



La Fédération des Associations européennes et internationales établies en Belgique

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FAIB News distribution, DIGEST and FLASH FAIB

As announced in our FAIB News n° 80, the full version of the **FAIB News** will, from this edition onwards, only be available to FAIB Members both in printed and electronic version (via their personal password to the FAIB Website – contact Barbara Panacci faib@faib.org for details).

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

Furthermore, in between two editions of the FAIB News, we will implement a “**FLASH FAIB**” system by which we will inform our members of the latest news or consult them on relevant enquiries from third parties.

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

Editorial de Daniel Van Espen, Président.

Le 23 septembre, lors de l'ouverture du débat annuel de l'AG de l'ONU, le Vice-Premier ministre Steven Vanackere a traité de la gouvernance dans les organisations : « la gouvernance, ce n'est pas seulement être responsable, c'est aussi être transparent », a-t-il déclaré, plaidant pour le renforcement des instruments de protection des droits de l'homme. Le Président Van Espen informe les membres que le Conseil des Droits de l'Homme de Genève en mai 2011 s'intéressera à la Belgique, notamment par des témoignages de la société civile et des ONG. Il fait appel au réseau de la FAIB pour réunir leurs observations et leurs remarques sur la boîte mail faib@faib.org.

Calendar of events.

- 1 . Lunch Debates:** 12-13h00: sandwich-lunch followed by (13-14h30) presentation & questions-answers session
- **1.12.2010:** Human resources: presentation by and at the Payroll bureau “Group S”, on various HR issues of direct interest to AISBLs and INGOs (internship, fringe benefits, etc.).
 - **under preparation:** Charte qualité & développement durable applicable aux congrès internationaux (France Congrès)
- 2. Exhibitions and site inspection visits:** call the FAIB secretariat and get more details – *Other events:*
- Barcelona (EIBTM) : 30 November to 1 December
 - Ljubiana (Conventa): 19 – 20 January 2011
 - Prague (MCE CEE Congress Prague): 13 – 15 February 2011
 - *Union of International Associations – Centenary celebrations 18 – 19 November 2010 – call UIA.*
 - *Farewell reception to celebrate FAIB outgoing President, André De Schutter: 14 December 2010 – details follow*

New Members: we are very pleased to welcome the following associations:

- FEFANA: Association of Specially Feed Ingredients & their Mixture Operators www.fefana.be
- ICLA: International Council for Laboratory Animals Science www.iclas.be
- IDDC: International Disability and Development Consortium www.iddconsortium.net
- INTACT : Lutte contre les mutilations génitales féminines www.intact-organisation.org

La citoyenneté européenne : le renforcement de l'Union en tant qu'espace de liberté, de sécurité et de justice :

Contribution de la FAIB à la consultation des DG Justice et Home Affairs de la Commission Européenne.

La FAIB a souhaité mettre l'accent sur les associations internationales dans sa réponse à la consultation. Mettant en évidence la faible réactivité des citoyens aux initiatives européennes, elle a souligné le rôle des associations comme relais pour porter la voix des délégations multinationales des associations vers la Commission et pour convoyer le message européen en retour vers les citoyens. Représentant des intérêts très divers, les associations ont des axes variés sur lesquels elles attendent des progrès dans l'espace européen : les coûts des transactions ou l'établissement de

standards... pour les groupements économiques ou la participation démocratique et les droits de femmes... pour les humanitaires ou encore la protection des consommateurs et le statut des chercheurs... pour d'autres encore. La FAIB réclame que la voix des associations soit entendue lors des actions d'évaluation du programme.

Enfin, elle a recommandé d'intégrer fortement le Parlement européen dans l'action et de prendre en compte, au-delà des droits individuels des citoyens, les droits communs sur les biens collectifs.

VAT aspects: more clarifications by Alain Soriano, Belgian VAT Desk (as@vatdesk.be)

A workshop took place at the FAIB on 29 September. Mr Brent Springael (Bird & Bird) facilitated the debates.

The meeting generally supported to withhold a possible contact with authorities until a clearer view of the political situation is available. It recognized that the main issue is now at the level of the associations' members within the EU that either do not have a VAT number or are officially exempt in their country and need the support of their Belgium-based association to certify their fiscal status with Belgian tax authorities.

Our Associate member, Alain Soriano provided a more detailed explanation of this rather intricate issue:

"According to the new VAT package, associations are obliged to verify the VAT status of their members and the fee invoicing transaction. In case the service is taxable in the EU member's country, the association must issue the invoice without VAT provided that the member activates and communicates its local VAT number and that the association reports the transaction in box 44 of its VAT return as well as in the intra-community listing.

If the service is exempted in that country, there is no VAT; the member does not activate a VAT number; the transaction is reported in box 47 but not in the intra-community listing".

A graph will help you find the right solution.

Read more: www.faib.org

L'impact de la crise financière sur les associations en Belgique

Une intéressante enquête commandée en mai 2010 par la Fondation Roi Baudouin à l'Institut Ipsos permet de tracer les contours de l'impact de la crise sur le monde associatif, en particulier sur les budgets, l'emploi et la stratégie.

Read more : www.faib.org and www.kbs-frb.be

The European transparency Initiative. Where does it stand ? Where does it go ?

At the lunch debate of 9 September, FAIB was pleased to welcome Dirk Lontings, lawyer and FAIB Associate member on the topic that, since 2005, draws the attention of the estimated 15.000 NGOs, trade associations, corporations and other interest groups seeking to influence EU policymakers.

He stressed on two items of particular interest for FAIB members:

1. The reluctance of lawyers to register and the secrecy of their professional relationships as the registration of lobbyist requires disclosure of their clients' names and financial data relating to them. If EU registration would become compulsory (like in the US), lawyers would no longer be able to serve clients like trade associations. Lontings tackled the issues of the legal scope of professional secrecy, the possible attitude of the Court of Justice and the actual willingness of the Commission to render registration mandatory. He commented on the Directives 77/249 and 98/5 stipulating that lawyers must respect the Codes of Conducts of their home and host Member States.

2. In the second part of his presentation, Lontings expressed his surprise that many trade associations and NGOs seem unaware of the existence of the EU legal framework giving an access right to European Parliament, Council & Commission documents. He gave the legal references and explained the three avenues that are possible to have access to this material.

Read more: www.faib.org

Miscellaneous

- Reminder to frequent air travellers: what to do and what to expect in case of unexpected cancellation of your flight? Notification (EU) 261/2004 opens your rights to reimbursements, alternative transport and compensation.
- FAIB presented itself in the 12 July edition of the Parliament Magazine dedicated to the Belgian EU presidency (see <http://www.theparliament.com/digimag/issue312>).
- FAIB website is currently undergoing a thorough update and will become more interactive. It will provide a forum for FAIB members to share information within the network, such as job offers, future availabilities, latest developments of interest to their peers, suggestions of issues to be tackled at FAIB level, etc.
- To facilitate their activities in Belgium, the "Maison des Associations Internationales" (MAI) welcomes international organizations having their operating entity/headquarters abroad and now offers them additional services.

Contact mai@mai.be

FAIB Fam' trips

Some members had the opportunity of participating in two interesting events: Ireland inaugurated the impressive Convention Center Dublin, the world's first carbon neutral center (www.theccd.ie) and Tallinn, Estonia presented a wide range of meeting opportunities accessible in less than 2 hours direct flight from Brussels (killiteimann@ecb.ee).

Find out much more by consulting the FAIB secretariat ... faib@faib.org