



MINUTES OF THE FIRST ORDINARY ASSEMBLY MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF  
FORMER INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS IN CYPRUS (AFICS-CYPRUS)  
HELD AT UNFICYP HQ ON 13 MARCH 2013

Agenda Item 1 - Opening of the Session and Adoption of the Agenda.

1. Mr. Ioannis Antoniadis (President of the provisional Executive Committee) opened the meeting at 1030 hours by welcoming all participants. He then informed the participants that the duties of the provisional Executive Committee would cease at the end of the session. It was noted that out of 65 members of AFICS- Cyprus, a total of 34 members were present, 33 of which had paid their annual membership fees; therefore a quorum in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly was achieved which permitted discussions concerning the agenda to proceed. He therefore opened the meeting and stated that there were nine items on the provisional agenda, which had been distributed to those present, and queried whether anyone had any additional items to be added to it. As no additional items were put forward the agenda was adopted 'as is'.

2. Mr. Antoniadis then submitted to the Assembly's approval its Rules of Procedure; they were approved unanimously. He then proposed that a secretary be elected to take the minutes of the meetings of the Association and suggested that Ms. Margaret Theophanous be chosen for the task. He added that the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly also provided for two Ballot Supervisors and suggested that they be appointed, if necessary during the Assembly meeting.

Agenda Item 2- Formal adoption of the AFICS-Cyprus Statutes as accepted by the Cypriot authorities

3. Mr. Antoniadis stated that in compliance with the Cyprus Government legislation, it was necessary for the Association to be registered with the Ministry of Interior and for the Statutes to be submitted to the Ministry in Greek. The Statutes were therefore translated into Greek which was considered to be the official document. Both the Greek and English versions of the Statutes which were identical had been distributed to the members. The Statutes would become official once they had been published in the Official Gazette of Cyprus which was expected to be later in 2013. The Statutes in Greek and English were formally approved by the Assembly.

Agenda Item 3 - Adoption of the 20 November 2012 Minutes of the Founding Meeting

4. Mr. Antoniadis then asked the Assembly whether there were any comments with regard to the Minutes of the Founding Meeting of 20 November 2012 which had been prepared by Ms. Margaret Theophanous, reviewed by Mr. Gert Schmidt and approved by the provisional Executive Committee. No comments were made and the minutes were approved.

Agenda Item 4 - Report of the President of the Provisional Executive Committee

5. Mr. Antoniadis advised the Assembly that in accordance with Cyprus Government law 57 of 1972, it was a requirement to register the Association with the Cyprus Government. Accordingly all the required documentation, which had been prepared by Mr. Schmidt, Ms. Cecilia Sidera and himself and translated into Greek, were signed by Mr. Michael Voniatis and himself on 30 January 2013 and submitted to the Ministry of Interior by the AFICS advocate, Ms. Maria Matheou Souroulla. In addition to the Statutes in Greek the documentation included a list of 21 members of the Association as required by the law and the emblem of the Association. Although the document had been approved in principle it would still need to be published in the Cyprus Gazette in order for it to become official. Mr. Antoniadis asked if anyone present knew of someone in the Ministry of Interior who could expedite the announcement. No one came forward.

6. Mr. Schmidt informed the Assembly of the work carried out by the provisional Executive Committee in establishing AFICS-Cyprus and the arrangements made with regard to providing email, telephone and other facilities to the Association. He stated that he had worked a total of 16 years in UNFICYP and in the summer of 2012 the idea of the possibility of establishing an AFICS in Cyprus came into effect. He subsequently had a meeting with the Chief of Mission Support who agreed that the Founding Meeting could be held in the UNFICYP HQ Operations conference room and a small AFICS office in the camp was also provided. The postal address of the Association would be that of UNFICYP c/o its Registry as indicated in the Association's letterhead. The Association had also been provided with a mail box in the Registry. The Association's telephone, also listed on the letterhead, had the facility which allowed one to leave a message which would be recorded and a member of the Executive Committee could call back. He added that UNFICYP, including the Military Police and Force Reserve, had provided substantial logistic support to the Association for which it was grateful and the Association's appreciation would be conveyed to them.

7. Mr. Schmidt added that a Memorandum of Understanding would be established in order to satisfy any possible request by the auditors of UNFICYP.

8. Mr. Schmidt then urged the members of the Association to use the official email address for any queries and other matters of the Association as far as possible in order to cut down on paper.

