

Minutes of the 27th ESR committee meeting

AERC Leeds, Wednesday, 10 April 2024; 17:00 18:30

Attendees (Delegates and presidents of national societies, Representatives of the individual members, Organizers of the AERCs, ESR ExCom members, Guests) following the signed attendance list:

Christian Clasen	President
Anke Lindner	Vice President
Mario Minale	Past President (and Delegate of Member Society – Italy)
Bettina Wolf	Treasurer
Mónica Oliveira	Secretary
Manlio Tassieri	Member at Large (and Representative of Individual Members)
Giovanni Ianniruberto	European Editor Rheologica Acta (and Oldroyd Early Career Award Committee)
Thibaut Divoux	Representative of Individual Members
Jörg Läger	Representative of Individual Members
George Petekidis	Representative of Individual Members
Ursula Windberger	Delegate of Member Society - Austria
Ruth Cardinaels	Delegate of Member Society - Belgium
Martin Zatloukal	Delegate of Member Society - Czech
Steffen Jesinghausen (representing Hans-Joachim Schmid)	Delegate of Member Society – Germany
Vlasios Mavrantzas	Delegate of Member Society – Greece
Patrick Anderson	Delegate of Member Society – Netherlands
Mats Stading	Delegate of Member Society – Nordic
Anna Ptaszek	Delegate of Member Society – Poland
Corneliu Balan	Delegate of Member Society – Romania
Lidija Slemenik Perše	Delegate of Member Society – Slovenia
Robert Aguirresarobe (representing Antonio Guerrero)	Delegate of Member Society – Spain
Peter Fischer	Delegate of Member Society – Switzerland
Maria Charalambides	Delegate of Member Society – Britain
Yannis Dimakopoulos	Election Committee
Erin Koos	Election Committee
Pier Luca Maffettone	Weissenberg Award Committee.
Ian Frigaard	Oldroyd Early Career Award Committee
Gerry Fuller	Guest (ICR)
Khalid Lamnawar	Guest (Organizer AERC 2025)
Joshua Dijkman	Guest (Presenting proposal for AERC 2026)
Oliver Harlen	Guest (Organizer AERC 2024)

Topic 1. Chairman (Christian Clasen, CC) and secretary (Mónica Oliveira) for the meeting

Approved.

Topic 2. Reports by President, Past President, Secretary, Members-at-Large.

Main points covered in the report include (for details see presentation):

- Reminder and update on the different committees and committee members (see presentation).
- The 3 year term of the representatives of individual candidates is ending 31/7/2024 and the election of the new representatives for the period 1/8/2024 –31/7 2027 is coming up, with the process starting with the call for candidates in April 2024 (earlier than previously based on suggestions from the Election Committee). Previous representatives can be re-elected for another term, but need to indicate to the President and Secretary if they wish to do so. It was proposed that the election is open for two weeks (rather than one) taking place around the last week of June and first week of July.
- The duration of term of the Oldroyd Early Career Award Committee members was discussed, and 3 years was proposed in line with the duration of the Weissenberg Committee. The criteria for the future composition still need to be worked out.
- The Weissenberg Award 2023 was awarded to Olivier Pouliquen and the Oldroyd Early Career Award 2023 was awarded to Qian Huang.
- It was agreed that the list of all nominations be transmitted together with the recommendation of each award for approval of the ESR Executive Council.
- It was agreed to correct the wording to ESR 'Executive Council' (replacing any previous mentions to ESR 'Executive Committee'), to be consistent with the constitution, in all documentation (award procedures, web pages....). Adjusted constitution and by-laws to be uploaded to the web page.

Topic 3. Approval of the minutes of the 26th and ESR Committee Meeting

Approved, with date and title to be corrected (26th not 25th, 2023 not 2022).

Topic 4. EYRS 2025: call for candidates

A call for applications for the organization of the EYRS 2025 will be released soon (CC). Following the success of the first edition of the EYRS in 2023, it was reiterated that the online format and content were appreciated. The national societies were asked to encourage their young rheologists to become involved once the call is open, and suggest a format.

Topic 5. Report of European Editor Rheologica Acta (Giovanni Ianniruberto)

Rheologica Acta has a new Editor in Chief (Simon Rogers) since January 2024 and the editorial board has been refreshed, taking into consideration geographical, scientific expertise and career stage distribution.

