



MINUTES OF THE SIXTH ORDINARY ASSEMBLY MEETING OF THE  
ASSOCIATION OF FORMER INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS IN CYPRUS (AFICS-CYPRUS)  
HELD AT UNFICYP HEADQUARTERS ON 6 MARCH 2018

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 11.10 hours by welcoming all participants to the Sixth 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 24 members present who had paid their AFICS dues and another 8 members, in good standing, were represented by their respective powers of attorney, so in total there were 32 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 as Annex I of the present document.

3. The President then proposed that Mr. Benon Sevan and Dr. Michael Voniatis be requested to take the minutes of the meeting and that he too would assist them in that regard. 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 7 March 2017 Minutes of the Fifth Assembly Meeting

4. The President referred to the minutes of the Fifth 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 2017

5. The President opened the session by reminding the Assembly that on 8 March the U.N. was celebrating International Women's Day (IWD). In that respect he said that AFICS could do much better at its Executive Committee where only two of its members were women.

6. The President went on to say that a full report of all events during 2017 had been published on the Association's Website and that it was also presented as an Assembly document. 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 Secretary, Mr. Benon Sevan, the Treasurer, Mr. Terje Andersen, and the Social and Cultural Activities Coordinator, Dr Michael Voniatis.

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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

**7.** The President stated that as at 31 December 2017, AFICS had 60 active members who had paid their dues, as compared to 72 members in 2016. On 1 January 2018 the number of active members had increased to 61 with the reinstatement of a member and 62 on 1 February 2018, with the admission of a new member, Ms. Rafaella Nicol, residing in Paphos district, who had already paid her dues and was participating in the Assembly

**8.** During 2017, the Executive Committee had held four meetings, as follows:  
 - 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting on 10 January 2017; - 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting on 28 March 2017;  
 - 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting on 12 September 2017; - 31<sup>st</sup> Meeting on 5 December 2017.

**9.** Mr. Benon Sevan reported on the various problems which the UNJSPF was facing. He drew attention to the latest issue of the AFICS -Cyprus Newsletter which was issued in January 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. The Newsletter provided with an update on the developments concerning the Pension Fund, covering the period up to 31 January 2018. Since then, he had also forwarded to the members, on 4 March, copy of the Open Letter to OIOS from UN retirees/beneficiaries of the Pension Fund, and encouraged the members to respond positively on the subject: Audit of the governance of the Pension Board: Representation of retirees/beneficiaries on the Pension Board.

**10.** 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.

**11.** The details of the action taken by the Secretary-General regarding the Pension Fund were provided in the Newsletter. Accordingly, he would not go into further details except emphasizing that in response to the appeals, as well as concerns expressed by Pensioners and current staff members, the Secretary-General had appointed Sudhir Rajkumar, the head of the global pension advisory programme at the World Bank, to replace Ms Carol Boykin, as his Representative for Investments at the UN Pension Fund, which had experienced chronic investment under-performance and other managerial deficiencies. As reported in the Newsletter, in 2016, the Pension Fund with total assets of a record \$61.5 billion at the end of October 2017, had experienced a massive currency loss of almost \$1 billion, with almost \$5 billion in cumulative losses since 2013.

**12.** He further stated that while we might be disappointed with the failure to replace the CEO of the Pension Fund despite the call for the Secretary-General to do so, the current outcome was the best that could be achieved under the circumstances of a divided Pension Board. The initial recommendation of the Pension Board was to renew the term of the CEO for another five years, which was then reduced to three years. While accepting the Pension Board's recommendation to reappoint the CEO for a second term of three years, the CEO's continuation would be subject to an annual review , thus practically placing him on probation with a renewable one-year contract.

**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 in spite of the fact that the 2017 expenditures were, again, higher than the income received during the year.

**14.** Dr. Michael Voniatis reported on the socio-cultural activities of the Association, which took place since the 5<sup>th</sup> Assembly: the first AFICS outing was a trip to the mountain villages of

