



Newsletter

No. 99, September 2025
Association of Retired International Civil
Servants in Austria

ARICSA Office: VIC Room C0249B, Phone: +43 1 2600 26116
Email: office@aricsa.org, inquiries@aricsa.org, president@aricsa.org
Website: www.aricsa.org

Bank Austria, IBAN: AT87 1100 0083 7315 7000, BIC: BKAUATWW

Contents

Page

President's Corner	1
The 2025 FAFICS Council	2
Report on the 81 st Meeting of the UNJS Pension Board ..	4
Austrian Wills and Probate Procedures Seminar.....	5
New Members 2 Jan – 27 Aug 2025	7
In Memoriam	8

President's Corner

Greetings and best wishes for a pleasant summer. Wow, this has been a busy summer for me, with two trips (one for FAFICS to Chile and New York, and one private one to my second son's wedding in Maine). In July, ARICSA hosted the 50th anniversary annual FAFICS Council in Vienna - with an amazing job done by the FAFICS and ARICSA joint team. The following week Gerhard Schramek and I were heavily involved in the UNJSPF Pension Board. Reports on those meetings are elsewhere in this Newsletter. Many thanks from me to the whole ARICSA team for the preparations and support during these events.

Annual General Meeting

There has been no summer break for your ARICSA team, and they (and I) are now starting the preparations for our Annual General Meeting on 14 November. The formal invitation, as well as the required financial information for your approval, will be sent to you separately from this Newsletter.

As every second year, this year is an election year for ARICSA officers. The entire slate of officers is to be elected (or re-elected). Some of us may



Photo courtesy Delia Barcelona

choose to be nominated for another term, but we really, really need some younger retirees to allow some current officers to step down. We who have served for several terms are losing contacts in our former organizations. Younger retirees may have more experience with newer communication media. I urge you to consider

whether you might want to join the ARICSA leadership. Perhaps you, or another ARICSA member you know, would appreciate the chance to serve. Working in the ARICSA leadership team is often fun, and sometimes hectic, and always rewarding. The nomination form will be sent to you with the other documents for the AGM.

The AGM will be 'in person' only, so plan to attend. The election polling will be done by those ARICSA members present, so that is another good reason to attend.

Pre-Retirement Seminar

The annual 'in person' VIC staff pre-retirement seminar will be held on 2 and 3 October in the VIC. As usual, I would like to invite one or two of you to volunteer to give short talks about your personal retirement experiences live before the attendees (I already have two volunteers). I will again be hosting the sessions. If you have found ways to stay active and agile, or if you perhaps moved away and then returned to Austria, consider volunteering. Send me an email (president@aricsa.org). If you volunteered earlier this year but the slate already was complete, please contact me again.

Austrian Income Tax

The Austrian government seems intent to find new sources of income. At the end of 2023 they decided that any income in addition to the UNJSPF benefit would be taxed 'on top' of the pension income, although the pension income itself is not taxed, thus putting such additional income into the highest tax rate categories.

At the end of 2024 they decided that the tax-free status of UNJSPF benefits does not apply to surviving spouses. We believe that this decision is a breach of the UN Headquarters Agreement, and we have asked the UNOV Legal Division to protest to the Austrian government. We will keep you informed of any developments.

If you have been affected by these changes and are willing to be one of the 'cases' used to protest them, please let me know.

As we head into autumn, let me thank you for your continuing support of me and your whole ARICSA team. We are busy on your behalf.

Jerry Barton

The 2025 FAFICS Council

The 55th FAFICS Council was held in Vienna, 14-18 July 2025. In addition to the formal business of the Council, a celebration of the 50th anniversary of FAFICS' founding was held on Friday, 18 July. Forty Member Associations attended this Council session, with over 75 people attending in person and another 50 or so attending virtually. The Council logistics were arranged by ARICSA (for the tenth time) and UNOV Conference Services. Two evening events were held – a dinner at the Alte Kaisermühle at the invitation of ARICSA and an evening at the 10er Marie Heurigen at the invitation of the City of Vienna.

The week started with two open meetings – a morning session on Pension Issues and an afternoon session on After-Service Health Insurance issues. These meetings were well attended and led to exchange of significant detailed information and clarity in the mandates for the FAFICS standing committees charged with these important topics.

