

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FAIB PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 15 JUNE 2023

After greeting members, Adrian Harris, FAIB President briefly reported on the highlights of the year since our last General Assembly and his aims.

First aim: to continue to offer members comprehensive and quality services

Now that the pandemic is largely over, we have taken up once again our regular our lunch events on essential issues affecting our members: this is of course essential to strengthen the networking opportunities at our meetings.

Second aim: continuing our support at the level of local issues and EU initiatives impacting our wider membership:

- Having managed to facilitate, through our work on the Belgian Company and Association Code, the transfer without interruption of legal person of associations wishing to relocate to Brussels, it has been frustrating to see how difficult banks have become with opening and even maintaining bank accounts for associations. This has become a major focus for our political activity, including at and following the European Association Summit. We have had some success at the regulatory level since during the year the law enacting the “Chambre de Service Bancaire” has come into force. There will still however be a continuing struggle to get banks to once again offer a normal service to their clients. This is an issue where we have also provided input at an EU level given the ongoing revision of the AMLD which does not promise to make relations between associations and their bankers any simpler.
- We have also provided input into yet another EU initiative, namely the proposal to perhaps set up an EU statute for associations. This initiative has begun with an impact assessment study on cross-border activities of associations.

Third aim: to manage internal changes:

- Our major internal issue for the year has been the retirement and replacement of Danièle Vranken who has managed FAIB on a voluntary basis since 2010. We are happy to see that this process has run well with the support of all our staff. We have decided at our Board of Directors to entrust the management to Stella Sauvan who has know FAIB well for many years both as a member association (EUCASS) and as Assistant Secretary General working hand in hand with Danièle.
- We have also increased our investment in bettering our communication and hence our service to our members through hiring Constance Lange who at the end of last year passed from half-time to full-time employment.
- Franco Sardo also joined our team replacing Barbara Panacci upon her retirement after many years at FAIB.

To conclude his report the President highlighted FAIB has seen a continued steady rise in membership numbers and followers on LinkedIn which of course is encouraging at a time when direct involvement of members in associations needs to be regained and revitalised. For the coming year, we wish to focus on increasing and diversifying our membership, including at the Board level where we have asked members who might be interested in joining our Board to submit their candidature.