



Report on the AITA/IATA Council Meeting 18 April 2025 by Zoom

Dear National Centre & Associate Members

Introduction - On 18 June 2025, AITA/IATA Council members held a Council Meeting by Zoom. President Aled Rhys-Jones chaired the meeting. Contact details of Council Members are on the AITA/IATA Website [HERE](#).

1. *Finance and legal* – President Aled Rhys-Jones and the Bookkeeper Sue Pound had produced draft Accounts for Council’s consideration and comment. This document will be included in the 2025 General Assembly (GA) Forum Book. Aled was pleased to note the small surplus. The accounts will now be sent to AITA/IATA Treasurer Patrick Schoenstein and then to Dirk de Corte, the Independent Financial Examiner for a final check.

a. AITA/IATA is an asbl and is registered in Belgium. To ensure that the legal requirements of an asbl are adhered to, formal legal advice is required. Council agreed to the proposal that the annual fee of € 500 + VAT should be paid for this service to an accountant recommended by the Independent Financial Examiner.

2. *AITA/IATA General Assembly (GA) 23 August 2025*

a. *Elections* - Council noted that one candidate had put their name forward for the post of President and five candidates had applied for the four Councillor posts. Council considered each application and agreed that all candidates complied with the ethos of the organisation and were correct and their applications could be accepted.

b. *Forum Book* – in accordance with the Electoral Process and timetable, all paid up AITA/IATA Members will receive the list of candidates and statutory documents of the General Assembly by Friday 8 August, all of which will be in the Forum Book.

3. *Lingen Festival of Children’s Theatre 27 June – 4 July 2025* – Aled will be in Lingen for the entire festival and is looking forward to a great event. He was delighted to learn that the book detailing the history of the Lingen Festival authored by Norbert Radermacher and to which he had contributed had been published and is available to purchase.

4. *AITA/IATA International Amateur Theatre Festival February / March 2027 Wellington, New Zealand* – Council had just received the final proposal for the festival which was co-authored by Paul Percy of Theatre New Zealand, Business Events Wellington, and Tourism New Zealand. Because of the timing of the event, it will not be possible to hold an AITA/IATA GA during the festival. Council will carefully consider the 46-page proposal.



5. *Online events – Masterclass and Curtain Up!* – The next Masterclass will be in Spanish, but the date and subject have yet to be decided. A Curtain Up! event is planned for October 2025.
6. *Children & Youth Festival 14 – 30 August 2026* – the day before the meeting, Council had received a broad outline proposal for the event from Opendoek. They had not had time to study it in depth and would seek more information from Joke Quaghebeur.
7. *Denial of visas* – Council continues to find partners to work on the rejection of visa applications to travel for cultural reasons. Council agreed to raise this at the AITA/IATA GA on 23 August in Monaco. Councillor Kelli McCloud-Schingen will invite delegates to discuss with her any examples of visa rejection they had encountered when hosting international events. The topic may also be discussed at the AITA/IATA Open Forum to held in the afternoon before the GA.
8. *New members* – organisations and individuals continue to respond to the online application form where those interested to join AITA/IATA register their interest. Council considered two new applications and agreed that they were an appropriate match for Associate Membership. Delegates at the GA will be asked to accept formally each new organisation as a Member of AITA/IATA.
9. *Future meetings* – the next AITA/IATA Council meeting will be held in Monaco and will be the last one for Councillor Ksenia Nesterova. AITA/IATA thanks Ksenia for her valuable contribution to the work of Council. It will also be the last meeting for Sofia Wegelius who is standing for the post of President and Council too, thanks her for her valuable contribution as a Councillor. The new Council will meet the day after the GA and will welcome the new members and learn more about how they can contribute to the work of Council.

The Council of AITA/IATA offers best wishes and good health to all Members.

The Council of AITA/IATA

June 2025