

Vacancy: Chairperson of the Supervisory Board

Official start Date: 1 January 2026, onboarding period starts from mid October 2025.

Our Mission

We are an internationally operating foundation committed to ending avoidable blindness and vision impairment in low- and middle-income countries. By restoring sight, we aim to improve the lives of people already living under challenging conditions. Remarkably, 80% of blindness is treatable—often through a simple cataract operation. Many others with impaired vision benefit greatly from something as straightforward as a pair of glasses. Restored vision empowers individuals to participate fully in society and regain their independence.

We work in Asia (Cambodia, Laos, Nepal, and Vietnam), Africa (Tanzania), and South America (Ecuador and Suriname), strengthening local eye care systems. We do this by training eye care professionals, building eye clinics, donating essential equipment, and carrying out surgeries and research through our local partners. Sustainability is at the core of our approach to eye care.

For over 40 years, our work has been made possible thanks to the generosity of loyal donors and the collaboration of institutions, partner organisations, and dedicated volunteers.

As the term of the current Chair of the Supervisory Board of ECF comes to an end in January 2026, we are seeking a new Chairperson to lead the Board through the organisation's next strategic phase: 2026–2030. This is a pivotal moment for ECF. The key responsibility of the Supervisory Board is to oversee the implementation of our new strategy in a complex and changing environment. In addition, we aim to strengthen collaboration with other eye care and related organisations, both within the Netherlands and internationally — an important area where the new Chair will play a significant role.

Role and Responsibilities

As Chairperson, you will lead the Supervisory Board, which currently comprises five members with diverse expertise. Your role includes:

- Ensuring effective operation of the Board and safeguarding governance structures.
- Supervising the Managing Board in its executive responsibilities, with the Director as your primary point of contact.
- Acting as a key liaison between the Supervisory Board and Managing Board.
- Supporting and challenging the leadership team in both supervisory and advisory capacities.
- Representing the Supervisory Board internally and externally, including to stakeholders and partners.

You will also

- Guide the board in fulfilling its duties and ensuring compliance with codes of conduct.
- Oversee the overall effectiveness of the Board.
- Foster open, inclusive, and values-based collaboration among all stakeholders.

Candidate Profile

We are looking for a Chairperson who:

- Is deeply committed to ECF's mission, and actively promotes the organisation's profile and impact.

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- Brings proven leadership experience in both executive and non-executive roles.
- Has strong chairing and facilitation skills, particularly in guiding decision-making processes.
- Demonstrates sound judgement, with the ability to translate complex supervision issues into practical solutions.
- Has excellent interpersonal and communication skills, and can balance engagement with appropriate professional distance.
- Understands and champions good governance and ethical leadership.
- Is reflective, inclusive, and able to bridge diverse perspectives within the organisation.
- Has a collaborative spirit and ideally international experience.
- Is experienced in building connections across sectors and stakeholder groups.
- Experience in healthcare, eye care, and/or issues related to blindness or visual impairment is a strong asset.

About the Supervisory Board

The Supervisory Board consists of five members, each with a specific area of expertise:

- Chairperson, Eye care, Finance, Human resources and Fundraising/sponsorship.
- Members are appointed for a four-year term, renewable once. The board meets four to six times a year, typically in the early evening.

Additional Information

- ECF is an international organisation committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We actively encourage candidates of all backgrounds and experiences to apply.
- Candidates must be based in Europe to ensure cost-effective in-person attendance and interaction with the Director and other board members.
- Meetings are held four to six times per year (in person, online, or hybrid).
- This is a non-remunerated position.
- Fluency in English is essential, as it is the working language. Knowledge of Dutch or willingness to learn it is an advantage

How to Apply

If you believe in ECF's mission and feel your profile matches the position, we warmly invite you to apply. Please send your CV and cover letter to m.meijer@ortelius-po.nl by Sunday 14 September 2025. We will hold job interviews in the last week of September and the first weeks of October.

For more information about ECF, visit www.eyecarefoundation.nl or follow us on our social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Bluesky). If you have questions about the recruitment process, feel free to reach out via email to m.meijer@ortelius-po.nl. For questions regarding the content of the role please reach out to i.rombley@yahoo.com (member of the Supervisory board) or drew_bles@hotmail.com (member of the Supervisory board).

Please note: We kindly ask recruitment agencies not to respond to this vacancy. We do, however, appreciate your support in sharing it within your network.