MINUTES IACR BOARD MEETING *VIRTUAL-12 2023*

12 DECEMBER 2023

1. OPENING MATTERS

1.1. **Welcome, roll of attendees, identification of proxies.** At 21:04 UTC the President opens the meeting and briefly goes around for an introductory round, confirming attendees and establishing who is holding proxies. There are 21 full time attendees with the following proxies: Abdalla holds Stehlé's proxy, Bishop holds Hale's proxy (when absent), Halevi holds Lepoints's proxy, Halevi holds Yung's proxy, Preneel holds Rijmen's proxy, Yang holds Guo's proxy, Yang holds Schwabe's proxy (when absent).

1.1.1. *Roll of Attendees.*

Attendees (Elected). Michel Abdalla (President 2023-2025); Allison Bishop (Vice President 2023-2025); Brian LaMacchia (Treasurer 2023-2025); Benjamin Wesolowski (Secretary 2023-2025); Masayuki Abe (Director 2021-2023); Shai Halevi (Director 2023-2025); Bart Preneel (Director 2023-2025, *FSE* Steering Committee, Program Chair Contact); Peter Schwabe (Director 2023-2025); Bo-Yin Yang (Director 2022-2024);

Attendees (Appointed). Britta Hale (*Crypto 2023* General Chair (2022-2023)); Julia Hesse (*Eurocrypt 2024* General Chair (2023-2024)); Bertram Poettering (Membership Secretary 2023-2025); Fangguo Zhang (*Asiacrypt 2023* General Chair (2022-2023));

Attendees (Representatives and Others). Kevin McCurley (Database Administrator); Tal Malkin (*TCC* Steering Committee representative). Edoardo Persichetti, Daniele Venturi, Daniele Friolo and have joined relevant parts of the meeting.

Absentees (Elected). Jian Guo (Director 2022-2024); Tancrède Lepoint (Director 2021-2023, *Crypto 2024* General Chair (2023-2024)); Anna Lysyanskaya (Director 2022-2024); Moti Yung (Director 2021-2023, *PKC* Steering Committee);

Absentees (Appointed). Foteini Baldimtsi (Communications Secretary 2023-2025); Vincent Rijmen (Journal of Cryptology Editor-in-Chief 2021-2023); Bimal Roy (*Asiacrypt 2024* General Chair 2023-2024); Damien Stehlé (*Eurocrypt 2023* General Chair (2022-2023));

Absentees (Representatives and Others). Hilarie Orman (Archivist); Tal Rabin (Code-of-Conduct Liaison); Yu Yu (Webmaster);

1.2. **Approve minutes from last BoD virtual meeting.** The President thanks the Secretary for the completion of the minutes which have been shared before the current Board Meeting. The President calls for a vote to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

Decision 1 (unanimous). *The Board approves the Minutes of the IACR Board Meeting Virtual-11 2023.*

2. CONFERENCES

2.1. **Eurocrypt 2026 proposal.** Persichetti, Venturi and Friolo have joined the meeting to present an update to their proposal to host *Eurocrypt 2026* in Rome. The document was sent to the Board ahead of the meeting. It is noted that it would be the first Eurocrypt in Italy since 1994 (Perugia).

Persichetti, Venturi and Friolo introduce themselves, then go over the proposal. Very few venues have the capacity for a conference as large as Eurocrypt. The proposed conference venue is the Auditorium Parco della Musica, the main concert hall in Rome. It is large and central, but expensive and requires a 10% deposit soon to freeze the price.

Halevi raises the question of a hypothetical fourth track (as conferences keep growing). It is not clear whether that would be possible, and at what price.

Persichetti mentions they have been in touch with an external service provider to help with the organisation. They take a 10% fee on all the expenses they interface (venue, catering...). The Board raises the worry that this fee model incentivizes them to make more expenses. The General Chair Guidelines suggest to establish a contract with a price per delegate instead of a percentage. Hesse suggests to hire a help only for taxes, which would be cheaper, and doing taxes properly is one of the main difficulties.

2.2. **Update on conferences.** Yang reports on *TCC 2023*, which has just finished. All went well. In was almost fully in person, with a few online talks for exceptional circumstances. It was the largest TCC ever. Abdalla reports on *Asiacrypt 2023*, which has also just finished, and was the largest Asiacrypt ever. The organizers received very positive feedback, apart from one issue: in the future there should be better support for online attendance. McCurley notes that there have often been similar issues with bad audio (CHES, Eurocrypt...), not handled well by conference centers.

> Action Point **1:**
> Update the General Chair Guidelines to draw attention to the audio setup.

Hesse reports on *Eurocrypt 2024*. The board meeting cannot be held at ETH on Sunday, but IBM can host for a (reasonable) fee. The Board is fine with this option.

Schwabe mentions the proposal for *CHES 2025* in Malaysia. It turns out that in practice it is not feasible for people with only an israeli passport to enter Malaysia. It is not the first time an event is organised in a country where certains visas are difficult to obtain, but it may be the first where it is impossible for some. However, it appears very few people would be affected, and this proposal may be our best option for *CHES 2025*. The Board agrees that this issue does not disqualify the proposal.

3. TOPICS

3.1. **Composition of committees.** Two changes are suggested to the requirements on the composition of committees. First, the ethics committee currently requires its members to be Board members. As there are few cases per year, and some continuity is needed, it is suggested to allow the Board to appoint non-board members.

Second, the IACR bylaws currently require membership meetings to be run by an IACR officer (President, Vice-President, Treasurer or Secretary). It is suggested to allow for another Board member to run the meeting in case no officer is available.

> Action Point **2:**
> Organise an online vote to implement these suggested changes.

4. CLOSING MATTERS

The President recalls that this is the last meeting for four Board members, after expiration of their term, and thanks them for their service to the IACR:

- Masayuki Abe (Director 2021-2023),
- Britta Hale (*Crypto 2023* General Chair),
- Damien Stehlé (*Eurocrypt 2023* General Chair),
- Fangguo Zhang(*Asiacrypt 2023* General Chair).

Miscellaneous points are rapidly discussed:

- The new journal currently does not handle artifacts, but it is on the editors' radar.
- McCurley points out that many authors still do not publish their accepted papers on eprint.
- Malkin reports that there was a discussion at the TCC business meeting about the scaling of conference (the possibility of parallel tracks, adjusting acceptance rate, duration of talks...).
- The Secretary will gather pending tasks from 2023 meetings and report at the next meeting.

The President closes the meeting officially at 22:54 UTC.