

BOARD OF ADMINISTRATORS

Meeting

Sunday 7 September 2025

MINUTES

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MINUTES

Meeting of the Board of Administrators
of the
European Federation of Corrosion
7 September 2025

Meeting venue: **Jæren 1 and 2, EXPO Building 2nd Floor, Stavanger, Norway**

Date and time of meeting: **Sunday 7 September 2025 - 14:00**

Chair: **Dr. Gareth Hinds - *EFC President***

Secretary: **Mrs. Mariana Berthet - *Paris Office***

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF CORROSION
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATORS (BoA)
7 September 2025- 14:00 – 18:00
Jæren 1 and 2, EXPO Building 2nd Floor, Stavanger

AGENDA

- Item 1 Opening of the Meeting (GH)
- Item 2 Apologies for Absence (MB)
- Item 3 Approval of the Agenda and Adoption of the Minutes of the last Meeting (GH)
- Item 4 EUROCORR 2028 - Bids Presentations and Selection of the Host (GH)
- Item 5 Report on STAC Activities including designation of Members of the EFC Award 2026 Juries (SR)
- Item 6 Financial issues: Update for budget 2025 (JB)
- Item 7 Administrative Matters
 - 7-1 Applications for EFC Membership (RB)
 - 7-2 International Branch (PC)
 - 7-3 New EFC Database Project (PC)
- Item 8 EFC Activities
 - 8-1 Evolution of EFC and EUROCORR in the coming years (GH)
 - 8-2 Report on COO Activities and EFC Business Development (PC)
 - 8-3 Report of the Scientific Secretary including EFC Book Series and Journals (RB)
 - 8-4 Report on Activities of Young EFC (NO)
 - 8-5 Report on Social Media (AT)
 - 8-6 EFC Newsletter (GH)
- Item 9 International activities
 - 9-1 AMPP (GH)
 - 9-2 WCO (World Corrosion Organization) (GH)
 - 9-3 Activities in China (TP)
- Item 10 EUROCORR Series: 2025, 2026, 2027
 - 10-1 EUROCORR 2025, Stavanger (Norway) - Report on preliminary Results (TH)
 - 10-2 EUROCORR 2026, Dublin (Ireland) – Progress with Arrangements (JB, GH)
 - 10-3 EUROCORR & ICC 2027, Prague (Czech Republic) - Report on Preliminary Arrangements (TP)
- Item 11 EFC Office Costs (GH)
- Item 12 YEFC representation during the BoA and GA meetings (NO)
- Item 13 Any other Business (GH)
- Item 14 Date and Place of next BoA (GH)

Decisions Taken

1. Approval of the agenda and minutes of the Virtual Meeting held on 24 March 2025.
2. Selection of Slovenia (Ljubljana) to host EUROCORR 2028.
3. Approval to establish a permanent € 1 500 annual support for the EFC Corrosion Summer School.
4. Recommendation to refine the name of WP 20 ("Corrosion in Water Systems") to something more specific, for example "Corrosion in Water Distribution Systems."
5. Approval of the STAC Activities report.
6. Approval to explore switching the EFC's bank to a new eurozone bank.
7. Approval of the EFC COO's report on activities and business development.
8. Inclusion of two new Partner Journals: *Protective Coatings Expert: PCE International* (subject to its Affiliate Member status) and *Corrosion Management magazine*
9. Approval of the Scientific Secretary's report on EFC publications and book series.
10. Approval of the Young EFC activities report.
11. Approval of the Social Media activities report.
12. Approval to consolidate all EFC secretariat tasks in the Paris Office under a five-year rolling contract.

Action Points

1. Dr. Tadeja Kosec and Dr. Matjaž Godec to review and consider the revised EUROCORR 2028 dates.
2. WP 20 and STAC to revisit and propose a more specific name for WP 20.
3. Mr. Pascal Collet to incorporate plans for migrating the EFC website from DECHEMA to the new EFC IT system.
4. *Protective Coatings Expert – PCE International* to complete and maintain its Affiliate Member registration before becoming EFC partner journal.
5. Young EFC board and BoA to develop and implement solutions for the logistical challenges of the EUROCORR best presentation award.
6. EFC and WCO teams to plan and schedule regular advocacy workshops at upcoming EUROCORR and AMPP conferences.
7. EFC Secretariats to draft and finalise the five-year rolling contract detailing the transition of secretariat duties to the Paris Office.
8. Noémie Ott to draft and present a proposal on YEFC representation at BoA and GA meetings, including any required amendments to EFC statutes and bye-laws.
9. EFC President to verify whether an agreement with ISE exists to avoid conflicting dates with EUROCORR 2025.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EFC BOARD OF ADMINISTRATORS (BoA)

