



AIACE

International Association of Former Staff of the European Union

10.500 members – open to former employees of the EU institutions and bodies

The Vice-President

106 /15



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Newsletter from the International Bureau to AIACE members

This new periodical publication is intended to make the work of the central structures of our Association more visible to our 10,500 members. The aim is to give brief updates on the work of the Executive Committee (almost always simply referred to as "the Bureau") to the various national sections or branches, so that they can pass on the key points to their members (in other language versions as they deem appropriate) by whichever means they use to communicate with their membership (branch newsletters or magazines, email, and/or on each section's website...).

Election by the Administrative Board of a new International President and Vice-President

The 100th edition of AIACE's flagship magazine VOX was distributed to all pensioners over the summer and gave AIACE's new President, Bernhard Zepter, and Vice President, Francis Wattiau, an opportunity to introduce themselves to members.

An initial working meeting was held on 24 June in Brussels, to enable Mr Zepter to take a number of urgent administrative and policy decisions, and start preparing the future composition of his new Bureau.

Amongst those decisions were the arrangements for the printing and distribution of VOX 100, AIACE's representation in the JSIS Management Committee ("CGAM") on 15 and 16 July, and at the Technical Group on Salaries and Pensions ("GTR") on 2 July. This initial meeting brought together Bernhard Zepter, Francis Wattiau, Didier Hespel (who had taken on the role of Secretary General on an acting basis at the end of the last period of office), Marc Oostens (the association's outgoing treasurer), Claire Brunotti (who helps with the association's book-keeping), Michael Hocken (who had assisted the outgoing Bureau), and last but far from least Anne-Pascale Descamps, who runs the international secretariat.

Mr Zepter set out his aims for the operation of the International Bureau, and all present marked their agreement with those objectives. It was agreed that the composition of the International Bureau would be further discussed at a meeting to be held on 13 July.

15 Sections : Belgique/België – Danmark - Deutschland – Éire/Ireland - España - France – Ελλάς/Grèce - Italia – Luxembourg - Nederland – Österreich – Portugal – Suomi/Finland – Sverige - United Kingdom

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THE NEW BUREAU'S FIRST MEETING - 13 JULY 2015

The new Bureau will consist of the President, Bernhard Zepter, the Vice President, Francis Wattiau, Didier Hespel as Secretary General, and Marc Oostens, as Treasurer. Michael Hocken and Ludwig Schubert will also be members of the Bureau. A further member will join the Bureau at a later date. Anne-Pascale Descamps will provide the Bureau Secretariat. The Bureau decided not to appoint a Deputy Secretary General, but agreed that Anne-Pascale should assist Didier Hespel in the execution of certain of his tasks, provided a new assistant secretary was recruited to replace the colleague who had left.

For specific dossiers, the Bureau will invite those most directly involved. Those who attended the 13 July meeting were Dr Karl Freese for matters relating to the CGAM, Willy Hoebeeck as Chairman of the Insurance Group, and Martine Platteau to deal the AIACE International IT Help Desk (which she oversees together with her colleague Micheline Bruyninckx, the administrator of the Yammer network). Monique Théâtre, from DG HR, also attended part of the meeting.

The Bureau dealt with the following main points, amongst others :

- the organisation of the International Administrative Board meeting on 9 and 10 November in Luxembourg
- the financial situation of the Association as presented by the Treasurer
- the appointment of AIACE representatives in various committees where we have member or observer status
- a communication strategy for the association, and the identification of areas where improvements could be made
- the organisation of regular meetings between AIACE, DG HR and the PMO
- the preparation of the 2016 Assises in Trieste.

As regards the Insurance Group, two of the main points identified related to calls for a possible accident/invalidity policy with rather lower capital payments and thus lower premiums, and the organisation of information meetings with representatives of Cigna, firstly in Brussels and then in Luxembourg.

The following day, 14 July, a delegation of Bureau members met Mrs Souka, the Director-General of DG HR, and the subjects discussed included the question of the access of retired staff members to the buildings of the European Institutions, and the way in which the JSIS Management Committee (CGAM) works. This was followed immediately by a visit by the Bureau to the OIB (the Brussels Infrastructure & Logistics Office), and in particular the printshop. We were welcomed by those in charge and examined with them how we could enhance the existing cooperation in printing and distributing our magazine VOX within well-defined time frames. It was agreed that this meeting, also attended by Monique Théâtre from DG HR, had been most fruitful.

SECOND MEETING OF THE BUREAU - 11 SEPTEMBER 2015

This meeting dealt, inter alia, with the following subjects:

- *AIACE's international secretariat: a new part-time secretary would be recruited to replace Ms Ngala-Mianda.*
- *finalisation of the arrangements for the meeting of the Administrative Board (Conseil d'administration) in Luxembourg in November. This meeting would be preceded by a preparatory meeting of the joint AIACE-DG HR-PMO Technical Group on 5 October. The subject of Complementarity will have high priority at both meetings.*
- *the plan for the 2016 Assises in Trieste is to offer a flat rate price covering attendance, 4 nights' board, meals, including the gala dinner, city visit and airport transfers. In addition, a number of excursions would be offered.*
- *communication: this is a major point for the Bureau. Pierre Blanchard will continue as editor-in-chief of VOX, and the Bureau will oversee the printing and distribution of this magazine through the OIB. A coordination meeting will be organised in 2016, focusing on communication and involving all sections. The upgrading of the current AIACE International website is a priority for the Bureau. The Bureau also plans to ensure that sections and their members are kept regularly updated by means of regular "Info Sections" newsletters.*
- *the Bureau has made DG HR clearly aware of its position on the access of retired officials to EU buildings, and the subject will be brought up at the responsible inter-institutional working party, chaired by the Commission.*

The next meeting of the Bureau will be held on 14 October 2015.