

Item 9 of the Provisional Agenda

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AFUS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

The AFUS Executive Committee (COMEX), renewed by the General Assembly on 28 May 2024, elected its Bureau. COMEX had regularly invited The Honorary President of AFUS, its Project Managers and other AFUS members to their meetings when involved with the topics to be discussed.

The Bureau was composed as follows:

- President: Patrick Gallaud
- Vice-President: Ana Dumitrescu
- Vice-President: Raül Boyle
- Secretary-General: Odile Blondy
- Treasurer: Terry Roberts-Martinez
- Members: Frances Albernaz, Jens Boël, Geneviève Fougère, Pilar Christine Morel-Vasques, Frederick Russell-Rivollan

The Bureau approved the composition of the AFUS subsidiary bodies:

- Pensions and taxation: Josiane Taillefer, Raül Boyle
- Medical Benefits Fund (CAM) and complementary insurance schemes: Odile Blondy
- Social issues: Odile Blondy
- Management of the Solidarity Fund: Ana Dumitrescu, Josiane Taillefer, Terry Roberts-Martinez
- Cultural Activities, Leisure and Travel: Pilar Christine Morel-Vasques, Geneviève Fougère
- Memory and Future Club: Neda Ferrier
- Promotion and Membership: Nina Dhumal, Renato Navillod
- Intranet access: Renato Navillod
- Internet Web Site: Patrick Gallaud, Romain Marchand

- Communication : Pilar Christine Morel-Vasques, Geneviève Fougère
- LIEN/LINK
 - Director of the publication and editor-in-chief: Patrick Gallaud
 - Editorial assistants: Odile Blondy, Pilar Christine Morel-Vasques, Geneviève Fougère
 - Editorial Committee: Frances Albernaz, Jean Andouze, Jens Boël, Odile Blondy, Maha Bulos, Doudou Diene, Ana Dumitrescu, Neda Ferrier, Geneviève Fougère, Malcolm Hadley, Ali Kazancigil, Georges Kutukdjian, Laurent Levi-Strauss, Claudine Monteil, Georges Poussin, Jacques Rao, Josette Romme-Chastanet, Wolfgang Vollmann:
 - Art direction, layout and digital publishing: Romain Marchand.

- Acknowledgements

All actions and proceedings undertaken between June 2024 and May 2025 have been enhanced by the very valuable support given to AFUS by the general management and internal services provided by the Organization. We would like to take this opportunity of offering them our sincere gratitude.

COMEX would also like to sincerely thank all members who have participated in the work of the Commissions, Clubs and the LINK Editorial Committee.

COMEX would also like to thank the volunteers who offered their services on a regular basis: Joan Cahill, Nina Dhumal, Renato Navillod, Jacques Rao and Margo Triouleyre.

HOW TO MANAGE AFUS ON A DAY TO DAY BASIS

COMEX held nine meetings between September 2024 and May 2025 both in person and by remote participation. Each of these meetings' objectives were a record of the decisions taken. Each member was responsible for a specific field, which made it possible to renew or enrich our diverse programmes and activities. An example is the quality of the lunch given on 15 January 2025 where our new activities and leisure topics were proposed, the editorial policy for LINK and its

layout, the permanencies and advice in respect of health insurance, pensions and taxation.

The Treasurer continued her work concerning the management of financial questions and the report which she presents today is once again an example of the excellent quality of her work. In co-operation with UNESCO's accountancy services, the transferral of accounts under guardianship towards a structure of an individual account, under the sole responsibility of AFUS, is now operational after considerable efforts. This will permit easier management for the future.

PARTICIPATION IN THE WORK OF FAFICS

Our co-operation with the Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants (FAFICS) is continuing actively: Josiane Taillefer and Jacques Rao participated in the 54th Session of FAFICS from 22 to 25 July 2024. On this occasion, AFUS reminded the FAFICS Council that they had adopted the AFUS proposal in 2020, i.e. a declaration of homage for all international civil servants. The last two items of this text are still pending (this Declaration was read out by the FAFICS President at the UN General Assembly with a declaration for an International Day for International Public Service). AFUS proposed that these two points be included in the agenda during its next session in 2025.

AFUS also welcomed the creation of two new permanent committees (Communication, as well as Promotion and Membership)

Furthermore, AFUS is a member of the Ad hoc Preparatory Committee concerning the 50th Anniversary Celebration of FAFICS in 2025.

Finally, upon the occasion of the Federation of International Civil Servants' Associations (FICSA) meeting, AFUS organized a working lunch with the President of FAFICS and several members of the Bureau in order to intensify links between the two entities.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE UNESCO STAFF ASSOCIATIONS (STU AND AIPU)

During several working meetings, AFUS has reinforced its co-operation with the UNESCO Staff Associations, particularly with the view to jointly developing action strategies on subjects of a common interest,

such as the UNESCO Medical Benefits Fund (MBF) and the question of pension taxation in France. The withdrawal of the project to transfer the totality of UNESCO/CAM retirees to the French Social Security system is a concrete example of this co-operation.

