

VOX 127 / Message from the President

AIACE International and its national sections have continued to work for the benefit of all pensioners throughout the year.

This has been a busy year for the International. Let us quote a few examples.

In order to better share best practice between the different sections, three seminars were organised, bringing together representatives from the 15 national sections, a seminar for social volunteers, a seminar for communication officers and a seminar for treasurers.

We took decisions on the future of the Yearly Congress, and established more fluid relations with the PMO and the OIB.

On the IT front, our colleagues in charge have further improved their aids and support documents and are working with DG HR and the PMO to make it easier for pensioners to access applications.

We have made progress on the reimbursement of medical expenses (in particular the raising of a number of ceilings) thanks mainly to contributions from AIACE representatives, we have adopted new statutes to bring us into line with the Belgian legislation on which we depend and on 14 December we signed a new agreement with Commissioner Hahn for our future relations with the Commission.

On the political front, the year that is drawing to a close will remain a somber one.

In Europe, the conflicts in Ukraine, Israel and Gaza are causing alarming levels of casualties and destruction, and international law has little bearing on the reality on the ground.

Within the European Union, populism continues to grow in the wake of successive crises. The far right has scored significant electoral victories in some European countries and remains on the lookout in other states or regions.

This is another reason why we need to be even more vigilant in the run-up to the European elections.

The AIACE International Bureau and I wish each and every one of you a happy and united New Year.