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Minutes of the 28th ESR committee meeting

**AERC Lyon, Lyon Convention Centre, Tuesday, 15 April
2025; 18:10-19:30**

Attendees (Representatives of national societies, Delegates of the individual members, Organizers of the AERCs, ESR ExCouncil members, Guests):

Executive Council

Christian Clasen (CC)	President (taking office as Past-President)
Anke Lindner (AL)	Vice-President (taking office as President)
Mario Minale (MM)	Past-President
Mónica Oliveira (MO)	Secretary
Roland Kádár	Member-at-Large (taking office as Vice-President)
Giovanni Ianniruberto (GI)	European Editor of Rheologica Acta
Jan Vermant	Taking office as Treasurer
John Tsamopoulos	Taking office as Member-at-Large

Delegate of the individual members

Natalie Germann (U Stuttgart), Germany
Simon Haward (OIST), Japan
Jörg Läuger (Anton Paar), Germany

Representative of National Society

Ursula Windberger (Austria)
Martin Zatloukal (Czech Republic)
Anselmo Pereira (France)
Dietmar Auhl representing Hans-Joachim Schmid (Germany)
Moshe Gottlieb (Israel)
Mario Minale (Italy)
Roland Kádár (Nordic)
Anna Ptaszek (Poland)
Corneliu Balan (Romania)
Lidija Slemenik Perše (Slovenia)
José Muñoz (Spain)
Peter Fischer (PF, Switzerland)
Rob Poole (RP, UK)

Others

Yannis Dimakopoulos	Election Committee
Ian Frigaard	Oldroyd Early Career Award Committee
Reza Nofar (RN)	Guest (Turkey, Anatolian Society of Rheology)
Khalid Lamnawar (KJ)	Guest (AERC2025)
Jonathan Rothstein	Guest (SOR, USA)
Gerry Fuller	Guest (ICR)
Valerian Hirschberg	Guest (Rheologica Acta Publication Award Committee)

Topic 1. Chairman (CC) and secretary (MO) for the meeting

Approved

Topic 2. Updates on AERC 2025 (KJ)

The current AERC is running smoothly with 369 delegates, 9 organising delegates, 244 student delegates, and 48 student helpers, covering 40 nationalities. It was noted that some participants have recently withdrawn due to visa issues. KJ emphasized that student involvement remained a core priority throughout the planning process, particularly in terms of affordability and inclusive participation in events such as the Gala Dinner, which was made possible with the support of ESR. Further details are available in the accompanying slides.

Topic 3. Approval of the minutes of the 27th ESR Committee Meeting (all)

Approved

Topic 4. Reports by President, Past President, Secretary, Members-at-Large.

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

- Composition of the Committee, Executive Council, Awards Committees, and Sub-Committees. The new Executive council is composed of: President Anke Lindner; Vice President Roland Kádár; Past President Christian Clasen; Treasurer Jan Verman; Secretary Mónica Oliveira; Member at Large Salvatore Coppola; Member at Large John Tsamopoulos; European Editor Rheologica Acta Giovanni Ianniruberto. Mario Minale becomes chair of election committee (2025-2027). There are three new Representatives of the member societies (UK, Nordic, Spain). The full list is available in the attached slides. CC thanked Jan Engmann, Roland Kádár, and Manlio Tassieri for their service to the society as Delegates of the Individual Members.
- A call for applications for the organisation of the EYRS was sent but there was no uptake. Any National Societies wishing to organise are encouraged to email the President.
- Peter Fischer (PF) has looked into matters related to banking, taxation, and charitable status in Switzerland, as well as the possibility of obtaining a VAT number for ESR. This is part of exploring a potential transition for ESR, which currently holds UK charity status. PF confirmed that the transition is feasible, with a straightforward process that can be initiated if and when a decision is made to close the UK-based charity.
- CC confirmed that any Representative of member societies can send substitutes, however, we still need to figure out if and how Delegates of the individual members can be substituted.
- Congratulations to the two award winners: the Weissenberg Award 2024 was awarded to Suzanne Fielding and the Oldroyd Early Career Award 2024 was awarded to Safa Jamali.

Topic 5. Report of European Editor Rheologica Acta (GI)

GI highlighted that Rheologica Acta received fewer submissions in 2024 (107) compared to 2023, but saw an increase in published papers, with 55 accepted for publication. As of now in 2025, 39 papers have been submitted and one double issue has been published. The implementation of new editorial measures has significantly improved the efficiency of the review process. The average time from submission to first decision decreased from 21 days to 14

days in 2024, and production turnaround times have also improved. Additional performance metrics are available in the presentation.