Taxation of pensions is also a common pre-occupation and is the object of a specific item for discussion at the General Assembly in 2025.

MEETINGS WITH FUTURE RETIREES

Since its last General Assembly, AFUS has been closely associated with the organization and animation of two seminars to assist UNESCO staff members in preparation of their retirement, in co-operation with Human Resources. On each occasion, AFUS was able to provide its expertise in respect of medical coverage and pensions. These meetings made them cognizant of the existence of AFUS by a detailed presentation for its activities for future retirees. This mainly took the form of co-operation with AFUS/HRM with a view to continuing assistance on a regular basis.

SHOWING SOLIDARITY

The Solidarity Fund is funded each year by voluntary donations by our members to provide punctual assistance for those colleagues experiencing difficulties. In accordance with the statutes the Administrative Council was renewed and is comprised, at present, of three members of COMEX. We have to date received two requests for assistance and were able to accede, after scrutiny, to one of them.

PARTICIPATION IN CULTURAL EVENTS

Throughout the 2024/2025 year, AFUS's Cultural Group continued its policy for the organization of visits to exhibitions, such as Caillebotte and the Philharmonia of Paris.

This cultural body has utilized the same *modus operandi* for 20 years. Peoples' tastes have changed during this period, and as an example it is a fact that many museums now provide guided visits which are often cheaper than those proposed by AFUS. This has resulted in a certain reduction in the number of our participants.

For example, the locale of the Philharmonia of Paris seems too far away for many of our members. Those responsible for cultural events are

presently examining the possibility of a partnership with Radio France. All proposals of this kind are more than welcome.

As from this year, AFUS's cultural body has proposed a new activity and on 4 April 2025, we organized a one-day visit to the Château at Villerets-Cotterêts. This chateau has recently hosted the International City for the French Language, which proposes an Avant Garde Museum Tour. This venture was welcomed very positively by all participants, not only for the quality of the guided tour but also of the possibility to meet and have an in-depth discussion of the visit. This one-day experience was a successful experiment and the newly elected COMEX is obviously very keen to follow up and develop this type of activity.

One cannot, of course, forget the Taichi-qigong courses which continue to take place each Tuesday in Room 15 in the Bonvin Building, under the direction of Nicole Guillerot-Goldschmid.

CREATE COMMUNICATION

AFUS has the merit to have become more well known and has adapted its communication policy by opening new paths. The Internet Web Site has continued to inform AFUS members daily of our new information topics, not only concerning UNESCO but also AFUS's specific activities. It should be noted that a special effort has been made to diffuse and increase the number of videos (particularly the video which reviewed the Annual Friendship Luncheon).

In addition, following its participation on Facebook, AFUS is now available on Instagram. On developing this policy, we are not condoning a social networks' mode but the wish to reach out to a wider public. To date the response has been very positive in this respect.

In addition, more than 30 e-mails "AFUS informs you" have been distributed to our members, thus giving information on the life of AFUS and UNESCO.

A new presentation leaflet describing AFUS activities has now been completed and will be distributed as widely as possible.

EDIT AND DISTRIBUTE LINK

Without departing from its objective, LINK now appears in a more attractive form. In this connection we have improved the layout with the assistance of the Artistic Director. The Editorial Committee meets at least twice yearly and is very involved in new orientations for the publication. Those responsible for the various topics have been chosen for fields such as Women, Science, Art and resumés of the various art works. The topic “AFUS informs you” has facilitated several inputs from numerous readers.

With the reproduction of some 1700 copies, LINK is distributed to all our members, UNESCO Permanent Delegations and a large number of UNESCO in-service staff members. It is also available online on the UNESCO INTRANET and the AFUS web site.

One should make a special mention of the permanent support received from the Office of the Director-General and the excellent co-operation provided by the technical services, the quality of printing and diffusion, indispensable in the quest for renovating our publication.

HOW TO MAKE THE UNESCO SECRETARIAT MORE AWARE OF AFUS AND ITS AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

With the view to better recognition, AFUS has adopted a more active public relations policy within the Organization. This is how we were able to intervene in two sessions of the UNESCO Executive Board i.e. the 220nd and 221st sessions – during the Commission on Administration and Finances (FA). This gave AFUS the opportunity to raise several questions concerning pensions and the Medical Benefits Fund, as well as presenting AFUS’s major actions.

COMEX was also able to meet with the President of the UNESCO General Conference, the President of UNESCO’s Executive Board and the Deputy Director-General of UNESCO. All these meetings helped to tighten the links which are indispensable to both the Organization and AFUS.