Meeting Documents:

The Working Papers of the meeting, including all Appendices and updated reports, can be found in the following shared folder: [SHARED-EFC-2025-BoA Meeting 0907](#)

Item 1 Opening of the Meeting (GH)

Dr. Gareth Hinds, President of the EFC and Chair of the meeting, welcomed delegates.

Item 2 Apologies for Absence (MB)

In accordance with the attendance list, **see shared files Item 2**, Mariana Berthet, Paris Office, announced apologies received for absence:

- Dr. Marta Mohedano Sánchez (Spain)
- Dr. Lorenzo Fedrizzi (Italy)
- Mrs. Ines Honndorf (Frankfurt Office)
- Dr. Andreas Förster (Frankfurt Office)

Item 3 Approval of the Agenda and Adoption of the Minutes of the last Meeting (GH)

3-1 BoA members approved the proposed agenda.

3-2 BoA members approved the minutes of the Virtual Meeting that took place online on 24 March 2025.

Item 4 EUROCORR 2028 - Bids Presentations and Selection of the Host (GH)

At the deadline of 2 June 2025, two bids for EUROCORR 2028 were received by the EFC Frankfurt Office.

The bidders were invited to present their proposals to the BoA Members for selection (**see shared files, Item 4**):

- Bid from Austria (Salzburg)
- Bid from Slovenia (Ljubljana)

Dr. Tadeja Kosec and Dr. Matjaž Godec presented the bid from Slovenia, and Prof. Gregor Mori presented the bid from Austria. Each presentation was allotted 10 min and a further 10 minutes for questions.

Both teams were thanked for their presentations and after a tight vote, the bid from **Slovenia was selected to host EUROCORR 2028**. The BoA members suggested modifying the date to the first week of September instead of the original proposal of the last week of August, to allow for more participation from European delegates who are still on summer holidays at that time (as was the case for Brussels in 2023). Dr. Kosec and Dr. Godec appreciated the suggestion and agreed to consider it.

Item 5 Report on STAC Activities including designation of Members of the EFC Award 2026 Juries (SR)

Dr. Gareth Hinds, EFC President, announced that the current STAC Chair, Mr. Stefan Ritter, had been re-elected for another three years during the STAC meeting held on the morning of 7 September 2025. He warmly congratulated Mr. Ritter and thanked him for his excellent work as STAC Chair.

Mr. Stefan Ritter presented the main initiatives, activities and progress of the STAC (**see shared files, Item 5**).

He noted that the total budget for financial support of WP/TF activities for 2026 is 4000 €:

- WP 7: EFC Corrosion Summer School: 1500 €
- WP 14 & 22: Summer School: 1500 €
- TF Corrosion and Corrosion Protection of Additive Manufactured Metals: Training course: 1000 € (to be discussed at the TF meeting if it will be organized)

Mr. Stefan Ritter asked for approval by the BoA members to establish a permanent support of 1500 € for the annual EFC Corrosion Summer School (preceding the EUROCORRs) on top of the 4000 € for WP/TF activities. **The BoA members approved this motion.**

Mr. Ritter also informed BoA members of a few changes in the names of WP that have taken place: **WP 15** changed from *Corrosion in the Refining and Petrochemical Industries* to **Corrosion in the Refining and Chemical Industries**.

WP 20 changed from *Corrosion and Corrosion Protection of Drinking Water Systems* to **Corrosion in Water Systems**, to open it up to a broader community. The BoA members considered this name to be too general and recommended making it more specific while still expanding the applications covered from the original name, e.g. 'Corrosion in Water Distribution Systems'.

Action (WP 20, STAC): The name of WP 20 to be revisited by the WP and STAC

He also mentioned that the status of WP 19 will be set to "Probation" due to "insufficient activity" (acc. to Article 14.6 of the EFC's Bye-Laws).

