2025 ASHRAE Region XIV Chapters Regional Conference (CRC)

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Draft

Minutes CRC 2025

9th CHAPTER REGIONAL CONFERENCE BUSINESS MEETING

Hosted by ASHRAE Portugal Chapter

Date/Time: 26th and 27th September 2025 / 09:00 – 18:00 (Lisbon time) | Location: Hotel Fenix Lisboa, Portugal

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Agenda

SESSION #1: FRIDAY, 26 September (9:00 AM)

Meeting Location: The Business Meetings took place at the Hotel Fenix Lisboa, level -1.

1.	**CALL TO ORDER / REVIEW OF AGENDA**	9:00 AM	Mahroo	Introductory remarks and review of agenda
2.	**VALUE STATEMENT**		Mahroo	
3.	**APPOINTMENT OF MEETING SECRETARY**		Mahroo	Meeting Secretary: João Grenha (Portugal Chapter BOG)
4.	**INTRODUCTION OF VIP GUESTS**		Mahroo	Ashish Rakheja (Treasurer 2025-26) Trent Hunt (VP, 2025-2027) Vanita Gupta (Publicity, Staff) Dennis Knight (Presidential Member, DLs)
5.	**ROLL CALL**		All	Regional Leaders, Delegates, Alternates, Guests
6.	**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 2024 REGION XIV BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**		Mahroo	See attached draft minutes from 2024 Region XIV Business Meeting (meeting location: Oxford, UK)
7.	**ASHRAE REPORT**		Trent Hunt	ASHRAE VIP & Staff Report
8.	**DRC Report**		Mahroo	DRC report by Mahroo
9.	**Regional Student winners**		Students	Student winners from Regional Competition are recognised
	BREAK			
10.	**CEBD**		Blake Ellis	CEBD update
11.	**Regional & RVC Reports**		Regional Officers	Regional Reports: a. Nomination: Bata Blagojevic b. Historian: Samir Hernandes c. DEI: Laura Sanchez Each RVC will have 5 minutes each to present their reports, highlighting successes and challenges from 2024/25, and plans for 2025/26: d. Dr. Ioan Silviu Dobosi: GA e. Conor Murray: CTTC f. Alkis Triantafyllopoulos: SA g. Prof Adelio Rodriques Gaspar: MP h. Aleksandar Andjelkovic: RP i. Joshua Vasudevan: YEA
	CLOSE OF BUSINESS SESSION #1		Mahroo	

END OF BUSINESS SESSION #1 – PROCEED LUNCH

SESSION #2: FRIDAY, 26 September (14:00 pm)

12.	**Chapter Reports**		Delegates	Each delegate will have 8 minutes to present their reports, highlighting successes and challenges from 2024/25, and plans for 2025/26: a. Cyprus b. Danube c. Hellenic d. Ireland e. Israel f. Italy g. Nordic h. Portugal i. Spain j. UK k. Belgium section l. Danube chapter – presentation of CRC 2026
12.	**REGIONAL FINANCES**			a. REGIONAL OPERATING FUND Report – Liviu Drughean b. STRATEGIES for REGIONAL financing in ASHRAE – Eduardo Maldonado c. REGION XIV BUDGET 2025-26 – Liviu Drughean
	CLOSE OF BUSINESS SESSION #2		Mahroo	

END OF BUSINESS SESSION #2 – PROCEED TO WALKING VISIT; MEET AT 17:30 THEN DINNER AT 19:30-22:00

SESSION #3: SATURDAY, 27 September (9:00 am)

	CALL TO ORDER	9 am	Mahroo	Introductory remarks
13.	**RMCR REPORT**		Eduardo	Eduardo, will present the RMCR Report: • Update from Members Council • Status of 2024 Region XIV motions • Other Region's motions of interest
14.	**CHAPTER MOTIONS**		Mahroo	Mahroo will facilitate discussion and voting on Chapter motions
15.	**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**		Mahroo	Mahroo will provide the following information items: • Winter and Annual Conferences • BOG meeting Fall 2026 outside of the USA
	ADJOURNMENT		Mahroo	
16.	**CRC Evaluation**		ASHRAE staff	DRC, RMCR, ARC, 2025 CRC officers, Danube CRC 2026 Organizers
17.	**Regional Planning**		All	

END OF BUSINESS MEETING – PROCEED TO PRESIDENTIAL LUNCHEON and AWARDS AT 12:30

Friday 26 September 9am

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

Chair Mahroo Eftekhari DRC called the meeting to order at 9:11, welcoming everyone to the Region XIV CRC 2025, then reciting the ASHRAE Value Statement:

"In ASHRAE meetings, we will act with honesty, fairness, courtesy, competence, inclusiveness and respect for others, which exemplify our core values of excellence, commitment, integrity, collaboration, volunteerism and diversity, and shall avoid all real or perceived conflicts of interest. Our culture is one of inclusiveness, acknowledging the inherent value and dignity of each individual. We celebrate diverse and inclusive communities, understanding that doing so fuels better, more creative and more thoughtful ideas, solutions and strategies for the Society and the communities our Society serves. We respect and welcome all."

At the end, Mahroo Eftekhari explicitly mentioned the links to both the Code of Ethics and Code of Values that were shown onscreen.

Mahroo Eftekhari then called Drew Turner from the Nordic Chapter to start the meeting with the gavel of the Region's latest installed Chapter, and announced that, next year, the Italy Chapter should already have its gavel ready for the CRC. She emphasized the second presence of the Nordic Chapter in a CRC and welcomed the Italian Chapter for its first presence in a CRC meeting, asking Giulia Santi and Tommaso Dallavalle to stand up for a welcoming applause from all participants.

2. Appointment of meeting secretary

Mahroo appointed the Meeting Secretary: João Grenha, from the BOG of the Portugal Chapter. No objections were raised.

3. Introduction of VIP Guests

Mahroo Eftekhari introduced the ASHRAE VIP guests that were present in the meeting, starting by transmitting ASHRAE's President Bill McQuade apologies for the absence due to other commitments.

Then, the Chair introduced Ashish Rakheja as the Society Treasurer, who congratulated Region XIV for the increase in the number of both Chapters and Sections.

The next VIP introduced was ASHRAE Vice President Trent Hunt, who welcomed all attendees and stated that he was looking forward to the agenda and discussions planned for the coming days.

Next, the Chair introduced the ASHRAE staff representative, Vanita Gupta (Publicity), as well as Blake Ellis (Center of Excellence for Building Decarbonization Chair) and Dennis Knight (Immediate past president). All addressed a few words to the meeting attendees.

The last VIP to be introduced was Director-at-Large (DAL) Martin Dieryckx, who introduced himself and shared a few words with the meeting attendees, expressing his appreciation for the opportunity to participate. Mahroo then noted that Heather Schopplein had stepped down due to serious health issues and that Martin had taken her place as DAL for the year 2025/26, whishing Heather a speedy recovery.

Catalin Lungu, immediate past President of REHVA, and now regional ARC, also addressed a few words to the meeting, sharing his 20-year-long relationship with ASHRAE.

4. Roll Call

Regional Leaders, Delegates, Alternates, Guests

Special Guests present

Name	Position	Attendance
Ashish Rakheja	(Treasurer 2025-26)	x
Trent Hunt	(VP, 2025-2027)	x
Vanita Gupta	(Publicity, Staff)	x
Dennis Knight	(Immediate past president, Presidential member)	x

Region XIV Officers

Name	Position	Attendance
Mahroo Eftekhari	DRC	x
Catalin Lungu	ARC	x
Eduardo Maldonado	RMCR	x
Liviu Drughean	Treasurer	x
Samir Hernandez	Historian	x
Dimitris Tseno	Communications	x
Stephen Gill	Refrigeration Chair	Absent
Conor Murray	CTTC RVC	x
Ioan Silviu Dobosi	GAC RVC	x
Adélio Gaspar	MP RVC	x
Aleksandar Andjelkovic	RP RVC	x
Alkis Triantafyllopoulos	SA RVC	Absent*
Joshua Vasudevan	SA YEA	Absent
Bratislav Blagojevic	Nom. Delegate	x
Marko Ignjatovic	Nom. Alternate	x
Nicholas Zachopoulos	Reserve Alt.	x
Laura Sanchez	DEI	x
Darren Wilkinson	AI & IT	x
José Alexandre	CRC General Chair	x
Alfredo Oliveira	Portugal Ch. Pres.	x

* Absent at the roll-call but he joined a few minutes later.

