ASSITEJ Executive Committee Meeting:
Online, 24 June 2026

Present members of the Executive Committee:
Susan Jessica Giles, *President*, Australia (Sue)
Louis Valente Sørensen, *Secretary General*, Denmark (Louis)
Émilie Robert, *Treasurer*, France (Émilie)
Paulo Ricardo Merisio, *Vice President*, Brazil (Paulo)
Selloane Mokuku, *Vice President*, South Africa (Lalu)
Jonathan Dafydd-Kidd, UK (Jon)
Julia Dina Heße, Germany (Julia)
Maria Luisa Labuhn, Young Dance Network (Bebê de Soares)
Shoaib Iqbal, Pakistan & New Zealand (Shoaib)
Stavros Stavrou, Cyprus (Stavros)
Theis Håvard Fincekhagen Campbell Irgens, Norway (Theis)
Yannick Louis Marie Boudeau, Belgium (Yannick)

Absent members of the Executive Committee:
Carole Umuliga Karemera, Rwanda (Carole)
Seok-hong Kim, *Vice President*, South Korea (Seok-hong)
Gonzalo Moreno, Spain (Gonzalo)

Present staff members:
Christopher John Blois-Brooke, *Staff Member*, UK (Chris)

Absent staff members:
Beatriz Aguilar, *Staff Member*, Spain (Beatriz)
Marissa Garay, *Staff Member*, Mexico (Marissa)

Agenda

1. **Welcome from the President**
2. **Regularity of the Meeting**
3. **Present, Apologies, Number of Voters**
4. **Proposal and Approval of Agenda**
5. **Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting**
6. **Conflicts of Interest**
7. **Decision on Future EC Meeting Hosts**
8. **Membership Fee Exemptions**
9. **Succession Discussion and Future EC Shape**
10. **Any Other Business**

1. Welcome from the President

Sue Giles welcomed the EC.

2. Regularity of the Meeting

Sue, in her capacity as President, confirmed the regularity of the meeting, in compliance with the provisions of Article 10.2 of the Constitution, to discuss and deliberate on the agenda presented.

3. Present, Apologies, Number of Voters

Sue confirmed there was a quorum. Lalu and Bebê indicated they might need to leave before the end of the meeting.
12 voting members were present.

4. Proposal and Approval of Agenda

Sue went over the agenda for the meeting. No objections were raised to the agenda.

5. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

Louis Valente Sørensen confirmed that the minutes from the previous meeting had been circulated and were now available on the website. The EC unanimously approved the minutes of the previous meeting by a show of hands.

6. Conflicts of Interest

Yannick Boudeau declared a conflict of interest regarding *ASSITEJ Belgium's* proposal to host a future EC meeting. It was agreed that Yannick would recuse himself from the discussion and the vote on the Belgian proposal.

Émilie Robert declared a conflict of interest regarding the *ForesTEEN*/Italy proposal, as she is a member of *ForesTEEN*. Émilie clarified that she had not been involved in preparing the application and would not take part in any vote concerning that proposal.

7. Decision on Future EC Meeting Hosts

Sue presented three proposals for future EC meetings: *ASSITEJ Belgium/Krokusfestival*, *ASSITEJ India*, and *SEGNI New Generations Festival/ForesTEEN* in Italy. Two proposals are related to the beginning of 2027, while the Italy/*ForesTEEN* proposal is related to October-November 2027.

The proposal from *ASSITEJ Belgium* is for an EC meeting in the frame of the 30th edition of *Krokusfestival*, taking place from 3 to 11 February 2027 in Hasselt. The proposal includes access to performances; a networking event hosted by

ASSITEJ Belgium; meetings with international artists in the residential exchange; meetings with children and young people; debates and workshops; and a possible visit to Brussels to meet with European networks and political stakeholders.

The proposal from *ASSITEJ India* is for an EC meeting in the first three months of 2027. The proposal followed a recent national meeting in India and expressed the hope that hosting the EC could help generate new energy, artistic exchange and international connection. *ASSITEJ India* proposed a national seminar on Theatre for Young Audiences, live performances, workshops or masterclasses by EC members, and a location near an international airport.

