immunology Letters)</b>				
IL Editor Fees 2016		23.500,00		23.500,00
MCSOLREY, Stephen, Editor Fees 2016		3.500,00		3.500,00
van LIER, René, Editor Fees 2016		3.500,00		3.500,00
STOCKINGER, Hannes, Editor Fees 2016		3.500,00		3.500,00
MORETTA, Lorenzo, Editor Fees 2016		3.500,00		3.500,00
HOREJSI, Vaclav, Editor Fees 2016		3.500,00		3.500,00
PISTOIA, Vito, Editor Fees 2016		6.000,00		6.000,00
Fees for Immunology Letters Reviews		10.500,00		10.500,00
IL-Reviewer Fees (15*700,-)		10.500,00		10.500,00
<b>Administration of Journals (European Journal of Immunology)</b>				
EJI Editor Fees 2016	32.875,00	32.875,00		
SAKAGUCHI, Shimon, Editor Fees 2016	2.000,00	2.000,00		
HUANG, Bo, Editor Fees 2016	875,00	875,00		
YAZDANBAKSH, Maria Editor Fees 2016	2.000,00	2.000,00		
SOZZANI, Silvano, Editor Fees 2016	2.000,00	2.000,00		
REIS E SOUSA, Caetano, Editor Fees 2016	2.000,00	2.000,00		
RADBRIUCH, Andreas, Editor Fees 2016	2.000,00	2.000,00		
OXENIUS, Annotte, Editor Fees 2016	2.000,00	2.000,00		
MICINNES, Iain, Editor Fees 2016	2.000,00	2.000,00		
JUNG, Steffen, Editor Fees 2016	2.000,00	2.000,00		
JAECK, Hans-Martin, Editor Fees 2016	2.000,00	2.000,00		
ENGELHARDT, Britta, Editor Fees 2016	2.000,00	2.000,00		
DISANTO, James, Editor Fees 2016	2.000,00	2.000,00		
CHATENIOUD, Lucienne, Editor Fees 2016	2.000,00	2.000,00		
ANNUNZIATO, Francesco, Editor Fees 2016	6.000,00	6.000,00		
MURPHY, Kenneth, Editor Fees 2016	2.000,00	2.000,00		

## 17. AOB

Date and venue of next Board Meeting: London, UK; 24 June, 2017. It was also agreed to contact BSI to propose an EFIS on Tour Symposium.