Thereafter he announced the Members of the EFC Awards Juries nominated by the STAC as follows:

EFC Poster Prize 2025 - Stefan Ritter (STAC Chair), Arshad Yazdanpanah (YEFC), Daniela Zander, Philipp Schempp, Mikhail Zheludkevich, and Christine Blanc.

European Corrosion Medal 2026 - Stefan Ritter (STAC Chair) Manel Rodriguez Ripoll, Elisabeth Szala, and Rob Lindsay.

Honorary Fellow Award 2026 - Gareth Hinds (EFC President), Stefan Ritter (STAC Chair), Mathias Galetz, Marjorie Olivier, from BoA: Patrick Keil, Herman Terryn.

EFC Young Scientist Grant 2026 - Stefan Ritter (STAC Chair), Gareth Hinds (EFC President), Patrick Keil (EFC Vice-President)

EUROCORR Travel Grant for Young Corrosionists 2026 - Stefan Ritter (STAC Chair), Noemie Ott (YEFC), Marta Mohedano Sanchez.

Cavallaro Medal 2026 - Andrea Balbo (Director Aldo Dacco), Delphine Neff, Philipp Schempp, Marjorie Olivier, Rajan Ambat.

Finally, Stefan Ritter announced that there are also some prizes awarded by WP/TFs and that a number of new forms have (and will be) implemented facilitating, e.g., the application and nomination for EFC awards or the application for EFC Event numbers.

BoA Members approved the STAC Activities report.

Item 6 Financial Issues: Update for budget 2025 (JB)

The Honorary Treasurer, Ms. Julija Bugajeva, presented an update of the EFC Budget for 2025, (**see shared files, Item 6**).

She mentioned that there are currently three Member Societies and one Affiliate Member who have outstanding subscription fees. There is one Member Society who has struggled financially for several years

and may need a discounted fee; and the Affiliate Member who is also an exhibitor at EUROCORN will pay as agreed.

Ms. Julija Bugajeva described major problems with the current EFC bank, BNP, including a newly introduced "special service" that charges €100/month for international association support but has been unhelpful. Opening and operating a savings account has been repeatedly problematic, prompting a search for a new eurozone bank — with debate over whether a French bank might be more cooperative than Belgian banks. Cross-border complexity (UK vs EU relationships) and account activation/logistical hurdles were highlighted as complicating factors. BoA members approved the proposal to explore switching to a new eurozone bank.

As will be detailed later, the EFC London Office will transfer its finance function to the Paris Office within 18 months, which may simplify banking and administration. Remaining registered in Belgium currently costs the EFC about €10,000/year, and from January 2026 Belgian organizations must use a mandatory invoicing system. The EFC is budgeting for a Belgium-compatible online accounting system with licensing around €500/year. Despite recent investments that produced a small deficit this year, the accounts are expected to return to surplus next year.

Item 7 Administrative Matters

7-1 Applications for EFC Membership (RB)

Dr. Roman Bender indicated that there have been no new applications to join the EFC nor to resign.

7-2 International Branch (PC)

The EFC COO, Mr. Pascal Collet reported on the development of the EFC International Branch as well as its current situation, **see shared files, Item 7-2**. A meeting of the EFC International Branch is scheduled during the week of EUROCORN 2025.

7-3 New EFC Database Project (PC)

Mr. Pascal Collet reported on the status of the new EFC Database project, which is advancing well and a prototype is planned by mid-September 2025, **see shared files, Item 7-3**. As part of planned changes to the EFC administrative setup (**see Item 11**), hosting of the EFC website will need to transfer from DECHEMA to the new EFC IT system.

Action (COO): Incorporate plans to migrate EFC website from DECHEMA to new EFC IT system

Item 8 EFC Activities

8-1 Evolution of EFC and EUROCORN in the coming years (GH)

The EFC President, Dr. Gareth Hinds, presented the progress on his proposals for the evolution of EFC and EUROCORN in the coming years.

Dr. Gareth Hinds highlighted his three main priorities as president: maintaining EUROCORN as the EFC's flagship event, improving financial sustainability and building a greater sense of community, **see shared files, Item 8-1**.

