



## Association of Former International Civil Servants (AFICS) – Cyprus

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

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### **EIGHTH ORDINARY AFICS-CYPRUS ASSEMBLY MEETING**

to be held at:

#### **UNFICYP Headquarters**

(SRSG's Dining Room)

Blue Beret Camp, UNPA, Nicosia

on:

**Tuesday, 17 March 2020**

11:30 hours to 13:00 hours

#### **Item 2 Final Minutes of the 7th Ordinary Assembly Meeting (2019) of AFICS-Cyprus**

1. The Final Minutes of the 7th Ordinary Assembly Meeting held on 12 March 2019 are brought to the attention of the Assembly for their formal approval. It is recalled that the Minutes were brought to the attention of the Association's members several months ago and all their comments and corrections were incorporated in the final document. In order to save paper, it shall not be distributed in printed form during the Assembly.
2. The Assembly is requested to formally approve the Minutes as attached.

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**Bank:** Hellenic Bank Ltd. (Branch 121), Corner 92 Digheni Akrita & Kretis, CY-1061 Nicosia

**Account Name:** Association of Former International Civil Servants (AFICS) - Cyprus

**Account No.:** 121-01-668228-01 (Euro) - **IBAN No.:** CY67 0050 0121 0001 2101 6682 2801 - **SWIFT (BIC):** HEBACY2N



MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH ORDINARY ASSEMBLY MEETING OF THE  
ASSOCIATION OF FORMER INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS IN CYPRUS (AFICS-CYPRUS)  
HELD AT THE EVOHIA SELF-SERVICE RESTAURANT, ARCHIEPISKOPOU MAKARIOU III AVENUE,  
99 AGIOI OMOLOGITAI, NICOSIA 1071 ON TUESDAY, 12 MARCH 2019

Agenda Item 1 – Opening of the Session and Adoption of the Agenda

1. Before opening the meeting formally, Mr. Ioannis Antoniadis (President of the Association and the Executive Committee), who, according to the Statutes, chairs the Assembly meetings, provided some information as to the sudden and unforeseen change of the venue of the meeting. In fact the meeting was scheduled to take place at the Bank of Cyprus Head Office (Lecture Room), 51 Stasinou Street, Ayia Paraskevi, Strovolos, Nicosia 2002 and some of those who arrived early had managed to enter the Bank of Cyprus building. Unfortunately the same day the Cyprus police scheduled an announced exercise to fight a terrorist attack against the Central Bank of Cyprus and the Bank of Cyprus headquarters. All roads were blocked and he and other members of the Executive Committee received telephone calls of AFICS members informing them that they were unable to approach the meeting place, because police had blocked all roads leading to it. After consulting the Executive Committee members present at the Bank, it was decided to move the meeting to the Evochia self-service restaurant, where a lunch of the AFICS members was foreseen after the Assembly had completed its business. Telephone calls were made to all those members who had decided to be present at the meeting. All those already at the Bank of Cyprus proceeded to the Evochia on foot. The personnel of Evochia put at the disposal of AFICS, free of charge, an appropriate meeting room. The President said that he was satisfied with the new arrangement and that it was not necessary to postpone the meeting.

2. The President, then, opened the meeting, formally, at 11.15 hours by welcoming all participants to the Seventh Ordinary Assembly meeting of the Association of International Civil Servants in Cyprus (AFICS). He advised that there were nine items on the agenda and it was anticipated that the meeting would be concluded by 12:30 hours in time for lunch at the Restaurant.

3. The President stated that according to the Statutes, the Ordinary Assembly meetings must be held with a minimum of 15 AFICS members. There were 22 members present who had paid their AFICS dues and another 12 members, in good standing, were represented by their respective powers of attorney, so in total there were 34 members, an excellent result given the circumstances. The President accordingly invited the members to make any comments or additions to the agenda. As none were forthcoming, the Agenda was adopted

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unanimously by the Assembly 'as is'. The approved agenda is attached as Annex I of the present document.

4. The President then proposed that Mr. Benon Sevan and he would take notes and shall have responsibility for the preparation of the first draft of the minutes of the meeting. He also suggested that the appointment of two ballot supervisors be postponed until they were required. The Assembly endorsed this approach.