Chapter Delegates/Alternates

Name	Position	Attendance
Ierotheos Syrigos	Cyprus chapter: Delegate	x
Tamer Zaim	Cyprus chapter: Alternate	x
Marius Balan	Danube chapter: Delegate	x
Milena Blagojevic	Danube chapter: Alternate	x
Chrysostomos Bouras	Hellenic chapter: Delegate	x
Nikolaos Nikolopoulos	Hellenic chapter: Alternate	x
Howard Neville	Ireland chapter: Delegate	x
Edith Blennerhassett	Ireland chapter: Alternate	x

Name	Position	Attendance
Avraham Menache	Israel chapter: Delegate	x
David Young	Israel chapter: Alternate	x
Tommaso Dallavalle	Italy chapter: Delegate	x
Giulia Santi	Italy chapter: Alternate	x
Drew Turner	Nordic chapter: Delegate	x
Stephen Burke	Nordic chapter: Alternate	x
Alfredo Oliveira	Portugal chapter: Delegate	x
Petra Vaquero	Portugal chapter: Alternate	x
Mar Serna	Spain chapter: Delegate	x
Laura Sanchez	Spain chapter: Alternate	x
Dimitris Tseno	UK chapter: Delegate	x
Alex Fung	UK chapter: Alternate	x
Martin Dieryckx	Belgium Section Leader	x

Other Participants & Guests

Name	Position	Attendance
Alireza Etemad	Regional Student competition winner	x
Ana Perez	Communication Spain Chapter	x
Aristotelis Tsekouras	GA Chair Hellenic Chapter	x
Blake Ellis	CEBD Chair	x
Burlacu Andrei	Past President Danube Chapter	x
Constantinos Zenios	SA Chair Hellenic Chapter	x
Costas Balaras	Historian Hellenic Chapter	x
Dimitris Sisios	YEA Chair Hellenic Chapter	x
Eusébio Conceição	Student Branch advisor, Faro Univ., Portugal Chapter	x
Francisco Craveiro	CTTC Portugal Chapter	x
Gabriel Gonçalves	Student Portugal Chapter	x
George Gartzognis	MP Chair Hellenic Chapter	x
George Pantelidis	BOG Member Hellenic Chapter	x
Graziela Tarlea	RP/Marketing Chair Danube Chapter	x
Guilherme Gomes	Student Portugal Chapter	x
Ioannis Kondylidis	Student Activities Hellenic Chapter	x
Jaime Yeh	ARHI, USA	x
João Grenha	BOG Member/Treasurer Portugal Chapter	x
Lampradakis Stelios	BOG Member/Treasurer Hellenic Chapter	x
Miguel Jesus	EVAC, CRC Sponsor	x
Pedro Vieira	Student Portugal Chapter	x
Petros Dalavouras	RP Chair Hellenic Chapter	x
Samuel Oyesola	Student UK Chapter	x
Serafín Graña	VP Portugal Chapter	x
Stelios Lampadakis	CTTC/Secretary Hellenic Chapter	x
Tin Ta	Student UK Chapter	x
Ljubomir Jankovic	DL & Vice President UK Chapter	x

5. Agenda

Mahroo Eftekhari reviewed the agenda and asked the participants for any changes, additions, or comments. No requests were made.

6. Review and approval of 2024 region XIV business meeting minutes

Mahroo Eftekhari invited attendees to review the minutes from the 2024 Region XIV CRC, which took place in Oxford University, UK. After a brief review, Howard Neville from the Ireland Chapter formally moved to approve the minutes, and the motion was seconded by the Danube Chapter. There was no further discussion.

The minutes of the CRC Business Meeting 2024 were then formally approved by a unanimous decision.

7. Ashrae society and staff reports

Mahroo Eftekhari informed attendees that two reports would be presented: one from the ASHRAE Society Board, delivered by Trent Hunt, and a Staff Report, presented by Vanita Gupta.

Society Report

Trent Hunt began by reviewing ASHRAE policies and introducing the new Marketing Central platform available on the ASHRAE website. He then outlined the 2025–2028 Strategic Plan, focusing on its four key areas, measurable KPIs, and the supporting role of the DRCs and Directors-at-Large. Updates followed on Government Affairs, Research Promotion (RP), and the ASHRAE Foundation, alongside the launch of the Centre for Excellence in Building Decarbonisation (CEBD).

Trent also covered new Standards & Guidelines, upcoming publications, and highlighted the growth of Professional Development, especially online training courses. Other updates included the Farr and Setty Family Foundation Scholarships, the schedule of 2025 global conferences, and the 2026 Winter Conference in Las Vegas (January 31st to February 4th 2026).

Trent emphasised leadership opportunities, such as the 2026 Chapter Leadership Academy, encouraging members to apply via e-mail. On membership, he explained that the current structure is being simplified, with the new model launching in July 2027. “Life Member” status will, from then on, require active contribution to ASHRAE, not just years of enrolment.

During Q&A, Conner Murrey asked about student cost differences, while Ashish Rakheja confirmed that future membership benefits will expand and that ASHRAE is open to all professionals, not just engineers.

Staff Report

Vanita Gupta started by presenting an overview of ASHRAE’s staff operations and organisational structure, outlining the breadth of administrative and technical support behind the society’s activities. The Administrative Services Department manages accounting, finance, and operations, overseeing a USD 31 million annual budget with 21 staff members.

Main divisions are:

- Development, already covered by Trent Hunt;
- Government Affairs, supporting advocacy and policy initiatives;
- Member Services, employing over 30 staff, responsible for membership management and support;

- Publications and Education, focusing on technical resources and training;
- Technology Department, with 20 staff and a combined 245 years of professional experience.

Recent improvements include the addition of a Chapter Resources page on the website, centralised marketing, and the launch of the ASHRAE 365 app, now exceeding 50,000 users. Other highlights included ASHRAE newsletters, Marketing Central and logo merchandise, and the ASHRAE Communications Committee. Vanita also referenced the "Healthy Buildings: Designing for Life" initiative and the upcoming ASHRAE participation at Elemental London.

8. DRC report

Mahroo Eftekhari opened the communication by noting that this marks the end of her second year as Director and Regional Chair (DRC) of Region XIV, leaving just one more year for her current term. Mahroo then described an active year, beginning with the CRC in Oxford University organized by the UK chapter and the establishment of the Italian Chapter, as well as her participation in the RAL CRC in Pakistan.

In London, along with president Dennis Knight, Mahroo participated in visits to LSUB and UCL, meeting students and visiting facilities, as well as attending the CIBSE President's Dinner. She expressed pride in having obtained the Society approval for the staggering of RVC nominations in Region XIV, two per year rather than all six at the same time once every three years, thanking the RVCs who are staying beyond their normal 3 year term to complete this new rotation schedule, and she also highlighted the region's growing influence within ASHRAE.

Region XIV achieved major milestones, including the creation of the Nordic Chapter (covering Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Iceland and Norway), visits to Cyprus (now with 27 members and a new student branch out of a country with 800,000 inhabitants only), and ongoing STEM outreach to engage students early. The region also launched the Student Net Zero Building Competition and a Summer School, she attended the 55th HVAC&R Congress in Belgrade and maintained a strong partnership with REHVA.

