

General Assembly 5 June 2025 - Agenda point 4 POLICY REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to say first of all, as you are all by now aware, that this is my final report as President of FAIB since I hand over to my successor Florence Bindelle at the end of this meeting. I have indeed been President a full eight years since 2017 and have been on the Board of Directors since well before this. Although Florence has been on FAIB's Board for several years now, I have agreed to stay on the Board for a transitional period. I will also continue to represent FAIB on the Board of the MAI.

As you will have heard from our guest speaker at the outset at this meeting - David Leisterh - this last year has been fairly flat on the political front, with politicians spending much of their time trying to agree on a post-electoral programme – successfully at the federal, Flemish and Walloon levels, unsuccessful till now at the level of Brussels.

As a result, this year our focus has been more on internal matters, on strengthening FAIB's financial position while at the same continuing to offer the services and information which allow us to continue serving our members attracting new members; this is of course a little more arduous at times when there are few new policy challenges in Belgium facing our members.

I would also like to now highlight some of our achievements during my tenure as President:

- We successfully influenced the Company and Association Code which became law in 2019. This took intensive but essential work over one and a half years: the original draft legislative text had all but wiped out the status of AISBL/ iVZW (INPA). The adopted law has consolidated our position and our influence at the level of the federal and Brussels regional governments.
- We have worked hard to contain the unfortunate tendency of banks to forget their public service obligations to focus on their profitability, often closing the accounts of INPAs for the slightest reason. We have managed to ensure that the situation has improved and, when contacted, have helped members to keep / open accounts, but this has come at a financial cost to associations and other categories of account holders.
- As you all know, it is not enough to do a good job; it is essential to be seen to be doing so. We have therefore increasingly invested in communications and now have a member of staff focusing on this. As a result of this and the above "issues", our membership has increased over 30% these last eight years, notwithstanding certain members leaving us or simply winding up.

On a more down-to-earth level, I have managed a change in Secretary General when Daniel Vranken retired, and her position was taken over Stella Sauvan our present Secretary General.

I have also, with the support of our Board, driven a change in the structure of our membership and sponsorship fees and we have, therefore, once again come back to balancing the books; we can now look forward to building up our reserves once again to be able to meet our social and financial obligations, if members ever decided no longer to support us : this is a question of good governance which associations should aim to achieve.

To conclude my report, I would like to thank you our members for your support during these last years and, of course, I wish to thank our Board members and staff of FAIB as well as our experts and sponsors for your joint focus on achieving our aims – that is to offer excellent service, information and events for all those matters which impact you our members as international associations based in Belgium.



I have enjoyed being President of FAIB and look forward to continuing working in support of my successor once I have finished reading the book you have kindly offered me and which many of you have signed. Thank you.

Adrian HARRIS
Former FAIB President

