

Federation of European & international Associations based in Belgium

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FAIB News distribution, DIGEST and FLASH FAIB (Reminder)

The full version of the **FAIB News** is only 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 homepage 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! For additional details, call Barbara Panacci +32 2 641 11 95 or faib@faib.org.

Editorial de Daniel Van Espen, Président de la FAIB, qui nous rappelle deux événements proches

Du 5 au 6 mai 2015 se tient le European Association Summit (EAS), mis sur pied par Visit Brussels, en coopération avec la FAIB : une occasion à ne pas manquer pour développer des collaborations avec les pairs, nouer des contacts avec des orateurs qualifiés et participer au European Business Summit qui suit l'EAS du 7 au 8 mai, dont l'accès est compris dans le forfait d'inscription à l'EAS.

Le 28 mai 2015, la FAIB tient son Assemblée Générale. M. Philippe Maystadt, qu'il ne faut plus présenter s'adressera aux participants sur le thème de l'avenir de l'Union économique européenne qui sera un objet de réflexion et de positionnement.

Calendar of events

- **Lunch Debates:** (12.00-13.00: sandwich-lunch; 13.00-14.30: presentation and Q/A)

- 28 April : Working with Brussels Media, a practical Guide by two expert speakers of Cambre Associates
- Date to be confirmed: Corporate and Social Law pertaining to Board and Management of INPAs by Antoine Druetz
- 28 May 10.00 - 14.30 : FAIB General Assembly, keynote speaker: Philippe Maystadt – subject: EMU, the way forward.
- European Association Summit: keep it in mind and register on http://visitbrussels.be/bitc/BE_fr/contact-the-team.do

FAIB New members: we are pleased to welcome the following associations:

- **EBC aisbl** - European Brain Council to promote research on brain diseases www.braincouncil.eu
- **ECPC aisbl** - European Cancer Patient Coalition I- the right of all to access to best available treatments www.ecpc.org

FAIB New sponsor: Brussels Special Venue is a unique concept in the meeting industry, focused on associations with a non-profit personality. It represents 30+ exceptional event venues in Brussels (Art Deco, industrial heritage, Museums, concert halls, contemporary architectural design...) from 10 to 20.000 participants. Planning something ? Just try the user-friendly www.venues.be or contact heidi@venues.be.

FAIB Lunch Debates 2015

15.1. Belgian Social Security System, by Symbio Mutuality (www.symbio.be) and Group S (www.groups.be) on “How to ensure legal social protection to those coming from abroad joining the staff of Belgium based association?”.

This was the topic of the presentation by marie.jourez@symbio.be. A sponsor of FAIB, Symbio Mutuality has an in-depth knowledge of our sector and is prepared to extend a good service and special rates to our members. Marie explained how to join the seemingly tricky Belgian system and what services can be expected from the affiliation. Specific aspects related to expats were developed. Hughes Thibaut international@groups.be from Group S (also FAIB sponsor) took this opportunity to update participants on measures taken or envisaged by the Federal Government on labour and social law.

FAIB members will receive targeted details and comments on their dedicated **FLASH FAIB**.

26.2. How to deal with a control by the tax authorities? by Sylvain Lemaire, Bird & Bird Associates

This lunch debate dealt with the basic principles of the audit procedure, the rights of the tax payers, the extent and limits of the investigation powers of the Administration and the appeal procedure.

Precious advice was given on to what extent docs are to be delivered, what agreement may (not) be signed, what deadlines must be respected in the procedure. Should you have any query? Sylvain and Brent Springael are ready to assist you.

More: www.twobirds.com

17.3 Impact of the new European Transparency Register (ETR), by Martin Ohriski, EU Policy Officer at the Joint Transparency Register Secretariat (<http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/register/public>).