Kalopanagiotis and Kakopetria. Twelve participants, accompanied by Dr. Sofocles Sofocleous took part. Kalopanagiotis is known for its healthy sulphur springs, and its church of Agios Ioannis Lampadistis. Originally a monastery, today it is a complex of three churches: Agios Irakleidios, Agios Ioannis Lampadistis and a Latin chapel – all under a single pitched roof. Originally built in the 11th century, the chapel was rebuilt in the 18th century and is a listed UNESCO World Heritage Site. The group also visited a very interesting Byzantine museum located near the church. Participants then headed for the village of Pedoulas, where lunch had been organised at the Flowers Hotel restaurant, set on the side of the mountain. Then, on to the village of Kakopetria for a tour of the church of Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis (St. Nicholas of the Roof). This church, covered entirely in wall paintings dating from the 11th to the 18th centuries, derives its name from its steep-pitched timber roof that was built to protect it from the elements. It now functions as a simple country church and a pilgrimage site, and is also a listed UNESCO World Heritage Site. Credit must be given to our excellent guide, Dr. Sofocleous, who is extremely knowledgeable as regards the history of this island. The second activity took place on 20 October 2017 when AFICS had its annual get together dinner at the De Moss Café in Nicosia. In this event 27 members enjoyed an excellent dinner and evening. The third activity took place on 15 December 2017 at Pissas Taverna, again in Nicosia, when in true festive spirit, the 26 members who attended enjoyed a delicious meze lunch to celebrate the season of goodwill.

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

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

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

**17.** 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 were as follows:

End of Session

Ms. Fredy Galatopoulou (Second Term), Mr. Gianfranco Longo (Second term), Ms. Miriam Pericleous, (Second term) and Dr. Michael Voniatis (First Term)

End of Seventh Assembly Session 2019

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

**18.** The President informed the Assembly that from the four members retiring at the end of the Assembly's session, three had accepted to present themselves for re-election. Mrs. Fredy Galatopoulou, unfortunately, was unable to present herself for another term.

**19.** 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 three 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 only female member at the end the Session would be Mrs. Pericleous; Mr. Sevan then suggested that the Assembly proceeds to elect Mrs. Aida Bichara-McNally. Mrs. Bichara-McNally thanked Mr. Sevan, but wished to inform the Assembly that she was residing in Paphos and it would not be easy for her to be present at all the meetings of the Executive Committee. If that was understood and accepted she had no objection to her election.

21. **The Assembly, in accordance with Article 8.1(e) of its Statutes, took note of the fact that the term-of-office of four members of the Executive Committee ended on 6 March 2018 and it decided:**

(a) **To re-elect Mr. Gianfranco Longo and Ms. Miriam Pericleous, (for a third and last term) and Dr. Michael Voniatis (for a second Term), for a period of two years, ending at the close of the Eighth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in 2020; and,**

(b) **To elect the following member for a period of two years, ending at the close of the Eighth Ordinary Session of the Assembly in 2020: Mrs. Aida BICHARA-McNALLY**

Agenda Item 5 – 2017 Actual Income and Expenditure and Related Statements

22. The Treasurer 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 2017 Accounts, and endorse the Executive Committee's financial administration of the Association for the financial year 1 January to 31 December 2017. This, he said, should happen after the examination of the report by the Auditor on the 2016 accounts.

23. As there were no queries concerning the 2017 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 2017 Income and Expenditures

24. The President referred to the report of the Association's auditor, Mr. Kikis Angelides, and the financial statements for 2017 and gave the floor to Mr. Angelides 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. The President said that Mr. Angelides had drawn his attention to the fact that the 2017 expenditures were higher than the 2017 fresh Income and requested that this be dealt in future financial periods. The President assured the Assembly that the accounts as of 2018 shall show all related fresh income for the financial period and that expenditure shall remain within reasonable limits so that the Association's reserves are preserved.

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 2017 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 6 March 2018 and ending at the close of its Seventh Ordinary Session to be held in 2019.**

Agenda Item 8 – Review and Adoption of the Draft 2018 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.

29. He stated that the 2018 draft budget of the Association, covering the period 1 January to 31 December 2018, 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 2018 budget for approval by the Assembly and asked if there were any comments. As there were no comments, **the Assembly approved the 2018 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 2019 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**

**SIXTH ORDINARY AFICS-CYPRUS ASSEMBLY MEETING**

held at:

**UNFICYP Headquarters**

(SRSG's Dining Room)

Blue Beret Camp, UNPA, Nicosia

on:

**Tuesday, 6 March 2018**

11:10 hours to 12:30 hours

**APPROVED AGENDA**

1. Opening of the Session and Adoption of the Agenda
2. Adoption of the 7 March 2017 Minutes of the Fifth Assembly Meeting
3. Report of the President on the Activities for the Year 2017
4. Election of Members to Executive Committee Vacant Seats
5. 2017 Actual Income and Expenditure and Related Statements
6. Report by the Auditor (Mr. Kikis Angelides) on the 2017 Income and Expenditures
7. Election of Auditor
8. Review and Adoption of the Draft 2018 Budget
9. Other Business
  - Next Assembly