



EAFE General Assembly 2025 - Minutes

Date 26/06/2025 from 14.30 to 16.00

Location: CNR headquarters, Rome

Agenda

1	Housekeeping	2
2	President's report	2
2.1	The 2025 Conference	2
2.2	Evolution of the association	2
2.3	Change of the legal address of the association	3
3	Treasurer's report.....	3
3.1	Overview of receipts and expenditures for the period 2023-2024	3
3.2	Membership evolution.....	4
3.3	Prospect for 2025-2026	5
3.4	Validation of the Treasurer's report	5
4	Election of the new Bureau	5
5	Any other business.....	6
5.1	Pavel Salz: discussion on EAFE online workshops.....	6
6	Details of the votes	7
6.1	New Address	7
6.2	Acceptance of the Treasurer's report	7
6.3	Election of the Bureau	7
6.4	EAFE online workshops	9

1 Housekeeping

In the absence of Arina Motova, Sébastien Metz is appointed rapporteur of the General Assembly.

Nineteen (19) members of the association signed the attendance list (see Annexe 1), which means that the attendance exceeds the quorum (10).

2 President's report

Leyre Goti (outgoing president) presents the president's report.

2.1 The 2025 Conference

The 2025 EAFE conference is the 26th conference organised by the association since its inception in 1989. The 2025 conference is however the first in the history of the association to be directly organised by the Bureau, with a special mention of Monica Gambino, who coordinated all the efforts in Rome, with the help of Sébastien Metz who developed all the websites and platforms needed for the conference (the conference website, the abstract submission platform and the ticketing platform). The conference wouldn't have been possible without the support of the National Research Council of Italy (CNR). We also have two special sessions; one supported by the European Commission (DG Mare) and one by FAO.

This in-house conference organisation demonstrates the maturity of the association, as well as its willingness to overcome complex situations. Overall, it seems that the 2025 conference will be more successful than the 2023 conference, with higher attendance.

2.2 Evolution of the association

Leyre notes that the landscape in which operates EAFE is shifting, which may pose a challenge to the association. When the association was created (1989), the European Union had 12 members and Germany wasn't reunited. Now the association has members from all the EU including neighbouring countries: UK, Iceland, Norway, Faroe or Turkey.

There are now more women entering the profession of fisheries economists, which should be reflected in future Bureaus, by reinforcing potentially rules about parity. More women are attending the conference, but also more NGOS, more young researchers, more freelance economists, more researchers from the private sector. Researchers are embracing more the interdisciplinary approaches.

In the future, the association will need to integrate all these collectives to exploit to the maximum its leveraging and support capacity.

2.3 Change of the legal address of the association

Leyre Goti reminds the assembly the difficulties to operate an international association, with members scattered across Europe, from Iceland to Turkey. There is currently no legal framework to establish an EU association. EAFE is registered in France, but there is a need to relocate the association's official address for practical reasons.

The association was initially registered in Paris, but since its inception in 1989, most fisheries economists working in France have relocated to Brest and Quimper. There is a strong academic presence, with the UMR Amure combining staff from the UBO (University of Brest) and IFREMER. There are also researchers working for the private sector located in or close to Brest (notably Sakana Consultants).

In the meantime, there are currently no association members located in Paris, nor any academic team that would potentially join the association in the short to medium term.

It is therefore considered more practical by the association bureau to move the registration address to Brest.

The Bureau requests authorisation from the General Assembly to search for a new registration address in Brest (see Section 6.1, "New Address").

The General Assembly authorises the Bureau to search for a new registration address.

3 Treasurer's report

Hans van Oostenbrugge (outgoing Treasurer) presents the Treasurer's report.

This report combines the financial overview of the years 2023 to 2024.

3.1 Overview of receipts and expenditures for the period 2023-2024

Table 1 summarises key figures.

The balance of the association accounts was € 47 749,90 as of December 31, 2022.

Over the period 2023-2024, the key incomes of the association were:

- € 2 650,00 from membership fees and
- € 420,38 as interest.

The key expenses were:

- € 241,65 on bank costs and
- € 0.00 on additional operating costs. These operational costs were low, as all bureau meetings were held online and no bureau member claimed any travel costs. No expenses were paid for the website during the period.

Due to the lower-than-expected attendance at the Athens conference, the conference resulted in a net deficit of €6 037,00.

As a result, the balance of the association accounts has decreased by €3 208,47 over the 2023-2024 period, with a total of €44 541,63 as of December 31, 2024.

Table 1: Financial overview 2023-2024

	Balance	Receipts (+)	Expenditures (-)
Balance December 31 2022	47 749,90		
2023 Conference Athens		16 080,00	22 117,00
Membership fees		2 650,00	
Bureau expenses			0,00
Website			0,00
Interests		420,38	
Bank costs			241,65
<i>Sub-total for 2023-2024</i>		<i>19 150,38</i>	<i>22 358,65</i>
Balance December 31 2024	44 541,63		

3.2 Membership evolution

Membership for 2023 and 2024 remained stable at 35 members. The number of persons involved in these memberships increased to 47 persons:

- Individual members (23)
- Students (7)
- Corporate (5, including 17 persons)
- Associate (0)

In 2018, the Bureau decided that the Membership fee would be collected with the conference fee, as this was seen as more convenient for the members. However, this has resulted in a considerable decline in membership. From 2022 onwards, membership has been slowly increasing, and the number of institutional members has also increased recently. The income from these memberships has been paid only in 2025. As of 2025, the following organisations are institutional members:

- IFRO (Denmark)
- Seafish (UK)
- BIM (Ireland)
- WSER (Netherlands)
- Nisea (Italy)
- Thünen (Germany)

3.3 Prospect for 2025-2026

As for 2025, the financial position of EAFE is likely to strengthen, as the projected costs for the Rome conference are lower than those for the 2023 conference. This stronger position is mainly due to the 2023 conference being organised by an external company and hosted in a hotel in the centre of Athens. The association savings partly compensated the deficit generated. In comparison, the organisation of the 2025 conference is expected to create a surplus, as 1) no external company was hired for the organisation, and 2) the conference was hosted by CNR, which limited the costs incurred for the conference's organisation.

