

# MINUTES IACR BOARD MEETING *VIRTUAL-03 2025*

11 MARCH 2025

## 1. OPENING MATTERS

**1.1. Welcome, roll of attendees, identification of proxies.** At 15:04 UTC the President opens the meeting and briefly goes around for an introductory round, confirming attendees and establishing who is holding proxies.

There are 20 full time attendees with the following proxies: LaMacchia holds Lysyanskaya's proxy (when absent), Leander holds Naya-Plasencia's proxy (when absent), Yang holds Schwabe's proxy, Rodríguez-Henríquez holds Yang's proxy (when absent), Preneel holds Rijmen's proxy.

### 1.1.1. *Roll of Attendees.*

*Attendees* (Elected). Michel Abdalla (President 2023-2025); Allison Bishop (Vice President 2023-2025); Brian LaMacchia (Treasurer 2023-2025, *RWC* Steering Committee); Benjamin Wesolowski (Secretary 2023-2025); Jian Guo (Director 2025-2027); Shai Halevi (Director 2023-2025); Anna Lysyanskaya (Director 2025-2027); María Naya-Plasencia (Director 2024-2026); Bart Preneel (Director 2023-2025, Program Chair Contact); Francisco Rodríguez-Henríquez (Director 2024-2026, *Crypto 2025* General Chair (2024-2025)); Bo-Yin Yang (Director 2025-2027); Moti Yung (Director 2024-2026, *PKC* Steering Committee);

*Attendees* (Appointed). Dario Fiore (Eurocrypt 2025 General Chair (2024-2025)); Edoardo Persichetti (*Eurocrypt 2026* General Chair (2025-2026)); Mayank Varia (*Crypto 2026* General Chair (2025-2026)); Bertram Poettering (Membership Secretary 2023-2025);

*Attendees* (Representatives and Others). Gregor Leander (*FSE* Steering Committee);

*Absentees* (Elected). Peter Schwabe (Director 2023-2025, *CHES* Steering Committee);

*Absentees* (Appointed). Foteini Baldimtsi (Communications Secretary 2023-2025); Joseph Liu (Asiacrypt 2025 General Chair (2024-2025)); Vincent Rijmen (Journal of Cryptology Editor-in-Chief 2024-2026);

*Absentees* (Representatives and Others). Masayuki Abe (*Asiacrypt* Steering Committee); Tal Malkin (*TCC* Steering Committee); Kevin McCurley (Database Administrator); Hilarie Orman (Archivist); Tal Rabin (Code-of-conduct Liaison); Yu Yu (Webmaster);

## 2. UPDATE ON CONFERENCES

Leander reports on *FSE 2025*: everything is on track. Registration numbers are high for the Spring school. Fiore reports on *Eurocrypt 2025*: registrations opened yesterday, and everything is on track.

LaMacchia reports on *RWC 2025*. There are already 600 registered participants. Five colocated events are organized before the main event. LaMacchia suggests that in the future we organise affiliated events. They would be much easier to manage and synchronize than these colocated events. *RWC* has expanded to a point where organisation gets complex.

Rodríguez-Henríquez reports on the upcoming *Crypto 2025*. The fixed costs at UC Santa Barbara have increased significantly. If these costs are not compensated by sponsorship, the registration fees will increase by 80 USD (compared to 2024). We anticipate another increase next year. This could be another reason to explore alternative venues for 2027 and beyond.

## 3. TOPICS

**3.1. Selection of Program Chairs for Eurocrypt 2027.** The President recalls that we need to select the two Program Chairs for *Eurocrypt 2027*. Five people were nominated. Each candidate is presented by the Board member who nominated them, and the President calls for a vote to select the first Program Chair.

**Decision 1.** *Lejla Batina is appointed Eurocrypt 2027 Program Chair. [Batina has since accepted.]*

The President calls for a vote to select the second Program Chair.

**Decision 2.** *Giuseppe Persiano is appointed Eurocrypt 2027 Program Chair. [Persiano has since accepted.]*

**3.2. TCC 2025 proposal in Aarhus.** A proposal to host *TCC 2025* in Aarhus, Denmark, has been submitted to the Board for approval. Halevi notes that Aarhus has a large conference center which regularly hosts conferences in theoretical computer science; they have experience with this community. After a brief discussion, the President calls for a vote.

**Decision 3** (unanimous). *The Board approves the proposal to host TCC 2025 in Aarhus, Denmark.*

**3.3. Update on the bylaws and the Code of Conduct.** The Secretary reminds everyone that comments on the proposed amendments to the IACR Bylaws are welcome. In a few weeks, we will hold a vote before submitting the amendments to the Membership for ratification.

The Vice President thanks the Board for its feedback on the Code of Conduct. She has updated the draft accordingly.

**3.4. Refunding policy for visa issues.** Guo presents the next item in the agenda. General Chairs frequently receive requests from registered participants for obtaining a refund in the event of visa denial. While such requests are normally accepted, the current refund policy does not explicitly address this scenario. Guo has drafted an updated policy which explicitly presents visa issues as a valid reason to request a refund.

The Board agrees that it is an excellent proposal, and discusses various adjustments to the draft. Preneel suggests that proof be required that an attempt to obtain a visa was initiated reasonably early. Halevi notes that there are other valid reasons to request a refund, and visa issues should only be presented as one example. Rodríguez-Henríquez advises that the policy does not imply that such requests are automatically provided: the organisation of a conference has non-refundable costs, and mass cancellation could result in financial issues.

LaMacchia recalls that General Chairs already have the power to issue refunds. The proposal will not change that. The goal of this draft is to be included in the General Chair Guidelines as a model for the registration policy.

The President invites Guo and the Board to work on a new version of the text offline.

#### 4. CLOSING MATTERS

The President closes the meeting officially at 16:52 UTC.