The proposal from *SEGNI New Generations Festival/ForesTEEN* is for a meeting between 30 October and 7 November 2027 in Mantua, at the conclusion of the *ForesTEEN* project. The proposal centred on adolescent cultural participation, the outcomes and methodologies of *ForesTEEN*, and the possible development of an international network dedicated to theatre, performing arts and cultural rights for teenagers.
Stavros Stavrou asked whether the Italy/*ForesTEEN* proposal was formally submitted by a National Centre, noting that the call was directed to National Centres. Émilie shared that, from her perspective, the invitation appeared to come primarily from *ForesTEEN* rather than from *ASSITEJ Italy*. Because this application was focused on late 2027, the EC focused first on the two proposals for the first part of 2027: Belgium and India.

Louis suggested that future host proposals should use a form or otherwise be supported by more structured dialogue before reaching the EC, so that applications are more comparable and equitable.
Several members recognised the strategic value of meeting in Asia before the 2027 World Congress in Korea, particularly to strengthen regional engagement and support renewed momentum within *ASSITEJ India*. Stavros, Paulo Merisio, Shoaib, Jon Dafydd-Kidd, Julia Dina Heße, Lalu Mokuku and Sue all noted the potential for significant positive impact if there was an EC meeting in India, while there was also mentioned the need for more information, more preparation and a clearer process with *ASSITEJ India*.
Several members also highlighted the strength and readiness of the Belgian proposal. Bebê de Soares emphasised *Krokusfestival*'s history of opening space for artists and professionals from the Global South and the fact that because this meeting was fully hosted, the EC could use funds to support involvement of others if this was part of the event. Émilie, Theis and others noted that the Belgian proposal would offer strong working conditions for the EC and would be more immediately practicable.

The EC discussed whether the decision should include a commitment to work with India at a later date. Jon and Émilie explained that their support for Belgium depended on a clear commitment to continue engaging with *ASSITEJ India*. Several members supported this approach.

VOTE:
Which proposal should be accepted for the EC meeting in the first part of 2027: ASSITEJ Belgium or ASSITEJ India?
Clear majority in favour of ASSITEJ Belgium (9 votes); ASSITEJ India received 3 votes

The EC therefore agreed to hold the first 2027 EC meeting in Belgium in connection with *Krokusfestival*. Sue confirmed that *ASSITEJ International* should follow up strongly with *ASSITEJ India*, including a clear narrative around the decision, discussion of possible future EC hosting, and potential strategic invitations to the World Congress.

The third application was placed for discussion at a later date, when the needs of the membership in the second half of 2027 were clearer.

8. Membership-Fee Exemptions

Stavros informed the EC that *ASSITEJ Cyprus* had initially applied to reduce its membership fee, but that a Ministry of Culture funding programme, if successful, was expected to cover international association fees. *ASSITEJ Cyprus* would therefore not proceed with the application for exemption.

This item was moved to an online vote after the meeting, due to a lack of time.

9. Succession Discussion and Future EC Shape

Sue introduced a whiteboard exercise to continue the succession discussion begun in Mexico. She invited members to contribute to the ideal shape of the EC. The resulting brainstorm included thoughts around the number and roles of members, the role and inclusion of counsellors, mechanisms for the participation of children and young people, geographic equity in representation, the benefits of open meetings, skills that the EC needs, capacity of EC members and what is the basic level of support for the future, clear roles for the President and Vice Presidents, a stronger and earlier focus on the succession pipeline, and clearer responsibility for reporting on regions and National Centres.
The themes raised included availability and time commitment; the importance of EC members knowing the scale of the role before standing; the need for the EC to be a working team rather than only a governing body; and the balance between strategic and operational work.
Members also raised the relationship between volunteerism and paid support. Suggestions included more paid staff for operational work, a project manager for EU projects, funds for mobility, and support to ensure the work aligns with members' skills, interests, individual needs, and capacities.

The meeting ended before further collective input was possible but Sue identified further questions to pursue, including what *ASSITEJ International* needs from EC members and office bearers.

10. Any Other Business

Sue reminded members of the meeting on 30 June 2026, which would focus on World Day. Members who were unable to attend would be offered a way to contribute their thoughts in writing. Sue undertook to follow up with the EC regarding this next session and the continuation of the succession discussion.