



MINUTES OF THE FIFTH ORDINARY ASSEMBLY MEETING OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF FORMER INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS IN CYPRUS (AFICS-CYPRUS)
HELD AT UNFICYP HEADQUARTERS ON 7 MARCH 2017

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

1. Mr. Ioannis Antoniadis (President of the Association and the Executive Committee) opened the meeting at 11.00 hours by welcoming all participants to the Fifth 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 UNFICYP International Cafeteria, for those who had opted to do so.
2. The President stated that according to the Statutes, the Ordinary Assembly meetings must be held with a minimum of 15 AFICS members. There were 25 members present who had paid their AFICS dues and another 10 members, in good standing, were represented by their respective powers of attorney, so in total there were 35 members. The President accordingly invited the members to make any comments or additions to the agenda. As none were forthcoming, **the Agenda was adopted unanimously by the Assembly 'as is'**. The approved agenda is attached at Annex I hereto.
3. The President then proposed that Dr. Michael Voniatis be requested to take the minutes of the meeting and that he would also assist. 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 8 March 2016 Minutes of the Fourth Assembly Meeting

4. The President referred to the minutes of the Fourth Assembly meeting and asked the members of the Association whether they had any comments to make. 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 2016

5. The President opened the session by informing the Assembly that tomorrow, 8 March, was celebrated yearly by the UN and all nations as International Women's Day (IWD). The UN began celebrating IWD on 8 March during the International Women's Year 1975 and two years later, in December 1977, the General Assembly adopted a Resolution proclaiming a United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace. Around the world, IWD can be an important catalyst and vehicle for driving greater change for women and moving closer to gender parity. AFICS has fulfilled its parity pledge, since its Executive Committee currently consists of three women and three men! Increasingly, International Women's Day is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities. The President then paid tribute to all women in AFICS.

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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

6. The President went on to say that a full report of all events during 2016 has been published on the Association's Website. Therefore, he stated that his introduction would cover only matters concerning the Association's membership and the Executive Committee. Other important items would be covered by the Social and Cultural Activities Coordinator, Dr Michael Voniatis, the Webmaster Mr Gianfranco Longo and the Newsletter Editor, Mrs Miriam Pericleous.

7. The President continued by confirming that on 31 December 2016, AFICS had 72 active members who had paid their dues, as compared to 77 members in 2015 and 64 in 2014.

8. During 2016, the Executive Committee held a total of six meetings, as outlined below, all of which had the required quorum.

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|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| - 22nd Meeting on 19 January 2016; | - 23rd Meeting on 1 March 2016; |
| - 24th Meeting on 15 March 2016; | - 25th Meeting on 7 June 2016; |
| - 26th Meeting on 13 September 2016; | - 27th Meeting on 8 November 2016. |

9. Mr. Michael Voniatis reported on the socio-cultural activities of the Association. During the year 2016, he said, three major social events had been organized by AFICS-CY with adequate participation: (i) 12th April 2016, a visit to the Centre of Cultural Heritage in old Nicosia where its Director, Dr. Sofocles Sofocleous delivered a lecture on old Nicosia, Fourteen AFICS members with their guests attended. The lecture was followed by lunch. (ii) 12th October, the AFICS-CY annual dinner took place at the EVOCHIA restaurant in Nicosia. Twenty seven persons participated; of these 16 were members and 12 were their spouses/companions/friends. (iii) 15th November, a guided tour to the Byzantine Museum in Makarios III Foundation was organized by Dr. Sofocles Sofocleous, Director of the Cultural Heritage Centre at Nicosia. 15 participants took part at this visit, of which 8 were AFICS members and 5 guests. After the visit the members, accompanied by a guest and Dr. Sofocleous sat for lunch at a small tavern, "Peiraios 17". (iv) Finally, on 15 December, the last social gathering, a lunch at the "Bistro 48", at 48 Archbishop Makarios III Avenue, took place, from 12.30 to almost 3 p.m. 19 members participated in the excellent lunch, it was an occasion to say good bye to 2016 and wish the best for 2017.

