

FIP - A programme for Reform



FIP is *essential* to World Philately. It is a forum for national philatelic organisations to collectively promote philately and stamp collecting worldwide. Its objectives are:

- To promote stamp collecting and philately
- To maintain friendly relations and friendship among all peoples.
- To establish and maintain close relations with the philatelic trade and postal administrations.
- To promote philatelic exhibitions by granting Patronage and Auspices

Unfortunately, only the last of these four objectives seem to be a priority.

We have to make some changes. Read the programme. Contact us to say what you think should be done. If you don't agree with what we say, then say why, and make other suggestions.

Sitting at Congress voting without thinking, voting for a candidate who has no programme, is no way to make progress. Some would think that it is negligent. Congress is responsible for more than \$US2m which belongs to all of us as member federations.

We must get away from discussions based on personalities, and we have to help philately move forward.

If you agree with us, then support us by electing a President with a programme at MALAYSIA 2018 in Kuala Lumpur in December 2018.

This is not yet set in stone. It's a paper for discussion. These are ideas proposed by a number of people. Some may work others may not. Some are more important than others.

Have your say, and if you want to comment, register online at fotfip.online, and submit your comments.

All contributions will be published, but we will monitor and delete abuse.

We look forward to your comments and suggestions

Friends of the FIP Online: fotfip.online

Reform the FIP, Time for a Change: fip-reform.org



Organisation and oversight

If too many exhibitors have no confidence in the juries, if too many Federations don't trust the Board, if the Board ignores the Congress, then it's time to change the way that we work.

1. **Reform the Constitution: Change Article 24 of the Statutes, Nominations and Voting for Candidates**, so that each continental federation must nominate one Director and one Vice President of the Board to represent their continental federation, to be elected by the whole Congress. Technically, a form of indirect election.
2. **Create an independent Jury Commission**: perhaps composed of the Chairmen of the FIP Commission, who will elect their own Chairman, who should automatically be a member of the FIP Board.
3. **Change Article 30 of the Statutes: Board of Directors**, so that the Chairman of the Commissions automatically becomes a member of the FIP Board.
4. **Create term limits**: Ensure that no member of the Board can serve for more than eight years in total in any capacity.
5. **Create proper Job descriptions for each Board member, and for Commission Chairmen**. Everyone should know who does what in the organisation.

Use the strengths and skills in the Continental Federations and Commissions. Trying to run the FIP with a Board of seven trying to do everything won't work in the 21st Century.

6. **Involve the Commissions**: Instruct the Commissions regularly to review all FIP jurors to maintain standards. The Board should oversee this.
7. **Involve the Continental Federations**: Ask the Continental Federations to help by delegating specific tasks to them. If they are involved in the planning and management, it is reasonable and practical to spread the workload.
8. **Create an Ethics Committee**: The job of the Ethics Committee will be to oversee the work of juries, financial relationships at exhibitions, and contracts, including GREX for exhibitions. It will be composed of members of the FIP Board.

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Juries and Exhibitions

The objectives don't say that the FIP Board should run the jury. It's time to make a break and re-establish exhibitor confidence in juries.

9. **Maintain the qualifications of Jurors:** Insist that all jurors exhibit at least once in every five years at least at national level, and attend at least one seminar at FIP level. Failure to do so after five years will disqualify them from serving in future.
10. **Reform Jury Selection:** Revise GREX 31.5 so that the Commissions Committee appoints up to 25% of the members of the jury from the list of accredited jurors. Such appointments must be made with the overriding duty to balance the jury to ensure that it is appropriate for the exhibition in terms of expertise and experience. Make the Jury Commission responsible for the rules and standards at exhibitions.
11. **Reform Jury Management:** Stop Membership of the FIP Board being an automatic right to be a jury member at an exhibition.
12. **Become more transparent:** Publish a standard contract for all exhibitions. Publish the contracts on line.

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Finance

What's the money for? Where is the money? What's it invested in? No voluntary organisation in the west should be as opaque as the FIP, and the FIP is a voluntary organisation registered in Switzerland.

13. **Publish detailed accounts:** on the website. Include all investment at cost and at current value. Detail the individual investments as is normal with voluntary organisations.
14. **Invest in the future:** The last year for published funds (2015) shows CHF 2,363,411 in capital, CHF 111,000 in expenditure, and CHF 202,000 in income. This is €2.2m, \$US2.35 or £1.9m. There is an annual surplus of income over expenditure of around CHF 90,000. What is the money for?



Development

We don't have a development plan, and no FIP Board member is responsible for these objectives.

15. Develop the hobby:

- a. Work with the trade and postal administrations to market our hobby.
- b. Set aside a budget to do this.
- c. Part fund one international exhibition each year in a place where there has never been one before.
- d. Choose a different Continental Federation each year.
- e. Use the FIP's structural surplus to do this. National Federations will be a lot happier paying money to develop exhibiting rather than adding to the FIP bank balance.

Who is responsible for the website?

16. Develop the Website:

- a. The FIP website could and should be the central point of communication for philately worldwide.
- b. Include all Commission websites within the FIP website.
- c. Look as though we are a single organisation.
- d. Work with the best traders and auction houses to build our web presence.
- e. List all exhibitions, worldwide, at a national, regional, continental and international level on the website.
- f. Make the FIP website the place to go for information on exhibiting at all levels.
- g. Help to educate exhibitors of the future.

Plan for the future. Contact exhibitors, and support them with help, advice, and information.

- 17. Abolish Flash:** Flash is expensive, personality based, and is neither useful for information (it is always out of date), or debate. Replace the printed medium with constantly updated web pages.
- 18. Create the FIP Club:** Membership is free, and open to anyone who exhibits. One of the most important jobs that the FIP does is to constantly update exhibiting standards and rules, so members will receive updates from the commissions, from the website, and will have access to FIP seminars, recorded, and provided free of charge, from the web.
- 19. Develop mailing lists and promote exhibiting at all levels:** With the website and the FIP Club, with the assistance of Continental and National Federations, build a real mailing list of exhibitors worldwide, and promote exhibitions and exhibiting.
- 20. Develop a Three-Year Plan:** With the Commissions, the Continental Federations, and Exhibitors, plan for the future. Publish the plan, report on progress, update it at every FIP Congress. Vote on it at Congress.

Please feel free to send this to any organisation, any magazine, journal or other publication.

There's no copyright on this, and a good idea doesn't matter who has it.

If we can't have a debate at Congress, let's have one before we get there.