8-2 Report on COO Activities and EFC Business Development (PC)

Mr. Pascal Collet, the EFC COO, presented a report on his activities and EFC Business Development, **see shared files, Item 8-2**.

Mr. Pascal Collet stated that advertising and sponsorship have brought in just over €7,000 so far with more expected from the November EFC newsletter. Efforts are underway to improve the

Exhibitor Loyalty Programme's visibility and fundraising for EUROCORR 2025 & 2026, including early sponsor prospecting. Planning continues for events and symposia (including potential AI sessions linked to EUROCORR 2026), internal coordination with working groups, and ongoing promotion via the social media team.

The BoA approved the EFC COO report.

8-3 Report of the Scientific Secretary including EFC Book Series and Journals (RB)

Dr. Roman Bender, the EFC Scientific Secretary, presented a report on his activities covering the period from March 2025 to September 2025, **see shared files, Item 8-3**.

Dr. Roman Bender presented a status on publications in the EFC book series as well as publications in the 6 EFC Partner Journals: "**Materials and Corrosion**", "**Corrosion Engineering, Science and Technology (CST)**", "**Matériaux et Techniques**", "**Ochrona przed Korozją**" ("Corrosion Protection"), "**KOM**" (Corrosion and Material Protection), and "**Oberflächen- POLYSURFACES**".

Additionally, Dr. Roman Bender asked for the approval of the BoA members to include 2 new Partner Journals : **Protective Coatings Expert: PCE International** and **Corrosion Management magazine**. After outlining the offers and advantages to the EFC, **BoA members approved both journals**. The BoA members further specified that approval of the **Protective Coatings Expert: PCE International** journal be subject to PCE International becoming (and remaining) an Affiliate Member of EFC.

The EFC Scientific Secretary also presented the most recent Green Book to be published : **Bridging the Gap - Corrosion Science For Heritage Contexts**. The next one, **Electronics Use in Harsh Environments - Challenges and Perspectives** will be published early next year.

Member societies were encouraged to apply for the EFC label for their courses on corrosion training and education. Dr. Roman Bender mentioned that there has only been one application for the EFC label since the rate went from 300€ to 500€. Dr. Tomáš Prošek is chairing the committee overseeing this initiative, with a current focus on the promotion and attractiveness of the EFC label.

The BoA members approved the Report of the Scientific Secretary.

8-4 Report on Activities of Young EFC (NO)

A report of the Young EFC network activities, covering the period September 2024 to February 2025, was presented by Dr. Noémie Ott, YEFC Chair, **see shared files Item 8-4**.

The report included the current budget, the summary of the activities including the activities for EUROCORR2025, the awards and the actions taken to highlight women in corrosion, among other topics. She also thanked Mankiewicz for its continued support in sponsoring various YEFC activities. Dr. Noémie Ott also expressed the logistical problems encountered every year when organizing the best presentation award at EUROCORR. No immediate solution was found, but it is a matter that should be discussed further.

The BoA approved the report on Young EFC Activities and thanked the YEFC board for their active engagement.

8-5 Report on Social Media Activities (AT)

Dr. Andressa Trentin presented a report on Social Media covering the period from May 2025 to September 2025, **see shared files, Item 8-5**.

Dr. Andressa Trentin noted that the EFC LinkedIn account has almost 6K organic followers, without paying for ads, which is impressive. The highest engagement comes during EUROCORR and Corrosion Awareness Day initiatives. A new “fresh bites” has been introduced on Fridays in collaboration with Dan Mobbs, to highlight Newsletter articles, as well as advertising for sponsors, which a special dedicated post.

All Member Societies and Affiliate Members are reminded that they can increase their visibility and advertise their actions using the EFC Social Media Platform, by sending an email to email to socialmedia@efcweb.org.

The BoA approved the report on Social Media Activities and thanked the Social Media team for their excellent work.

8-6 EFC Newsletter (GH)

The EFC President, Dr. Gareth Hinds, presented the current issue of the EFC Newsletter that has been printed and included in all EUROCORR2025 conference bags. He mentioned that Dan Mobbs had done a great job as editor of the Newsletter, and he strongly encouraged all members to send articles to be included in the next edition: editor@efcweb.org.

