



FAIB

La Fédération des Associations européennes et internationales établies en Belgique
Rue Washington, 40 - 1050 Bruxelles Tél. +32(2) 641 11 95 - fax : +32(2) 641 11 93 Web : www.faib.org

Président : Daniel Van Espen

Secrétaire générale : Danièle Vranken

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FAIB News distribution, DIGEST and FLASH FAIB Reminder

The full version of the **FAIB News** is only be available to FAIB Members both in printed and electronic version (via their personal password to the FAIB Website – contact faib@faib.org for details).

A “**FAIB Digest**” summarising the contents of the full version, is distributed to the non-member international associations in Belgium so as to inform them of the subjects dealt with at FAIB level. It is also posted on the home-page of our website.

Furthermore, in between two editions of the FAIB News, a “**FLASH FAIB**” system is implemented by which our members are informed of the latest news or consulted on relevant enquiries from third parties.

Join our membership! More details by contacting Barbara Panacci +32 2 641 11 95 or faib@faib.org.

Editorial de Daniel Van Espen, Président de la FAIB : Les OING et la décennie internationale de rapprochement des cultures.

Par cette initiative, l'UNESCO adopte un programme d'action pour une culture de paix et de rapprochement des cultures, pour une compréhension mutuelle propice à une coexistence harmonieuse entre les peuples et pour une affirmation des idéaux d'une humanité plurielle. Daniel invite les associations membres de la FAIB qui s'inscrivent dans cette perspective à faire part de leurs réflexions et à contribuer par leur action à créer les dividendes de la diversité culturelle dans un monde plus sûr pour tous. L'implication active des femmes et des jeunes est particulièrement bienvenue.

Calendar of events.

- **Lunch Debates:** (12.00-13.00: sandwich-lunch; 13.00-14.30: presentation and QA)

- 24.10.13 : Overcoming cultural differences in communication, by Isabel Amaral, President of Portuguese Protocol Studies Association
- 28.11.13 : le Statut unique ouvrier-employé par Antoine Druetz et Claudia Allatta (Avocats Lorenz Law)
- 16.01.2014 : Competition Complaine (the CEFIC Programme et how to optmize actions of an association)

- **Seminar supported by FAIB:** 12.11.2013: **7th UIA Round Table** – Europe, Pullman Hotel at Brussels Midi, including a session on European VAT applicable to associations by Brent Springael, lawyer at Bird & Bird and FAIB Associate Member (<http://www.uia.org/roundtable>).

Exhibitions and site inspection visits: call the FAIB Secretariat and get more details

- 28.11 – 1.12.2013: Hamburg
- 4 – 6.12 2103 M.I.N.D. Copenhagen
- 22-23.01. 2014 Conventa, Ljublijana, Slovenia
- 9 - 11.02.2014, MCE CEE, Bucharest

New full members of the FAIB: we are pleased to welcome the following associations / foundations:

- **Council of European Dentists:** oral healthcare across Europe www.eudental.eu
- **CropLife :** quality and production in the plant science industry www.croplife.org
- **Confederation of National Associations of Tanners and Dressers In the EU** www.euroleather.com
- **Leaseurope:** the leasing and automotive rental industry in the EU www.leaseurope.org
- **UECNA:** Union européenne contre les nuisances aériennes www.uecna.eu

The principles of Corporate Governance applied to Not-for-Profit Associations by Marie Gemma-Dequae, Scientific Advisor and Florence Bindelle, Executive Director - FERMA FAIB, 19.9.2013

Dr Dequae presented the basic principles of corporate governance that can be transposed to the management of international associations as will be demonstrated by the practical case outlined by Florence Bindelle who took part in implementing them within her own association, FERMA aisbl in Brussels. Several questions were raised by the audience, notably on the feasibility of implementing such procedures in smaller associations, if there were ways to ensure members' commitments and what was the real responsibility of board members. More: faib@faib.org

Convening the General Assembly on the request of 1/5 of the members, by Antoine Druetz, Counsel at the law firm Lorenz and FAIB Associate member

The underlying rules were modified by the law of 27 June 2013. The new provisions make clear that, following the request of 1/5 of the members it is the duty of the Board of Directors to convene the General assembly (GA). Failing provisions in the articles of association, the invitation must be sent out within 21 days and the GA must take place within 40 days following the request. Under no circumstances will members be allowed to do it themselves. If the Board would fail to do so, a legal action can be put before the Court of First Instance. More: [Belgian Official Journal of July 10 2013](#)

Private Foundation & tax planning, by O. Bertin, lawyer De Wolf & partners, FAIB Associate member

The private foundation (Fondation privée / Private Stichting) has recently been put under the spotlight as an instrument used for tax planning, a role that has been confirmed by a ruling of the Belgian tax Administration (29.11.2011). This type of company with a legal personality and a non-profit purpose receives assets from a founder. Its Board manages the assets so that the goal stated in the articles of association can be achieved. Later, the founder's heirs may recoup them without paying gift or heritage duties. The purpose is to avoid the dispersion of a heritage (a castle, work of arts...). More: faib@faib.org

European Transparency : where are we now? Meeting with the European Ombudsman 27.09.2013

In the frame of the Right to Know Day, N. Diamandouros, the outgoing EU Ombudsman, M. Šeščovič, VP Commission and R. Wieland, VP Parliament, commented on the two main topics on the agenda: the register of interest representatives and the access to EU documents. They expressed their satisfaction for the progress made in the last decade whilst admitting that there is still work to do. Three NGO's launched the debate by enumerating various shortcomings: voluntary register, domination of the business lobbies in the EU working groups, insufficient dissemination of MEPs' positions, lack of transparency of the European Central Bank and Council... EU officials replied by justifications and explanations drawn from their practice of the actual functioning of EU institutions. They noted that only 17% of the 6000 annual demands to access EU documents are refused and they pleaded for even more registrations in the EU transparency initiative.

FAIB INFO CORNER / Miscellaneous...

- The Board was pleased to welcome Mrs Florence Bindelle, Executive Director of FERMA as a member of the FAIB Board, with immediate effect.

- The Board of Directors also welcomed Mrs Anne-Marie Leclercq who has offered to extend administrative support to the Secretariat. She was appointed Deputy Secretary General and can be contacted via amleclercq@faib.org or at the Secretariat 02 641 11 95 – faib@faib.org

- **FAIB study tours and trade fairs attended:** Rencontre Pro-Sud Montpellier organized by Meet and Com

- **European Association Summit:** the second edition will take place in Brussels on 14 – 15 May 2014, tying in with the European Business Summit. More: www.easummit.eu
VisitBrussels also published an interesting survey on their **visitors' satisfaction**. The first conclusions are available on http://visitbrussels.be/bitc/BE_en/press_report/5736/visitors-satisfaction.do .

- **Survey by Elwood and Atfield:** an updated report on "Key success factors for European Associations" has been published. Available from http://www.ellwoodatfield.com/ea_think/associationleadership

- **Access to an exhaustive database of journalists in Belgium:** via the website of AGJPB at very low cost for NPAs.

- **New rate for reimbursement of use of private cars for professional purposes:** from € 0,3456 to € 0,3461 as from 1st July 2013.

- Warning!!! Be aware of "phony" date base updates asking to check your association's details that are in fact disguised orders. **More information on a specific subject and/or on FAIB membership? Contact faib@faib.org**

André Douette