



1. Why AFICS-NL and why should I join?

Your interests: AFICS-NL, de Association of Former International Civil Servants - Netherlands, is an association of (former) staff members of the United Nations and Bretton Woods institutions who have returned to The Netherlands or have the intention to do so. The association was formed about 20 years ago and aims to provide information to its members on issues related to taxes in The Netherlands, health insurance and other matters of interest to pensioners returning to the Netherlands or preparing to do so. The association is growing and counted 264 members as of 1 July 2024. The board is chosen from among the membership; the association also has several working groups that benefit from members' active participation.

Our collective interest: For AFICS-NL the size of our membership is of importance for our contacts with various Dutch institutions, such as the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Health, Welfare and Sport, Belastingdienst (taxes), and Sociale Verzekeringsbank (social insurance). Furthermore, AFICS-NL is a member of FAFICS – the worldwide federation that represents UN pensioners in their relationship with the UN Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF) and UN organizations. The larger the membership of associations such as AFICS and FAFICS, the stronger the voice of AFICS in The Netherlands and FAFICS internationally!

Meeting old and new friends: all gatherings have a social component, considering that we are also a broad network of people that have worked internationally. It is just a lot of fun to stay in touch with former colleagues, with friends from various duty stations or with people that you have just met and with whom – surprise, surprise – you have a lot in common.

2. What does it do? Whose interests are served?

The Netherlands: AFICS-NL has working groups for taxes and social insurance, with experts-by-experience that can assist members to tackle questions related to taxes, pensions and access to the Dutch health and health insurance and long-term care systems. Former UN and staff of the Bretton Woods Institutions (World Bank, International Monetary Fund) should anticipate that they are likely to encounter unexpected challenges in these fields. We have prepared briefing notes (in Dutch) on taxes and health/long-term care to document the complexities of the Dutch systems. If you are planning to take your pension any time soon, we recommend you join our association – we can help you on your way!

Internationally: we discern a (clear) trend in UN organizations to reconsider their future financial liabilities. For example, one can question whether the budgets of UN organizations will in the future permit them to keep meeting the obligations arising from the current After-Service-Health Insurance system, considering both the growth in the number of

pensioners and the increases in (health) care-related costs worldwide. FAFICS is directly engaged in this discussion.

As a UN pensioner, AFICS and FAFICS are the one and only channel for you to be involved in the oversight over the UNJSPF. The UNJSPF is currently financially healthy, but we have learned that as UN pensioners we should be able to closely watch the developments at the UNJSPF and have the responsibility to raise critical questions. This approach only works if FAFICS is seen as a legitimate and representative body.

3. How do I become a member? What does that mean?

If you want to become a member, you can consult our website at www.afics.nl, fill in the membership form and send it to afics.secretaris@gmail.com. Once you are a member, you will have access to our online tools. You will also receive the electronic newsletters (in Dutch), and the invitations for our annual membership assemblies (in spring) and social outings (in September / October). We look forward to welcoming you as a member!

From the 2023 Annual Report (translated from Dutch):

AFICS-Nederland keeps growing. The membership consists of almost two generations of UN workers: the oldest AFICS-NL member was born in 1930 and the youngest in 1975. Most members were born in the 1940s or 1950s (see pie-chart 1). Our members have worked for a variety of UN and Bretton Woods organizations, both in the field and at headquarters. The second pie-chart shows this diversity of backgrounds based on the headquarters location of the organization indicated in the membership form. About one fifth of the AFICS-NL members (still) lives outside the Netherlands.