Item 9 International Activities

9-1 AMPP (GH)

The EFC President, Dr. Gareth Hinds reported on progress regarding cooperation with AMPP. As every year, there is a meeting scheduled during EUROCORR between EFC and AMPP. Dr. Gareth Hinds would like to focus on advocacy and collaboration for the time being.

9-2 WCO (World Corrosion Organization) (GH)

Dr. Gareth Hinds, EFC President and WCO Past President, reported on progress regarding the cooperation with WCO. He stated that En-Hou Han begins a two-year term as president, with Ralph Feser set to succeed him for another two years at the end of next year.

The board's top priority is establishing regular workshops alongside EUROCORR and AMPP conferences to boost advocacy and raise WCO's profile.

He also noted that Willi Meier has created a powerful AI portal aggregating corrosion content via the latest version of ChatGPT; a three-minute demo is planned for Tuesday during the Member Society Meeting.

9-3 Activities in China (TP)

The EFC Past President, Dr. Tomáš Prošek, reported on progress regarding the cooperation with CSCP.

The next joint conference is planned for July 2026. The programme is currently being finalised and 5-6 speakers will be invited with their registration taken care of.

Item 10 EUROCORR Series: 2025, 2026, 2027

10-1 EUROCORR 2025, Stavanger (Norway) - Final Report on Results (TH)

Dr. Torfinn Havn reported on the results of EUROCORR 2025, Stavanger, Norway which is currently taking place at the Siddis Center – Stavanger Forum, from **7 to 11 September 2025**. The general

theme is “**Joining Forces for smart and sustainable solutions to fighting corrosion in society**”. 1200 participants are expected, coming from 52 different countries, **see shared files Item 10-1**.

10-2 EUROCORR 2026, Dublin (Ireland) - Progress with Arrangements (GH)

EUROCORR 2026 will be held in Dublin, Ireland from **6 to 10 September 2026**. The general theme proposed is “**Corrosion challenges for net-zero technologies**”.

Dr. Gareth Hinds reported on progress with arrangements for EUROCORR 2026. A booth to promote this event is set up in EUROCORR 2025.

10-3 EUROCORR & ICC 2027, Prague (Czech Republic)- Report on Preliminary Arrangements (GH)

EUROCORR 2027, Prague (Czech Republic) will be held from **12-16 September 2027** in conjunction with the ICC Conference, at the O2 Universum. Dr. Tomáš Prošek reported on the preliminary arrangements that have been made, **see shared files, Item 10-3**.

Item 11 EFC Office Costs (GH)

Dr. Gareth Hinds, EFC President, presented an update regarding cost reductions for the EFC Secretariats, **see shared files, Item 11**. He noted that annual administration across the Paris, Frankfurt and London Offices currently costs about €52 000 a year—with Frankfurt’s labour rates roughly double those in Paris—so, following DECHEMA and IOM3’s wish to exit the EFC arrangements, Paris will progressively assume all secretariat tasks, except those of the Scientific Secretary, which will remain at DECHEMA. Frankfurt duties will be transferred by the end of 2025 and financial duties throughout 2026, culminating on January 1, 2027. This consolidation is expected to cut annual costs by about €11 000, with further savings achievable through AI-driven efficiencies.

It was noted that for the moment a 5 year rolling contract will be agreed to give the Paris Office some buffer and continuity. Eventually a bidding process could be established for any member societies who could demonstrate certain minimum criteria to be able to handle the financial and the administrative burden to ensure continuity in the EFC Secretariat.

For the time being, the Website management will remain at DECHEMA with a goal to have a separate EFC system in the near future.

Dr. Gareth Hinds, EFC President, asked the BoA members to approve this transition, noting that for the moment there is no need to change the EFC statutes and bye-laws.

The BoA members approved this motion.

Item 12 YEFC representation during the BoA and GA meetings (NO)

At the next BoA meeting, Dr. Noémie Ott, YEFC Chair, will present a proposal regarding YEFC representation during the BoA and GA meetings, since this change would require a modification in EFC statutes and bye-laws.

Item 13 Any other Business

Dr. Herman Terryn noted that there is an ISE conference in Germany at the same time as EUROCORR 2025 and this is something that should be avoided.

Action (President): to check if there has been an agreement with ISE regarding no conflict of dates.

Item 14 Date and Place of next BoA

The next virtual BoA Meeting is scheduled on **Monday, 12 January 2026**.