

MINUTES OF THE IFCAI COUNCIL

held in Manama, Bahrain

March 24, 2015, 9.00am

PRESENT

Stefano Azzali (Secretary-Treasurer) (CAM – Italy)
Mohamed Abdel Raouf (CRCICA – Egypt)
Andrea Carlevaris (ICC – France)
India Johnson (AAA – USA)
Nassib Ziadé (BCDR-AAA – Bahrain)
Nina Berggren on behalf of Annette Magnusson (SCC – Sweden)

1. WELCOME

The Vice President, Mohamed Abdel Raouf, on behalf of the President who could not attend, chairs the current meeting and thanks all those present for attending; he especially thanks Nassib Ziadé and the BCDR-AAA for the hospitality.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Diana Droulers, Meg Kinnear, Chiann Bao, Doug Jones and Alexey Kostin communicated their impossibility to attend this meeting.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda for the Council, which had been circulated earlier and is now tabled, is adopted by unanimous agreement.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Council meeting held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, on November 17, 2014 and circulated on March 11, 2015, are approved by the Council and will be signed by the President in due course.

5. FINANCES AND MEMBERSHIP

At the Vice President's invitation, the Secretary Treasurer updates the Council on IFCAI's finances and membership.

5.1 The Secretary Treasurer reports that, as at March 1, 2015, IFCAI's bank account stood at US\$ 89.626,40.

5.2 As at the date of the present meeting and with reference to the 2014 subscriptions, there are 53 fully paid-up members and 4 whose subscription is outstanding only for 2014. The subscription of the Permanent Arbitration Court at the Croatian Chamber of Commerce is outstanding for 2013 and 2014: this member will be struck off for non-payment in accordance with the Constitution. The Lewiatan Court of Arbitration (Poland) and the Permanent Court of the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry have ended their membership.

5.3 IFCAI is now made up of 58 members, including the following three new members: CAM-CCBC from Brazil, MAC from Malta, and CEA from Spain.

5.4 As far as the expenses are concerned, the Secretary Treasurer reports that, from last General Assembly held in Miami on April 2014, the Federation has covered the expenses for the organization of the Miami meetings and for the new website. During 2015 the Federation will also have to cover the reimbursement of the 2014 secretarial activities for IFCAI as well as the web hosting expenses.

6. IFCAI 13th BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

The Secretary Treasurer thanks Nassib Ziadé and the BCDR-AAA staff for the tremendous work done for the Biennial Conference held the previous day. Mr. Ziadé reports that it was a very successful event: there were approximately 170 registered participants, coming from the Arab world (Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia etc.) as well as from many other countries; the event was expensive, nevertheless it was feasible also thanks to the sponsors. The El Koshéri Celebration was also much appreciated by the participants, and the other side event (the Young ICCA meeting) will take place in the afternoon, after the current meeting. The Council congratulates with Mr. Ziadé and the hosting organization for the fruitful and successful event.

7. IFCAI WEBSITE

The Secretary Treasurer illustrates the new IFCAI website, which is now finished and currently online.

7.1 The reserved area of the website is the most important part for the IFCAI members: this is a place to share best practices and to exchange information (i.e. regarding the pathological clauses of the institutions, the hearing rooms to be booked in different part of the world, etc.). The Secretary Treasurer shows that the Milan Chamber of Arbitration has already uploaded its pathological clauses and invites the other members to do the same by sending information to Lucia Santucci who is taking care of the website.

7.2 The Council agrees to move the IFCAI Constitution to the public area (instead of the reserved area where it is currently uploaded) and asks the Secretary Treasurer to try to collect other minutes of the past meetings to be published in the “Minutes” Section.

7.3 The Secretary Treasurer reminds that it has been decided not to activate the online payment via credit card because of the high costs of the gateway and the very few requests received during these last years.

7.4 He reminds that each member can find its own 2015 subscription invoice on its private page of the reserved area. He also underlines that, once the 2015 subscription fee will be paid, each member will receive a new password to access the reserved area.

7.5 The Council expresses its appreciation for the work done, especially to Lucia.

8. OTHER ISSUES

Mohamed Abdel Raouf reports the request of ICCA to join, as observer, the IFCAI Council or the General Assembly meetings. Nassib Ziadé is not in favor and thinks that there should be restrictions for the admittance of candidates that do not administer arbitration and mediation cases. Andrea Carlevaris underlines that there is no mention in the Constitution as to an 'observer status' for such cases. The Council discusses the possibility to amend the Constitution with reference to the admission and attendance of entities who do not administer cases. There could be two categories: one made up of the "real" institution members, and one made up of "affiliate members" who promote international arbitration and support the aims and objectives of IFCAI but do not administer cases and shall not be eligible in the Council. Alternatively, these entities could simply be invited as observers (without paying any subscription fee).

The Secretary Treasurer proposes to draft a new wording of the section D (Membership) of the Constitution and to discuss this issue during next Council. The Council agrees.

9. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS

9.1 The next meeting of the Council will take place on the occasion of the IBA Congress **in Vienna on October 7, 2015**, asking hospitality to VIAC. Further details shall follow in due course.

9.2 The next General Assembly will take place on the occasion of next ICCA Congress to be held **in Mauritius on 8-11 May 2016**. Further details shall follow in due course.

9.3 The Secretary Treasurer also reminds that the next IFCAI Biennial Conference will be held in Hong Kong on October 2017, as agreed with Chiann Bao during last IFCAI meetings. This will be the occasion for the election of the new IFCAI Council.

10. CLOSE OF THE MEETING

There being no further business, the meeting is declared closed at 10.30am.

President

Date