Co-sponsored by the Hotel Bloom (www.hotelbloom.com, 250 rue Royale), our conference gathered more than 50 delegates eager to learn how to deal with the new ETR and what to expect in the future. M. Ohriski thanked the FAIB for its active contribution in the revision process. He focused on the main changes in the new register and demonstrated how to navigate in the various functions of the website. He addressed the many questions raised by the audience on specific situations while Danièle Vranken insisted on the FAIB Board position which, although remaining in favour of a voluntary adhesion (guarantee of a stronger commitment and of a democratic freedom), is actively promoting the system in its Practical Guide. **A. Douette**

News and legal update

Appointment of Directors: new requirements imposed by the Commercial Court of Brussels,

Warning: the Court has enacted new administrative guidelines in January 2015 but is reluctant to confirm them in writing. Do not hesitate to seek confirmation. According to the new rules, the existing tolerance that was in use to mention private information related to foreigners newly appointed as INPAs directors has been reduced. From now on, copy of the ID/ passport, certificate of residence, original version of the decision making meeting are required.

By Alain Costantini, Partner Dear Krzewinsky & Willez - More: see http://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/tsv_pub/asbl_2015.pdf

Social Law related measures

- Partial exemption from advanced tax payment: NPAs, INPAs and de facto foundations may be granted 1% exemption from advance payment if they are employers falling within the scope of the Act on Collective agreement of 5.12.1968.
- The Belgian Government has recently approved changes in fringe benefits related to luncheon vouchers (vouchers of 8€ can be granted), and company collective bonus (threshold increased to 3200€ / year / employee);
- Modification of the time-credit system (Belgian Official Gazette of 31.12.2014): necessity of a specific reason to grant a career-break benefit; extension of career break benefits in a number of situations; possible reduction of the working time to a half-time job for workers above 60 without maximum duration (under conditions) More ? : www.groups.be - international@groups.be

New competences for auditors in the non-profit sector

The auditor, within an NPA, INPA or foundation, now has to apply - where necessary - the warning procedure provided for in Article 138 of the Companies Code. This has to do with the alert procedure in case of indicators of "serious and corroborating facts likely to compromise the continuity" included in the ISA 570. The auditor of an NPA, INPA or foundation, will therefore have to be present at the meetings where decisions are taken with respect to the financial reports he/she has established. FAIB members are advised to consider "virtual participation" of their auditor, in particular for meetings held abroad.

The auditor is furthermore empowered to convene meetings of the General Assembly (NPA), Board of Directors (Foundation) and General governing Board (INPA) and when one fifth of the members so requests.

More?: Institute of Registered Auditors / S. Sauvan, FAIB & B. Motte, Associate member - VRC Audit

FAIB activities

Fifth Brussels Think Tank Dialogue – State of the Union in 2015

For the fifth year, ten Brussels-based think tanks joined forces to organize on 28.01.2015 an in depth discussion on the tasks and challenges facing the EU's new leaders as they take charge following the 2014 elections to the European Parliament.

Representing the FAIB, Stella Sauvan, Assistant Secretary General, attended this unique opportunity to hear leading voices debate on pressing issues, forecast major trends for the coming year and set forward recommendations on issues including energy security in turbulent times, moving closer to a single European labour market and challenges for tomorrow's EU migration policy.

Session on 6.05.2015 with Ms Cécile Jodoigne, State Secretary a.o. for External Trade, dedicated to INPAs.

The purpose of this brainstorming session organised in the context of the EAS (5-6.05.2015) is to review motivating aspects for European/ international associations to move to Brussels but also to see how to help those present to operate.

The following subjects will be covered: the Hub for international associations, the Brussels One-stop-Shop, VAT issues for INPA, the expatriate tax regime and the Brussels Metropolitan initiative. Danièle Vranken will keep us updated.

New FAIB Website and logo: The FAIB team has fully revamped the website (www.faib.org). Make sure to consult it regularly, it will contain updated information. The brand new FAIB logo was also disclosed at the New Year's reception of 29.01. The FAIB "Practical Guide" is currently being thoroughly updated; it contains useful information to set-up / administer a non-profit association and is accessible to FAIB members free of charge but can be purchased by non-members.

FAIB Study Tours / Trade fairs attended:

9-11 Feb 2015: MCE-CEE: The 2015 edition of the MICE Event for Central & Eastern Europe (<http://www.europecongress.com/events/mce-cee-2015-warsaw>) took place in Warsaw, Poland and brought together some 50 representatives of congress destinations/ meeting suppliers in Central and Eastern Europe, including several Convention Bureaus. **Danièle Vranken**