

Minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting

Held on Monday 21st July 2024 from 18:00 to 23:20 CEST at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel & Conference Centre, Warsaw.

Agenda

0. Present

President:	Martin Stiassny
Vice-President:	Damir Medak
Secretary:	Nicholas Roussos
Treasurer:	Harry van der Krogt
Executive Officer:	Oksana Nevostruyeva

Official representatives, 26 countries:

Country	Representatives	Votes
Austria	Mirta Medak	2
Belgium	Frank Segers, Kevin Prist	2
Bulgaria	Nikola Tsarigradski	0
Croatia	Jasna Medak	2
Cyprus	Nicholas Roussos	1
Czechia	František Čáha	2
Denmark	Finn Nørgaard	1
Finland	Pekka Keipi	2
France	Fabien Lips, Théo Barollet	4
Germany	Benjamin Wirthmann	4
Hungary	Alina M. Nemes	2
Ireland	Darina Syrotkin	2

Italy	Pietro Simonini	2
Luxembourg	Jonathan Decembry	1
Netherlands	Frank Janssen, Geert Groenen	3
Norway	Rasmus Stene	1
Poland	Natalia Klamecka, Maksym Wałaszewski	2
Romania	Dan Sergiu Iugulescu	2
Serbia	Dragan Dubakovic	2
Slovakia	Zuzana Kralikova	2
Slovenia	Maja Logar	1
Spain	Joan Lluís Rabasso	2
Sweden	Anton Silfver	2
Switzerland	Flavien Aubelle, Lorenz Trippel	2
Turkey	Ahmet Eren Kurter, Cagatay Tavsanoğlu	2
Ukraine	Dmytro Bogatskyi, Dmytro Yatsenko	2
United Kingdom	Colin Williams, Toby Manning	3
Total:		53

Special Guests:

Mr Tom Urasoe, Secretary General IGF, CEO of Overseas Department

Nihon Kiin

Ms Seung-hyun Lee, Korea Baduk Federation

Ms. Yun-hee Cho, Korea Baduk Federation

1. Opening of the Meeting

The President, Martin Stiassny, opened the meeting and welcomed Official Guests.

2. Presence and Voting Rights were verified. A total of 53 votes was counted for the 26 members present. Anton Silfver (Sweden) mentioned that Portugal appointed a delegate who was intimidated and didn't come to the AGM. EGF Secretary explained to the AGM what happened.

Portugal had none of its members who would participate in the EGC and had communicated that they wanted to vote remotely, something that is not currently accommodated by the EGF Constitution and General Regulations. Following advice by Anton Silfver, Portugal registered a Swedish player as a member of the Portuguese Go Association, with the purpose of attending as a delegate of Portugal and vote. After Portuguese Go Association registered the delegate for the AGM, the Secretary contacted the delegate and asked for proof of membership, as well as the motivation to join the Portuguese Go Association. He also explained clearly that the AGM would be asked to decide if the arrangement was considered acceptable, considering ethical concerns for such arrangement. The delegate met the Secretary at the EGC and explained that he had no connection with Portugal - he just agreed to register as a member in order to vote for Portugal, and having realised the implications he preferred not to attend the AGM.

EGF Secretary continued to add that a number of other countries could not send delegates and would not vote. At least one member came to Warsaw especially for the AGM, at own expense and taking annual leave from work. Having laid down these facts, and noting that the AGM is the highest authority of the EGF, the Secretary asked the members if such arrangements are acceptable. By voice, the vast majority of the members indicated that such arrangements shall not be acceptable.

3. Accepting the Agenda

There was a proposed change to the agenda to have the break just before the elections and if time permitted to also cover the section of appointment of the Appeals Committee and Auditors before the break. The change was accepted and the Agenda, as adjusted, unanimously accepted.

4. International Matters:

Martin Stiassny gave a brief summary of the IGF report. He then asked the guests if they wanted to address the AGM. Mr Urasoe briefly addressed the AGM and mentioned that the IGF wishes to expand the host countries for the World Amateur Go Championship (WAGC) and would particularly like to encourage European countries to host a WAGC. He explained that IGF provides financial support for the organisation of a WAGC, and said that 100 thousand dollars were given to Canada to organise the WAGC 2025 in Vancouver.