10. Mr. Gianfranco Longo informed the Assembly that, due to a necessary software upgrade, he redesigned the Association's website. He also redesigned the Association's membership card and hoped everyone was pleased with the outcome.

11. Mrs Miriam Pericleous then commented briefly on the AFICS newsletter which is published twice a year (January and July) and thanked the President for his compliments on this bulletin. She then asked the Assembly for comments, stating that all contributions and ideas for its improvement would be welcome.

12. The President expressed thanks to the three Executive Committee members for the input provided and then opened the floor to the Assembly for discussion.

13. As there were no speakers for the item, he invited the Assembly to take note of his Report. **The Assembly took note of the oral report with appreciation.**

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

14. On introducing this item, the President said that the participants had in front of them a document concerning the elections of members to the Executive Committee, which had been

circulated by e-mail.. He then reminded the Assembly that the Executive Committee consisted at present of the following six members:

Term-of-office terminating at the end of the Session

Mr. Ioannis Antoniadis and Ms. Ero Kimoni

Term-of-Office terminating at the end of Sixth Assembly Session 2018

Ms. Fredy Galatopoulou, Ms. Miriam Pericleous,

Mr. Gianfranco Longo and Dr. Michael Voniatis

15. The President informed the Assembly that from the two members retiring at the end of the Assembly's session, he had accepted to present himself for re-election for a third and last consecutive term. Mrs. Ero Kimoni, unfortunately, was unable to present herself for another term. The Statutes of the Association foresee that the Executive Committee shall consist of at least five but not more than seven members.

16. 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, 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 operated with six members. If the Assembly accepted the his re-election, the Executive Committee, at the close of the Assembly's session, shall operate with five members. It would be highly desirable then that the Assembly proceeds with the election of two additional members and an appeal for candidatures was sent to all members. In that appeal the AFICS members were informed that participation in the AFICS-Cyprus Executive Committee requires only the will to help, an active involvement in the meetings and a few hours per month to attend these meetings and social functions. it was absolutely essential to ensure that there was a regular renewal of Committee Members so that new blood and ideas can enrich our programmes and make our events more attractive and beneficial to all.

17. The President terminated his oral introduction of the item by underlining that for that reason, the Executive Committee urged all members to examine the possibility of submitting their names for consideration at the present and the next Assembly Meeting. He said that there were no more than six meetings of the EC per annum, they were held in the English language and required no particular qualifications. The newly elected members would be guided by the ongoing members who will continue to serve for at least a full year. The meetings were usually held at the Blue Beret camp. If newly elected members resided in another city, their taxi fares or petrol would be reimbursed by the Association's Treasurer. The President then opened the floor for discussion.

18. Mrs. Terpsi Ioannou took the floor to say that there were AFICS members who were ready to assist with tasks entrusted to them by the Executive Committee, in spite of the fact that their time schedule or their health did not permit them to participate as full members of the Committee. Those members would assist the Committee unofficially as a silent member without any compensation. If the Assembly agreed with the suggestion, then she was prepared to be a silent member. The President requested the Assembly to endorse Mrs. Ioannou's proposal and to approve that she would act as a silent member. **The Assembly approved that Mrs. Ioannou become a silent member assisting from time to time the Executive Committee with specific tasks entrusted to her by the President of the Executive Committee.**

19. Then two members, Mr. Benon Sevan, the Association's Auditor and Mr. Terje Andersen took the floor to say that after hearing the appeal of the President for candidatures for election to the Executive Committee, they decided to present themselves for election, in spite of their many other commitments. The President endorsed the two candidatures and invited the Assembly's approval.