9. Mr. Antoniadis requested Mr. Gianfranco Longo to brief the Assembly on the new AFICS-Cyprus website. Mr. Longo advised that in future documents would be put on the website ([www.afics-cyprus.org](http://www.afics-cyprus.org)) in order to save paper. There would also be links to the UN Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF) and to FAFICS. The cost of the website was Euros 12.74 per year. Mr. Longo invited any suggestions with regard to the website.

10. Mr. Antoniadis thanked Mr. Longo and invited the Treasurer to advise the amount of subscriptions collected so far which amounted to Euros 1,620, received from 34 members. Mr. Antoniadis stated that once the Association was announced in the Official Cyprus Gazette it would be in a position to open a bank account with a Cyprus Bank.. The money spent on the Association by the provisional Executive Committee members to date would be reimbursed from the money collected from the members of the Association.

11. The Assembly took note of the report of the President.

Agenda Item 5 - Election of Executive Committee members

12. Mr. Antoniadis referred to the document entitled “Election of Executive Committee Members” and advised that there were five candidates (who had paid their membership dues) who were reviewed by the Nominating Committee. Mr. Antoniadis asked the Assembly whether anyone else would like to add their name to the new Committee. It was pointed out that the Executive Committee could be composed of no less than five members and no more than seven members, which allowed candidatures for two additional members. There were no additional volunteers. The Assembly therefore agreed that Mr. Ioannis Antoniadis, Mr. Gianfranco Longo, Mr. Gert Schmidt, Ms. Cecilia Sidera and Mr. Michael Voniatis be elected as members of the new Executive Committee as specified in paragraph 5 of afore-mentioned document.

Agenda Item 6 - Review and Adoption of the draft 2013 Budget

13. Reference was made to the budget document under review wherein it was noted that it was anticipated that Euros 3,200 for membership dues would be collected during 2013. The main expenditure was for administrative costs and for registration of AFICS-Cyprus with the Cyprus Government which included the fees of advocate, Ms. Souroulla.

14. Mr. Schmidt pointed out that for registration of AFICS-Cyprus with the Cyprus Government it was necessary to have the Statutes officially translated from English into Greek which alone amounted to Euros 300.

15. Mr. Antoniadis asked the Assembly whether they had any comments. As there were none the Agenda item was approved.

Agenda Item 7 - Election of an Auditor (Statutes – Article 6 (e))

16. Mr. Antoniadis pointed out that Article 6(e) of the Statutes specified that the election of an auditor must take place each year and stated that Mr. Francis Clancy had been nominated and accepted to be the Association’s auditor. He drew the Assembly’s attention to paragraph 4 of the subject document which indicated Mr. Clancy’s experience in Finance and Budget. The Assembly approved that Mr. Clancy be elected as Auditor for the Association as from 13 March 2013 until the conclusion of the next Ordinary meeting of the Association to be held in 2014.

Agenda item 8 – FAFICS Membership

17. Mr. Antoniadis requested Mr. Schmidt to advise the Assembly what had been done by the provisional Executive Committee to date. Mr. Schmidt referred to the document given to the members which was entitled “What is FAFICS”. He stated that FAFICS was founded in 1975 by three Associations of former international civil servants in Geneva, New York and Rome and there were currently 63 Associations under the umbrella of FAFICS.

18. Mr. Schmidt went on to say that on 20 November the previous year the resolution for the establishment of AFICS-Cyprus was adopted and application for membership of the FAFICS was made which was reviewed by the FAFICS Bureau in Geneva in January 2013 and was accepted. The application would now be presented to FAFICS at its annual ordinary meeting in New York between 8 and 11 July 2013 and AFICS-Cyprus would be the first item on the Agenda for new membership of

FAFICS. He pointed out that FAFICS had contact with the General Assembly through the Fifty Committee, and any problems that required the attention of the Pension Board could be channeled through FAFICS who could speak on the Association's behalf. He felt that it would be beneficial to be members of FAFICS.

19. Mr. Schmidt added that on the UNJSPF website there was a link to FAFICS and, in turn, to all FAFICS Associations worldwide. The website also included the CEO UNJSPF's annual letter and was useful to access specific forms.

20. Mr. Schmidt further stated that there were brochures at the rear of conference room for those who wanted them which could also be obtained from the UNJSPF website. As regards FAFICS membership fees there would only be a charge for 6 months for the current year and the cost was \$ 1.35 per member per year.