5. Acceptance of [Previous Year's AGM Minutes](#)

Accepted unanimously

6. Admission of New Members

- No new members' applications received.
- Discussion on the status of Bulgaria and Bosnia & Herzegovina.
 - Bulgaria has not paid membership fees for three consecutive years, so the conditions for becoming a lapsed member are met. Given that there is renewed interest for organising Go in Bulgaria, and a representative also came to the AGM, the Board proposed that Bulgaria is given a chance to work with the Board, pay its overdue membership fees and prove it is getting well organised with Go activities and proper governance. Members unanimously agreed.
 - Bosnia & Herzegovina is a lapsed member since they informed the EGF that there was no Go activity in the country for several years. A new organisation recently contacted the EGF Board and is already organising tournaments in 2025. The Board proposal was to keep current status, but work closely with the new organisation to confirm proper governance is set up and collect due membership fees. The Board will then update the EGF Members when conditions are met for Bosnia & Herzegovina to be reinstated as a full EGF Member. The members unanimously agree.

7. Reports of the President, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice Presidents, Officers

- President Report, Martin Stiassny [link](#)
- Secretary Report, Nicholas Roussos [link](#)
- Treasurer Report, Harry van der Krogt [link](#)
- Vice Presidents Reports
 - Li Ting [link](#)
 - Damir Medak [link](#)
 - Milena Bocle [link](#)
- Other Reports of Board members
 - Oksana Nevostruyeva [link](#)

Martin Stiassny presented the President's report. He referred to the EGF tournaments organised or co-organised by the EGF during the year, highlighting the success of the Grand Prix series with more interest to organise tournaments than the number of available spots during a year. Martin mentioned that the Grand Prix schedule for 2026 is already prepared. Martin referred to the EGF Pros, and emphasised that eight out of ten play currently the European Championship.

Each of the present Board members gave highlights from their reports.

Nicholas Roussos stressed the importance of finding a web master and setting up a new web page infrastructure to support the needs of EGF.

Harry van der Krogt explained how the main income of EGF consists of sponsorships and membership fees. Sponsorship money is earmarked for specific events so we can only choose how to spend membership fees. He also mentioned that an expense claim process is being introduced for better budgetary control. Harry said that travelling expenses cost a lot, but are necessary for proper EGF representation both within and outside Europe. Overall a balanced budget was prepared for the upcoming year, as circulated, and Harry reassured the members that EGF has enough money to operate and also to deal with any unexpected/unpredictable events.

Damir Medak referred to his duties to promote Go as a sport, with stable and published rules for all EGF tournaments. He said that visibility of youth and top events increased in the past year, starting with the EGC in Toulouse. Damir also mentioned his involvement in the SEYGO tour, Pro Qualification, and Pro Championship in Vienna.

Oksana Nevostruyeva mentioned that nine invitations were received for European youth, and selection was based on defined criteria. She also mentioned her work on drafting Safeguarding Guidelines, working closely with a specialist. Oksana stressed the responsibility of adults to create a safe environment for children to interact and enjoy Go.

The members were asked if they had any questions for Li Ting or Milena Bocle who could not attend the AGM. No questions were raised.

8. Report of the Auditors for 2024 (Eren Kurter, Tomasz Andrzejewski), discharge of the Board.

The auditors had circulated their report and recommended discharge of the Board. Eren Kurter was present at the meeting to take any questions. No questions were raised and the members unanimously accepted the discharge of the Board.

Toby Manning (UK) then asked about the recommended Travel Policy and Anton Silfver (Sweden) added that this was also recommended in last year's audit. Nicholas explained that a draft was prepared, but due to other priorities it was not finalised.