Mahroo highlighted the success of regional seminars, the creation of the Built Environment Training Academy (BETA) in collaboration with industry, and the approval of several new student branches (Exeter, Brunel, Leeds Beckett, Liverpool John Moores, ETH Zurich, and Milan).

Region XIV also acted internationally with two new student branches in Mauritius, each with 20 students, in cooperation with RAL. At the Annual Conference in Phoenix, more student branches were approved, totalling 15 active student branches. Mahroo presented the Student Competition winners, including the Data Centres competition, with students from Spain and the UK travelling to Las Vegas as prize winners. Next year's theme will focus on a Net Zero Hospital, promoting joint student collaboration across Europe.

In closing, Mahroo expressed gratitude, stating "I had received ten times more than I gave to ASHRAE," and encouraged everyone to stay engaged, calling ASHRAE "a strong financial and professional community."

9. Regional Student Winners

Student #1

The first student to address the audience was Tin Ta from the UK Chapter. Tin spoke about the importance of engaging in ASHRAE activities, sharing valuable insights on how to foster the professional development of students and young engineers within the industry.

Tin's remarks emphasised that participation in ASHRAE empowers students and young engineers, providing them with opportunities to enhance their skills, gain professional experience, and contribute meaningfully to the future of the built environment industry.

Student #2

The second student to address the audience was Alireza Etemad from the Ireland Chapter, the winner of the Regional Student competition, who spoke about District Heating and its influence on climate action, emphasising its importance as a key strategy for decarbonisation and for achieving sustainable energy goals.

He concluded by outlining his expectations from ASHRAE, expressing the need for mentorship, guidance, training opportunities and access to educational resources to support professional growth and active participation in the transition toward a low-carbon future.

Student #3

The next student speaker was Samuel Oyesola from the UK Chapter, who spoke about climate change and the importance of accelerating the path to Net Zero.

He presented the RISE-UP project, which aims to design a zero-carbon data centre with a Power Usage Effectiveness (PUE) lower than 1.1, demonstrating how innovative engineering solutions can significantly reduce emissions and improve energy efficiency in high-demand digital infrastructure.

Mahroo Eftekhari announced that there would be one more presentation from a Portuguese student after the coffee break.

BREAK

After the break, Mahroo Eftekhari gathered all attendees and invited everyone to take a group picture.

Eusébio Conceição presented the activities of the Student Branch in Faro (Portugal Chapter), where he is the Branch Advisor, showcasing their ongoing commitment to research and innovation. He highlighted that the ongoing projects had received financial support from ASHRAE (Student Branch support) during 2025 and in previous years.

He began by highlighting a project involving the design and testing of an experimental passenger vehicle, developed to explore energy efficiency and thermal comfort in transport systems. Another notable project featured the creation of a thermal mannequin, used for analysing and optimising human thermal comfort under different environmental conditions.

Eusébio concluded by outlining the future development plans for these projects, aiming to expand research applications and strengthen collaboration with students.

10. CEBD

Blake Ellis delivered a presentation on ASHRAE's Centre for Excellence in Building Decarbonization (CEBD), outlining the Society's evolving role in promoting sustainable, low-carbon design and operation across the built environment. He started by explaining why decarbonisation matters and he summarised ASHRAE's official position: to lead the transformation towards net-zero carbon buildings through innovation, standards and collaboration.

To meet these goals, ASHRAE established the Task Force for Building Decarbonization (2021–2024), which has now evolved into a permanent CEBD, responsible for setting strategic direction, providing thoughtful leadership, fostering collaboration, and driving public advocacy. Blake reviewed key initiatives, including Decarbonisation Standards, newly published Design Guides, and upcoming work in research, codes and education. He highlighted training courses and

45-minute learning sessions, along with the 2024 Decarbonisation Conference in Chicago, featuring themes such as Scaling Decarb, Innovators Showcase and Blueprints for Change.

Looking ahead, the 2025–2026 CEBD strategy includes five initiatives, with the top priority being the creation of a 2025 Building Decarbonization Roadmap.

During the ensuing discussion, Ashish Rakheja asked about international communication and future implementation, while Martin Dieryckx raised the need to review and update existing standards to prevent them from "killing innovation." Ashish concluded by noting that the ASHRAE Board has approved a liaison for each region, introducing George Gart as Region XIV's representative.

11. Regional & RVC Reports

Nomination

(Bratislav Blagojevic)

Bratislav Blagojević presented the Nominating Caucus Report, outlining the process and outcomes of the recent Caucus. He acknowledged the participation of all delegates and alternates from all 10 Chapters, noting that the main goal was to select the best possible candidates to serve in key Regional and Society roles.

He then mentioned that there were only two RVC positions identified as first choices instead of the usual six, reflecting a more focused and efficient selection approach. Additionally, Bratislav expressed his appreciation for the extension of the mandates of the other 4 RVCs by one or two years, aiming to strengthen continuity and stability in leadership across the region.

Bratislav concluded by reporting that there had been no issues or irregularities throughout the Caucus process, from its start up to the previous day, commending the professionalism and collaboration of all participants involved.

Historian

(Samir Hernandez)

Samir Hernandez presented the Regional Activities Report, beginning with a reflection on the CRC 2024 held in Oxford, which marked a productive and collaborative event for Region XIV. He then provided updates on individual chapters, highlighting key achievements and initiatives.

The Hellenic Chapter and the UK Chapter were both commended for their continued engagement and contribution to regional growth. The Italy Chapter was recognised for its passionate leadership and strong member involvement, while the Nordic Chapter was praised for organising a successful event in Denmark. The Spain Chapter achieved a milestone with the election of its first Spanish Vice President and the Portugal Chapter was noted for its chapter visits and active participation in international competitions.

Samir also acknowledged the Danube Chapter for its mentorship efforts and cross-chapter collaboration. He mentioned the ASHRAE President's visits to the region during the previous year, which strengthened international ties, and he paid tribute to Mr. Carmine Casale, Industrial Consultant, for his contributions to ASHRAE.

He concluded by noting the Region's presence at the previous 2025 Winter Conference in Orlando and the 2025 Annual Conference in Phoenix, encouraging members to also participate actively in the 2026 Society meetings.

DEI

(Laura Sanchéz)

Laura Sánchez presented the DEI Regional Chair Report, providing a summary of recent DEI meetings and discussions. She started by addressing current challenges, noting that U.S. President Donald Trump has publicly called DEI programmes “illegal” and announced plans to eliminate them if reinstated, leading some companies to end their DEI initiatives.

Despite this, Laura emphasised the continued importance of DEI within ASHRAE, highlighting that diverse teams are stronger, more creative, and more adaptable. Laura reaffirmed the organisation’s commitment to promoting a culture where everyone feels welcome, valued and respected, regardless of background.

Laura also commended Region XIV for actively implementing DEI initiatives, encouraging chapters to recognise and celebrate the diversity within their teams and communities. She concluded by reinforcing that DEI remains a core value and strategic priority for ASHRAE, essential to fostering innovation and collaboration across the region.

GA

(Ioan Silviu Dobosi)

Ioan Dobosi presented an overview of Region XIV’s GA activities for 2024-25, supported by a slide listing all the active chapters within the region. The communication highlighted the achievements and impact of the past year, recognising the significant growth in chapter engagement, student involvement and regional collaboration.

Ioan also addressed several challenges, noting that some chapters, such as Italy, continue to face structural and organisational difficulties as they expand. Ioan emphasised the importance of maintaining consistent communication and support between chapters to overcome these issues effectively.

Looking ahead, he outlined the objectives for 2025-26, including strengthening chapter cooperation, enhancing professional development initiatives and expanding ASHRAE’s presence and visibility across Europe.