The three plenary sessions on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday handled the usual formal business of the Federation. The 2024 Financial Report and the 2026 Budget were approved. The auditors gave a clean audit report, but stressed that a future with the planned income does not appear to be sustainable. The FAFICS Bureau pledged to work on means to increase income, mainly by adding new Member Associations to the 65 Associations in the Federation and by helping Associations to add members in their areas.

Although no additional Associations joined the Federation at this time, two Member Associations had reinvigorated their participation: AAFNU-Mauritania and UNPAI-New Delhi were present and active.

Elections were held for two vice-president positions that were becoming vacant. The election was held electronically, but five Associations were unable to vote electronically, so some paper ballots were created. The election results saw Ms. Adriana Gomez (AFICS-Chile) and Mr. Clemens Adams (AAFI-AFICS-Geneva) elected, and Mr. Abdou Khader Diakhate (AFICS-Senegal), who was up for re-election, failing. The FAFICS Bureau agreed that Mr. Diakhate should continue to be a full member of the Bureau as co-chair of the Standing Committee on Membership. Noting that the FAFICS Rules of Procedure do not include any specific procedures for election polling, the Bureau has pledged to develop detailed procedures in time for next year's election.

The Council noted that a long-term respected member has decided to reduce his active participation. Mr. Gerhard Schramek will be stepping back as of the end of the year. Gerhard, a member of ARICSA since his retirement, has been a powerful and well-informed voice on the FAFICS delegation to the Pension Board since 2008, and since 2009 one of the FAFICS representatives on the Pension Board's Standing Committee. His work has resulted in improvements in the way the Fund works, and improved the functioning of the Pension Board. Gerhard is not disappearing, simply reducing his active commitment.

The President reported that it had been a very busy year, with his efforts to be present and ensure enhanced transparency and communication. Regular President's letters, with French and Spanish versions, and video messages were issued. Opening statements were made at some Association annual meetings and pre-retirement seminars. The President attended the AFICS-Chile annual meeting in person, met the Executive Director of the United Nations Commission for Latin America and the

Caribbean (ECLAC), the United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC) for Chile and held a virtual meeting with Latin American Associations. He attended the annual meeting of AFICS-New York and held several side meetings. He met with the leadership of AAFU-Paris, prepared a written statement for their annual conference and presented a statement virtually to the FFOA-Rome annual meeting. The President attended the annual meeting of FICSA and gave an opening speech as part of efforts to re-establish strong links between FICSA and FAFICS. The President hopes to visit one or two Associations next year.

The President suggested, and the Council approved, that more could be done to ensure that there are sufficient people volunteering to be in the various FAFICS and Pension Board committees. The Bureau pledged to work on ways to convince members of Associations to volunteer, and ways to vet such volunteers, so that the President has options and sufficient information to make informed choices. At the same time, the Council approved a change to its rules so that appointments to Pension Board committees will be valid for the tenure determined by the Pension Board, instead of the two-year renewal tenures previously in the FAFICS Rules of Procedure.

Two items were raised by Member Associations. AFICS-Addis Ababa inquired whether a Pension Fund liaison office in Addis Ababa would be feasible. The Chief Executive of the Fund, Ms. Rosemarie McClean, responded that the Fund presently had other priorities and had already increased global communications means and online services. AFICS-Peru raised the issue of a 'global retiree ID' from the UN or the Pension Fund, but this was seen as very challenging and untimely. Nevertheless, the Bureau pledged to include the issue in its work programme for the coming year.

Details of the various topics can be found in the complete FAFICS Council report, under <https://fafics.org>, as of September.

The celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of FAFICS was a success, inspiring and building community. A keynote speech by the FAFICS President built on messages from the current and past Secretary-General of the UN, and a video of “retirees in action”. A forum with prominent speakers (Ms. Rosemarie McClean, Chief Executive of Pension Administration; Ms. Wadzanai Garwe, FICSA President, Ms. Ann Van Houtte, ASHI Speaker formerly from WHO, and Mr. Michael Atchia, President of AFICS-Mauritania). An e-publication was produced. The day ended with an evening at the 10er Marie Heurigen at the invitation of the City of Vienna. Details and pictures can be found on the FAFICS website.

Following the decision of the Pension Board to meet in Vienna again next year, the FAFICS Bureau has decided to accept the invitation of ARICSA to hold the next FAFICS Council in Vienna, in the week of 20 July 2026.

