



Association of Former International Civil Servants (AFICS) – Cyprus

c/o UNFICYP Registry, P.O. Box 25644, CY-1311 Nicosia, Cyprus

telephone: +357 22 61 47 26 - e-mail: afics-cyp@un.org - Web-site: www.afics-cyprus.org

Cyprus Ministry of Interior Registration number: 4095 of 23 May 2014

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH ORDINARY ASSEMBLY MEETING OF AFICS-CYPRUS HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 26 APRIL 2023, AT CAFÉ LA MODE - ACROPOLIS, 90 ACROPOLIS AVENUE, 2012 STROVOLOS

Agenda item 1 – Opening of the Session and adoption of the Agenda

1. In his remarks in opening the Session, Mr. Benon Sevan, President of the Association and the Executive Committee, who, according to the Statutes, chairs the Assembly meetings, he welcomed the participants and stated how happy he was to see them all and of “of our fortune to finally have our Assembly session which was initially planned to take place on 17 March 2020, which we had to cancel for reasons beyond our control due to the pandemic of the Corona Virus.” He added that this was the first gathering since then. He was looking forward to reinvigorate AFICS-Cyprus and resume its regular activities. He counted on the full involvement of the members in that regard.

2. He confirmed that as at the opening of the session AFICS-Cyprus had 48 members and expressed the hope that we would have additional members, including former members who would like to join the Association.

3. He said that 29 members were participating at the current session; unfortunately, a number of other members could not participate for a number of reasons because some of them were away, as well as some who could not participate for health reasons.

4. As he had mentioned in his e mails addressed to the members, in view of the volume of the documentation involved and for the fact that the documents concerned had been on AFICS-Cyprus website for almost three

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years, no hard copies would be made available at the current session, requesting all those interested to download them from the website.

5. The President stated that according to the Statutes, the Ordinary Assembly meetings should be held with a minimum of 15 AFICS-Cyprus members. As he had stated earlier, there were 29 members present at the current Session. Accordingly, he invited the members to make any comments or additions to the provisional agenda. It was in fact the provisional agenda which was meant to be considered at the Eighth Assembly session which was scheduled to take place on 17 March 2020, which had to be cancelled.

6. The Agenda was adopted unanimously by the Assembly, "as is". The approved agenda is attached as an Annex to the present document.

Agenda item 2 – Adoption of the 12 March 2019 Minutes of the Seventh Assembly Meeting

7. The President referred to the minutes of the Seventh Assembly Meeting and asked the members of the Association whether they had any comments thereon. As none were made by the members, the minutes were approved by the Assembly.

Agenda item 3 – Report of the President on the Activities for the Year 2019

8. The President stated that there was no report on the subject. As stated in the brief report on the subject, as decided by the Executive Committee, the 2019 Year-in-Review, would have been brought, orally, to the attention of the members.

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9. Accordingly, he stated that as there was no report to adopt on the subject, he proposed that the Assembly should simply take note on the subject, unless there was any objection.

10. **It was so decided, without any objection.**

Agenda item 4 – Election of Members of the Executive Committee Vacant Seats

11. The President informed the Assembly that the term of office of the members of the Executive Committee elected by the Sixth and Seventh Ordinary Assembly sessions held on 6 March 2018 and 12 March 2019 had covered the period from 12 March 2019 to March 2020. It was planned to have elections for the membership of the Executive Committee at the Eighth Assembly Session on 17 March 2020, which had to be cancelled for reasons stated earlier. Accordingly, the current members of the Executive Committee had been acting ad interim until the elections to be held at the current session.

12. According to Article 8.1 of the Statutes, “The Executive Committee shall consist of at least five but no more than seven members” elected by the Assembly. Article 8.1 (b) and (c) specified that the Committee’s “members shall be elected once every two years by the Assembly”. In the same Article 8.1, it is specified that outgoing members shall be eligible for immediate re-election when their term expired, subject to a maximum of three consecutive terms.

13. The President stated that he believed that the current members of the latest members of the Committee, whose terms had expired in March 2020, almost three years ago, the Assembly, on an exceptional basis bearing in mind the exceptional circumstances, should agree not to apply the Article 8.1 of the Statutes to the elections to be held at the current session. Otherwise, he added, none of those members would be eligible for election.

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14. Unless he heard otherwise, the President took it that the Assembly agreed with the exemption proposed in conducting the election for the new members of the Executive Committee.

15. **As there was no objection, it was so decided.**

16. The latest Executive Committee membership was six, two of whom, namely Mr. Terje Anderson and Mr. Gianfranco Longo, had expressed their regrets that they no longer were prepared to serve as members of the Committee. On behalf of AFICS-Cyprus, the President expressed special thanks to them for their distinguished services as members of the Executive Committee. He also expressed his thanks to Mr. Longo for his agreement to continue serving as the Webmaster of AFICS-Cyprus, a most valuable service he had been providing for several years.

17. The President was happy to inform that four members of the last Executive Committee, namely, Ms. Aida Bichara-McNally, Ms. Miriam Pericleous and Dr. Michael Voniatis, including himself, were prepared to submit their candidacy for the new Executive Committee.

18. He was also very happy to inform that three additional members of AFICS-Cyprus, namely, Ms. Christine Iacovou, Mr. Niels Petersen and Ms. Netha Stavrinides, had agreed to be candidates for the election of the members of AFICS-Cyprus, which should bring the membership to seven.