9. Reports of Officers/Chairmen of the Commissions

- Pros Commission: Ali Jabarin. No report presented.
- Tournaments & Rules, Michal Timko, David Zacek, Laszlo Boviz, François Myzessin - No report was presented.
- Ratings (EGD), Lorenz Trippel [link](#)
Lorenz presented his report. He highlighted that the number of tournaments remained at similar levels as prior year, though the number of participants increased. He mentioned that a new developer joined the team to improve the EGD frontend. Lorenz also mentioned that EGD believe it is not a good idea to monetise the EGD and said that the owner of the data are the players.

Nicholas Roussos noted that based on the EGF General Regulations (Article 25. Commercial and Sponsorship), "the EGF owns all Official European Ranking Lists and is the beneficial owner of any and all intellectual property

rights which may now or at any time in the future exist anywhere in the world in respect of any data or information resulting from the ranking of players competing at the Events and Competitions held under its authority.” Lorenz said that the EGF General Regulations are outdated and referred to the GDPR. Nicholas said that even with GDPR the EGF would be the Controller of the data and mentioned that the EGF Board worked with a lawyer and drafted a universal EGF Privacy Policy which will cover also the EGD. When the Privacy Policy is finalised it will be published on EGF website and on EGD website. EGF can prove that it has legitimate interest in processing the tournament data collected.

Nicholas also asked Lorenz to explain who is the EGD team. Lorenz referred to the names published on the EGF web site (i.e. Lorenz Trippel, Julien Corcessin, and Cris Bratu).

Colin Williams (UK) asked that the status of the EGD needs to be clarified and documented in the next few months. Mirta Medak (Austria) asked who is the legal owner of the database, and the discussion was separated on who owns the infrastructure and who owns the data. It was clarified that the EGF is paying for the infrastructure (i.e. web server).

- Ratings Commission: Dimitris Katsouris, Claude Brisson, Cris Bratu, Dave de Vos, Jan Ramon, Laszlo Boviz, Michael Silcher, Timofey Kuzmin. [link](#)

Nobody from the commission was present, though the report was submitted by the Chairman (Dimitris Katsouris). Nicholas Roussos explained that in the meantime Dimitris expressed the wish to step down from chairman position. During the year the Commission explored pros and cons of adopting the Glicko 2 algorithm. No conclusions reached.

- Appeals: Leo Dal Zovo, Kerem Karaerkek
No report.
- Academy: No activity during the year.

10. Auditors

- Eren Kurter and Tomasz Andrzejewski are not available for reappointment.
- No other candidates, so a Special General Meeting will need to be called, ideally before December. Members were asked to nominate candidates to be appointed as EGF Auditors. It was clarified that these don't need to be certified accountants/auditors, and the Secretary will inform members.

11. Appeals Committee was appointed, with five members as circulated with the agenda:

- Leonardo Dal Zovo (Italy)
- Kerem Karaerkek (Turkey)
- Toby Manning (UK)
- Anton Silfver (Sweden)
- Nicholas Roussos (Cyprus)

BREAK - A break was called at 19:30 for 30 minutes.

12. Elections

The Secretary explained the voting process and clarified that each delegate would get a number of ballots equal to the votes allocated to their country. A draw was made to decide the order that the three candidates for the position of President-elect would address the AGM: 1. Damir Medak, 2. Manja Marz, 3. Flavien Aubelle. Three volunteers were selected to help with vote counting: 1. Toby Manning, 2. Natalia Klamecka, and 3. Nikola Tsarigradski. The three candidates addressed the AGM, with a time limit of three minutes each. Colin Williams thanked all three candidates.

The Secretary called each country alphabetically, and the delegate of the country stepped forward to receive the ballots and go to the voting table, where they marked their ballots and cast them in the designated box. At the end of the voting the volunteers counted the votes.

Election result:

Manja: 34, Damir: 10, Flavien: 7, blanks: 2

Manja Marz gets elected as President-elect, with an absolute majority (64%), out of 53 votes.

Following the election of the President-elect, the AGM acknowledged the

election of Eren Kurter as the new Secretary of EGF. Then the AGM acknowledged the re-election of Harry van der Krogt as Treasurer and the re-election of Damir Medak as Vice President.

At this point, Martin Stiassny presented Nicholas Roussos with a plaque in appreciation of his service as Secretary from 2022 to 2025.