20. The Assembly, in accordance with Article 8.1(e) of its Statutes, took note of the fact that the term-of-office of two members of the Executive Committee ends on 7 March 2017 and it decided:

A. To re-elect Mr. Ioannis ANTONIADES for a third and last term of office, for a period of two years, ending at the close of the Seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly in 2019:

B. To elect the following two members for a period of two years, ending at the close of the Seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly in 2019:

1. Mr. Terje ANDERSEN
2. Mr. Benon SEVAN

Agenda Item 5 – 2016 Actual Income and Expenditure and Related Statements

21. The President introduced this item by emphasizing the fact that due to the expenditure policies of the Executive Committee and the advice received from the Association's Auditor, 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 2016 Accounts, and endorse the Executive Committee's financial administration of the Association for the financial year 1 January to 31 December 2016. This, he said, should happen after the examination of the report by the Auditor on the 2016 accounts. He then asked the floor if there were any comments or observations.

22. One member asked why the Association's reserves were so high in respect to the yearly income. The President explained that during the initial years of the Association, the Executive Committee did not approve any subventions for the Social Activities or Grants. That policy was modified last year and in future the AFICS' reserves should be lower.

Agenda Item 6 - Report by the Auditor Mr. B. Sevan) on the 2016 Income and Expenditures

23. The President referred to the report of the Association's auditor, Mr. Benon Sevan, and the financial statements for 2016 and gave the floor to Mr. Sevan who introduced his report to the Assembly and stated that according to his examination, the AFICS' accounts, which were small in terms of expenditures, were in very good order and that the Association's funds had been spent prudently.

24. The President queried whether the participants had any comments to make. As there were none, **the Assembly took note with appreciation of Mr. Benon Sevan's audit report.** Then, as requested by the President, **the Assembly approved the 2016 Accounts as presented and endorsed the prudent financial administration of the Association.**

Agenda Item 7 – Election of Auditor

25. The President stated that the document which was prepared for the attention of the Assembly foresaw the re-election of Mr. Benon Sevan for another term-of-office. However, since Mr. Sevan had submitted his candidature for election to the Executive Committee, candidature approved by the Assembly, he was no more eligible to the office of Auditor.

26. The President emphasized that since the office of the Auditor is essential and Cypriot law requires it for all associations, he was proposing that Mr. Kikis Angelides, who had served for many years in financial positions at UNESCO including that of Inspector-General, to be the Association's Auditor for a period of one year. He was certain that Mr. Angelides would accept to serve as the Association's Auditor.

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 7 March 2017 and ending at the close of its Sixth Ordinary Session to be held in 2018.**

Agenda Item 8 – Review and Adoption of the Draft 2017 Budget

28. The President introduced this item and stated that the Statutes of the Association foresee that its fiscal year shall run from 1 January to 31 December of a calendar year.

29. He stated that the 2017 draft budget of the Association, covering the period 1 January to 31 December 2017, with the accompanying notes, which were an integral part of it, has been prepared by the Treasurer and approved by the Executive Committee. The President formally presented the draft 2017 budget for approval by the Assembly and asked if there were any comments. As there were no comments, **the Assembly approved the 2017 Budget as presented without modifications.**

Agenda Item 9 - Other Business

30. No further issues were raised by the floor.

Next Assembly

31. Given this, and in line with established practice, the next Assembly Session (6th) will take place on a date in March 2018 to be established by the Executive Committee in line with Article 7 of the Association's Statutes.

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

ANNEX i

FIFTH ORDINARY AFICS-CYPRUS ASSEMBLY MEETING

to be held at:

UNFICYP Headquarters
(SRSG's Dining Room)
Blue Beret Camp, UNPA, Nicosia

on:

Tuesday, 7 March 2017
11:00 hours to 12:30 hours

Item 1 DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the Session and Adoption of the Agenda
2. Adoption of the 8 March 2016 Minutes of the Fourth Assembly Meeting
3. Report of the President on the Activities for the Year 2016
4. Election of Members to Executive Committee Vacant Seats
5. 2016 Actual Income and Expenditure and Related Statements
6. Report by the Auditor (Mr. Benon Sevan) on the 2016 Income and Expenditures
7. Election of Auditor
8. Review and Adoption of the Draft 2017 Budget
9. Other Business
 - Next Assembly