



Newsletter

ASSOCIATION DES ANCIENS FONCTIONNAIRES INTERNATIONAUX - Genève
ASSOCIATION OF FORMER INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS - Geneva

5 August 2010

39th SESSION OF THE FAFICS COUNCIL

The 39th session of the Council of the Federation of Associations of Former International Servants (FAFICS) was held in the refurbished offices of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) from 8 to 13 July 2010. The Council was hosted by BAFUNCS, the British Association of Former United Nations Civil Servants.

27 associations were present or represented at the Council.

AAFI-AFICS was represented by Katia Chestopalov, Roger Eggleston and Odette Foudral.

FAFICS is celebrating its 35th Anniversary and it is heart-warming to see that the body which was founded in 1975 by the Geneva, New York and Rome Associations of Former International Civil Servants should now have close to 50 member associations.

The 2010 Council session saw the admission of associations in Malaysia-Singapore-Brunei, Mauritius, Somali and Ukraine.

The heavy agenda was managed by the Presiding Officer, Anton Doeve from FFOA, Rome. Attention focused on pension and health issues. A careful review of the issues on the agenda of the 57th session of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board allowed participants to discuss and prioritize the proposals being put forward to the Board by the Working Group on Plan Design. The elimination of the 0.5% reduction in the first adjustment after retirement was clearly the first priority for everyone. (A report on the Pension Board session is being published separately)

In terms of health matters, the Council was made aware of the concerns expressed, *inter alia*, at the Annual General Assembly of AAFI-AFICS in respect of After Service Health Care. The AAFI-AFICS delegation brought forward a resolution on the matter; this was unanimously adopted by the Council as follows:

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE WORKING GROUP ON AFTER SERVICE HEALTH CARE FOR SUBMISSION TO THE 39th FAFICS COUNCIL

The Thirty-ninth session of the FAFICS Council:

Taking note of UN General Assembly resolution (A/C.5/64/L.15 of 28 December 2009),

Recalling that, in his letter of 28 November 2008 to the United Nations Secretary General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Chief Executives Board, the President of FAFICS had drawn attention *inter alia* to the

importance of preserving the Organisations' After Service Health Care provisions,

Concerned that the request to the UN Secretary General contained in operative paragraph 3 of that resolution makes specific reference to “the financial and legal implications of changing, for current retirees and active staff members, (i) the scope and coverage of after-service health insurance plans and (ii) the contribution levels”,

Underlining that the provision of After Service Health Insurance is a vital element in the package of benefits designed to attract and retain an effective expatriate workforce and hence to the maintenance of the integrity of the International Civil Service;

1. *Upholds* and is dedicated to ensuring the maintenance of current After Service Health Insurance (ASHI) schemes and the integrity of related benefits for all current and future eligible participants;
2. *Urges* Organisations of the United Nations system to take all necessary steps to ensure the financial viability of ASHI schemes so that they are adequate to meet the entitlements of retirees and their dependents;
3. *Requests* the FAFICS Bureau and its Working Group on After Service Health Care, in close collaboration with Member Associations to:

- a). follow closely the evolution of this matter in the United Nations General Assembly,
- b). take all such actions as it deems necessary to inform the United Nations Secretariat and the administrations of other UN System Organisations of its concerns,
- c). seek legal advice, if necessary, in terms of defending the acquired rights of those in receipt of ASHI coverage,
- d). press for regular actuarial evaluations of ASHI schemes,
- e). provide whatever assistance to the UN Secretariat that may be helpful to it in terms of the inclusion of the views of retirees in the preparation of the comprehensive report requested by the General Assembly for submission in 2012,
- f). report on progress to the FAFICS Council in 2011.

Marking his last session as Secretary, our own Anders Tholle (former President of AAFI-AFICS) presided majestically over the election process as a result of which Andres Castellanos was re-elected as President and Katia Chestopalov (representing AAFI-AFICS Geneva) is one of the 7 Vice-Presidents. Jay Sundaresan, also from AAFI-AFICS Geneva, takes over from Anders Tholle as Secretary of the Federation. Anders' work and continuous commitment being praised by the assembly, he was therefore nominated as Secretary Emeritus. Roger Eggleston will be responsible for pursuing health matters in the Federation as well as continuing to represent FAFICS at the 2011 UN Pension Board.