He concluded by stressing that “collaboration is key”, reinforcing that the success of Region XIV depends on teamwork, knowledge sharing and the collective effort of all chapters and volunteers working toward common goals.

CTCC

(Conor Murray)

Conor Murray presented the Chapter Technology Transfer Committee Report, highlighting that technical knowledge sharing is at the core of everything ASHRAE does. He then encouraged chapters to continue finding ways to “do more with less”, maximising resources while maintaining high-quality technical engagement and innovation.

Congratulations were extended to both the Nordic and Italian Chapters for their remarkable achievements in organising impactful technical events and enhancing collaboration across the region. The challenges of language diversity were also addressed, with emphasis on the need to break communication barriers to ensure that technical knowledge and best practices remain accessible to all members.

Conor ended with an inspiring remark: “The future starts with our youth, and ASHRAE leads the way,” reinforcing the vital role of education, inclusivity, and mentorship in advancing ASHRAE’s technical mission across Region XIV.

SA

(Alkis Triantafyllopoulos)

Alkis Triantafyllopoulos presented the regional Student Activities Report, highlighting several outstanding achievements across Region XIV. A significant increase in student engagement and a growing involvement from teachers and academic advisors was underlined by Alkis. The region continues to perform exceptionally well, "killing it" in the Design Competition 2023-25, reflecting strong collaboration and innovation among student branches.

While progress has been impressive, Alkis acknowledged that ASHRAE Student Grants and Scholarships remain an area for improvement, though he celebrated the milestone of having the first successful recipients this year. He also outlined opportunities to establish new student branches, offering suggestions for future growth.

Tommaso Dallavalle asked whether the issue was mainly lack of awareness, to which Alkis responded that some advisors were uncertain about the application process. Aleksander Andelkovic added that his students had already participated in competitions, sharing their experience. Mahroo concluded by encouraging everyone to seek support whenever needed to strengthen student engagement and development initiatives.

MP

(Adélio Gaspar)

Adélio Gaspar presented the 2024-25 regional Membership Promotion status, supported by a slide showing the membership totals for the region. He provided a brief overview of several chapters, specifically mentioning Italy, Portugal, and Israel, highlighting both their progress and ongoing challenges.

He addressed the delinquency status, focusing on member retention, and outlined the regional goal of achieving a 2% membership increase — equivalent to approximately 37 additional members. Adélio emphasised the importance of management by objectives, requesting that all chapters send their membership goals to him for discussion, as he wishes to maintain regular contact with all MP Chairs.

Regarding Centralised Training, Adélio reported that four chapters were represented, which contributed to a positive regional performance score. He also mentioned that the 2025 regional CIQ status remains strong, although one MP Chair position is still vacant.

The report concluded with an encouragement for chapters to continue proactive engagement, share best practices, and work collaboratively toward the regional membership targets. When asked for clarification, Mahroo confirmed that the reported membership numbers referred only to regular members and did not include student members.

RP

(Aleksander Andjelkovic)

Aleksander presented one slide highlighting the main achievements for 2024-25, with particular emphasis on the workshops, which showed an impressive +53% increase compared to the previous year. The accompanying Excel file included data and performance metrics for all chapters, detailing participation and growth levels.

The Top 5 Chapters and Runner-Up were mentioned, along with recognition for the High 5 Gold category, celebrating outstanding chapter performance.

YEA

As Joshua Vasudevan was absent, Mahroo Eftekhari requested that Eduardo Maldonado presented the YEA Report on his behalf.

The YEA report highlighted the year's achievements, showing a 29% increase in YEA membership across the region. A slide comparing PAOE results for 2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25 demonstrated that the results had doubled over this period, representing an outstanding accomplishment.

Under Opportunities, it was announced that next year will introduce the 2025/26 Presidential Initiative Challenge, focused on Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ), encouraging chapters to align their programmes with this global ASHRAE theme.

YEA Challenges included the low membership numbers in some chapters, as well as difficulties with YEA recruitment and retention. Strengthening support networks and collaboration were identified as key solutions to these issues.

As advice for incoming leaders, the report recommended close collaboration with Student Activities, engaging colleagues actively and organising at least two YEA events per year to foster continuity, enthusiasm, and growth within the community.

LUNCH BREAK

12. Chapter Reports

Cyprus Chapter

(Ierotheos Syrigos)

The Cyprus Chapter is experiencing significant growth and development. The Board of Governors for 2023-25 and 2025-26 includes several new members, with six additional members expected next month. Although the overall membership base remains small, steady progress is being made, particularly among student members and in technical programme activities. The chapter sponsored the president's visit to Cyprus and hosted a notable presentation by the Director of the Ministry of Energy. Key challenges include securing sponsorship from the HVAC industry and energy companies, as well as advancing a proposed collaboration with the Association of Energy Efficiency Companies.

Student activities have strengthened, with one student branch established, a second in progress, and participation in the Student Design Competition. The Young Engineers group plans to attend the 2025 Chapter Leadership Academy, focusing on increasing member and consultant engagement. Communication channels include a developing website, online event registration, and active email updates. Financially, the chapter is in the process of registering as a legal society, with sponsorships as its main income source. There has been no financial audit yet, but six sponsors are currently supporting activities. Future plans include hosting three technical seminars, collaborating with other chapters, and organising a CRC conference within the next two to three years.

Danube Chapter

(Marius-Costel Balan)

The Danube Chapter had an active and impactful year, achieving major milestones, marked by its participation in numerous regional and international initiatives. The Chapter organised conferences in collaboration with the Republic of Moldavia and Romanian local branch, took part in CRC 2024 in Oxford, and had a strong presence at the 59th Sinaia (Romania) and 55th Belgrade (Serbia) national conferences, with over 100 student participants. The year also marked the Chapter's 20th anniversary, celebrating two decades of commitment to professional and educational development within the region.

Challenges persist in increasing member engagement, ensuring leadership stability, and securing consistent financial and industrial support. New initiatives include the first Summer School in Iași, Romania, and preparations for hosting CRC 2026 in Timișoara. The Chapter hosted three students and one Distinguished Lecturer, reinforcing its educational

focus. Looking ahead, priorities include membership growth, diversity, and stronger student involvement. Efforts will also target greater visibility, knowledge transfer, networking, and mentorship.

Both Mahroo Eftekhari and Ashish Rakheja addressed banking and financial management between region and chapters to ensure better coordination in future operations.

Hellenic Chapter

(Chrysostomos Bouras)

The Chapter celebrated its 25th anniversary with a highly active year, organizing five international conferences, four technical seminars, and several social events. It attracted 32 commercial sponsors and 5 communication sponsors. Key highlights included initiatives under "Women in Engineering" and "Young Engineers," as well as significant growth: +22% in sponsorship, +25% in student membership, 2 new student branches and +80% volunteer engagement. One of the most important General Assembly actions was the Chapter President's participation in the European Commission meeting with President Dennis Knight, reinforcing ASHRAE's institutional presence.

Challenges remain, particularly limited volunteer time, maintaining the balance between academic and professional involvement, and sustaining high sponsor and participant engagement.

The strategic plan for 2025/2026 focuses on strengthening internal structures and preparing for the upcoming HYGIA conference. Future goals include enhancing ASHRAE's relevance by emphasizing its key role in green certification and sustainability. The Chapter also seeks continued support from ASHRAE through Distinguished Lecturers and active participation in both local and European initiatives.

Ireland Chapter

(Howard Neville)

The ASHRAE Ireland Chapter presented its 2024/25 and 2025/26 Boards of Governors, reporting a slight membership increase despite several ongoing challenges. Among these are issues related to ASHRAE not being a chartered body in Ireland and the impact of government taxation. Key highlights included a regular program of events and a highly successful seminar on Data Centre cooling. Two best practices were shared: combining local experts with ASHRAE Distinguished Lecturers and involving student speakers or papers in technical sessions.