19. Accordingly, the President proposed to the Assembly to approve the election of members of the Executive Committee for a period of two years, from 16 April 2023 to May 2025, as follows:

Ms. Aida Bichara McNally

Ms. Christine Iacovou

Mr. Niels Petersen

Ms. Miriam Pericleous

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Mr. Benon Sevan

Ms. Netha Stavrinides, and,

Dr. Michael Voniatis

20. The Assembly elected unanimously the seven members of the next Executive Committee, as proposed, for a period of two years, from 26 April 2023 to May 2025.

Agenda item 5 – 2019 Actual Income and Expenditure and Related Statements

21. The President stated that the long and detailed report had been available on the AFICS-Cyprus website for a long time and he was sure that those who were interested in the subject had reviewed it.

22. He stated that in accordance with the Statutes, the Assembly should formally take note of the 2019 Accounts and endorse the Executive Committee's financial administration of the Association for the financial year 1 January to 31 December 2019.

23. Unless he heard any objection, the President stated that the Assembly decided to take note of the Accounts and endorse the Executive Committee's financial administration of the Association for the financial year 1 January to 31 December 2019.

24. It was so decided.

Agenda item 6 - Report by the Auditor (Mr. Kikis Angelides) on the 2019 Income and Expenditures

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25. The President stated that the report by the Auditor had been on the AFICS-Cyprus website for a long time and therefore no hard copies were available during the current session. Unless there were any comments by the participants, he proposed the Assembly take note with appreciation of the audit report by Mr. Angelides.

26. **It was so decided.**

Agenda item 7 – Election of the Auditor

27. On behalf of AFICS-Cyprus, the President expressed his sincere gratitude for the valuable contribution offered by the Auditor, Mr. Kikis Angelides, and for his readiness to offer his continued services as the Auditor, despite his earlier decision not to serve any longer after the end of his current term.

28. Accordingly, the President proposed the election of Mr. Angelides as the Auditor for another term for the period from 26 April 2023 to May 2025.

29. **It was so decided.**

Agenda item 8 – Review and Adoption of Draft 2020 Budget

30. The President said that, as stated in the Report, the 2021 Budget of the Association, covering the period 1 January to 31 December 2021, with the accompanying notes, which were an integral part of it, was prepared by the Treasurer and approved by the Executive Committee. In view of the fact that the Assembly's session was cancelled and therefore at the time when the draft budget had to be approved, the President proposed to the Assembly to take note of the report and take up the subject at the next

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Assembly session when we would present the income and expenditures of the Association until then, in brief, from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2023. In the meantime, the President proposed for the Assembly's consideration, "on an exceptional basis, and without establishment of a precedent", the authorization of the Executive Committee to cover the expenses of the Association, by authorizing the Committee to have up to Euros 1,000.00 available in that regard. The President informed the Assembly, as at 26 April 2023, the Association's bank account had Euros 4,681.93.

31. **It was so decided, without any objection.**

32. The President recalled that due to the cancellation of AFICS-Cyprus activities due to the Corona Virus pandemic, the payment of the annual membership fees was suspended, even though a very few members had voluntarily continued to pay their membership fees. Accordingly, the Association did not have any income, it still had certain routine expenses such as the payment of the annual AFICS-Cyprus membership fee to FAFICS, US\$1.50 multiplied by the number of active AFICS-Cyprus members on 1 January of each year, as well as the payment of the annual renewal and maintenance fees of AFICS-Cyprus website, among others.

33. The President also proposed the resumption of the payments of annual AFICS-Cyprus membership fees as of 1 January 2024 and request the Executive Committee to review the question of the amount of the annual membership fee and decide the amount and inform the members accordingly.

34. In the absence of any objection, the Assembly agreed with the proposal made by the President, and **it was so decided.**



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Agenda item 9 – Other Business

35. The President invited the participants to consider the proposed amendment to the AFICS-Cyprus Statutes, as proposed by the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Cyprus. He reminded all concerned that he had already provided the members, by e mail, copies of his correspondence on the subject with the Ministry of the Interior and the draft of the proposed amendment to the Statutes.

36. Having reviewed the AFICS-Cyprus Statutes and the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, the President recommended for approval the following amendment to the Statutes by adding at the end of **Article 3. AIMS AND PURPOSES**, the proposed amendment by the Ministry of the Interior, which read as follows:

“It is understood that the objectives do not include the collective negotiation of terms between the association and any other legal entity that represents the interests of another branch of professionals/employees or another institution with the aim of improving the professional interests of the members, while the means of achieving this aim also do not include strikes or other trade union actions.”

37. The President recalled that pursuant to Rule 6 (3) of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, two thirds of the members, who had met all their financial obligations towards the Association were required to modify the Statutes. The Association had currently 48 members of whom 36 had informed him by e mail of their approval of the proposed amendment. Currently, the Assembly had the necessary quorum to amend the Statutes of AFICS-Cyprus.



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38. Unless there was any objection, the President proposed the approval of the proposed amendment to the Statutes of AFICS-Cyprus.

39. **It was so decided.**

40. In thanking the members for their approval, the President stated that he would inform the Ministry of the Interior accordingly, providing them also with the all the signed documents requested. However, he wished to inform the members present that he would wait to receive the response from the Ministry of the Interior before revising the Statutes as currently posted on the AFICS-Cyprus website.

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41. Finally, the Assembly agreed also with the President's proposal to schedule the Ninth Assembly session during April 2024.

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ANNEX

EIGHTH ORDINARY AFICS-CYPRUS ASSEMBLY MEETING

Held at

Café la Mode – Acropolis

90 Acropolis Avenue, 2012 Strovolos

on

Wednesday, 26 April 2023

11:30 hours to 13:00 hours

Item 1 DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the Session and Adoption of the Agenda

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7. Election of the Auditor
8. Review and Adoption of the Draft 2020 Budget
9. Other Business

Next Assembly Session