



**AIACE**

**International Association of Former Staff of the European Union**

*Over 15 000 members – open to former staff of the EU institutions and all EU bodies*

**The Secretary-General**  
25/2026



Brussels, 10 July 2026

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING  
OF 23 JUNE 2026 IN BRUSSELS**

As the General Meeting had not reached the two-thirds quorum required by the Statutes for amending the statutes, the President opened the second General Meeting, which, in accordance with the statutes, is authorised to take final and valid decisions regardless of the number of members present or represented. She pointed out that decisions concerning amendments to the statutes must be passed by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

She welcomed all the participants, both those attending in person and those attending remotely. She thanked the interpreters in advance.

She noted that 319 members were attending in person, 0 members attending by proxy and 20 members attending remotely.

**Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted.

**Approval of minutes of the GA of 17 June 2025**

The minutes were adopted unanimously.

**President's activity report**

The President presented the main points from her activity report, which had been distributed to the participants. The report showed that AIACE International had been unfailingly active in the institutional, social, digital and organisational fields. It also drew attention to a number of points requiring vigilance: budgetary equilibrium, continuation of the negotiations with the institutions on increases to their contributions, the digital divide, the attractiveness of the Congress, and reform of the Statutes.

She took the opportunity to welcome G. Brunetti, the new President of the BE Section, and to thank E. Dudzinska for her commitment and the work she had done in relation to the Sickness Insurance Management Committee, CGAM.

17 Sections : Belgique/België – Danmark - Deutschland – Éire/Ireland - España - France – Ελλάς/Grèce - Italia – Luxembourg -  
Nederland – Österreich – Pologne - Portugal – Suomi/Finland – Sverige – Tchèque – Royaume-Uni

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N° d'entreprise : 0408999411

The main points were as follows:

### **1. Activities of AIACE's bodies**

Since the General Assembly of 16 June 2025:

- the Bureau had met 7 times;
- the Management Body had met 3 times.

Changes within the Bureau:

- Didier Hespel had stepped down as Secretary-General, while remaining a member of the Bureau;
- Roberto Rotter had been appointed as the new Secretary-General in October 2025;
- Marc Oostens, Alex Jacobs and Michèle Thozet had resigned.

### **2. Main issues**

#### **2.1 The Method**

- The Technical Group on Remuneration had met 3 times in 2025.
- Final result for the period from 1 July 2024 to 1 July 2025:
  - 3.0% rise in salaries and pensions;
  - adjustment of the weightings.
- The rate of contribution to the pension scheme by staff in active employment had been altered to 13.1% as of 1 July 2025.

#### **2.2 JSIS**

- AIACE International was represented on the CGAM by Roberto Rotter, Michael Hocken and Pierre Blanchard as observers.
- Work had continued on:
  - the revision of the General Implementing Provisions;
  - the revision of the ceilings;
  - recognition of JSIS by national systems.
- The report expressed the view that progress on the latter point had been too slow.

#### **2.3 Insurance**

- Monthly meetings continued to be held with CIGNA on services to policy-holders.
- A third-party liability contract with Ethias covering volunteers and administrators in the 17 sections was being finalised.

### **3. Relations with the European institutions**

- Stepping-up of relations with the European institutions, particularly with regard to social welfare measures.
- Regular contact with the PMO and DG HR.
- An initiative had been undertaken with the aim of securing a grant based on the number of retired staff, with a target rate of €6 per pensioner per annum.
- The European Parliament had doubled its grant.

### **4. External relations**

- Active participation by AIACE International in the work of the European Movement International in 2025 and 2026.
- Participation in Europe Day.
- Signature of the Nice Declaration of 7 December 2025.

### **5. Information and communication**

- Continued dissemination of information to the sections and members.
- Development of the Newsroom tool for the dissemination of information directly to all members.

- Progress with the DigiVox project (digital version of AIACE's magazine VOX).
- Three seminars had been held in 2025, the subjects being:
  - social security systems;
  - treasurers;
  - communication.
- Regular updating of the Guide to Health Insurance at the European institutions.

