Minutes of the European Orchid Council AGM Saturday 24th May 2025 at 16.30 (Central European Time) during Ortidea at Casetta Nuova, Orto Botanico di Roma and via Zoom.

Present: G Diana (AIO) Board Member, A J Diaz (ACAO), M Dumont (FO), V Dumont (AFO) Board Member, D C Gonçalves (APO), C Hermans (HOS) Board Member & Minute Taker, J Hermans (RHS) Board Member, D Klein (SFO Italy) via Zoom, D Lafarge (FFO, AFJO) Secretary General, M Lucas García & Board Member (OE), A Matikka (SOY) Treasurer & Board Member, & F-J Richardt (DOG) Board Member.

Guest: J Frehsonke (part), J L O Gómez, G Cramer (part), F. Maroni (Sens Eventi) (part), J M Martinez, C F Ortiz, E R Velázquez.

1. **Welcome**

The Delegates and guests were welcomed by Mr Lafarge and Mr Dumont was thanked for volunteering to be the vote counter.

2. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from I Borg, M. Hourigan (IOS), M Lipińska (NGO), & H Schmidt (NOV).

3. **Minutes of the Dresden AGM Meeting 23rd March 2024 & Matters Arising**

The Minutes of the AGM Meeting in Dresden, Germany 23rd March 2024 were unanimously approved. There were no matters arising.

4. **Annual Report 2024**

Mr Lafarge summarised the activities of the EOC in the past year. He had been involved in Zoom meetings during Summer 2024 to discuss the change of location and organising committee of EOC2027 from Bologna to Rome. In addition, the Board met via Zoom in October 2024. Then again in April 2025 to discuss Mr Lafarge's decision to step down as Secretary General.

5. **Financial Report**

Dr Matikka tabled the 2024 Financial Statement.
The AGM unanimously agreed to approve the 2024 accounts.
The AGM unanimously agreed to grant a discharge to the Board.
Dr Matikka confirmed that the Finnish Orchid Society (Suomen Orkideayhdistys) continued to pay for hosting the EOC website.
He reported that Société Nationale d'Horticulture de France (SNHF) and Association-France Orchidées had not paid their 2024 subscriptions and the latter also owed 15€ from 2023.
The Board's recommendation to keep the membership fee unchanged at 35€ for 2025 and 2026 was unanimously agreed.

6. **Members**

Applications to join EOC by a new judging organisation in Spain, Associacíon Ibérica de Jueces de Orquideas (AIJO) and the Mathers Foundation in the United Kingdom were unanimously approved.

7. **List of accredited EOC member Societies' Judging Systems**

Evidence from the following Judging Systems for their accreditation had been received by the Secretary General: the Association Francophone pour le Jugement d'Orchidées (AFJO), Associazione Italiana di Orchidologia (AIO), the British Orchid Council (BOC), the Deutsche Orchideen Gesellschaft (DOG), Federazione Italiana Orchidee (FIO), the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), Società Felsinea di Orchidofilia APS (SFO), & Société Nationale d'Horticulture de France (SNHF).
It was agreed that the Swiss Orchid Society (SOG) needed to submit evidence for their Judging System to be accredited even though it was no longer operational so that their active judges could be accredited. In view of limited time before the WOC in Dresden next March the AGM agreed to allow the Board to consider the evidence from the above Judging Systems and accredit them before the 2026 AGM.

8. Change of President due to changing of organisation in Italian EOC

It was unanimously agreed that Mr Diana should be the next President of the EOC as Mr Morandin had stepped down from organising EOC2007 in Bologna

9. Renewal of Board Members

The following members of the Board were all renewed by secret ballot: Mr Diana, Dr Hermans, Mr Lafarge, Dr Matikka, & Mr Richardt. Dr Matikka was re-elected as Treasurer.

10. Election of Secretary General

A secret ballot was held, and 32 votes were counted. Delegates and Honorary members voted either in person, online on the day or by proxy. Mr Lucas García was announced as received the most votes. (Post Meeting Note: The Board met by Zoom on 1st June and due to the tight result Dr Hermans was provisionally appointed Vice-Secretary General for one year to be confirmed by the AGM in 2026. A further Zoom meeting by the Board is planned for July to work on the responsibilities of the Vice-Secretary General and Board members.)
Following the announcement of the result Mrs Dumont thanked Mr Lafarge for his work as Secretary General during the past three years and presented him with a gift from the Board.

11. Support to DOG for WOC 2026 Dresden

Mr Frehsonke updated the AGM on progress in preparations for the WOC in Dresden in 2026. There are eight subcommittees organising the WOC.
There will be 65 lectures chosen from the 120 submitted and information on the lectures will be available on the website in early July and unsuccessful applications will be encouraged to submit a poster. The focus will be on horticulture and hobbyists.
There will be 75 exhibitors/vendors and there will be a Botanical Art Exhibition.
Participation by local societies is encouraged and space has been reserved for groups from the EOC and it is hoped the UNESCO Schools Programme will participate in the WOC.
So far 132 people have registered. The Gala Dinner will be at Ball- & Brauhaus Watzke, Dresden.
The proposal for EOC to sponsor €3000 for poster prizes and to contribute to their printing was unanimously approved. It was agreed that Dr Hermans would act as liaison between the WOC organisers and the EOC.

12. Status of EOC 2027 Rome

Ms Francesca Maroni from Sens Eventi updated the AGM on plans for EOC2027. She confirmed she had worked on Ortidea, Orto Botanico di Roma for the past few years. By summer 2025 there should be a trademark and logo created for EOC2027, the website will be operational by the autumn. It is hoped that the horticulture talks programme will be held in

the adjoining Accademia dei Lincei e Corsiniana. Promotion at the WOC in Dresden is planned.
The dates are Thursday 20th May until Sunday 23rd May 2027.

13. EOC 2030

Mr Lucas García stated that there were two possible venues for an EOC2030 in central Madrid or nearby Alcorcón, Spain and GECOR was supporting the bid. It was agreed that an application should be submitted for consideration at the AGM in 2026.

14. World Orchid Conference Trust Update

Dr Hermans reported on the recent activities of the WOC Trust. The WOCT Board continues to meet monthly by Zoom and met in person at the Dresden Orchid Show in March where they were shown around the Show and Conference centre. This was followed by a productive meeting with the WOC organisers. The WOC Trust will be sponsoring bursaries for lectures at the WOC.

15. Fees 2026-2027

See item 5.

16. Date of Next AGM Spring 2026

The AGM in 2026 will be held during the WOC in Dresden, between 26th and 29th March, possibly on Saturday 28th March. Delegates attending the AGM will need to be Registrants for the WOC, Day Registration is available https://www.woc-2026.com/registration

17. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

Meeting closed at 18.30 (Central European Time)

Clare Hermans

2nd June 2025

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