21. In response to a query whether he would be attending the FAFICS meeting in July, Mr. Schmidt advised that as the travelling costs to New York were expensive provision had not been made for travel by a member of the Executive Committee. He added that he would not be in New York when the meeting would be held, but if anyone from the Assembly happened to be in New York at the time, i.e. during 8 to 11 July 2013, they could represent AFICS-Cyprus on 8 July 2013. There was no immediate response to this.

22. Mr. Brian Kelly queried whether there would be provision of video conferencing facilities at the meeting and Mr. Schmidt responded that he would attempt to find out. Mr. Schmidt then said that he was not sure whether the conference would actually be held in New York City or the greater metropolitan area. However, he said he would find out and report back to the Executive Committee.

23. Mr. Antoniadis opined that he did not think it necessary for a representative of AFICS-Cyprus to be present at the conference although it would be interesting to see approval of the Association's membership.

#### Agenda item 9 – Other business

24. Mr. Antoniadis stated that apart from holding an annual ordinary AFICS-Cyprus meeting and the Executive meetings, the Association should organize social activities for its members that could include excursions to get to know the island better and other activities. He added that the Association could make arrangements with other organizations, such as Lions Club, either to join them in their activities or to use their facilities. He suggested that two to three volunteers be elected to create a sub-committee to organize the social activities of the Association. Mr. Antoniadis proposal was received well by the Assembly and Ms. Miriam Pericleous, Mr. Michael Voniatis and Mr. Ioannis Antoniadis volunteered to form a sub-committee for social activities.

25. Mr. Antoniadis queried whether there was any other business for discussion.

26. In response to Ms. Pericleous concern that the retirees ID card did not mention which organization the retiree belonged to, Mr. Schmidt stated that the retiree passes were issued as a courtesy of UNFICYP and that AFICS-Cyprus had no control over the matter. Mr. Schmidt added that the Executive Committee had given details of its attending members to UNFICYP for their entry into UNPA and UNFICYP facilities, so they had no problem in coming into UNFICYP and this

would happen whenever there was a meeting hosted at that location. A discussion ensued as to whether members of the Association, who did not have a UNFICYP issued retiree pass, could be provided with a pass to enter into UNFICYP. Mr. Schmidt said that he could enquire from the UNFICYP Administration although it may come at a cost. The possibility of having a special AFICS card for members of the Association was also discussed.

27. The UNFICYP Chief Security Officer who was present at the meeting stated that as this was an administrative issue UNFICYP could be approached on the matter. He advised that an AFICS card could cost Euros 20. He added that as regards issuing cards to the members for entry into UNFICYP, if there happened to be one element of abuse the cards could be stopped. He went on to say that arrangements could be made for members to visit UNFICYP when necessary which he felt was adequate.

28. Mr. Antoniadis stated that he could see the pros and cons of AFICS having its own card and this topic would be discussed in more detail at the next meetings of the Executive Committee who would attempt to find the best solution and advise the members accordingly.

29. Mr. Schmidt referred to the list of 65 members of the Association which included the latest members and welcomed them to the Association. He referred to the meeting of 20 November 2012 when a discussion took place as regards to what details members wished to have disclosed. Those who joined after 20 November 2012 were required to fill in applications and he was in possession of their telephone numbers, postal addresses and some email addresses. However, this information had not been disclosed on the list for privacy reasons. He felt, however, that it would be useful for the list to be expanded to include telephone numbers and/or email addresses of members in case they wished to contact each other for any reason. A discussion on the matter took place and Mr. Schmidt took note of the information that the members agreed to have disclosed. An updated list would be sent to the members by email or post as soon as possible.

30. Mr. Schmidt advised the Assembly that he had very good relations with the Pension Fund and he would see if he could get a representative to come to Cyprus and provide the Association with information about the Pension Fund, the two track system and any other relevant information, possibly in the autumn of this year. He added that there would be no cost to the Association.

31. Mr. Schmidt stated that an Information Circular outlining the existence of AFICS-Cyprus including an application form for membership to the Association had been issued by UNFICYP and sent to UN entities in Cyprus to reach those who were due to retire. He asked the members who knew of anyone who was receiving a UN pension to let them know about the Association and to tell them about the website, application form, etc. He added that it was not a requirement for members of AFICS-Cyprus to reside in Cyprus as long as they fulfilled the criteria as specified in the Statutes.

32. There being no further business, Mr. Antoniadis adjourned the meeting at 12.20 hours.