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Minutes of the 29th ESR committee meeting

**AERC Kraków, Lyon Convention Centre, Wednesday, 15
April 2025; 17:15-18:45**

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

Executive Council

Anke Lindner (AL)	President
Christian Clasen (CC)	Past-President
Mónica Oliveira (MO)	Secretary
Jan Vermant (JV)	Treasurer
John Tsamopoulos (JT)	Member-at-Large (stepping down)
Giovanni Ianniruberto (GI)	European Editor of Rheologica Acta
Manlio Tassieri	Taking office as Member-at-Large

Delegate of the individual members

Thibaut Divoux, France
Natalie Germann, Germany
Alan Jeffrey Giacomini, Canada
Simon Haward, Japan
Jörg Läuger, Germany
Simon Rogers, USA
Mats Stading, Sweden

Representative of National Society

Ursula Windberger (Austria)
Ruth Cardinaels (Belgium)
Martin Zatloukal (Czech Republic)
Anselmo Pereira (France)
Andreas Wierschem representing Hans-Joachim Schmid (Germany)
Vlasios Mavrantzas (Greece)
Moshe Gottlieb (Israel)
Mario Minale (MM, Italy)
Olli-Ville Laukkanen representing Roland Kádár (Nordic)
Anna Ptaszek (Poland)
Corneliu Balan (Romania)
Lidija Slemenik Perše (Slovenia)
José Muñoz (Spain)
Peter Fischer (Switzerland)
Rob Poole (UK)

Others/Guests

Joshua Dijkstra (AERC 2028 Bid)
Mazi Jalaal (AERC 2028 Bid)
Alexandra Alicke (AERC 2028 Bid)
Roberto Cerbino (AERC 2029 Bid)
Dimitris Vlassopoulos (ICR, Oldroyd Award Committee)
Qian Huang (Chinese Soc of Rheology-ICR 2027, Oldroyd Award Committee)

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

Approved

Topic 2. Approval of the minutes of the 28th ESR Committee Meeting (all)

Approved

Topic 3. Updates on AERC 2026 (AP)

The current AERC is running smoothly. AP will make information/stats available at a later date.

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

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

4.1 ESR committee and sub-committee compositions. Some delegates of individual members are in their second term and there will be an election of new delegates next year. A change in the Executive council has taken place with John Tsamopoulos stepping down and Manlio Tassieri taking over as Member at Large (term until 2027). JT was thanked for his service to the Society. The Election Committee is currently chaired by Mario Minale, and other members are still to be appointed. Jonathan Rothstein becomes the chair of the Oldroyd award committee and a new senior member will need to be appointed. The full composition list is available in the attached slides.

4.2 Weissenberg and Oldroyd award winners 2026. Congratulations to the two award winners: the Weissenberg Award 2026 was awarded to Peter Fischer and the Oldroyd Early Career Award 2026 was awarded to Mazi Jalaal.

4.3 Date for call for nominations for Weissenberg/Oldroyd Awards. It has been agreed to change the date for call for nominations to September with proposed announcement in December. A new design for the Weissenberg Award statue has been created by Italian artist Luigi Tirino. Several statues for both the Weissenberg and Oldroyd Awards have already been produced, ensuring sufficient availability for the next few years.

4.4 ESR has now been registered with charitable status in Switzerland. After the Swiss bank account is open, the process of closing the UK-based charity will be started.

4.5 ESR mission and values statement has been discussed and text approved. Suggestion to tighten first sentence to make it broader, including "European and other associated countries".

4.6 Update EYRS meeting 2027: There has been a proposal for organisation of EYRS 2027 (details provided by Manolis Chatzigiannakis available in the slides). The date has to be discussed with the organisers soon. Format for EYRS left open to organisers and MM suggested to keep "Mentor/Mentoring sessions" that worked well in the last session.

Topic 5. Bids for AERC 2028 and 2029 (J Dijkstra and R Cerbino)

A bid to host AERC 2028 in Rotterdam (in SS Rotterdam Conference Hotel) a was presented by Joshua Dijkstra (22-26 April 2028). Short courses have already been agreed for Saturday/Sunday before the Conference and will take place in the same venue. Concerns raised regarding the costs, and suggestions include: trying to keep costs as low as possible, including dinner

in the registration price for everyone (including students), having space (and making wide announcement) for sponsor exhibits. Bid to host AERC 2029 in Vienna (in a University of Vienna venue) was presented by Roberto Cerbino (3-6 April 2029). Courses and instructors envisaged, but instructors not yet approached/confirmed. Sustainability of the event and EDI dimension highlighted, including accessibility for participants with special needs, child care availability, free public transport card. There was a discussion about dates to avoid Catholic and Orthodox Easter period, but dates agreed to be kept due to restrictions in Venue booking due to teaching in Austria. Further details for both bids available in slides. Both have been accepted.

Topic 6. Report of European Editor Rheologica Acta (GI)

GI highlighted that Rheologica Acta received 145 submissions in 2025, which is an increase relative to previous years. Several special issues with international contributions have been published/ongoing.

A special issue celebrating the 30th anniversary of ESR is planned, with AL and CC serving as Guest Editors. The issue is intended to feature a dedicated historical perspective. In addition, each Member Country Society will be invited to contribute a half-page profile outlining its history, structure, and key activities. The Societies will also play an active role in the selection of scientific papers to broaden representation and engagement across the community.

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

RA continues to support the JNNFM-JOR-RA monthly seminar series, which is continuing.

Topic 7. Report of the Treasurer (JV)

The Society is in a good financial situation. At the end of the financial year (31 March 2026), the total fund of the Society stands at ~EUR 106 328 (after conversion to EUR). The Swiss bank account is not yet open due to issues with the address. When the account is open and the UK Charity closed, the account will be consolidated in Switzerland. Details of the accounts are provided in the slides.

The report has been approved.

Topic 8. Other topics

8.1 ESR Fellow

The Committee is supportive of establishing ESR Fellow honours.

8.2 30th Anniversary of ESR 2027

Some ideas for the celebration of the anniversary were discussed, including: Special Issue in RA to be published in 2027; a ceremony to be held in AERC2028 (as there is no AERC in 2027); potentially an event in Leuven in 2027, where the Society was founded. Additional suggestions are welcome.

8.3 Any other topic (all)

None raised.