*Agenda Item 2 – Adoption of the Minutes of the Sixth Assembly Meeting of 6 March 2018*

5. The President referred to the minutes of the Sixth 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 2018*

6. The President opened the discussion on this item by reminding the Assembly that this report was his last. In fact, at the end of the session of the Assembly, he will have completed 6 years of being a member at the Executive Committee and its President. Since after that service he was not re-eligible to the Committee, in next year's Assembly the Association shall have another Chairperson. He then expressed his sincere thanks to all AFICS members for giving him their trust and confidence during those 6 years and his pleasure in serving AFICS.

7. He continued by reminding members that a full report for all events in 2018 had been published on the WEB site of the Association as a document for the Assembly. In his oral introduction he would cover only matters concerning the Association's membership and the Executive Committee carried out during 2018. Other important items would be covered by the Secretary, Mr. Benon Sevan, the WEB master Mr. Gianfranco Longo, the social activities coordinator Mr. Michael Voniatis and the Newsletter Editor, Mrs. Miriam Pericleous.

8. The President stated that as at 31 December 2018, AFICS had, for that year, 56 active members, who had paid their dues. The evolution of the Association's membership, since 2013 (on 31 st December of each year) was as follows: 2013: 75 members; 2014: 77 members; 2015: 75 members; 2016: 72 members; 2017: 59 members; 2018: 56 members.

9. During 2018, the Executive Committee held a total of four meetings, as outlined below, all of which had the required quorum.

- 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting on 6 February 2018;      - 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting on 20 March 2018;
- 34<sup>th</sup> Meeting on 21 June 2018;      - 35<sup>th</sup> Meeting on 26 October 2018.

10. Mr. Benon Sevan reported on the various problems which the UNJSPF was facing. He drew attention to the issue n° 10 of the AFICS -Cyprus Newsletter which was issued in July 2018, which was sent to most of the members by e mail, with hard copies posted to those who did not have access to e mail and also published in the AFICS WEB-site. The Newsletter

provided with an update on the developments concerning the Pension Fund, covering the period up to 31 July 2018.

**11.** Furthermore, he continued, he had forwarded by e mail to the members a copy of the Open letter dated 4 March 2018 from Loraine Rickard-Martin, a retiree who also had the UN Pension Blog, addressed to the members and associate members of the Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants (FAFICS), entitled, "The FAFICS's President's misinformation campaign: no laughing matter". Attached thereto was the Report on Recent Activities by the President of AFICS, dated 19 February 2018, as well as the letter, dated 31 January 2018 from the President of AFICS addressed to the Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General.

**12.** He further stated that the much criticized and controversial Chief Executive Officer of the Pension Fund, Mr. Sergio Arvizu, who was reappointed by the Secretary-General in December 2017 for a second term for three years, has been on sick leave for several months. His continuation in office is subject to a performance review, thus practically placing him on probation, with continuation of his contract based on the Pension Board's report this summer on his progress in addressing performance issues of the Fund. At the AFICS/NY assembly held on 25 June 2018, it was announced that a search committee has been set up for selecting the CEO's replacement, given that his three-year contract ends in December 2020. The Deputy CEO is slated to retire at the end of August 2018. Questions have been raised about the legality of the Pension Board's process of selecting a new DCEO.

**13.** Mr. Terje Andersen reminded the meeting that the financial situation of the Association which had begun the year with a healthy carry-over of €8 103 remained healthy with a carry-over of €8 559 to the financial year 2019. In 2018 the total expenditure of €2 694,80 was lower than the income received during the year (€3 150).

**14.** The WEB master, Mr. Gianfranco Longo said that he had nothing to add to the written report. Dr. Michael Voniatis reported on the socio-cultural activities of the Association, which took place since the 6<sup>th</sup> Assembly: the first AFICS outing was a visit to the village of Pachna on 15 April 2018. First stop was the small, ancient church dedicated to St. Stephen the Martyr and Archdeacon, located about two kilometers south of Pachna. The Monolithos Winery was the next visit of the participants. Well-known and respected in the local area, being a small, family-run concern, committed to combining traditional techniques with the quality control benefits of modern technology, and produces some of the best Cabernet and Chardonnay wines on the island. After the visit to the winery, the group ended up at the Pachna Youth Club next to the church of St. George, where typical local "mezedes" were served.

