



# FAIB

## Federation of European & international associations based in Belgium

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President : Daniel Van Espen

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## FAIB NEWS DIGEST n° 98 - 4th Quarter 2014

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:faib@faib.org).

## *Meilleurs Voeux - Season's Greetings - Beste Wensen - Frohe Festtage*

### **Editorial de Daniel Van Espen, Président de la FAIB**

Au 5<sup>ème</sup> anniversaire du Traité de Lisbonne, c'est une de ses innovations qui est épinglée: l'initiative citoyenne européenne (ICE). Daniel Van Espen fait un état des lieux. Il rappelle ainsi les filtres qui ont été placés pour son application : filtres moraux (ni abusif, ni vexatoire, ni fantaisiste), administratifs (un sujet dans les compétences de l'UE) ou seuil de recevabilité (1 million de signatures réunies en 1 an dans 7 pays).

Le bilan est tel que sur 49 initiatives lancées, 29 ont été jugées recevables. Trois d'entre elles ont réuni le quorum de supporters et deux restent en cours. D. Van Espen note la grande diversité des thèmes et s'arrête un moment sur le rejet du mouvement "Stop au Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership" (TTIP) ou les appels en cours au profit de "Pour une Europe plus juste : neutralisons les sociétés écran" ou "New Deal 4 : pour un programme extraordinaire d'emplois et de développement durable". Pour résumer, même si elles n'aboutissent pas, les ICE font souvent figure de porte-voix pour installer des thématiques ou des leviers d'influence qui peuvent être considérables pour les groupes de la société civile.

### **Calendar of events**

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

- 15 January: Dealing with the Belgian mutuality system, by Symbio/Mutualité Neutre and GroupS payroll bureau
- 26 February : Procedures to prepare for a fiscal control, by Brent Springael, Lawyer Bird & Bird
- **29 January: FAIB New Year's reception, 17:00 – 19:00, venue to be advised**

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

- **AIB** – Association of Issuing Bodies (certificates on the origin of energy, standards and practices) [www.aib-net.org](http://www.aib-net.org)
- **CEDEC**- European Federation of Local Energy Companies [www.cedec.com](http://www.cedec.com)
- **EMMI**- European Money Market Institute (integration of the short term financial markets) [www.emmi-benchmarks.eu](http://www.emmi-benchmarks.eu)

### **16 October 2014 - FAIB Lunch Debate**

**Mastering Twitter**, by Cambre Associates ([www.cambre-associates.com](http://www.cambre-associates.com)), FAIB Sponsor

More than 50 attendants gathered to follow the lesson given by Fernando Anton (Director Communications) with the purpose of analysing the engagement of associations in social media. Developing this communication avenue is a long story. Fernando repeated that “the content is king” he also insisted on the process that does not limit itself to the communication.

Actually, a clear political line is required based on transparency, authenticity and honesty. Qualitative and quantitative measurements of the impact are needed; they range from visibility to influence and, moreover, a status of expert.

These indicators can be found in a toolbox called Twitter Analytics. The monitoring is a critical step for later coordination and improvement. It is key in the philosophy of Cambre Associates.

Tracking progress with the aim of fine-tuning your strategy, adjusting your communications and increasing your impact are part of their job.

More information from: [faib@faib.org](mailto:faib@faib.org)

### **20 November 2014 - FAIB Lunch Debate**

**Virtual General Assembly and e-voting: an interesting option?** by Ruth Wirth, Master in Law and Counsel Osborne Clarke (FAIB Associate Member) and Pietro Licata, IT specialist.

Whilst electronic technology is making progress at gigantic pace, the membership of INPAs is geographically extending further and further with even more need to gather their delegates around statutory and topical issues. Are virtual meetings and e-voting techniques already an option to replace the traditional voting by correspondence? To be honest, opportunities have not yet become a reality. This opinion was expressed with greatest care by the two speakers.

As to the legal framework, in absence of formal legal provisions, experts think that remote participation and e-voting are possible provided they are included in the statutes, carefully drafted. A positive conclusion, indeed, but also a duty to amend the internal rules of the association! Ahead of the meeting, guidelines must regulate the procedure: Who is allowed? Which form and content? Notification of the deadline to submit the vote? What in case of a secret ballot? And other what... if...?

Technical issues remain risky, linked to the control of the identity and quality of the person and the technological requirements of the communication system (multidirectional communication; real time; security ensuring to follow completely the debate...).

As an IT specialist, Pietro Licata elaborated on the technical solutions underlying "webinars" (web-seminars). Given that they are still costly and risky, he considered the "deferred virtual" meeting as an alternative.