Although the 2023 metrics for the journal are still incomplete, the number of submissions as well as the number of published papers decreased relative to 2022. The decrease in h-factor and the change to Q2 to a Q3 journal reported in the 26th Committee Meeting are not expected to recover immediately, but new measures are being put in place including:

- changes (speed up) in the editorial process
- new collections (e.g. upcoming RheoSamos 2024, XVIII Italian Society of Rheology Conference)
- interaction with ESR and national societies
- Weissenberg/Oldroyd award papers

So far in 2024 there are already 39 papers in Rheologica Acta (see presentation for details).

It was noted that for the Collections, the editorial process is done as for standard submissions, with the role of the guest editors being responsible for inviting/selecting the papers to be submitted.

A publication award is given every year. The paper entitled “Rheology of non-Brownian suspensions: a rough contact story” was selected for the 2024 publication award.

Rheo Acta is participating in the organization of the JNNFM-JOR-RA monthly seminar series, which often has ~100 online attendees and is expected to continue.

It was reiterated that Rheologica Acta relies on the support of the community as far as submissions and referee reports are concerned. CC suggested adding a “banner” highlighting Rheologica Acta to ESR emails.

Topic 6. Report of the Treasurer (Bettina Wolf)

Approved.

Topic 7. Charity and primary account location

There is a possibility to open a bank account in Switzerland evaluated and to locate the charity in Switzerland, but the access, implications and procedures related to the current UK Charity status still need to be considered.

The AERC in Seville highlighted the need for ESR to have a VAT number- this needs to be addressed to allow the possibility to provide invoices.

There was discussion about taxes in Switzerland, with Peter Fischer (PF) saying that these are based on income and are only charged above a certain threshold. PF will look further into the details.

Topic 8. Presentations proposals prospective AERC 2026 candidates and selection (Anna Ptaszek, AP; Joshua Dijkman, JD)

AP presented the Polish Society of Rheology proposal and JD presented the Dutch Society of Rheology proposal (see presentation slides). The Dutch proposal considered three different location options (two at the seaside and one in Amsterdam) and there was a discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of the various options, with JD deciding Amsterdam as the final location for the Dutch proposal.

There were 12 votes for the Polish proposal and 6 for the Dutch proposal and as such it was decided that the AERC 2026 will take place in Cracow, Poland.

The two societies were thanked for volunteering and presenting two good proposals. The Dutch group were encouraged to submit again for the next one (in 2028).

The voting procedure highlighted that the rules need to be made clearer, i.e. delegates of the National Societies can appoint a substitute to attend and vote in committee meetings, but for individual members there is at the moment no procedure foreseen to delegate their vote.

Topic 9. Updates on AERC 2024 (Oliver Harlen, OH)

The current AERC is running smoothly with ~480 participants registered. This is more than originally predicted and there were adjustments to the program to be able to accommodate these numbers (e.g. increase in the number of parallel sessions from 6 to 8, extend slightly the technical part of the daily program).

Recommendations were given based on things that went well and things that could be improved:

- have strict deadlines for abstract submission (for oral presentation) and making people well aware that these are hard deadlines to make organization easier to manage,
- enforcing a deadline for speakers to register (with talks being removed from the programme in the absence of registration) to allow reducing/avoiding gaps in the final programme,
- select a set of session chairs with a well-balanced representation in terms of gender, geographical, scientific expertise and career stage.
- have the decision of the Awards earlier than currently to facilitate the organization and safeguard the presence of the awardees,

It was noted that there were some Visas denied and some people pulling out at the last minute, which have been accommodated. The registration value for students was set intentionally low (corresponding to a loss). There were a high number of registrations after the Early Bird has elapsed and the organizers expect a surplus. A final report will be sent at the end with financial details.

The organizers were thanked for all their efforts and a successful meeting so far.

Topic 10. Updates on AERC 2025 (Khalid Lamnawar, KJ)

The preparation of the next AERC conference in Lyon 14-17 of April 2025 is well on track (see slides for details).

Topic 11. Procedure election representatives of the individual members

The election procedure for representatives of the individual members was covered in the report in Topic 2. See presentation for timelines.

Topic 12. Any other topic

- Albert Co confirmed the possibility of using the registration system for AERC 2025 in Lyon.
- The amount/type of information to be distributed via the ESR mailing lists was discussed and current levels/content seem appropriate. There is a possibility for members to post jobs/positions directly on the webpage, rather than by direct communication of the President, this will be announced again via the mailing list to foster this possibility.
- The membership renewal has changed from paypal to stripe (implemented on the web page).

- The committee was alerted that there have been some phishing attempts.

Attached

- Meeting presentation (including Rheologica Acta)
- Polish Society of Rheology Bid for AERC 2026
- Dutch Society of Rheology Bid for AERC 2026