In response, Nicholas addressed the AGM, noting that this marked the beginning of a new era for the EGF. He thanked Martin Stiassny for his sixteen years of leadership, during which he introduced significant initiatives, including the Pro System and the Grand Prix series. Nicholas then presented Martin with a plaque on behalf of the Board and all EGF members, expressing gratitude for his long and dedicated service. The delegates gave Martin a standing ovation, which he acknowledged with a bow of gratitude.

13. Budget

Harry explained that a balanced budget is presented for another year. There were no questions asked and the budget was unanimously approved.

14. Proposals from Members / Board Members / Commissions

- **Proposal 1 (Czechia): Amendment to the Rules of the Pandanet Youth Go European Team Championship**

František Čáha (Czechia) presented the proposal. Damir Medak clarified that there is no discrimination as there is nothing to forbid women or children to play on boards 1-3, and referred to affirmative action that more women and kids learn to play Go. He supported that changing the rules can be done, but he does not expect this to help. He suggested letting the rules run for two years, and then make a data-driven decision, based on the results. Maksym Wałaszewski opined that forcing strong women to play weaker opponents is a form of discrimination. Nicholas Roussos noted that if a country only has one woman player who is strong, then the situation described by Maksym would be possible, but the idea is to have more women to participate, so the strong women could also play on boards 1-3. Colin Williams (UK) said that we need to focus more on grassroots to increase women players, and this could not be achieved just by playing the Pandanet online tournament.

The proposal was **accepted** with 41 votes for, 6 against, 6 abstain.

- **Proposal 2 (Czechia): Amendment to Article 6 of the EGF General Regulations – Voting System.**

Colin Williams (UK) commented that they will probably abstain and said if we vote on a system that we will be changing soon then we will need to come back again to change it. Anton Silfver (Sweden) added that they would not support this proposal, considering it not a good idea, especially tying it to financial contribution. Benjamin Wirthmann (Germany) agreed with Sweden's statement. Nicholas Roussos (Cyprus), added that EGF members often do not know their members and this makes the system impractical. Maja Logar (Slovenia) noted that they don't have paid members, so they cannot support this motion. Anton Silfver commented that the rationale of the proposal is good, because it encourages engagement with EGF and membership tracking. Jasna Medak (Croatia) added that with such a system countries can choose to pay 1.000 euro membership just to get more votes.

The Secretary concluded that the proposal might not be mature enough to be voted this year and asked the Czech delegate if he would like to consider postponing it. The Czech delegate, based on the arguments heard, decided to postpone the proposal for another time. Therefore, there was no vote.

- **Proposal 3 (Sweden): Amendment to Article 11 of the EGF General Regulations - Minutes**

The proposal is to rephrase Article 11 of the general regulations as "Minutes of the deliberations and resolutions of the Executive Committee shall be made available **to all members** no later than six weeks following the meeting and shall contain a summary of the deliberations, the proposed resolutions, the declarations which an officer requests to be recorded, and the resolutions with the result of the vote."

Martin Stiassny said he supports transparency, however, he expressed his concerns about Board minutes reaching inappropriate audiences. He agrees on transparency around decisions and mentioned that the Board keeps a log of decisions and actions agreed during meetings. Martin proposed that a quarterly summary of decisions be circulated instead, to avoid extra work of preparing two sets of minutes (i.e. one public and one restricted to the Board).

Colin Williams (UK) said that in the UK the minutes are published in a section of the web site that can only be accessed by the British Go Association members. He said that sensitive issues are discussed but they are anonymised when minuted. He expressed the opinion that publishing minutes is vital for transparency and should not be hard to arrange.

Anton Silfver (Sweden) said he agrees with some of the concerns Martin mentioned, however, he clarified that not every detail of the matters discussed in Board meetings needs to be circulated. He added that minutes in Sweden are also published to members.

Natalia Klamecka (Poland) noted that minutes should be available to people otherwise we don't know what's going on.

The Secretary commented that preparing minutes to be circulated adds extra burden on the EGF Secretary.

Maja Logar (Slovenia) said that minutes could be made available upon request. Colin Williams (UK) responded that this might generate more work to deal with requests to reproduce minutes than to share them in the first place.

