



Agenda for 2025 EFAS General Assembly, Thursday May 15th 17:15-18:45

1. Welcome from Chair

Robert greets everyone welcome to the 2025 GA

2. Attendance and Apologies

The following representatives were present at the GA:

Kurt Stephan (Austria), Hannah Keppler (Belgium), Sanja Spiric (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Andro Kosec (Croatia), Darija Birtic (Croatia), Lana Kovac Bilic (Croatia), Josef Syka (Czech Republic), Tobias Neher (Denmark), Hung Thai-Van (France), Birger Kollmeier (Germany), Ulrich Hoppe (Germany), Tobias Weissgerber (Germany), Joseph Attias (Israel), Limor Lavie (Israel), Liat Kishon-Rabin (Israel), Maja Jovanovic (Montenegro), Vinay Nagaraj (Norway), Madalina Georgescu (Romania), Sebastian Cozma (Romania), George Tavartkiladze (Russia), Maria Boboshko (Russia), Nenad Arsovic (Serbia), Liljana Cvorovic (Serbia), Bojana Bukurov (Serbia), Lukas Varga (Slovakia), Nina Bozanic Urbanic (Slovenia), Saba Battelino (Slovenia), Lea Zupan (Slovenia), Alessandro Castiglione (Sweden), Stefan Stenfelt (Sweden), Dorothe Veraguth (Switzerland), Deborah Vickers (United Kingdom).

In addition, the following attended the GA:

Lisbeth Strang (Austria), Mattias Lunbacher (Austria), Tobias Meyer (Austria), Sam Denys (Belgium), Robert Trotic (Croatia), Marieke Buhl (France), Isabelle Mosnier (France), Inga Holube (Germany), Hannes Maier (Germany), Waldo Nogueira (Germany), Vasiliki Maria Iliadou (Greece), Cas Smits (Netherlands), Norbert Dillier (Switzerland).

3. Minutes from 2024 GA

See <https://efas.ws/events/general-assemblies/>

No comments on the minutes from the previous meeting that can be found on the EFAS website.

4. Matters arising (not otherwise covered on Agenda).

No additional items.

5. Chairperson's report

Robert Trotic presents the work done by EFAS board during the last year.

- Consolidation of EFAS: 36 countries, strengthen south-east of Europe, increased representatives from these countries.
- Expert opinions: Bachelor's degree in general audiology for University of Salamanca and in Catalonia, Spain.
- Continuation of live meetings: biannual EFAS congresses, last in Croatia, this year in Austria. General assemblies, last in Zagreb, this year in Vienna.
- EFAS board meetings, every two to three months.
- Promoting EFAS awards, projects and scholarships.
- Attracting more people to the working groups and initiation of a new working group on Clinical Audiology
- Strengthen EFAS through cooperation with other organizations, especially European Academy of Otolaryngology and Neuro Otolaryngology, European Society of Pediatric ORL, Union of the European Phoniatrists, and the International Society of Audiology.
- Updating EFAS website.

6. Treasurer's report

Dorothe Veraguth presents the finances of EFAS

Report on the fiscal year from May 1st 2024 to April 30th 2025.

Income: 7,110€ (Primarily member fees)

Expenses: 17,388.78€ (Scholarships, projects, website, GA in Zagreb)

Balance at the end of the period: 76,933.97€

Both auditors (Astrid van Wieringen and Piotr Skarzynski) were satisfied with the report.

The GA vote for discharge was given to the board.

7. Report on the ongoing Congress 2025

None of the organizers were present and Robert Trotic reported that the number of participants was 364, and that the congress has run smoothly so far.

8. Report on progress for Denmark Congress 2027

Tobias Neher from Denmark reports from the planning of the 2027 EFAS congress to be held in Odense. The dates for the congress are June 2-5, 2027, and the congress is to be held at the Odense university campus. No decision about registration fees has been

made but the aim is to keep them as low as possible, especially for students. A variation of hotel rooms has been reserved from hostel to upper-scale hotels.