**15.** Two social functions have taken place during the last quarter of 2018. The first was the Association's annual dinner held on 30 October at the SITIO restaurant, and the other, the getting together dinner on 13 December at Stasikratous 30 in Nicosia. 23 members and their companions/friends participated in the annual dinner. The total cost paid from the AFICS budget to the SITIO Restaurant at Archbishop Makarios III avenue, amounted to 575

Euro, of which 246 Euro was the AFICS subsidy. The getting-together dinner at the STASIKRATOUS 30 with its indoor environment was a good choice. The dinner begun at 19.30 with drinks in a covered veranda followed at 20.00 with the dinner until, almost, midnight. 26 members and their companions/friends participated, an occasion to say good bye to 2018 and wish the best for 2019. The total cost for this gathering amounted to €684, of which €196 was subsidised by AFICS.

**16.** The Newsletter Editor, Mrs. Miriam Pericleous, stated that she hoped this publication was of interest to all, and again requested inputs from any member who had an article of interest to readers. This could be anything from a personal experience to a suggested place of interest to visit. During 2018 two numbers of the Newsletter were issued; n° 9 in January 2018 and n° 10 in July 2018.

**17.** The President expressed thanks to the Executive Committee members for the input provided and then opened the floor to the Assembly for discussion. A brief discussion followed and then the President invited the Assembly to take note of the Report. The Assembly took note of the report with appreciation.

#### Agenda Item 4 - Election of Members to Executive Committee Vacant Seats

**18.** In introducing this item, the President said that the participants had available to them a document concerning the elections of members to the Executive Committee, which had been circulated by e-mail and posted on the AFICS Web-site. He then reminded the Assembly that the current number of the members of the Executive Committee was as follows:

#### End of this Seventh Assembly Session 2019 (12 March 2019)

Mr. Terje Andersen (First Term), Mr. Ioannis Antoniadis (Third Term) and Mr. Benon Sevan (First Term)

#### End of Eighth Assembly Session 2020 (March 2020)

Ms. Aida Bichara-McNally (First Term), Mr. Gianfranco Longo (Third Term), Ms. Miriam Pericleous (Third Term) and Dr. Michael Voniatis (Second Term)

**19.** The President informed the Assembly that from the three members retiring at the end of the Assembly's session, two had accepted to present themselves for re-election, Mr. Terje Andersen and Mr. Benon Sevan. Mr. Ioannis Antoniadis having served three terms, he could not present his candidature for a fourth consecutive term. From its inception, until 2014, the President continued, the Executive Committee was operating with the minimum membership of five. However, the Assembly, during its second Ordinary Session of 12 March 2014, had elected two additional members, thus bringing the total to seven. As of 10 March 2015, with the resignation of one member of the Committee who had accepted a long-term position outside Cyprus, the Committee had operated with six members. As of 8 March 2016, following the Assembly decisions at its fourth Session, the Committee operated,

again, with seven members. It would be highly desirable then that the Assembly proceeds with the re-election of the two members and with the election of a new member.

**20.** The Secretary then said that it would be desirable that the new member to be elected should be a lady, since the female members at the Committee were only two. None of the members present at the Assembly wished to be a candidate for replacing Mr. Antoniadis and consequently the Committee would operate, until its 8<sup>th</sup> Session in 2020 with six members. Mr. Sevan then suggested that the Assembly permits to Mr. Ioannis Antoniadis to participate at the meetings of the Executive Committee as an Adviser, without the right to vote.

**21.** The Assembly, in accordance with Article 8.1(e) of its Statutes, took note of the fact that the term-of-office of three members of the Executive Committee ended on 12 March 2019 and it decided:

**(a)** To re-elect Mr. Terje Andersen (Second Term) and Mr. Benon Sevan (Second Term) for a period of two years, ending at the close of the Ninth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in 2021; and,

**(b)** To authorize Mr. Ioannis Antoniadis to be present to the meetings of the Executive Committee as a consultant, without the right to vote.