Manja Marz (President-elect) said that minutes can be prepared during the meeting and be restricted to tasks and decisions. It should be achievable and a way to do it will be found.

The proposal was **accepted** with 40 votes for and 13 abstains.

- **Proposal 4 (Sweden): All existing meeting minutes of the executive board are to retroactively be made available to all members.**

Frank Janssen (Netherlands) noted that this would create a lot of unnecessary work for something that will probably not be useful. Belgium agreed with the Netherlands. Colin Williams (UK) asked how useful it would be if something is found in the old minutes that you disagree with. It was suggested to request only minutes relevant to specific issues of concern. Anton said that he had no specific concerns.

An amendment to the proposal was suggested by Finland and approved by

majority (33 votes for), so **the proposal is to make minutes issued in 2025 until the AGM available to all members retrospectively.**

The amended proposal was **accepted** with 23 votes for, 11 votes against and 17 abstains.

○ **Proposal 5 and 6 (Slovenia)**

- Proposal 5: EGF Board to agree a deadline with the Youth Commission for Child safeguarding guidelines and inform members of the deadline
- Proposal 6: EGF Board in collaboration with the Youth Commission to appoint a Child safeguarding officer

Following discussion it was agreed by Maja Logar (Slovenia) not to vote on proposals 5 and 6, as the draft guidelines were already circulated by Oksana Nevostruyeva and are available for feedback. Maja mentioned that there is no provision for an EGF responsible person in the guidelines and Oksana explained that each country has its own laws. This will be discussed offline based on the circulated draft guidelines.

○ **Proposal 7 (Slovenia): An independent investigative committee consisting of three members to be formed whose purpose will be an impartial investigation of the measures and decisions that were taken by the FFG in relation to child abuse case.**

The case of child abuse by a French Go player and his arrest was summarised for all delegates to be aware.

Maja suggested that we need to know which people from the FFG knew about the concerns and still didn't warn the community (e.g. the culprit attended the EGC 2024 in Toulouse).

France delegates explained that the FFG paid to train the FFG officials on safeguarding (children, women, etc). They also suggested that the trained members can contribute to EGF guidelines. There are lessons learned from this case.

Oksana Nevostruyeva questioned what we are trying to achieve with an investigation, provided that the French police already handled the case with

full cooperation by FFG. Natalia Klamecka said that the new EGF president will be focusing on promoting youth and it's important to have safeguarding guidelines. Not having guidelines might deter parents from bringing their children to learn and play Go. Manja agreed that this is a sensitive matter.

Alina M. Nemes (Hungary) noted that when potential offenders go to international conferences, there are risks and said that this was not discussed openly enough by FFG. She said she was not aware of the case.

The proposal was **defeated** with 3 votes for, 12 votes against, and 34 abstains.

15. European Go Congress

- **Poland EGC 2025**

Natalia Klamecka reported that the congress is running smoothly, with more players than the 800 originally expected. The final numbers will be calculated after the Congress finishes.

- **Turkey EGC 2026**

Cagatay Tavsanoğlu presented an update on EGC 2026 preparations. He mentioned that the Hacettepe University administration is friendly towards Go and supported many go events in the past. He noted that the EYGC was organised there in 2023. The [EGC 2026 web site](#) is set up, though registrations are not yet available online as the dedicated bank account is not ready and is expected by August. EGC participants can currently register physically in Warsaw, at the EGC 2026 promotion stand. Cagatay said that the University Campus will be fully available for the Congress. It's a secure place with identification necessary to enter the campus. Special discounts are available for early EGC 2026 registration - it now costs just €100 and will increase gradually. Players aged under ten will have 90% discount and players under 18 will have 50% discount.

- **Netherlands EGC 2027**

Geert Groenen presented the Dutch proposal for EGC 2027 and distributed the same in a booklet format. The venue will be a spacious conference centre in 's-Hertogenbosch (a.k.a. Den Bosch), the Capital of the province of Noord-Brabant. It has plenty of available accommodation, it is near the city centre and is easily accessible. Half of the required sponsorship has already been covered, and the organising team has the full backing of the Dutch Go Association. The organising team is well known in the community, and three of its members (including Geert) were present at the AGM.