More information from: [faib@faib.org](mailto:faib@faib.org)

### **Identification obligations of non-profit associations; requirements by financial institutions,**

by Alain Costantini, Partner Dear Krzewinski & Willez, FAIB Associate Member

The legislation on money laundering and financing of terrorism prohibits credit and financial institutions from entering into a business relationship with a customer - thus also an INPA - without identifying said customer and implementing a Customer Due Diligence ('**CDD**'). First of all the "beneficial owners" must be accurately defined unless they will be considered as the group of all Directors acting together. In addition, most financial institutions will not consider that an INPA is validly identified if the documents are only provided for the person entrusted with the daily management (Director General, Secretary General, etc). To mitigate the issue, make sure that the representation of the INPA is entrusted to one person and avoid the "two persons jointly".

### **Application of new VAT regime of directors /legal representatives postponed,**

by Francis Houben, FAIB Associate Member

According to a decision of the VAT Administration (125-180 of 20.11.2014), the legal persons who are Board members of an INPA should have registered for VAT if their mandate is remunerated and VAT added to their fees as from January 2015.

Notably due to the fact that there are problems of interpretation and to the very short notice to comply with the new rules, the Cabinet of the Ministry of Finance has finally decided to **postpone the entry into force** of the new regime by one year.

### **Transparency Register (TR): further news** by FAIB

After a broad consultation of our members and colleagues INPAs, FAIB was in a position to comment - on behalf of the corporation - on the guidelines and application forms of the revised TR that will come into force in January 2015.

Notwithstanding diverging opinions expressed by high level authorities, the FAIB continues pleading for a voluntary registration. Yet we also strongly recommend adhering to the scheme. We draw attention to additional privileges granted to registered organizations: only they can request a Commissioner's patronage or join experts groups; further contacts of EU civil servants with non-registered may be restricted.

A copy of FAIB's letter to the Head of the Joint Transparency Register Secretariat (JTRS) is available from [faib@faib.org](mailto:faib@faib.org).

## **FAIB NEWS & ACTIVITIES**

**FAIB Staff:** According to the decision made at the June 2014 General Assembly, Ms **Stella Sauvan-Pieters** was appointed Assistant Secretary General (Secrétaire générale adjointe) - on a part-time basis - mainly dealing with members' questions and general support of FAIB activities. She can be reached by email: [sauvan@faib.org](mailto:sauvan@faib.org) - copy to [faib@faib.org](mailto:faib@faib.org) - and by telephone via the Secretariat: 02/641.11.95.

The voluntary collaborators, **Anne-Marie Leclercq** ([amleclercq@faib.org](mailto:amleclercq@faib.org)) and **André Douette** ([adouette@skynet.be](mailto:adouette@skynet.be)), will be referred to as "**Project Coordinators**".

**New FAIB Website:** The FAIB team is currently working on "refreshing" its website and plans to launch the new version on the occasion of the New Year's reception on 29 January 2015. Another good reason to join this event!

### **Save the dates:**

- The **2015 European Circular Economy Conference** will take place on 5 March 2015 at the Stanhope Hotel in Brussels. Further details: [http://www.eu-ems.com/summary.asp?event\\_id=246&page\\_id=2158/](http://www.eu-ems.com/summary.asp?event_id=246&page_id=2158/)

- Third **European Association Summit** (EAS) is scheduled 5 to 7 May 2015. Its motto: "Pioneers of Change: New Association Models for the Future". FAIB is again involved. Consult <http://visitbrussels.be/bitc/minisite/home/display/name/eas.do>

### **Events attended and FAIB Study Tours:**

- 24.11.2014 Launch event "**Social Cohesion and well-being in the EU**", organized by Eurofound and Bertelsmann Stiftung. The goal is to develop strategies to uphold social cohesion and improve quality of life in Europe.

- They also organized a seminar at the University Foundation: the recommendation "**Validation of non-formal and informal learning**". This political impulse pursues the goal of having standard mechanisms in all EU member States by 2018.

- **Spain, Seville 2-5.10.2014** Congress & Convention Bureau ([info@sevillacb.com](mailto:info@sevillacb.com)) and the Spanish Tourism Office in Brussels ([www.spain.info](http://www.spain.info)) are ready to assist you with information and advice for your next meeting or incentive trip in this nice city.

- **Portugal, Porto 17-20.10.2014:** Websites for additional information: Associação de Turismo de Porto e Norte, [www.visitportoandnorth.travel](http://www.visitportoandnorth.travel) and the Porto Convention Bureau: [www.portocvb.com](http://www.portocvb.com). Worth a visit!

- **Portugal, Madeira 28.11 - 1.12.2014:** an initiative of the Madeira Promotion Bureau ([www.madeirapromotionbureau.com](http://www.madeirapromotionbureau.com)) with the cooperation of the Destination Management Company Abreu ([www.abreu.pt](http://www.abreu.pt)). Highly recommendable!