Report on the 81st Meeting of the UNJS Pension Board

The United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board is the highest management body for the joint Pension Fund. It meets three times annually, with the first two meetings (February and April) totally virtual and the third meeting (July) in-person. It has delegations from four groups: The Executive Heads of UN Organizations, the Governing Bodies (e.g. representatives of governments), Participants (i.e active staff) and FAFICS, representing the retirees and other beneficiaries. The FAFICS Delegation included representatives from ARICSA (Gerhard Schramek and Jerry Barton), and sister organizations FFOA Rome, AAFI-AFICS Geneva, and AFICS/New York. Representatives of the Pension Administration and the Office of Investment Management are also present to answer questions and provide information.

The primary message from the Fund is that the Fund is in a very sound condition – both financially and operationally. Investments and active income are more than sufficient to pay all

current and foreseen future benefits. The Pension Administration is gearing up to handle the higher-than-expected number of separations in the next years, so delays are not expected. Our pensions are safe.

The first topic to mention is the one that received no mention – namely the resignation of the Representative of the Secretary-General for the Investment of the Assets of the Pension Fund. Mr. Pedro Guazo resigned on 15 July 2025. It was recognized that the Fund’s bifurcated nature (Pension Administration vs. Investment Management) means that matters regarding investment staff are dealt with solely by the Secretary-General and the UN’s Office of Human Resources.

The Pension Board, after an exhaustive search and several interviews, recommended the appointment of Dino Dell’Accio to be the Deputy Chief Executive of Pension Administration as of September 2025, replacing David Penklis, who is retiring. Dino presently serves as the Chief Information Officer of the Fund.

There was substantive discussion of the actuarial assumptions that will be used to develop an actuarial forecast of the long-term health of the Fund. It will start early next year to be ready by July 2026. Such a forecast is important, since the Fund wants to continue and of course the present and future beneficiaries want to receive their earned benefits. Some of the parameters are being adjusted to reflect two significant realities: the number of active staff around the UN system is likely to decrease significantly in 2026 and 2027 and the investment markets are going to continue being somewhat unpredictable. Also, the assumptions used in the last study for rapidly increasing life spans have turned out to be too optimistic, so longevity increases are being predicted to slow.

We had the usual excellent presentations from Rosemarie McClean and (as Acting RSG) Toro Shindo, as well as from the Chair of the Investment Committee. An impressive amount of volatility in the investment markets and an

impressive resilience in our Fund's investments were highlighted.

Concerning the investments, we received a wealth of information, but as noted above, investment management is outside the purview of the Board. The Board does look at the Budget of the Office of Investment Management as well as that of the Pension Administration.

Jerry Barton

Austrian Wills and Probate Procedures Seminar

ARICSA invited Dr. Thorsten Antenreiter (from the notary office DÜRR, SCHULLER-KÖHLER, ANTENREITER & PARTNER – www.notare.at) to brief our members on Austrian regulations regarding testaments and powers of attorney in an open seminar on 25 August 2025. The seminar was well attended, with an interesting talk and many interesting questions. The recording and presentation will be available on the ARICSA website (as well as the recently updated ARICSA document on “What To Do If... – Preparing for the Final Farewell”).

The major message of the seminar is that planning for your end of life is very important and helps you and those around you.

Concerning protection in cases where an adult is no longer able to make decisions, Dr. Antenreiter explained that there are four major types of representation. The most common and versatile representation is the “Durable Power of Attorney” (Vorsorgevollmacht) that must be signed while mental health is unimpaired for the potential case of any subsequent legal incapacity. The representative(s) may be any person, and the designation is not time limited. Different chapters can be added, including financial transactions, in particular representation at banks, legal transactions, in particular representation at authorities and at court, legal transactions, including representation in matters concerning real estate property, nursing and care

decisions, and medical affairs, including representation towards hospitals and doctors.

If you choose not to establish a Durable Power of Attorney, you may wish to establish a “Health Care Proxy” (Patientenverfügung). This document specifies the types of medical treatments that you do NOT want to have. It requires medical advice and is valid for eight years. The specifications are then binding on the medical care givers. Dr. Antenreiter noted that the Durable Power of Attorney is often preferred.

Concerning Wills and Testaments, Dr. Antenreiter explained that there are two methods: either entirely handwritten and signed, or else signed by the testator and three independent witnesses. As a personal document, establishing a testament via a notary is advisable for several reasons, including that the fact that a testament exists is recorded in an Austrian database, making procedures after death simpler. The decision on probate is now based on the location of ‘habitual residence’, not on the nationality of the deceased.