Engagement in government affairs continues with organizations such as SEAI, HAS, and members of OPW and HSE. However, a major concern remains the limited adoption of ASHRAE guides and standards within Ireland. Student activities showed encouraging growth, with one branch already established and three more in development. Students actively participated in webinars, and a €500 prize was awarded for excellence.

The Young Engineers in ASHRAE (YEA) group held a Pub Quiz and participated in the Phoenix Summer Conference, though sustaining member engagement remains a challenge. Financially, ASHRAE Ireland, operating as a Company Limited by Guarantee, reported a slight decrease in its position over the past year. For 2025/26, the Chapter aims to strengthen ties with the Rochester Chapter, described as its "big brother."

Israel Chapter

(Avraham Menashe)

The ASHRAE Israel Chapter described the past year as one of survival, maintaining activities despite the ongoing war and difficult geopolitical circumstances. The Board of Governors for 2024/25 and 2025/26 remains largely unchanged, reflecting the challenging environment. Membership growth met expectations, though expansion remains difficult.

With only two universities offering mechanical or energy engineering programs, attracting new student members continues to be a major obstacle.

In terms of technology transfer, the Chapter successfully organized several online initiatives, including 4 engineering training courses, 6 technical meetings, and 21 academic lectures, along with 3 conventions. Chapter chairs from Ariel University led HVAC courses for students, maintaining engagement through virtual learning. However, student recruitment is hindered by the membership fee, reflecting the need for broader support.

Government affairs efforts focus on influencing legislation relevant to the HVAC and energy sectors, though progress is slow under current conditions. The Young Engineers group represents around 10% of total membership.

Mahroo Eftekhari confirmed ASHRAE's sponsorship of 25 student's member fees and offered further assistance if required.

Italy Chapter

(Tommaso Dallavalle)

The ASHRAE Italy Chapter, officially founded in June 2025, marked its first year with impressive progress despite starting entirely from scratch. The Board was formally structured, 10 events were organized, and two student branches were established — one in Milan and another under development. Highlights from the past year, when the group still operated as a section, included successful events on LEED certification and Data Centre technologies. The Chapter also welcomed a presidential visit from Dennis Knight and Mahroo Eftekhari, alongside a technical visit to 2 data centres.

The initial phase presented considerable challenges, particularly in attracting members and volunteers, securing funding, and overcoming resistance from local associations. Early leadership difficulties and a slow start prompted internal restructuring, leading to stronger organization and clearer goals.

For 2025/26, priorities include increasing visibility, opening a dedicated bank account, and creating a student branch. Planned events feature several webinar and technical visits with major relevance for the MCE Expo Comfort in Milan. To enhance ASHRAE's relevance in Italy, the Chapter aims to expand membership, deepen member engagement, and strengthen Government Affairs activities. Support from ASHRAE is requested to help address local institutional barriers, namely in translating standards and to fund student and YEA participation in international conferences.

Nordic Chapter

(Drew Turner)

During 2024/25, the Chapter focused on establishing its identity through a series of events and initiatives, presenting an initial calendar of activities aimed at engaging both professionals and students. A monthly newsletter was introduced to improve communication and member connection. However, there has been no government affairs involvement yet, and details on Young Engineers in ASHRAE (YEA) remained limited.

The Chapter faced typical early-stage challenges such as maintaining consistent engagement, filling committee roles, and balancing full-time professional responsibilities with volunteer commitments. These issues are being addressed gradually as part of an incremental development process.

Plans for 2025-26 include holding the first annual Chapter meeting, accompanied by several technical and networking events. A new student branch will be launched, along with the formation of a Baltic section through two additional student branches. To strengthen ASHRAE's relevance, the Chapter aims to boost membership, student participation, and overall member involvement, while introducing mentoring and training programmes in SI units.

Ashish Rakheja suggested that new chapters create a signature annual fundraising event. Examples from the US included golf tournaments raising up to USD 40.000, while European ideas ranged from wine tastings in Portugal and Spain to summer barbecues and winter quiz nights, ensuring inclusivity across gender and age.

Portugal Chapter

(Alfredo Oliveira)

The main focus of the Chapter's work during the year was the successful organisation of the 2025 CRC, which represented a major milestone in its development and regional engagement. The event required extensive coordination and highlighted the Chapter's growing capacity to host high-level international meetings. Alongside this achievement, significant progress was made in the area of digital transformation, including the creation and improvement of the Chapter's website and other online communication tools aimed at increasing accessibility and visibility.

Several technical and networking events were organised throughout the year, contributing to professional development, knowledge exchange, and the strengthening of ties between members, students, and industry representatives. These initiatives reflected the Chapter's commitment to expanding its educational and collaborative impact within the ASHRAE community.

However, despite these accomplishments, the Chapter emphasised the ongoing need for greater support for smaller chapters, particularly in terms of resources and visibility. Enhanced collaboration and shared tools across regions were identified as key to ensuring sustainable growth.

Spain Chapter

(Mar Serna)

The ASHRAE Spain Chapter achieved an exceptionally productive year, marked by strong growth and impactful initiatives. Membership increased by 26, while student membership rose by 50, demonstrating a clear focus on engagement and education. In Research Promotion (RP), the Chapter exceeded its targets, reaching 129.9% of the goal. Throughout the year, seven technical conferences and two social events were organised, including a "Breakfast with Sponsors" and another with SARA, aimed at networking rather than fundraising.

Two new student branches were created in Málaga and Madrid, bringing the total to three, with further expansion planned in Seville. Educational initiatives included a new master's programme at the University of Madrid funded by the Chapter. The team also hosted one webinar, seven technical meetings and contributed to the translation of ASHRAE Standards. A key milestone was Spain's first participation in the ASHRAE competition.

The Chapter grew significantly on social media thanks to Ana's efforts, and now counts 16 gold sponsors. The 2025/28 strategy focuses on positioning ASHRAE as a global leader through education, mentorship, and inclusion. Future plans include two mentoring programmes and two additional student branches. Leadership discussions highlighted the Chapter's strong sense of community and pride in having three female leaders on the same team.

Mahroo Eftekhari asked a question regarding the breakfast event, seeking to understand whether it was intended as a fundraising initiative. Mar Serna clarified that it was not a fundraising event. Mahroo then inquired about student mentorship, to which Mar Serna responded, explaining aspects of how the Spanish Chapter supports and guides its student members.

Following this, Trent Hunt asked what the Spanish Chapter does to continue developing new leaders. Mar replied that their success lies in creating a family-like environment, where members feel valued, connected, and motivated to grow. Trent then added that this approach seems like "raising the bar so high that each new leader keeps pushing forward, creating a snowball effect."

Mahroo concluded the exchange by commending the Spanish Chapter, noting how wonderful it is to see three female leaders working together on the same team, exemplifying inclusivity, collaboration, and strong leadership within ASHRAE.

BREAK

UK Chapter

(Dimitris Tseno)

The Chapter reported a highly successful year, achieving remarkable growth and engagement across multiple areas. With the creation of five new student branches, the total number now stands at around fifteen, bringing total membership to 623, including students. This makes the Chapter the fourth largest outside the United States. Student participation was highlighted as a key strength, with special congratulations extended to their active and enthusiastic members.

A major milestone was the Chapter's hosting of CRC 2024, considered its greatest contribution of the year. Another success was its signature Technology Transfer event, which brought together fourteen companies, several keynote speakers, and approximately 130 attendees. The inauguration of the new Beta Lab marked an important step in advancing technical education and research collaboration.

Challenges remain in retaining student members after graduation, engaging more undergraduate students, and increasing participation among Young Engineers. On top of all these challenges the chapter also noted the absence of formal collaboration with the UK government.

