

July 14, 2025

Report of the ICLA Elections Committee for 2025.

The Elections Committee was established upon the President's initiative, following the model of the committee established in 2022 for the ICLA's first electronic election. The Committee consists of:

Liedeke Plate, Chair
Lucia Boldrini
Marko Juvan

None of them stands for election, ensuring there's no conflict of interest.

Anca Mihalache administratively supported the Committee.

The Committee met in late February 2025 (via Zoom) and corresponded through email. Its main task is to oversee the preparation of the elections.

1. Selection of an e-voting platform

Our first task was to identify and then select an electronic voting platform. Lucia Boldrini conducted research and interviewed representatives from electronic voting platforms that provide a secure, certified election system with managed service. Four companies providing E-voting platforms were longlisted, after which we established a shortlist of two: Election Buddy (which provided service in 2022) and Mi-Voice (which provides more services and hence is more expensive). The pros and cons of the long- and shortlisted e-voting platforms were discussed among the members of the committee and then presented to the Executive Council (EC) on March 7. There, we explained that the Election Committee considered favourably the flexibility of Mi-Voice and proposed that we go with Mi-Voice. The proposal to select Mi-Voice as a voting platform was endorsed by the EC (20 yes votes; 4 did not vote).

2. Liaising with Mi-Voice and setting up the ballot

The next task was liaising with Mi-Voice to set up the voting platform. Lucia, with the help of Anca, communicated the ICLA's wishes about the elections. We resolved questions regarding how to present the different voting issues, i.e. positions for election and amendments to statutes, as well as the ratification of RC chairs, such as

- Present all texts in both English and French, except for the candidates' biographies
- Offer three voting options: YES/NO/ABSTAIN
- whether to count the abstentions as well (Yes)
- whether we should ask candidates to provide a photo and add that photo to the ballot (we decided not to)
- and how addressees should be addressed (we opted for "Dear Name Surname")

3. Compilation of the electoral register

The collection of the membership in view of the compilation of the electoral register turned out to be an enormous and enormously complex task, with many questions arising.

To be able to vote, individuals need to be members in good standing by 19 June, the date by which we said members needed to have their membership confirmed to be included in the electoral register. The ICLA has some individual memberships, some of which were obtained through the early bird conference registration. However, its membership is mostly through National Associations, which send ICLA their updates once a year, usually at the time when it is best for them (usually at the time of their annual congresses, or regular renewal dates for their own members). It is not a perfect system, as sometimes a member may have lapsed, but we still have them on our list until the NA sends their update. Yet, short of frequent updates for which neither we nor the NAs have the capacity, it is the best we have.

For the French association (SFLGC), which provides two updates per year and had sent one in June for members who have renewed since Jan 2025, it has been decided to use their list from Nov/Dec 2024 so as not to exclude members who renew later in the year, but also include the (few) new members who have first registered in 2025, so as not to disenfranchise them. It has also been decided that *from now on*, the French association will follow the same system as other associations and send its updates once a year in November.

For the Brazilian Association ABRALIC, it was agreed that since they have not paid their ICLA dues, we cannot let their members vote in the ICLA elections. In 2022, ABRALIC was offered a 75% discount for 3 years, yet they only paid in 2022 and not thereafter. While they would like to renew their ICLA membership, they are not in a position to pay in 2025, and will not be until the second semester of 2026. We considered that it would not be fair to other associations, which are also not exactly swimming in money, but fulfil their commitments to the ICLA, if we allowed ABRALIC members to vote in the ICLA elections nonetheless. ICLA will continue to include ABRALIC's members in its communications, such as newsletters, for the next year, but not in the elections or prizes and participation grants (i.e. in formal institutional participation and financial support) until they are in a position to renew their membership properly again.

Other complicated cases included: the Azerbaijani Association (AZCLA), which has paid and confirmed their membership in time, but not yet given us their members list; SICL (one of the 2 Italian associations) sent us conflicting information and unusable lists (either just some names with the amount paid but with no emails or even the full names, or a list of emails with no names and which was explicitly described as including many more than those that are actually members). SICL members have paid their membership, so we did not want to exclude them. We included the members for whom we already have full details from previous years and who also appeared in the new email list. As this corresponds exactly to the number of members for whom SICL has paid, we are confident that it is correct overall. The CCLA (Chinese association) sent us a completely new list only hours before we closed the register. The list is very large (several hundred), and the one we had had been sent shortly before (June 2025), so we could not change it.

4. Setting up the ballot and final check of voting lists

The last days before the elections opened were devoted to double-checking the texts and translations of the Landing Page, Opening Email and Voting Site, and also double-checking the electoral register, comparing all the registrations received by the congress by 22 June with the ICLA membership lists already compiled (see 3.). We also removed all duplicates

(e.g., members who are member of more than 1 association, or have registered individually as well as through a national association). We also identified members who have registered using more than one email address to ensure that each member only gets one vote.

The elections were opened on July 10 at 00:01 Paris time (CEST / UTC+2). They will close on 30 July 2025 at 23.59 Paris time (CEST / UTC+2).

When the elections opened, all members on the register received an email message from “elections@mi-voice” with their unique link to vote in the election of the new Officers and members of the Executive Committee of the ICLA for the term 2025-28, on four proposed Amendments to the ICLA Statutes, and the Ratification of Chairs of Standing Research Committees. On June 9, they had received an email from the AILC-ICLA mailing system (administrator@ailc-icla.org) explaining their voting rights and the voting procedure. A list of addresses that bounced is being reviewed. When alternative addresses are available or can be found, we shall pass them to Mi-Voice so that those members can be contacted again.

We wish to note that it has been a massive amount of work and that we are very grateful to Mi-Voice’s support throughout the process of setting up these elections. They have been swift to respond, flexible with times, and allowed us to send updates until the last day (and even after the opening of the election if mistakes had been made); if we had had to stick to the timetable of the other shortlisted company (whose deadline to send the register was 14 days before the elections), we would either have had a very incomplete register, or would have had to pay a lot more money to have it updated after the deadline.

Respectfully Submitted,
Liedeke Plate, Chair
Lucia Boldrini
Marko Juvan