

## Statement of the board

EDSO board would like this opportunity to update our member federations and individuals on this specific occasion. We would like to provide more information about the vacancy on the board, the website and the actions that the board is taking at the moment. We thank those individuals who has raised some concerns on Facebook about the silence from the EDSO board and trust that this statement addresses those concerns.

However, first it is important to understand the structure of EDSO. While we appreciate the passionate involvement of individuals, technically the EDSO board gets its mandate from the Congress, and as such from its formal members. Our formal members are the national federations. For future concerns, we would like to invite every individual to contact their national federation that is a member of EDSO, so that they can contact the board. For this one instance, we decided to share the information directly with any individual interested in EDSO's current affairs.

During the 2018 Congress in Greece, the gender imbalance on the board was identified and the board set out to require female board members in November 2018 (see: <https://www.edso.eu/2018/11/28/join-the-edso-board/>). During the board meeting in December 2018, a decision to invite new female board members could not be made, as the accompanying papers from each candidate were not sufficient. All candidates were asked to provide missing documents after that meeting, and in the next board meeting, of May 2019, a decision was made and a new board member was invited. The board decided not to fill both vacancies at this point of time, as the post of treasurer is still vacant as well and the candidates who applied do not have the necessary skills to fulfil that post. We are happy to inform that Louise Peitersen (Denmark) is the newest reinforcement to the board.

Additionally, individuals have been complaining about the fact that the website is not appropriately updated. We do apologise for that, but as the current webmaster has hand in their notice, we are looking for a new webmaster. This means that only urgent messages can be uploaded, to make sure we do burden the current webmaster too much. He has kindly agreed to update the website when absolutely necessary.

Finally, on a more personal note, I would like to take the opportunity to explain that, following the manifesto that was part of my election as Secretary General, we are developing a new strategy for EDSO as an organisation. This takes a lot of time and consideration. I am happy to inform that it is slowly taking shape, it is very difficult to regularly update the members about this 'hidden' work, as the process itself requires a lot of thinking and discussion within the board. We will prepare a formal update for the Congress in Denmark in 2020.

We hope that first of all our member federations, but also all concerned and interested individuals now have a better idea of what has been happening the last nine months. If the federations have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact the board.

On behalf of the board,

Philip Gerrard

Secretary General EDSO