He noted that bilingual testaments are possible, and in case assets are in a country other than Austria, it may be advisable also to make a testament in that country and specify which assets are to be handled by which testament. He also noted that it is more effective to have funeral arrangements in a separate document, since the funeral may be over before the probate process is completed.

Another consideration is that Austria has the concept of “legal portions” (Pflichtanteil) for close relatives, i.e. a spouse and the (grand-) children, who are entitled to receive a minimum share out of the estate.

The attendees thanked Dr. Antenreiter for the clear and important presentation.

The ARICSA website

Our domain **www.aricsa.org** is divided into two parts: one part for general information which anyone can access and a second, members-only, part. The members-only part requires an ID and password to access. The ID is **aricsamember** and the password is **whitehair**.

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UN Pension Fund

Mailing address:

United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund
c/o Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10

Contacting UNJSPF by phone, or email:

Tel: +41 (0) 22 928 88 00

Tel: 0800 100 485 toll-free in Austria

To send an electronic message to the Pension Fund use the 'Send Us a Message' Form on their website: <https://www.unjspf.org/contact-us>

The Client Servicing Unit will take your calls from Monday 7:00 to Saturday 6:00 (CET). If the tape is in French, you only need to press # to switch to English and vice versa.

If you want to send physical mail to the New York office and choose to send it via courier or registered mail, please use the following address:

United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund
37th floor, 1 DHP
885 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017,
USA

In diesem Heft finden Sie

- Unser Präsident berichtet.
- FAFICS-Rat 2025.
- Bericht über die 81. Sitzung des Pensionsrats.
- Bericht über Seminar über testamentarische Angelegenheiten in Österreich.
- Liste der neuen Mitglieder.
- Liste der Kollegen, die von uns gegangen sind.

The ARICSA Executive Committee

Mr. Jerry Barton, President

Mr. Gerhard Schramek, Vice President

Mr. Werner Blenk, Vice President

Ms. Rosemarie Orkan-Lecki, Executive Secretary

Ms. Manijeh Torabi, Treasurer

Mr. Olaf-Michael Stefanov

Mr. Shyam Upadhyaya

UNIDO Staff Pension Committee: Ms.

Marie-Odile Dorer, Mr. Shyam Upadhyaya

IAEA Staff Pension Committee: Mr. Jerry Barton, Mr. Gerhard Schramek

Joint UNIDO/UNOV Standing Committee on Health and Life Insurance: Mr. Olaf-Michael Stefanov

IAEA JAC Sub-Committee on Health and Life Insurance: Ms. Manijeh Torabi, Mr. Gerhard Schramek

The following persons have agreed to assist on a regular basis:

Ms. Mary Balmanian, Ms. Anneliese Heber, Ms. Rita Liang, Ms. Lili Matsushita, Office Administrators

**Ms. Monireh Damestani, Database Manager
Mr. Martin Reading, Newsletter Editor**

Room VIC C0249B

P. O. Box 100 A-1400 Vienna Tel. 2600-26116,

email: office@aricsa.org

Individual questions: inquiries@aricsa.org

Office hours:

