

Election address of Robert Stern for the post of Chair of the Governance Committee

Background

- I have served as Chair of the Governance Committee since January 2016
- For the last 40 years I have been working as a lawyer (at Slaughter and May, solicitors, and then for the last couple of years as a consultant) advising a wide range of corporate and other bodies on corporate, commercial, governance and other matters
- I am an active chess player, in both leagues and tournaments, and am a trustee and the secretary of Pimlico Chess Club.

Statement

I would be very happy to serve a further term of three years as Chair of the Governance Committee. The Governance Committee meets regularly – currently meetings are held every two months – and the committee has operated cohesively and collegiately whilst dealing with the increased demands made of it.

In addition to providing ordinary course governance advice to the Board and to Council, I have been actively involved in a range of other matters detailed in the Governance Committee's annual reports to Council. These matters include developing the ECF's constitution, including, over the years, the detailed constitutional review of voting rights at Council that resulted in the introduction of Direct Members' Representatives, the changes in relation to the constitutional treatment of online graded games, the introduction of a complaints procedure for dealing with inappropriate behaviour by Direct Members, as well as a wide range of other technical constitutional amendments.

If re-elected, I would obviously continue with the ongoing work of the Governance Committee, as well as actively consider what further constitutional changes might be desirable. This would, where appropriate, involve undertaking consultation exercises with Council.