FESSH
Federation of European Societies for Surgery of the Hand

FESSH Delegates' Assembly

4 June 2026, 15.00 – 18.00

Studio Room at the Basel Marriott Hotel adjacent to the congress venue**, Basel, Switzerland**

MINUTES

Present:

FESSH Delegates:

Rohit Arora (Austria),
Sofie Goeminne (Belgium),
Lachezar Sharkov (Bulgaria),
Zlatko Vlajcic (Croatia),
Tomáš Hellmuth (Czech Republic),
Robert Gvozdenovic (Denmark),
Joosep Piirisild (Estonia),
Mikko Räisänen (Finland),
Sybille Facca (France),
Florian Lampert (Germany),
Konstantinos Ditsios (Greece),
János Rupnik (Hungary),
Bríd Crowley (Ireland),
Shai Luria (Israel),
Massimo Corain (Italy),
Absent: Katerina Kasapinova (North Macedonia)
Uldis Krustins (Latvia),
Preben Dovland (Norway),
Piotr Czarnecki (Poland),
Carla Ricardo Nunes (Portugal),
Iulian- Daniel Vilcioiu (Romania),
Maksim Sautin (Russia),
Tomislav Palibrk (Serbia),
Pedro Fuentes Escobar (Spain),
Maria Wilcke (Sweden),
Maurizio Calcagni (Switzerland),
Stephanie Zielinski (the Netherlands),
Kahraman Öztürk (Türkiye),
Andrii Lysak (Ukraine),
Dean Boyce (UK)

FESSH Council members: Brigitte van der Heijden, Alex Lluch, Piotr Czarnecki, Zafar Naqui, Ilse Degreef, Leila Harhaus, Lindsay Muir, Jonathan Hobby, Henk Coert, Massimo Corain, Jantine Posthuma de Boer, Philipp Honigmann, Inga Besmens, Maria Larrea
Apologies: Lindsay Muir

Applying societies' presidents:
Cyprus: Constantinos Kritiotis and Marios Nicolaou (co-presidents)
Slovenia: Jerneja Vidmar (president)

Bid presenters

The **Annual FESSH Report** has been shared via e-mail with the FESSH Delegates before the Basel Congress that is the summary of all FESSH Committees' activities and achievements between June 2025 and June 2026.

FESSH HEADQUARTERS / BILLING ADDRESS

FESSH c/o Ostschweizerische Revisionsgesellschaft AG
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FESSH SECRETARIAT

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Programme:

15.00-15.30 **Registration of the Delegates and reception** (drinks and snacks)
15.30-15.40 Test voting (use your QR code to join) – worked well ☺
15.40-17.50 **Reports and votes**

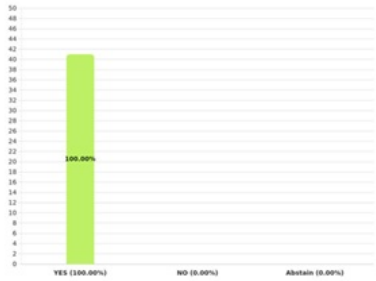
1. **Report of the President** **B. vd Heijden**
   - Feedback on the Helsinki discussions and questions from the Delegates

Structured FESSH Academy framework FA Foundation Course will continue and travel including local faculty
Exam training for potential candidates – YEHS Committee will focus on this topic (2 mocks by now)
Mentorship programme is planned – experts would help early career surgeons
Free congress registrations for limited number of young ones is being considered.
Research – multicentre study led by FESSH – you can reach out to Leila Harhaus, Research Committee chair if interested to join.

   - Report on the ETR

B. van der Heijden introduced the project and announced that the UESM has approved it. It is a guideline and a living document that will be updated regularly.

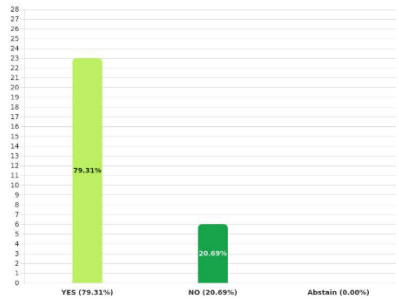
2. **Report of the Treasurer** **A. Lluch**
   - Annual financial report has been ratified unanimously.



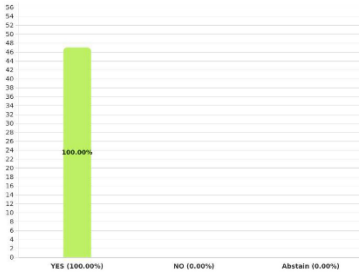
Annual financial report checked by Jörg Rütsche, Swiss financial advisor and Kristo Kask, hand surgeon from Estonia, our external auditor.

Dr Kask's note: „The financial statements I reviewed cover the calendar year ended 31 December 2025. To confirm my position as external auditor: I have reviewed the FESSH financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025 and I recommend adoption of the accounts. The organisation is financially sound and well-capitalised, and the 2025 deficit reflects a difficult revenue year rather than any structural concern.
I do wish to note two observations for the record. First, there is a small unresolved balance sheet item pending resolution through the bank. Second, I have a concern about the upward trend in overhead costs — management office, administration, and communication combined reached 45.8% of total income in 2025, which is above the typical range for organisations of this kind."

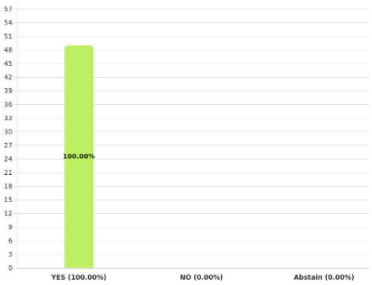
- Raise in membership fee from 15€/member to 20€/member has been ratified (79% voted for, 21% voted against).



3. Welcoming the applying hand societies – then presentations and votes
   - Cyprus presentation then voting – Cyprus' application has been accepted unanimously.



   - Slovenia presentation then voting – Slovenia's application has been accepted unanimously.



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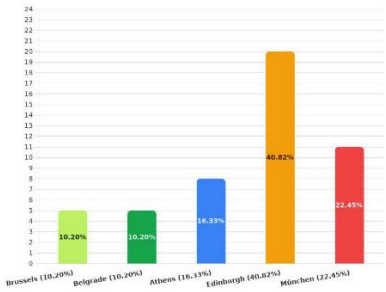
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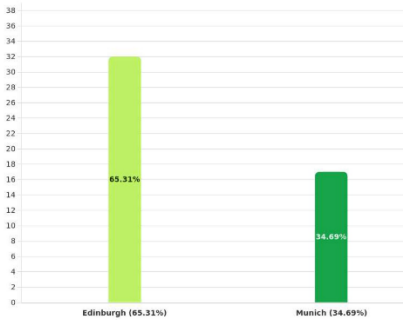
4. Bids and voting after the 5 bid presentations:
   Athens, Belgrade, Brussels, Edinburgh, München

   First round's result:



1. Edinburgh 41%
2. München 22%
3. Athens 16%
4. Belgrade 10%
5. Brussels 10%

   Second round's result:



1. Edinburgh 65%
2. München 35%

17.45 Farewell of the President and the outgoing chairs

   Closure – speech of the new FESSH President

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