Monday - Thursday 14:00-16:00

New Members 2 Jan – 27 Aug 2025

AIGNER, Helmut Josef Walter (Mr.)	IAEA
ANOKYE, John Kwadwo (Mr.)	
BADMAGHARIAN, Markarid (Ms.)	IAEA
BALKIS, Imad (Mr.)	ICAO
BOEMEKE, Manfred (Mr.)	IAEA
BRUSA, Antonino (Mr.)	UNRWA
BYBERG, Helena (Ms.)	IAEA
CERNA, Zuzana (Ms.)	UNDP
FAYMANN, Anton (Dr.)	ILO
FLITTON, Steven (Mr.)	CTBTO
GERARDO-ABAYA, Jane (Dr.)	IAEA
GIANCOVICH, Cinzia (Ms.)	ICTP
GILBERT, Alfia (Ms.)	UNOG
GLANTSCHNIG, Ewald (Mr.)	WIPO
GRIMM, Ferdinand (Mr.)	UNOV
GUSEV, Igor (Mr.)	IAEA
JAYCE, Elizabeth (Ms.)	
JINCHUK, Dario (Ing.)	IAEA
JOYCE, Elizabeth (Dr.)	UNHQS
JULLIAND, Valerie (Ms.)	IAEA
KIENE, Werner (Mr.)	
LEITER, Marcia (Ms.)	UNOV
LOGHIN, Norocel-Eduard (Mr.)	IAEA
MARINGER, Anita (Ms.)	UNOV
MCFERREN-ZENZ, Regina (Ms.)	UNIDO
MONTAGNAT-RENTIER, Gilles (Mr.)	IMF
NEUBACHER, Adelheid (Ms.)	UNOV
NOCQUET, Francoise (Ms.)	UNDP
ODEIMA, Maha (Ms.)	UNHCR
ROCKENSCHAUB, Gerald (Dr.)	WHO
SEBIRE, Nicolas (Mr.)	UNICEF
VERPELLI, Marco (Dr.)	IAEA
VIEHBOECK, Eveline (Ms.)	OCHA
VON RAUTENKRANZ, Michele (Ms.)	IAEA
WANG, Pei (Ms.)	IAEA
WEBER, Joerg (Mr.)	UNCTAD
WHEATLEY, John (Mr.)	
WILHELM, Sibylle (Ms.)	IAEA
ZAHER, Nushin (Ms.)	IAEA
ZAHRADNIK, Marie-Andree (Ms.)	IAEA
ZUTT, Stefan (Mr.)	UNICEF
ZWEIER, Robert (Mr.)	IAEA

In Memoriam

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the families and friends of the following colleagues or their spouses whose deaths we have learned of:

ABIODUN, Adigun Adegoke	UNOV	3 February 2025
ANGULO, Fernando	UNIDO	12 March 2025
BEGUIER, Jacques	IAEA	19 April 2025
BRIDI, Daniel	UNOV	27 June 2025
BURNHAM, Robin William	UNOV	23 January 2025
CAMPBELL, Virginia G.W.	UNIDO	24 January 2025
CHIANG, Cheng	IAEA	6 March 2025
COOK, John Gregory	IAEA	13 December 2024
FONTANE-DALWI, Inge	UNOV	28 March 2025
GASPARINI, Marco	IAEA	1 May 2025
GOLD, Elisabeth	UNOV	8 February 2025
GRINGORTEN, Judah Lawrence	IAEA	10 April 2025
HALGAND, Daniel	UNOV	28 May 2025
KAINZ, Aine Mary	IAEA	14 January 2025
KIRILYUK, Anatoly	IAEA	27 February 2025
LANTOS, George	UNIDO	6 March 2025
LOPEZ, Elisabeth	UNIDO	17 April 2025
LOVETT, J.	IAEA	21 February 2025
MADER, Erika Maria	UNOV	23 May 2025
MAEVSKI, Andrei	UNIDO	10 May 2025
MARIKAR, Mohamed Shaffi	UNIDO	3 February 2025
MARKARIAN, Suren	UNOV	4 April 2025
MAYER, Henrike	UNIDO	2 March 2025
NIEHAUS, Friedrich	IAEA	13 February 2025
ONER, Onder	IAEA	10 February 2025
POPKOWSKI-LESZCZYK, Henri	UNIDO	16 February 2025

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the families and friends of the following colleagues or their spouses whose deaths we have learned of:

RAHMAN, Minhazur	UNOV	19 June 2025
RAMADAN, Adnan A.	UNOV	25 February 2025
RAVNDAL, Inga	IAEA	10 January 2025
REHAK, Walter Wilhelm	IAEA	10 May 2025
REID, Andrew	IAEA	7 March 2025
SCHOISL, Theresia	UNOV	30 January 2025
SHAH, Syed N.H.	UNIDO	17 May 2025
SLARK, Gary Edward	IAEA	4 January 2025
SOEDERBERG, Bengt	UNIDO	16 January 2025
STITZ, Ursula	UNIDO	16 May 2025
STRUPCZEWSKI, Andrzej L.	IAEA	18 February 2025
TRAMPUS, Peter	IAEA	12 April 2025
TROLL-OBERGFELL, Helga	UNIDO	17 May 2025
TZOLOV, Roumen	IAEA	10 April 2025
UCIK, Walter	IAEA	16 April 2025
WEICHSELBAUMER, Adelheid	IAEA	21 May 2025