3.4 Validation of the Treasurer's report

The Bureau requests the validation of the General Assembly for the Treasurer's report (see section 6.2, "Acceptance of the Treasurer's report").

The General Assembly validates the Treasurer's report.

4 Election of the new Bureau

According to the association's statutes, the general assembly elects a new bureau. The detailed votes are reported in section 6.3, "Election of the Bureau".

Following the vote, the composition of the new Bureau is therefore:

President	Sébastien Metz (France)
Vice-President	Leyre Goti (Germany)
Treasurer	Hans van Oostenbrugge (Netherlands)
Secretary	Monica Gambino (Italy)
Rapporteur	Marga Andres (Spain)
Auditor	Sterenn Lucas (France)
Auditor	Loretta Malvarosa (Italy)
Auditor	Gonzalo Rodriguez (Spain)
Auditor	Mustafa Selçuk Uzmanoğlu (Turkey)
Auditor	Angelos Lontakis (Greece)
Auditor	Audun Lem (Italy)

5 Any other business

5.1 Pavel Salz: discussion on EAFE online workshops

Pavel Salz introduces the rationale of his proposal.

The association should expand its wings to be in contact with more stakeholders. Pavel's suggestion involves organising regular online workshops, at least every three months. The process will be participatory, with association members proposing issues for discussion. Organising this online is seen as a low-resource option that doesn't need a lot of time to organise. With a planning phase of 6 to 9 months, this would allow enough communication to raise awareness and maintain engagement without overloading participants.

Pavel mentions he had organised a CFP reform group on LinkedIn, but the initiative didn't last.

Pavel already has 5-6 ideas that could each be covered in 2-3 hours:

- We are in an interesting moment in time: the CFP review is ongoing. This topic could allow the association to contribute to this critical discussion.
- The long-term outlook of EU fisheries
- The competition with other uses: wind farms, Natural 2000
- Is there a market failure? In fisheries management, but also close domains
- Policy efficiency from an economic perspective
- Bottom trawling in MPAs and elsewhere

A general discussion follows Pavel's proposal, key points to be noted are:

- An overall agreement that this kind of activity could revitalise the association and facilitate improved discussions between EAFE members.
- The landscape has changed online. Many organisations do regular webinars; The association needs to differentiate its offer.
- There are opportunities to connect with other organisations, such as ICES - Brest 2026 (September).

Pavel offers to draft a first concept note detailing the process and the intention to be submitted to the Bureau at the end of the summer, to allow

The Bureau seeks the approval of the General Assembly to develop the concept of online workshops further (see Section 6.4, "EAFE online workshops").

The General Assembly approves Pavel's proposal.

6 Details of the votes

Several votes were organised during the general assembly.

6.1 New Address

Following Leyre Goti's presentation of the issue relating to the need to move the legal address from Paris to Brest, the question put forward for a vote is:

“Does the General Assembly authorise the Bureau to identify a new registration address for the association in Brest (France)?”

Votes:

Yes	No	Does not participate
19	0	0

6.2 Acceptance of the Treasurer's report

After Hans van Oostenbrugge presents the financial situation of the association, the General Assembly votes to validate the Treasurer's report. The question put forward for a vote is:

“Does the General Assembly accept the Treasurer's report?”

Votes:

Yes	No	Does not participate
18	0	1

6.3 Election of the Bureau

According to the association's statutes, the General Assembly elects a new bureau.

President: 1 candidate: Sébastien Metz

Votes:

Yes	No	Does not participate
18	0	1

Vice-President: 1 candidate: Leyre Goti

Votes:

Yes	No	Does not participate
18	0	1

Treasurer: 1 candidate: Hans van Oosterbrugge

Votes:

Yes	No	Does not participate
18	0	1

Secretary: 1 candidate: Monica Gambino

Votes

Yes	No	Does not participate
17	1	1

Rapporteur: 1 candidate: Marga Andres

Votes:

Yes	No	Does not participate
18	0	1

Auditors: There are five candidates for the role of Auditors

Loretta Malvarosa

Votes:

Yes	No	Does not participate
18	0	1

Sterenn Lucas

Votes:

Yes	No	Does not participate
18	0	1

Mustafa Selçuk Uzmanoğlu

Votes:

Yes	No	Does not participate
19	0	0

Angelos Lontakis

Votes:

Yes	No	Does not participate
19	0	0

Gonzalo Rodriguez

Votes:

Yes	No	Does not participate
19	0	0

Audun Lem

Votes:

Yes	No	Does not participate
19	0	0

6.4 EAFE online workshops

The General Assembly votes to approve Pavel's proposal. The question put forward for a vote is:

“Does the General Assembly approve Pavel Salz's proposal to develop a new activity of regular online workshops?

Votes:

Yes	No	Does not participate
18	0	1

7 Validation of the minutes

The minutes have been validated by email by

- Leyre Goti – email received July 3rd 2025
- Hans van Oostenbrugge – email received July 3rd 2025

Final version validated by Sébastien Metz, July 3rd 2025.