Looking ahead to 2025-26, plans include organising an HVAC&R exhibition, expanding membership, hosting at least thirteen events, establishing additional student branches, and sending students to ASHRAE international programmes. To enhance ASHRAE's relevance, the Chapter aims to strengthen industry ties and promote visibility through education and innovation.

Belgium Section

(Martin Dieryckx)

The ASHRAE Belgium section continues to face legal challenges that have prevented the formal establishment of a full Chapter, resulting in its continued operation as a Section. Despite these constraints, the team remains active and dedicated to developing ASHRAE's presence in the region. A key milestone was the kick-off Meeting held in September 2025, attended by eight of the thirty registered members, with Mahroo joining online to show support from ASHRAE's leadership.

The Section has demonstrated strong commitment to maintaining engagement and fostering collaboration among professionals in the HVAC&R and energy sectors.

To address these issues and build a more sustainable structure, the group is exploring the creation of a Benelux Chapter, encompassing Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg. This initiative aims to strengthen regional cooperation, pool resources, and increase visibility within the European ASHRAE network.

Danube Chapter – presentation of CRC 2026

The upcoming CRC 2026 will be hosted in Timișoara, Romania, from 4–6 September 2026, marking an important milestone for the chapter and the region. The organising committee presented the event's core team and shared details of the planned three-day programme, designed to combine technical sessions, networking opportunities, and cultural experiences. The Chapter expressed enthusiasm about the possibility of also hosting an ASHRAE Board of Directors Meeting outside the United States and Canada during the event — an ambitious but inspiring goal that would further elevate its international significance.

Timișoara, renowned for its rich cultural heritage, historical importance, and innovative spirit, provides an ideal setting for CRC 2026. The city boasts 11 well-equipped and suitable venues capable of supporting large-scale professional gatherings, ensuring flexibility and accessibility for attendees. The organisers highlighted the strong backing received from both the Timișoara City Council and local universities, reflecting a deep alignment between academic, municipal, and professional communities.

With this extensive support and a well-prepared organisational team, CRC 2026 aims to be a landmark event for the European ASHRAE community. The Chapter warmly invited all members and partners to participate, promising an engaging and collaborative experience that celebrates both engineering excellence and regional innovation.

13. Regional Finances

Regional Operating Fund Report

(Liviu Drughean)

Region XIV manages three separate accounts: one in the USA (USD), one through PayPal (GBP), and one in Romania (EUR) under the MoU between Region XIV and AFCR. The US account shows a total balance of USD 33.7k, the PayPal account holds GBP 9k, and the Romanian account totals EUR 9.9k. Additionally, EUR 18,90 was paid in bank commissions.

Mahroo inquired about which chapters had not paid their fees. Liviu explained that Israel and Danube had each paid slightly less than the invoiced amounts, with a difference of approximately EUR 50–60 each, while Cyprus had not made any payment at all.

Strategies for Regional Financing in ASHRAE

(Eduardo Maldonado)

Eduardo Maldonado highlighted the differences in how each ASHRAE region gets financial contributions from their chapters, presenting a comparative table that clearly illustrated the disparities among regions.

From these data, it was possible to understand that contribution goes from zero (no contribution at all) up to about USD 15 per assigned member, with some regions asking USD 5,000 for the region from the Chapter organizing the CRC.

This analysis aimed to promote transparency and awareness of the funding structures, encouraging a broader discussion on equity, proportional support, and long-term financial stability within the organisation, as food for thought for the future of Region XIV finances.

Mahroo Eftekhari then announced that the Region Budget for 2025–26 would be postponed to the following day, citing a lack of time to complete the discussion during the current session.

END OF SESSION #2

Guided tour of downtown Lisbon landmarks and Dinner at Casa do Alentejo

SESSION #3

Chair Mahroo Eftekhari called the meeting to order at 9:14, expressing her appreciation to the organising committee for their warm hospitality during the previous evening's event, extending special thanks for the excellent performance by the students band.

Continuation of the financial evaluation suspended at the end of the previous session.

Region XIV Budget 2025/26

(Liviu Drughean)

The financial discussion covered Region XIV's current accounts, proposed expenditures, and the future financial framework.

A slide presented current balances in three accounts: USD 34.5 k (US account), GBP 900 (PayPal account), and EUR 6.97 k (Romanian account). Proposed expenditures totalled EUR 7,980, including the payment of EUR 4,250 for travel and other expenses for the student winners of the data centre competition, as well as EUR 1,530 support for new student branches, funding for LEADRs and 2026 student competition travel to Romania. Income from chapter contributions ranging from EUR 145 (Cyprus) to EUR 2,500 (UK), totalling EUR 5,645. The proposed budget for 2025-26 thus showed a EUR 2,335 budget shortfall, with Mahroo proposing to use up to 5k USD funds from the US account to pay the expenses for the students travelling to Las Vegas.

Mahroo Eftekhari noted that Italian students should not be included in the budget figures (thus increasing the budget shortfall) and that one chapter transfer their contributions directly to the US account. Liviu Drughean spoke against using the funds in the US account, because the region currently holds a reserve of only approximately USD 34,500 in that account.

Martin Dieryckx requested clarification on whether the reported costs were recurring or one-off expenses. Mahroo Eftekhari clarified that this was the first time a formal budget discussion was held at a CRC. Eduardo Maldonado explained that some costs are approved through motions and insisted that the EUR 1.250 collected from the 50 CRC attendees (a fee of EUR 25 each) should be added to the budget. Liviu Drughean disagreed, noting he never received those funds.

Mahroo Eftekhari concluded that future CRCs must include budget discussions, and, if necessary, sponsorships should be added to financial planning.

Costas Balaras supported Eduardo Maldonado's proposal, emphasising due diligence, while Conor Murray suggested creating a budget formula to ensure long-term stability and attract regional sponsors alongside local ones.

Mahroo announced the creation of a Financial Committee composed by herself, Liviu Drughean, and two other members to allow planning ahead. Liviu Drughean proposed an annual increase in the EUR 5.0 membership contribution, while Mahroo reiterated that each chapter must present a financial report at the CRCs. It was noted that UK, Spain and Hellenic Chapters already rely mainly on sponsor funding, a model to be adopted by other chapters. Alfredo Oliveira remarked that sponsors would support the region only if given global visibility, and Mahroo suggested that student competitions could serve this purpose.

After discussion, Costas Balaras raised a point of order, stating that a motion was required for such a decision.

[Motion]: [Hellenic Chapter] Budget approval with deficit
Region XIV shall operate during the 2025-26 year with a projected deficit of EUR 2,500, considering the flexibility provided by approximately EUR 34,500 available in the US account, and it shall establish a Regional Financial

Committee comprising representatives from all chapters (with a meeting to be scheduled shortly after the CRC) to plan the future of Regional finances.
SECOND: Danube Chapter.
VOTE (For/Against/Abstain): 6, 3, 1 – PASSED

After the vote on this motion, several issues concerning financial details and legal aspects were further discussed.

Tommaso Dallavalle requested a budget forecast for the following year, but Liviu Drughean said none was available. Mahroo confirmed that the Financial Committee would address this issue. Ljubomir Jankovic asked if the use of US account funds was a one-off or recurring expense, and Mahroo Eftekhari replied that funds from Hellenic and other chapters would likely be transferred there in the future.

The discussion expanded to the need for a legal entity for Region XIV. Chrysostomos Bouras asked about plans to formalise the region's structure. Mahroo Eftekhari explained that the plan is for each chapter to have its own legal entity, while the region operates under an MoU with the Danube Chapter, where the regional account is held. Alkis Triantafyllopoulos reminded the group that a motion to create a non-profit legal entity for the region had been approved many years ago but not implemented. Martin Dieryckx added that ASHRAE documentation already outlines how chapters can obtain legal status, while George Pantelidis and Costas Balaras stated that the region itself must become a legal entity under European law, independently of any conclusions from the Finance Committee.

