

INFORMATION

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Relations with our colleagues of other International Organizations

Summary: Symposium on the functioning of the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labour Organization – Constituting YORICS as a Non-Governmental Organization.

Pursuing our policy of cooperation and coordination with our colleagues of other international organizations, the Staff Association participated in two days of meetings organised by the Yearly Organizing Reunion of International Civil Servants (YORICS).

1. Symposium on the functioning of the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labour Organisation (ILOAT)

A symposium on the functioning of the ILOAT was organized on 2 May by our colleagues from the European Patent Office within the framework of YORICS. The moderator was Nicolas Valticos, Judge at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, and Alternate President of the Administrative Tribunal of the Council of Europe. It took place at the ILO headquarters in Geneva.

The participants included several independent experts in international administrative law and the representatives of the personnel of a number of international organizations.

During this very interesting day were discussed:

- collective contract termination, direct access to the ILOAT by unions or staff associations (which at present is not allowed), collective bargaining, the increasing insecurity of employment in international organizations;

- the independence of the Tribunal vis-à-vis the Member States, the governing bodies of international organizations and their executive heads;
- second instance and the possibility of appeal (at present no appeal is allowed by a member of the personnel against decisions of the ILOAT, whereas in theory the Organization can appeal to the International Court of Justice)
- selection, appointment and the roles of the ILOAT judges and the registrar.

A full report of these presentations and the discussions will be published by YORICS.

2. Constituting YORICS as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)

YORICS has operated for more than two years on an ad hoc basis, with the help of secretariats of several associations and federations of staff associations, in particular those of FICSA and CERN. During previous meetings, the need has been recognised to establish YORICS on a more firm basis and to give it a status which would allow it to address the various authorities, in particular the governing bodies of international organizations, such as the CERN Council.

During the meeting held at the ILO on 3 May, chaired by Clive Stannard, Vice-Chair, FICSA Standing Committee on Legal Questions and FICSA Liaison Officer for the International

Civil Services, the Statutes of YORICS as an NGO have been studied, amended and approved by the representatives of the personnel present. The founding members, FICSA, the Union syndicale fédérale and the staff associations/unions of CERN, the European Patent Office (EPO) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) have elected a provisional Board of Directors of three members:

- President: Derek Ball, Vice-President of the CERN Staff Association,
- Vice-President: Nigel Franks, Member of the Union syndicale fédérale at EPO,
- Treasurer: Guy Sneyers, General Secretary FICSA.

The representatives of several other international organizations expressed their strong interest in YORICS, but were not in a position at that time to become a founding member.

The Board of Directors were given a detailed programme of work of 14 points to carry out over the next three months, in particular:

- to establish YORICS as a NGO under Swiss law;
- to try to become an observer to the pertinent international instruments;

- to launch a recruitment campaign;
- to prepare the first Annual General Assembly in six month's time.

The aims of YORICS, as expressed in its Statutes are to promote the unity, the quality and fairness of recruitment, security, independence and rights of international civil servants. YORICS will work towards obtaining recognition, by appropriate international instruments, of international civil servants as a distinct category of international public sector worker, of the specific and important role of these workers, as expressed in the New York Declaration on the rights of International Civil Servants, of 31 January 1995.

Thus YORICS is an organization whose aim is to group together as many members of the personnel of intergovernmental organizations so as to be able to counter balance the quasi absolute powers which the organizations use. At the present moment the resolutions or declarations of the International Labour Organization apply to workers in the public or private sector, but not to international civil servants.

YORICS does not seek to be a federation or a super federation of associations or unions, but to represent them in the various instruments where these themes must be defended, and to be in a position to speak in the name of all international public services where a common position is possible.