

THE DIGEST

AIIC: BEHIND THE SCENES



AIIC: Behind the Scenes...

The first weekend of July is a busy time in AIIC. Each year all the representatives from the Association meet in Geneva for a 4-day meeting to discuss topics that affect AIIC and its members.

After last year's meeting was forced online by the pandemic, there was a lot to discuss at this first in-person meeting of the triennium. The Executive Committee (ExCo), and the 35-member Advisory Board (AB), made up of representatives of regions and groups, met separately, then spent a day together discussing the future direction of the Association.

THE ADVISORY BOARD

During their 4-day meeting, the AB discussed all things AIIC including current activities in the areas of standardisation, interpreter health, professional standards, DI and its multiple forms, the situation at the European Parliament and how to better showcase everything AIIC does for its members and for the interpreter community at large.

The 4 days of intense in-person discussions provided a great opportunity for AB members to get to know each other and to better coordinate activities in the future, including celebrations for AIIC at 70!

The Steering Committee opened the meeting with the question 'What does AIIC mean to you?'. Here are some of the ideas from the AB:

Bridge-building
Community
Experience
Network
Big-family
Bewildering
Complicated
Professional
Mosaic
Collegiality
Whole
Solidarity
Authoritative
Reference
Ethics

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



ExCo 2022-2025 (left to right): Sylvia Amisi, Martín Barrère, Lila Guha, Chiaming Damien Fan, Jenny Fearnside, Haris Ghinos, Francisco (Paco) Garcia Hurtado

AIIc's Executive Committee (ExCo) hit the ground running during its face-to-face statutory meeting in Geneva from 1 to 3 July 2022. ExCo's busy agenda covered issues directly arising from its strategic plan as well as other important matters, including the AIIc Conference, the state of play in its sectors, communications and finances.

ExCo held open and collegial discussions with the Advisory Board on the strategic plan's pillars. ExCo will pursue its discussion with the lawyers to explore the possibility of transferring AIIc's headquarters from France to Geneva and will present the pros and cons to members. ExCo agreed with the AB that the rationale for the establishment of an AIIc Foundation has to be crystal clear for members before they make a decision.

Work on reviewing our basic texts will begin, drawing on the expertise of the BTG, AB and ExCo members. ExCo will convene a meeting of the AIIc groups working on distance interpreting to ensure coordination. The importance of volunteers, volunteer retention and an analysis of volunteer burn-out was underscored.

The Executive Committee, continued

The Executive Secretary highlighted the challenges faced by the staff at the HQ who were snowed-under, particularly during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the importance of strengthening the Secretariat's operational capacity, when necessary.

ExCo held constructive consultations with CACL and Vega about the membership application process, possible ways of increasing membership, without compromising on quality, and incorporating outreach in various bodies.

ExCo also had a meeting with the Budget Committee Chairperson and requested the BC to find ways of facilitating the process for payment of dues, among other things.

EXCO'S MEETING WITH SCAS

After the joint ExCo-AB meeting on 2nd July, ExCo met with the Standing Committee of the Agreement Sectors (SCAS) members. ExCo met with Tomáš Opočenský, representing the European Union agreement sector and SCAS coordinator, Bettina Ludewig-Quaine, representing the Coordinated agreement sector, Pablo Alvar, representing the United Nations agreement sector, Carmen Benito García, representing the ad-hoc delegation for negotiations with the World Organization for Animal Health and Pauline Mercier, representing the WCO agreement sector.

Halfway through the meeting, Frédéric Girard, representing the EPPD, joined the meeting to brief all present on the latest developments in the European Parliament and the breach of the EU-AIIC agreement.

After a tour de table, where all representatives shared the current state of affairs in their sectors and the developments they foresee in the near future, ExCo engaged in an open discussion with colleagues to determine common trends. ExCo encouraged them to keep coordinating so that AIIC can present a common position on all fronts, with due regard to the inherent differences and specificities. SCAS proposed holding an Inter-Sectoral Assembly, and ExCo supported the idea.

ExCo assured the Negotiating and Professional Delegations of their support in their crucial work of defending and improving working conditions for conference interpreters and promised to remain at their disposal for any assistance they might require.

The record of decisions can be consulted [here](#).

NEGOTIATIONS AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

ExCo and the EU Negotiating Delegation have recently sent out several messages about what is happening at the European Parliament (EP). You can find all three of them in our News section.



European Parliament.

We would like to clarify that the actions of the former president referred to therein relate to AIIC's struggle to defend interpreters' working conditions at the European Parliament within the framework of RSI and the AIIC-EU agreement. Unfortunately, this is all we can say at the current moment, since ExCo and the Negotiating Delegation's efforts to restore social dialogue with the EP as well as working conditions that are in line with the current agreement are on-going.

It goes without saying that we will inform all members as soon as we are in a position to communicate publicly about this matter.

Read more about the situation at the European Parliament [here](#).

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

GREECE & CYPRUS

The region of Greece and Cyprus held a webinar on " AIIC website and directory: how to make it work for you and enhance your visibility" with Julia Poger and Niki Kladouha.

Julia gave us a fast paced information-packed overview which included editing your profile, how to upload a CV to the directory, how to build your own CV, logo, banners, backgrounds, business cards and how to use them; how to put the banner and your directory page into your email signature, how to use the logo on LinkedIn, or how to use it also on your website if you have one.

Niki's insightful guidance and in-depth knowledge of the sites highlighted pages of the site that are full of valuable information and this will help members capitalise on hidden or rather little known gems inside the library that are pertinent to our members, such as contracts and agreements with institutions.

The Region of Greece and Cyprus would like to thank them both!



NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

STAFF INTERPRETERS (CdP)

From 26-28 August 2022, Staff Interpreter Representatives from international, regional and national organisations around the world will come together for the annual CdP meeting.



NATO HQ, Brussels

The meeting will be hosted by NATO in Brussels and will give colleagues a much-needed opportunity to discuss developments in their institutions over the last two years. Discussions will revolve around an exchange of experience on remote working conditions, approaches to auditory health, negotiations with management, Covid exit strategies and relations with freelance colleagues, as well as any other relevant issues colleagues wish to address.

The preliminary agenda also includes a presentation of the EU-funded Artificial Boothmate project as a basis for discussion of the risks and opportunities of Speech-to-Text technology for the profession.

We thank the NATO organising committee for all the preparatory work they are doing and look forward to seeing colleagues in Brussels.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (ATPD)

Have you noticed there's a new 'Course Certificates' section in the portal?

From September, every time you attend an ATPD training course, your certificate of attendance will automatically be available for download from the 'AICC Members Services' section, visible when you sign into your account.



September will also see ATPD trialling 'accessibility on request' at their events. Thanks to a collaboration between ATPD and the Sign Language Network, colleagues will be given the option to complete an accessibility accommodation request form when they register for a workshop on the AICC website.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

At the end of June, payments of dues were 20% lower than most years. Many members paid when the first reminder went out, although a third of members still have outstanding invoices. Those who still have not paid for 2020 and 2021 will be contacted individually by the Secretariat in the coming weeks.

Currently, all but 2 of the regions will receive the Regional Refund, as more than 50% of their members have paid their dues as of June 30th.