Ashish Rakheja clarified that regions operate either within the US headquarters or the local chapters, which are already legal entities. Mahroo Eftekhari concluded by announcing the closure of the PayPal account, with funds to be transferred to the US account, reaffirming that all financial and legal concerns will be addressed through the new Financial Committee.

COFFEE BREAK

14. RMCR Report

Update from Members Council

Eduardo Maldonado presented the RMCR Report, providing an update on the Members Council (MC) activities, the status of Region XIV's 2024 society motions, and other motions of interest from different regions.

Under the main decisions from MC 2024-25, Eduardo announced the formation of the new Italian Chapter, along with several new sections and student branches, highlighting that Region XIV now ranks among the top regions globally in number of student branches. Eduardo challenged Mahroo Eftekhari to make Region XIV the #1 region worldwide in student membership, which Mahroo enthusiastically accepted.

Eduardo reported that the request to promote the Communications Committee to a Grassroots committee failed, while a DEI Committee (Ad-Hoc or Grassroots) is expected to be approved following a positive recommendation from the DEI Task Force.

The Streamlining of the Members Council remains under discussion, with complex deliberations and no final conclusions yet.

Routine MC activities continue, including annual evaluations of the health of all the Chapters, periodic reviews of CRC report recommendations, the definition of the annual PAOE structure and the discussion of the CRC motions.

Status of 2024 Region XIV Motions

Eduardo reviewed the five Region XIV motions from CRC 2024:

[Motion 1]: [Spain Chapter] The Spain Chapter proposes that the Society Membership Promotion committee establish a Workforce Development subcommittee.

Completed (defeated): The spirit of the motion was supported, but it was submitted to the wrong committee. Recommendation: resubmit to the appropriate body.

[Motion 2]: [Nordic Chapter] Ammend the Manual of Chapter Operations (MCO), Section 11.1, to allow for an option for a viable Section to become a Chapter without the mandatory 2-year waiting period, by adding the following alternative way, consisting of four simultaneous conditions: a. The Section must meet all the requirements for the formation of a new chapter, including the minimum of active Associate and Full Members. b. The existing Section must prepare a complete 3-year succession plan, identifying all the officers and the BOG for the first 3 years of chapter operation, consisting of grassroots chairs ready, willing and committed to serve as volunteers to the new chapter. c. The Section must present a summary activity report for the period since its creation until when the request to become a Chapter is submitted. d. The Section must present an Action Plan for the first year of chapter operation, and draft plans for the following two years.
Completed (passed): sections are no longer required to wait two years before becoming a chapter if they meet the alternative criteria.

[Motion 3]: [UK Chapter] When only one participating team per Region is allowed in an ASHRAE Student Competition, the regional selection should be made by an independent panel of judges representing at least half the Chapters of the Region where the teams come from. The panel shall not have more than one member from each Chapter, SA RVC included. No member of the panel can have any conflict of interest (e.g., member or advisor of a team submitting an entry). The SA RVC shall require from the Chapters of his/her Region to nominate one member of their Chapter to be part of the panel of judges when Society publishes the new brief of the ASHRAE Student Competition each year.
Completed (defeated): on a recommendation from the Students Activities Standing Committee. Mahroo noted that internal processes at the Students Standing Committee were adjusted and improved after the discussion of this motion to address the raised concerns.

[Motion 4]: [UK Chapter] The Society Winners of the Student Design Competitions should receive their awards and have the opportunity to take pictures on the podium with the ASHRAE President and/or their DRC during the ASHRAE Winter Conference.
Completed (defeated): Staff recommendation against proposed reinstating pre-COVID student recognition on stage for logistic reasons. Though defeated, the process was updated to allow students to take photos with the ASHRAE President after the Plenary.

[Motion 5]: [UK] The teams participating in any ASHRAE Student Competitions should be provided with timely and detailed feedback from the panel of judges, by returning to the participating team the scoring matrix with comments from the panel of judges.
Completed (defeated): on a recommendation from the Students Activities Standing Committee. Mahroo informed that, once again, the underlying idea was incorporated into procedural changes by the committee, even though the motion itself did not pass.

Eduardo noted that even when a motion is formally defeated, it can still lead to positive changes within the organisation. He emphasised that submitting motions is valuable, as it helps the society evolve and improve.

Society Motions

Eduardo Maldonado clarified that seconding a motion merely opens the opportunity to discuss the motion, not the approval of the motions themselves. Without a Second, a motion is not discussed.

[Motion 1]: [Spain Chapter #1] Inclusion of Regional Content in ASHRAE Learning Portal.
SECOND: Hellenic Chapter.
Background: ASHRAE training materials are primarily based on North American standards and contexts, which may differ significantly from those international. By incorporating regionally relevant content — such as European/Asian/Africa etc. regulations, decarbonization strategies, or case studies — the Learning Portal would better serve international members, enhancing professional value, engagement, and retention. This proposal supports inclusivity and international applicability of ASHRAE educational resources.

Discussion: George Pantelidis requested clearer explanations and proposed an amendment to include European standards while other participants suggested making the motion more specific. Costa Balaras opposed it for lack of clarity, while Ashish questioned its necessity. Alfredo Oliveira raised concerns over standards costs. Samir Hernandez and Alkis Triantafyllopoulos supported unit conversion. The recommendation was to withdraw, meet with Samir Hernandez, and revise the text.
MOTION WITHDRAWN

[Motion 2]: [Israel Chapter #1] We move that PAOE points should be created to recognize professional training courses organized by chapters.
SECOND: UK Chapter.
Background: Israeli chapter in recent years has organized professional training courses for young engineers and this effort is not recognized by the PAOE system.
For example in the society year of 2024-2025 the following professional training courses were given:

1. HVAC Systems:
   - 27 sessions
   - 81 academic hours
2. Refrigeration:
   - 13 sessions
   - 39 academic hours
3. Electric motors:
   - 7 sessions
   - 28 academic hours
4. Domestic Water and Plumbing:
   - 13 sessions
   - 39 academic hours

Discussion: George Pantelidis requested more information about the training courses. Trent Hunt agreed it was a good idea but unnecessary as a motion, suggesting submission to the Members Council instead. Eduardo Maldonado confirmed feasibility before October 16th. Samir Hernandez proposed making it a regional motion, opposed by Mahroo and Eduardo because PAOE is a Society issue. Israel clarified this motion was not exclusive to Israel.
VOTE (For/Against/Abstain): 5, 0, 5 – PASSED

[Motion 3]: [Israel Chapter #2] We call that PAOE should be adjusted according to ratio between the total Chapter annual PAOE achievement divided by the chapter number of members.
SECOND: Portugal Chapter.
Background: Chapter PAOE is based on the entire chapter activities. As chapters have different number of members we propose additional criteria to reflect the activities versus number of chapter members.
Discussion: Samir Hernandez, Eduardo Maldonado and Trent Hunt discussed the PAOE, essentially a ranking of top chapters. Eduardo noted that success depends on leadership, while Trent highlighted that smaller chapters can outperform larger ones. Mahroo encouraged using the PAOE as a guide to assess organization and ensure effective chapter structure and management.
MOTION WITHDRAWN

15. Chapter Motions

Regional Motions

Eduardo Maldonado reminded members to review existing motions before submitting new ones and explained where the list of past motions can be found.