The AGM unanimously approved the allocation of EGC 2027 to the Netherlands.

- **EGC 2028** - Colin Williams informed the AGM that the UK would like to express a very tentative interest to organise the EGC 2028. There is no team ready to support this yet, but there is an intention to mobilise one and the location would be a university campus between Edinburgh and Glasgow.
- Flavien Aubelle (Switzerland) noted that an update with the financial report from EGC 2024 in Toulouse was missing from the agenda. The Secretary will contact FFG and ask for the financial report. It was noted that a financial report of the previous EGC should always be part of the agenda.

16. European Tournament Calendar

- **Update on upcoming events**
 - Women Championship 2025 (October, Prague, Czechia). The championship is scheduled in the first week of October.
 - Student Championship 2025 (10-12 October, Durham, UK).
Colin Williams asked members to contact their student members and encourage them to participate.
 - Grand Prix Final (3-6 January, 2026 Stockholm, Sweden).
Martin Stiassny is organising this with Charlie Aakerblom in the usual format of the Grand Prix Final.
 - European Youth Go Championship (EYGC) 2026 (25-28 March 2026, Plitvice Lakes National Park, Croatia).
An update was provided by Jasna Medak. The organising team is progressing with the preparations. She did, however, express her protest on offending email communication by a member of the Italian Go Association, and supported by Poland and Germany, targeting Croatian youth team for getting an undeserved nomination for the Quzhou Youth Teams event in 2023 and the League A of Pandanet Youth Go European Championships Season One. She requested the AGM, especially aforementioned national go associations, to dismiss these baseless accusations, otherwise Croatia is not worth being an EYGC organizer. Nicholas Roussos responded that such a motion is not

on the AGM agenda and that the EGF Board is going to handle the request.

- Women Championship 2026 (September, London, UK).
Confirmed.

- Student Championship 2026 (September/October).

Due to the situation in Israel this championship needs to be planned elsewhere. A call will be sent to members to find an organising country.

Available for bidders.

○ **Call for Candidates/Selection of hosts**

- Pair Go Championship 2026 (Slovakia).

The Championship is allocated to Slovakia, with the agreement of the UK.

- European Pro Championship 2026 (Romania).

Allocated to Romania. Flavien Aubelle (Switzerland) had already discussed this and agreed with the Romanian Go Federation.

- Grand Prix Final 2026.

Martin Stiassny explained that the Final should be planned for the second half of December 2026 or beginning of January 2027. It could be an add-on to an existing tournament, or an event on its own. Prize money is provided by the EGF and bringing the top 16 players in Europe gives a big push of Go in the country organising it. **Available for bidders.**

- European Professional Championship 2027. **Available for bidders.**
- European Youth Go Championship (EYGC) 2027. **Available for bidders.**
- Pair Go Championship 2027. **Available for bidders.**

17. Internet Championships

- [Pandamet Go European Team Championship](#)
- [Pandamet Youth Go European Team Championship](#)

The Secretary noted that both championships were completed during the year. The PGETC finals will take place in the second week of the EGC.

18. Miscellaneous

- The Secretary explained that the EGF Constitution and General Regulations define how the Executive Committee can install commissions and appoint members to it. It does not define how to remove members and uninstall the commissions. However, it is interpreted that the Executive Committee that installs commissions and appoints members can also do the opposite. Pietro Simonini (Italy) noted that the executives of the Italian Go Association board who added this item to the agenda received a vote of no confidence and were no longer actively serving the board. However, he asked whether the request from the Italian President for the reasons of removal of its board member from the Youth Commission was answered. The Secretary noted that a response was sent to the President, confirming availability for a video call, as had been requested. The President never came back.
- Anton Silfver (Sweden) suggested that the various reports be populated sooner on the circulated agenda, to allow members to discuss everything at their Board meetings ahead of the AGM. Another suggestion was to notify members when items are made available.

The meeting was concluded at 23:20.