**(c)** To authorize a 6-member composition of the Executive Committee until its next Ordinary Session in March 2020.

After the Assembly's decisions the membership of the Executive Committee stood as follows:

End of Eighth Assembly Session 2020 (March 2020)

Ms. Aida Bichara-McNally (First Term), Mr. Gianfranco Longo (Third Term), Ms. Miriam Pericleous (Third Term) and Dr. Michael Voniatis (Second Term)

End of the Ninth Assembly Session 2021 (March 2021)

Mr. Terje Andersen (Second Term), Mr. Benon Sevan (Second Term)

Agenda Item 5 – 2018 Actual Income and Expenditure and Related Statements

**22.** The Treasurer, Mr. Terje Andersen introduced the item by emphasizing the fact that due to the expenditure policies of the Executive Committee the finances of AFICS showed a comfortable positive balance. He went on to say that in accordance with the Statutes, the Assembly should formally take note of the 2018 Accounts, and endorse the Executive Committee's financial administration of the Association for the financial year 1 January to 31 December 2018. This, he said, should happen after the examination of the report by the Auditor on the 2018 accounts.

**23.** As there were no queries concerning the 2018 accounts by the members, the President moved to the next item of the Agenda.

*Agenda Item 6 - Report by the Auditor (Mr. Kikis Angelides) on the 2018 Income and Expenditures*

**24.** The President referred to the report of the Association's auditor, Mr. Kikis Angelides, and the financial statements for 2018. He continued by saying that Mr. Angelides had nothing to add in addition to his written statements.

**25.** The President queried whether the participants had any comments to make. As there were none, the Assembly took note with appreciation of Mr. Kikis Angelides' audit report. Then, as requested by the President, the Assembly approved the 2018 Accounts as presented and endorsed the financial administration of the Association for the year.

*Agenda Item 8 – Election of Auditor*

**26.** The President stated that the document which was prepared for the attention of the Assembly foresaw the re-election of Mr. Kikis Angelides for another term-of-office. Mr. Angelides had no objection to his re-election.

**27.** The President opened the floor for any comments on this item. As there were none, the Assembly, in accordance with Article 7.6(e) of its Statutes, elected Mr. Kikis Angelides as the Association's Auditor, with a term of office beginning on 12 March 2019 and ending at the close of its Eighth Ordinary Session to be held in 2020.

*Agenda Item 8 – Review and Adoption of the Draft 2019 Budget*

**28.** The President introduced this item and stated that the Statutes of the Association foresee that its fiscal year should run from 1 January to 31 December of a calendar year. He reminded the members that for the fiscal year 2019 the total estimated new income would amount to €3 500 and the total estimated expenditure to €3 499. The total expenditure for the year would not exceed the total income.

**29.** He stated that the 2019 draft budget of the Association, covering the period 1 January to 31 December 2019, with the accompanying notes, which were an integral part of it, had been prepared by the Treasurer and approved by the Executive Committee. The President formally presented the draft 2019 budget for approval by the Assembly and asked if there were any comments. As there were no comments, the Assembly approved the 2019 Budget, as presented, without modifications.

*Agenda Item 9 - Other Business*

**30.** No further issues were raised from the floor.

Next Assembly

**31.** In accordance with the established practice, the next Assembly Session (8<sup>th</sup>) will take place on a date in March 2020 to be decided by the Executive Committee pursuant to Article 7 of the Association's Statutes.

**32.** There being no further business, The President adjourned the meeting at 12:30 hours



## **ANNEX I**

### **SEVENTH ORDINARY AFICS-CYPRUS ASSEMBLY MEETING**

held at:

**EVOHIA** self-service restaurant,  
Archiepiskopou Makariou III Avenue,  
99 Agioi Omologitai, Nicosia 1071

on:

**Tuesday, 12 March 2019**  
11:15 hours to 12:20 hours

#### **Item 1      DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1.      Opening of the Session and Adoption of the Agenda
2.      Adoption of the 6 March 2018 Minutes of the Sixth Assembly Meeting
3.      Report of the President on the Activities for the Year 2018
4.      Election of Members to Executive Committee Vacant Seats
5.      2018 Actual Income and Expenditure and Related Statements
6.      Report by the Auditor (Mr. Kikis Angelides) on the 2018 Income and Expenditures
7.      Election of Auditor
8.      Review and Adoption of the Draft 2019 Budget
9.      Other Business
  - Next Assembly