#### **6. The digital divide and IT support**

- Continued action by AIACE to combat the digital divide.
- A concerted effort by the helpdesks to advise on:
  - the cessation of authentication for EU Login by text messaging;
  - the transition to other secure solutions;
  - the launch of the Pensioners' Portal.
- Some 12 000 retired staff had been advised on the change to the method of authentication in a joint campaign by AIACE and the PMO.

#### **7. Financial situation**

- The 2025 financial year closed with a loss of €51 710.
- The reserves were sufficient to maintain the financial stability of the association.
- Number of members: 15 424.
- Revenue: €437 610.
- Expenditure: €489 320.
- Expenditure on staff: €118 037.

#### **8. Congress**

- The 2025 Congress was held in Brussels.
- The 2026 Congress was likewise organised in Brussels.
- The number of participants proved insufficient, even though a programme had been organised that was deemed to be of interest.
- Consideration was being given to whether the same formula should be continued, bearing in mind its cost and the amount of time involved.

#### **9. Outlook**

- Continuation of contacts with a view to setting up new sections in Cyprus, Hungary and Slovakia.

### **Financial aspects**

The Treasurer-General presented the management report for 2025 (i.e. the balance sheet as at 31/12/2025 and the management account for 2025), which had been distributed to the participants.

He drew attention to the deficit of €51 710: it was the second year in succession that had ended with a deficit (the figure for 2024 having been €27 250). However, he qualified this statement by observing that the reserves were sufficient to maintain the financial stability of the association.

He also reported that the number of members had increased significantly (+184), bringing the total number of members up to 15 424. It was explained that this significant increase corresponded to the number of new members less the number of members who had left either by choice or through natural causes.

For AIACE as a whole (all sections of AIACE combined – report on social welfare measures), expenditure on social welfare measures amounted to €326 390. AIACE International paid the sections a total of €159 206 (comprised of €104 206+€55 000) for social welfare measures. The Institutions' contribution to social welfare measures amounted to €155 750 (see revenue).

The President mentioned the significant disparity between the expenditure borne by all sections of AIACE combined on social welfare measures and the contribution granted by the institutions in this field. For 2025, this imbalance had prompted AIACE to spend €170 640, which was more than 52% of total social welfare expenditure. This situation, with an ever-growing disparity, had been pointed out to the institutions and was an argument in favour of increasing their contributions, with the aim of arriving at a target figure of an average of €6 per retired staff member per annum.

In view of the budget deficit, the President was reconsidering whether it might be better not to hold a Congress in 2027, in order to bring costs under control while continuing to assign priority to social welfare expenditure. The high cost of the event justified considering this option, although other possible ways of optimising the situation were also under consideration.

P. Zangl, also speaking on behalf of his colleague J.-J. Beurotte, presented the auditors' report which had been distributed to the participants. He recommended that the General Meeting approve the accounts and issue a discharge to the Management Body.

After a few questions and answers, the accounts for 2025 were approved and the AGM therefore issued a discharge to the Management Body.

The Treasurer-General presented the draft budget for 2026, based on historical data and inflation forecasts. The AGM adopted this budget proposal unanimously.

### **Amendment of AIACE's Statutes**

With the passage of time, it had been felt necessary to update AIACE's Statutes. For this purpose, a working group chaired by Didier Hespel had considered the various possible amendments to articles. These were discussed one by one.

After presentation of all the proposed amendments, the amendments to Articles 6, 7(1), 8, 9, 14, 16, 17, 19, 21, 23, 26, 29, 30, 31 and 32 were adopted unanimously.

The amendment to Art. 7(2)2 was adopted by 333 votes to 1, with 5 abstentions.

The amendments to Art. 18(1) and (2) were adopted by 317 votes to 18, with 4 abstentions.

The amendment to Art. 19(2) was adopted unanimously.

The new version of the Statutes of AIACE International is attached to these minutes.

### **Confirmation of the members of the Management Body**

On 1 October 2025, Roberto Rotter had succeeded Didier Hespel as Secretary-General.

The AGM confirmed the composition of the Management Body.

### **Other business**

There was no other business.

The President thanked all the participants and the interpreters and closed the meeting.

Roberto Rotter

Annex: The new version of the Statutes of AIACE International