[Motion 4]: [Spain Chapter #2] Standardize Onboarding Pack for New Chapter Officers - That chapters in Region XIV develop and maintain a standardized digital "Onboarding Pack" for new Chapter Officers (e.g., President, RP, MP, CTTC, SA, YEA, etc.) to facilitate role transition, increase operational efficiency, and ensure continuity within chapters.
SECOND: Israel Chapter.
Background: Each year, new Chapter Officers take on key roles without consistent regional support materials. This motion proposes the creation of a shared digital onboarding pack, curated and updated by the RVCs, that includes key dates, contacts, ASHRAE resources, reporting timelines, and templates to be available/accessible to chapters too. This will enhance consistency and performance across the Region, reduce onboarding time, and foster inter-chapter alignment.
Discussion: Mahroo Eftekhari questioned the purpose of the motion, noting that Basecamp already exists. Trent Hunt asked what was missing, and Mar Serna explained that while the platform is useful, there is no clear, simple guideline for chapter roles. Mahroo clarified that the President-Elect receives direct training, but Mar stressed the need for structured guidance for other positions. Dennis Knight suggested sending a congratulatory email to each elected officer, including Spain's proposed guide. Ireland and Hellenic chapters supported the motion, agreeing that information exists but is scattered. Spain, Hellenic, Nordic, Israel, and Italy chapters all endorsed the idea, emphasising the importance of a concise, accessible guideline – especially for new members.
VOTE (For/Against/Abstain): 10, 0, 0 – PASSED

[Motion 5]: [Portugal Chapter #1] We move that, starting January 2026, Region XIV eliminates the 25 € CRC registration fee currently charged to each attendee and instead increases the annual amount each Chapter pays to Region XIV per area-assigned member by 1 €, from 5 € to 6 €.
SECOND: Israel Chapter.
Background: Currently, CRC attendees are charged an additional registration fee of 25 € as a contribution to the regional budget, which can be a disincentive to participation and create logistical complexity for both the host Chapter and for the Region XIV. Chapters with high participation at the CRC are currently highly penalized by this scheme.
By eliminating this fee and instead increasing the annual contribution from each Chapter by 1 € per member, financial support to the Region becomes more predictable, stable, fair and easier to manage.
This change simplifies the overall funding process and removes the need to collect additional fees during the CRC registration and transfer them to the regional account.
The typical total amount of CRC fees (e.g., 60 members at 25 €/participant) is lower than the expected income by the Region through the increase of 1 €/member (the total number of Region XIV members is higher than 1530).
In the attachment to this background, as an illustration, it is possible to assess the expected impact of this motion per chapter and overall, to the region, using the 2024-25 invoiced information as well as the CRC 2025 registrations (numbers will fluctuate a little every year, of course).
Discussion: George Pantelidis questioned the financial accuracy of the motion, noting that a 20% increase would not raise the total from €5,600 to €9,000, suggesting a possible error in the student count. Avraham Menache and Alkis Triantafyllopoulos argued that instead of a simple increase, a sustainable long-term funding strategy should be developed, stressing that the issue has remained unresolved for two years. Petros Dalavouras and Howard Neville asked about the incentive's purpose and its potential impact on CRC attendance, while Alfredo Oliveira said it would depend on participation. Liviu Drughean described it as a tricky motion, dependent on active members and attendees. Tommaso Dallavalle warned it was unsupported by the budget and should be reviewed by the Financial Committee. Eduardo Maldonado confirmed its future budgetary implications and suggests it should be discussed within the future Financial Committee.
MOTION WITHDRAWN

[Motion 6]: [Portugal Chapter #2] We move that the old regional motions that have never been implemented, listed below, be terminated and become null and void in terms of effect:

- 2020 – 2 and 3: eliminate the Past Presidents Club
- 2020 – 4: eliminate the Regional Lighting Committee
- 2017 – 5: eliminate the Regional Vice-Chair for Refrigeration

SECOND: Danube Chapter.

Background: Over the years, certainly with good intentions, the various CRCs have approved several motions that have never been implemented, most probably because they cannot be implemented. In one case (the RVC position for Refrigeration) because it goes against ASHRAE policy.
Region XIV is thus not operating according to what has been decided at the CRCs, which can create negative consequences for the regional officers that are supposed to implement them.
Therefore, we need to reverse those decisions, making them null and void, and thus remove irrelevant decisions from our set of approved motions.
Discussion: No discussion.
VOTE (For/Against/Abstain): 10, 0, 0 – PASSED

Eduardo Maldonado announced that several chapters have submitted motions proposing to host the CRC 2027 and 2028. Mahroo Eftekhari proposed creating a CRC Committee responsible for evaluating potential locations and projected budgets before selecting the next CRC host. Ashish Rakheja supported this but suggested planning three consecutive years in advance. Petros Dalavouras asked whether the decision should rest with the DRC or the Committee, and Mahroo clarified that it is a CRC decision, though a committee will be formed to ensure fairness. A participant questioned whether the CRC has the authority to decide three years ahead, as mandates change. Mahroo confirmed it does. Dennis Knight added that most regions follow a rotation system, which works well, while Ashish noted that new chapters and sections occasionally alter this structure. Overall, the discussion emphasised transparency, consistency, and long-term planning for CRC host selection.
The CRC committee shall be established by the DRC and announce its conclusions within a short time.

Mahroo Eftekhari announced that only the Portugal and Danube Chapters would remain in the room for the next part of the session (CRC evaluation).

Ashish Rakheja requested a round of applause for Mahroo Eftekhari, recognising her exceptional leadership and dedication. Mahroo Eftekhari expressed her gratitude and extended special thanks to Dennis Knight for his strong and continued support of the region.

Trent Hunt requested a list of attendees for the workshop, specifically asking how many were Chapter Chairs and which chapters they represented.

PRESIDENTIAL LUNCHEON

16. Regional Planning

The session started with discussions on the organisation of CRC 2026 in Timișoara, with follow-up tasks assigned for coordination and planning. Attention then turned to the Student Competition mentoring programme, led by Dimitris, Eduardo, Mahroo, and two representatives from the Danube Chapter. Among various topics, Dimitris chose healthcare as the focus area.

Mahroo next asked for updates on the CTTC, and Ioan Dobosi highlighted post-COVID travel costs and encouraged stronger collaboration between chapters. Mahroo requested the creation of a shared online page, to which Dobosi agreed.

Under Government Affairs, Mahroo praised Ioan for having organised a meeting with the Romanian Ambassador in Lisbon and discussed replicating similar initiatives elsewhere. Ioan Dobosi mentioned his visit to Portugal in March, likely linked to the embassy event that week. João Grenha was tasked with delivering the ASHRAE gift that had just been located at the CRC hotel to the Ordem dos Engenheiros, where it would be picked up by Embassy staff, and Ioan Dobosi asked for confirmations by email after delivery. Mahroo also requested a simple shared Basecamp folder for coordination.

Mahroo then announced the creation of Finance and CRC Committees, calling for volunteers to plan meetings and prepare motions for the next CRC.

In another discussion, Tommaso Dallavalle shared efforts to ensure that Chapter training activities could be locally recognised as professional education. Mahroo noted that no other chapter had yet achieved this. Eduardo and Martin explained that this would be possible if Italy's legal status allowed greater flexibility and advised pursuing national certification before involving ASHRAE. Alfredo Oliveira added that, in Portugal, local authorities must approve technical training courses.

Martin Dierycky clarified that sections only need representatives, not full boards, to simplify legal issues. Dimitris and Martin agreed that a section may operate under a chapter or directly under the region, depending on preference.

Finally, focus returned to CRC 2026, with Mahroo offering regional assistance and confirming that 15 volunteers were ready to help. Ioan and Bata proposed running some workshops in person, while Trent suggested half-day sessions with two 1.5-hour tracks, including treasurer training. Eduardo raised budget concerns, but it was agreed that if the Danube Chapter could provide rooms and logistics, hybrid in-person training would go ahead. Danube proposed three registration options, including packages with accommodation and social events.

Trent confirmed a spring meeting to finalise planning, encouraged innovation, and advised to "set the bar high and focus on the positives."

END of the meeting

Attendance:

Business meetings: 72

Gala dinner: 100

Presidential Luncheon: 75