The most recent Special Issue published focused on Data-Driven Methods in Rheology. Two Special Issues are currently in progress: one Special Early Career Issue on Trends & Progress in Rheology, with 11 contributors confirmed, 6 submissions received, and 1 paper accepted; and another linked to the XVIII Italian Society of Rheology Conference, with 6 papers currently under review. GI noted there are other Special Issues planned and that *Rheologica Acta* welcomes proposals for future Special Issues and encouraged anyone interested to contact the Editors directly.

Weissenberg and Oldroyd award recipients are invited to submit papers based on their award lectures. Additional invitations for Perspectives and Reviews are also planned.

The annual publication award for 2025 was presented to the paper titled "Orthogonal superposition rheometry of soft core-shell microgels."

RR continues to support the JNNFM-JOR-RA monthly seminar series, which is expected to continue.

A question was raised regarding access issues experienced by members using individual memberships to access *Rheologica Acta*. CC and GI acknowledged past issues but confirmed that they have now been resolved. For any remaining access problems, please contact the Editor of *Rheologica Acta* or the ESR President.

Topic 6. Report of the Treasurer (CC on behalf of BW)

The Society is in a good financial situation. At the end of the financial year (31 March 2025), the total fund of the Society stands at £ 75,666.25. Based on a sterling-euro transfer rate of 1.15 this equals € 87,016.19. A large portion of income (£15,543) came from the British Society of Rheology as the proceeds of AERC2024.

The report has been approved.

Topic 7. Oldroyd Award Committee composition and appointment

CC gave an overview on how the first Oldroyd Award Committee was set up and presented a proposal for changes following ad hoc internal discussions, and in consultation with the President of SOR and the chair of the Election Committee.

Main points of the proposal are:

- The Award Committee consists of 5 members
- They are appointed in a staggered manner such that every year 1 or 2 members, after finishing their 3-year term, are replaced by new members (preferably before the AERC)
- The new members are appointed by the President after approval of the President's suggestion by the Executive Council
- The President can be supported in the identification of suitable candidates by the Election Committee
- The new candidates are preferably past Oldroyd Awardees
- The other two members can be elected from the editors of the big3 rheology journals, or other rheologists with sufficient seniority, to ensure a balance of experience.

RP highlighted that typically these journals have two main/chief editors and suggested that these could be rotated in the Award Committee. MM discussed the possibility of the Executive Council appointing the new members, and CC suggested that the President has the responsibility for leading but the appointment is done in consultation with the Executive Council.

The new proposal has been approved.

Topic 8. New national society members for the ESR (CC)

CC announced that Anatolian Society of Rheology (ASR, Turkey) has been approved to join ICR earlier in the day and is thus eligible to join ESR. RN presented the ASR (details available in the attached slides), and its membership was put to a vote. The proposal for ASR to join ESR was approved.

CC also noted that initial discussions were taking place regarding the Croatian Society, but these are still in early stages.

Topic 9. Updates on AERC 2026 (AP)

AP gave a brief overview on the generic programme schedule, starting with the short course (13-14 April 2026) followed by the conference 15-17 April 2026. The venue is secured and includes: Plenary hall (theatre-style room, 1200 seats that can be divided in half, 2 rooms for 600 people each.); 7 parallel session rooms (60-268 seats); Poster area; Exhibition area (2 levels). The short course will be limited to 15 participants due to laboratory facility access. Registration fees has also been set. For details please see slides.

AL asked about deadlines and details about the Session Topics and Organisers and AP confirmed that these will be released very soon after the end of AERC2025 as will the webpage. The organisers are already in touch with the webmaster and preparations are under way.

Topic 10. Transition of office for members of the Executive Council (CC)

The transition took place, with the new Executive Council taking office. CC thanked all members for their contributions to the Society and welcomed the new members.

Topic 11. Any other topic (all)

AL highlighted that many Societies (e.g. EuroMech, SoR) have fellows and discussed the possibility of introducing ESR Fellows to celebrate contributions to Rheology and the Society.

CC discussed the possibility of Award ceremonies taking place at the AERC banquet. MM mentioned that often students do not attend the banquet and suggested we keep an eye in this to ensure it remains student inclusive.



Anke Lindner
President



Mónica Oliveira
Secretary