9. EFAS awards

Robert Trotic presents the EFAS awards given last year:

EFAS Scholarships:

- Katrien Kestens (Ghent, Belgium) - 950€
- Louise van Goylen (Bruxelles, Belgium) – 1,000€
- Dorien Ceuleers (Ghent, Belgium) - 480€
- Ruth Claeys-van Hecke (Ghent, Belgium) - 530€
- Sandhya Vinay (Trondheim, Norway) – 1,000€
- Yossi Buganim (Tel Aviv, Israel) – 1,000€
- Mariana Bandeira (Frankfurt, Germany) – 1,000€
- Julie Kjaer Jacobsen (Odense, Denmark) – 1,000€
- Argyrios Tsatsakoulis (Athens, Greece) – 1,000€
- Sema Satici (Istanbul, Turkey) – 1,000€
- Ahsen Kartal Özcan (Istanbul, Turkey) – 1,000€

EFAS Grants:

- Prof. Dr. Birger Kollmeier, Universität Oldenburg, Germany, For EFAS Working Group on Data formats for Big Data in Audiology – 4,300€
- Andro Košec, MD, PhD, University of Zagreb, Croatia, For EFAS Working Group on Clinical Audiology – 2,500€

EFAS Lifetime Award:

- Professor Norbert Dillier, Zurich, Switzerland.

10. Election of new EFAS board (period 2025-2027)

New board members with the following roles will be elected: Vice Chairperson, Secretary-General, and Treasurer. Not to be voted: Chair: Swarnalatha Nagaraj; Past Chair: Trotic.

Birger Kollmeier from the search committee presented the work of the search committee and the nominations. For Vice Chairperson two persons were nominated: Deborah Vickers (United Kingdom) and Madalina Georgescu (Romania), for Secretary-General one person was nominated: Ulrich Hoppe (Germany), and for Treasurer one person was nominated: Christof Stieger (Switzerland).

All candidates gave a short presentation of themselves and their aims for EFAS. Christof Stieger was absent, and Dorothe Veraguth did a short presentation of him.

Nineteen eligible voters were present, and Ulrich Hoppe was elected Secretary-General and Christof Stieger was elected Treasurer. In the election for vice-chair, one voter abstained, and the two candidates received an equal number of votes (9 each). According to the bylaws, the current board has the final vote during such circumstance. After a short discussion among the board members, Deborah Vickers was elected vice-chair.

The new board is:

- Vinay Swarnalatha Nagaraj, President
- Deborah Vickers, Vice President
- Robert Tropic, Past President
- Ulrich Hoppe, Secretary-General
- Christof Stieger, Treasurer

Astrid van Wieringen (Belgium) and Piotr Skarzynski (Poland) were reelected as auditors.

Birger Kollmeier (Germany) and Jan Wouters (Belgium) were reelected, and Liat Kashon-Rabin (Israel) was a new elect for the search committee.

11. Election on host for EFAS congress 2029

Hung Thai-Van (France) presents the bid for Lyon to host the EFAS 2029 congress. It was the only bid to host the 2029 congress and it was voted in favor. The EFAS 2029 congress will be held in Lyon.

12. Short report from EFAS working groups

- Sam Denys presented the work of WG on school-age hearing screening, among other things a publication in Scientific Reports.
- Vasiliki Iliadou & Hung Thai-Van presented the work from WG on Auditory Processing Disorders, also reporting on publication in European Archives of Oto-Rhino-Laryngology.
- Birger Kollmeier reported the work done in the WG Data formats for Big Data in Audiology.
- Andro Kosec presented a newly established working group on Clinical Audiology.
- Waldo Nogueira proposed a new WG on AI in Audiology. The GA was positive of this initiative.

13. Any other business

- Location and date for meeting and General Assembly 2026

Vinay Swarnalatha Nagaraj presents the location for the GA in 2026 is Trondheim, Norway, and will be held in May.

14. Handing over of presidency/ Close of meeting.

Robert Trotic hand over the presidency to Vinay Swarnalatha Nagaraj, and Vinay gives a short talk about his aims for EFAS the coming two years.