



Dear Members,

Annual General Meeting

I am pleased to inform you that our 2024 Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday June 11 next at Europe House in Smith Square Westminster. We are honoured that Lady Catherine Ashton, formerly Vice-President of the European Commission and High Representative for External Affairs will address us.

Full details and joining instructions are below and we hope that, although the meeting will also be available on Zoom, as many as possible of you will attend in person.

New PMO Single Telephone Number

On 9 February a new single telephone number giving access to all PMO departments went live. That number is [00 32 229 1111](tel:00322291111). If you dial the previous number of the individual departments you will automatically be switched to the new system.

More detailed information has been circulated to all pensioners in the "Info Senior" news sheet and I have experimented with the new system. When you dial the number you are greeted with a human voice first in French then in English (with a distinct Irish accent). You are then invited to choose the language of your interaction with the system. For English touch key 1, for French use key 2. Other language options will be added in due course.

The menu of options for departments proceeds rather quickly but it is arranged in order of frequency of calls under the old system. So, option 1 is JSIS enquiries and the one that I tried, on EU Login issues was Number 7. By clicking on the hashtag, , you can listen to the range of

options again. I waited for eight minutes for a proper reply while getting the occasional message “Please stay on the line the next available representative will reply as soon as possible”, Then, more ominously “It seems to be very busy at the moment”. At least these were real human voices not machine generated and there was no irritating electronic music or badly recorded Vivaldi to listen to.

Save the Dates

In addition to our AIACE-UK AGM referred to above, please note that the AIACE AGM will take place in Brussels on 27 and 28 May next. The meeting will be broadcast via an internet platform (details to follow) with the possibility to intervene and vote remotely. That meeting will include a meeting with the representatives of the institutions’ HR departments.

In accordance with an earlier decision of the Board, the AGM has been separated from the AIACE Congress (Assises) which, this year will be held in Catania, Sicily, from 12 to 15 October later this year. Full details of social and cultural activities as well as registration details and costs will be distributed shortly.

In the survey of members which led to the decision to separate the AGM from the Congress, one frequent complaint by members was that “I don’t want to go there because I won’t know anybody”. In an effort to counteract that effect the UK and Irish Sections have agreed to hold a joint “icebreaker” event if there are sufficient participants from each section (minimum two). Please do try to join us. Further details will follow as the date nears.

Proposed Reform of AIACE

I should like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to some of the issues raised at the meeting of the AIACE Executive Board held in Brussels last month.

In particular a whole session of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of separate Belgian and Finnish proposals to carry out radical reform of the organisation. Under their proposals membership of AIACE would comprise the national sections, rather than individual

members. In the Belgian version, sections' voting rights would be in proportion to a section's membership of individual pensioners. It may be just a coincidence that Belgium is by far the largest national section.

It is true that, with around 12,000 individual members in total, spread over 27 Member States and elsewhere, a meaningful and representative General Meeting is essentially impossible to organise.

Those radical reform proposals were not met with enthusiasm from other sections and France and the UK and others, firmly opposed them essentially on the basis that, subject to the caveat just mentioned, the organisation broadly worked well for the benefit of its members and, in the famous dictum "If it aint broke, don't try to fix it". Other less controversial improvements to the working of the organisation were more widely supported and the decision, which would no doubt have been applauded by Sir Humphrey Appleby, was taken to establish a Working Group to examine all of the proposals.

It is recorded in the minutes of the meeting that "Toutes les sections sont d'accord qu'il ne faut pas travailler dans l'urgence". We will keep you informed as the discussions proceed.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM, whether in person or remotely, or maybe in Sicily, I wish you all a pleasant Spring and

Best regards,

Tom Kennedy
AIACE-UK Chairman

AIACE-UK Annual General Meeting - notification

11th June 2024

Each year, we hold an AGM to which all members are welcome to attend, either:

- in-person at Europe House, 32 Smith Square, London SW1P 3EU
- or via Zoom video-conference.

At the meeting, following the key speaker, the Chairman will report on the year's activities and we will elect or appoint a new national committee for the year ahead.

Agenda

10h30 - Arrival and welcome

11h00 - Presentation by Rt Hon Baroness Catherine Ashton

13h00 - Lunch break

14h00 - AGM Business

- Chairman's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Election of new National Committee
- JSIS and Pensions matters
- AOB

Our Speaker

Baroness Ashton served as the first High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and first Vice President of the Barroso Commission from 2009-2014. She has recently published 'And Then What? Inside Stories of 21st Century Diplomacy'.

Attending the meeting

In-person - please send an email to meetings@aiace.uk to confirm your place. The cost of attendance is £20 and this includes coffee and lunch. Payment should be by bank transfer to our bank account: AIACE-UK, sort code 20 - 94 - 48, account no. 70508152. Please include your name in the reference.

Please inform us of any dietary requirements (vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, allergies, etc).

By Zoom - again please send an email to meetings@aiace.uk and specify your wish to attend by Zoom. There is no cost.

Attendance at the ***business part of the meeting only*** is free of charge but you should still register as above.

New National Committee

The Committee meets 5-6 times a year and oversees the organisation's activities, represents our interests with AIACE International and with

the EU Institutions, manages our finances and provides information and expertise to members.

You are invited to nominate members for the new Committee. Please send an email to our Secretary at webmaster@aiace.uk but you should please make it clear that you have the agreement of the person concerned.

There are a maximum of 12 members on the Committee. If more than 12 nominations are received by the closing date then a secret ballot will be organised both on Zoom and in-person.

The names and roles of the outgoing Committee are below in the Annex.

Key dates

Deadline for registration to attend the meeting - 3rd June.

Deadline for nominations to the Committee - 19th May.

Motions - members may make a proposal which will be circulated in advance of the meeting. These should reach us by 30 April.

Constitution

You may consult the new Constitution [on our website here](#).

Venue

For those who attend in-person, please bring some photo-identity (to meet the EEAS security requirements). The nearest tube stations to Europe House are Westminster (10 minute walk) and Victoria (20 minute walk). Buses 3 and 87 stop close by.

If you have ***mobility concerns***, please let us know and we will try to advise.

Contact details and further information

General and practical information - Jane Cornelius and Emanuela Savoia, office@aiace.uk

Chairman - Tom Kennedy, tapkennedy@btinternet.com

Secretary - Alan Huyton, webmaster@aiace.uk

Postal address - EEAS, AIACE-UK, Europe House, 32 Smith Square, London SW1P 3EU.

Annex - Outgoing National Committee

Tom Kennedy - Chairman, tapkennedy@btinternet.com

Bob Hull - Vice Chairman, hull99@btinternet.com

Alan Huyton - Secretary, webmaster@aiace.uk

John Wiggins - Treasurer, a.j.wiggins@btinternet.com

Pernille Andersen-Todd, Pensions and Survivors Ambassador,
pernille2409@aol.com

John Claxton, JSIS Ambassador, [<johnclaxton@gmx.co.uk>](mailto:johnclaxton@gmx.co.uk)

Martin Clegg, Pensions Ambassador, martin_clegg@btinternet.com

Jane Cornelius, Membership team, janeco@hotmail.co.uk

Gail Kent, DG HR expert, kentgailsusan@gmail.com

Michael Hocken, JSIS AMBassador, trepolpen@hotmail.com

Belinda Pyke, Newsletter Editor, pykebelinda@gmail.com

Emanuela Savoia, Membership team, emy904@btinternet.com

AIACE-UK

Europe House, Smith Square, London
United Kingdom



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