

IGU online voting procedure – 2026

Context and choice of tool

Several online tools were reviewed and tested. Some offer sophisticated features (particularly for votes involving thousands of voters).

The IGU vote does not require sophisticated features, but rather a simple and secure voting system.

We propose using a simple system available in many languages: *Balotilo* (<https://www.balotilo.org/en>).

Elected delegates are the official representatives of the members, approximately less than 60 voters. There will be two votes:

- a vote for the IGU vice-presidents (1 to 4 choices of names)
- a vote for the general secretary (one name to choose)

The electoral committee, appointed by the executive committee, is composed by: Mike Meadows (Chair); Joos Droogleever Fortuijn (Vice-chair); Antoine Le Blanc (technical officer). It is responsible for preliminary testing and guarantees the quality of the entire electoral process.

Procedure

Each voter votes for the General Secretariat on the one hand, and for the Vice-Presidencies on the other.

Each vote is unique and anonymous. Once the vote has been validated online, it is no longer possible to go back and change it. [NB: Please note that on Balotilo, this feature is only available with the paid version, which costs around 50 euros]

All questions and procedures are conducted in English.

The election calendar times are given in CET (Central European Time).

Online voting will be open for 10 days (20–30 May 2026: dates to be confirmed)

Voting procedures will be published at least 15 days before online voting opens. A webinar for discussion (questions and answers) will be scheduled at least one week before online voting opens.

Voters will have access to contact details for members of the electoral commission via email.

Voting is anonymous, but the online voting system provides all the information required for an election: number of voters, blank votes, number of votes per candidate. The system allows voting evidence to be archived (PDF reports of the number of votes per candidate, etc.).

The results are available as soon as online voting closes and will be forwarded by the electoral commission to the IGU executive committee. The online voting system must be configured so that voters do not have access to the results (only the electoral commission has access).