

Federation of European & international Associations based in Belgium

Rue Washington, 40 - 1050 Brussels - Phone: +32(2) 641 11 95 - fax : +32(2) 641 11 93 Web : www.faib.org

President : Daniel Van Espen

Secretary general: Danièle Vranken

FAIB NEWS DIGEST n° 102 - 4th Quarter 2015



SEASON's GREETINGS

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**” summarizing 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 : “VISIT BRUSSELS” presents its strategic plan for the regionalisation of tourism

In 2015, all non-profit organizations operating in the tourism industry merged within the new “Visit.Brussels” structure. Its President, Laurette Onckelinx stressed that tourism represents 8,1% of the Region’s jobs and Brussels leads the European Union and ranks second globally as a convention destination. The FAIB was consulted in the finalization of the Strategic plan and further steps will be put in place in the coming months towards the creation of a one-stop-shop for associations.

Calendar of events

- **FAIB New Year Reception** : 28.01.2016 at the BIP, Brussels Information Place, guest of honour Mr A. Hutchinson, Brussels Commissioner for Europe and International Organizations.

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

- 25 February 2016 : Smart Communications for Smart Organizations by Carsten Wendt, trainer, speech coach.

- **Save the Date**: 31.5 to 2.6.2016 : European Association Summit. Should you wish to share a relevant experience with your peers, ask FAIB for the call for papers (deadline 8 January).

-**Study Tours** (aiming at discovering a Congress City, hotels and venues)

- 17-18 March London fully hosted Fam Trip for Associations at the initiative of London and Partners.

Other invitations dedicated to FAIB members are under preparation and will be announced in due course.

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

- **ADHD aisbl** – Attention Deficit /Hyperactivity Disorder www.adhdeurope.eu
- **Citizen@Work aisbl** – (to promote a responsible society: economy, human and health,) www.citizenatwork.eu
- **ECIT Foundation** – European Universities and students; citizenship and transparency www.ecit-foundation.eu

FAIB sponsors

- **New Sponsor: Advanced Fair** is a Brussels-based agency specializing since more than 13 years in organization of congresses and events such as fairs and exhibitions. It offers “à la carte” services such as support in project conceptualization, venue scouting, hotel reservations, logistical assistance before, during and after the event, registration and follow-up of guests, the search for sponsors, the commercialization of stands, and the like. More: www.advancedfair.com.
- **Advisory Board Atout France**: the 15 December session focused on the attacks of 13 November in Paris and on their consequences on the economy, in particular on the Mice & Events Sector. Stakeholders (destinations, hotels) must invest in their image: testimonies, security, legal background...

Contact Danièle Vranken for details on sponsorship agreements + see website <http://faib.org/sponsors/>

FAIB Lunch Debates

22.10. Managing risks: business practices & legal requirements, by Vanbreda www.vanbreda.be

At the Press Club Brussels Europe, K. Berger, account representative Vanbreda Risk & Benefits, gave a broad overview of all types of insurances that associations should consider, whether mandatory or voluntary. She recalled the legal requirements applicable by Belgian law to protect the associations and their employees. Taking concrete examples, she also explained how to manage other professional risks. Slides available for members: faib@faib.org.

24.11: Political Advocacy for Associations: Tom Parker & Tania Pentcheva, Cambre Associates, FAIB sponsor.

Advocacy at EU level is changing. With Juncker's arrival, the focus is more on political priorities than on technical regulatory issues; the role of Member states was raised by the new Commission. Conducting advocacy is evolving. Pitching the associations' priorities in more political messages makes communication more effective, while at the same time, addressing emotions coupled with a solid evidence basis. Developing politically sensitive strategies, story-telling and the power of the narrative, visualisation of content, changing media landscape, importance of trust are key considerations for European associations' advocacy: this was the recommendation made by the speakers. More info from <http://cambre-associates.com/> Slide presentation for members : faib@faib.org.

- Human resources (news from our Sponsor Group S international@groups.be)

As of 1.01.2016, the current reduction in social contributions related to first hiring will be increased in two ways:

- full exemption from employers' contributions for the first hiring, unlimited in duration;
- reduction in contributions for the first six hirings, instead of 5 previously.

- Other News

- **VAT:** from our Associate member B. Ickowicz, VAT Desk: the abolition of the option for legal persons acting as an administrator, a manager or a company liquidator to choose their VAT regime postponed to 01/04/2016.

Organization of free "events" subsidized by public authorities and right of deduction – A major judgment of the C.J.E.U. revolutionizing the culture industry.

- **Apprenticeship Training in Spain** FAIB Assistant Secretary General attended the presentation of the results of a cost-benefit study commissioned by the Bertelsmann Stiftung/Fundacion to identify the conditions under which companies invest in vocational training systems and whereby the relation of cost and benefit is of crucial interest to all the players involved. Economic arguments justified the need for development of apprenticeship programs. The Spanish model could lead the way for other countries to develop similar programs.

- **The Welcome Desk of the Commissioner's Office for Europe and International Organizations**

Since 1.1.2015 the Office, headed by Mr Hutchinson is the interface between the Brussels public authorities and newly-arrived international citizens. More: info@commissioner.brussels or call: +32 (0)2 430 66 14.

- FAIB Activities

BIE Seminar at the Belgian Embassy in London (26.11.2015). At the invitation of the Brussels Invest & Export, D. Vranken, FAIB Secretary General gave an overview of the legal framework and pros/cons of establishing an international association in Belgium. The seminar also included presentations on costs of recruiting staff (Group S) the experience of an international association operating in Belgium (F. Bindelle, European Issuers) and offer from the Brussels Region (E. Van Ingelgem, Visit.Brussels). Slides available from dvranken@faib.org.

FAFT Recommendation on Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism -

Through the Belgian Ministry of Justice, the FAIB was consulted on the FAFT (GAFI) Revision of the Interpretive Note to Recommendation 8. FAIB response stressed the differences between the FAFT definition of an association and what actually FAIB members are. Our answer also outlined the criteria and precautions taken to accept a membership application. Details and background information available from: dvranken@faib.org.

-Study Tours:

- 5-6.10.2015 "Destination Sud de la France", Montpellier. Between the western bank of the Rhone and the Pyrénées, on the shore of the Mediterranean sea. 900 venues promise quality and hospitality.

- 5-7.10.2015 France Meeting Hub3; an impressive organization of Atout France to discover a region that is said "well known" but with numerous trumps still to discover. Contact Valerie.devaleriola@atout-france.fr.

- 19-21.10.2015 Malta M&I Forum Europe Autumn. A rich heritage, a world class service culture and hospitality infrastructure that has much to offer the MICE market. More on <http://faib.org/events/mice-events/past-events/>.

- 29.11-1.12.2015 MCE South Europe: organized in Istanbul, the 2015 edition organized by www.europe-congress.com was dedicated to southern Europe and offered the possibility of some 35 direct business encounters.