



ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS in AUSTRIA (ARICSA)
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29 April 2023

Dear FAFICS Member Associations,

You are invited to have a delegation participate in the 53rd FAFICS Council, which will be held in Vienna, Austria from 17 – 20 July 2023. Please note that the Council will hold full day sessions, starting in the morning of Monday 17 July 2023. Also please note that for FAFICS Bureau members, the Council begins on Sunday, 16 July with a Bureau meeting. As in 2022, this Council will be essentially a physical meeting, with remote participation, including voting, available.

ARICSA is once again delighted to host this Council, which will take place at the Vienna International Centre (VIC) from 17-20 July 2023 in conference room CR-4, in the C Building, 4th floor (see VIC map in annex).

We have prepared the attached information sheet which hopefully will address all your logistical questions.

The details of the Council agenda will be circulated separately. There will be cocktails on Monday, 17 July 2023 in the evening in the vicinity of the conference room (details to follow) and ARICSA is pleased to invite you to a dinner, details of which will be circulated closer to the time.

Please register your delegation (either physical or virtual) with the FAFICS Secretary as soon as possible, so that we can inform the VIC's Department of Safety and Security and the UNOV Conference Services. Please note that UN "R" (retiree) badges from duty stations other than Vienna are, as in the past, still not acceptable here. You will receive a conference badge on Monday 17 July when you first enter Gate 1.

Our office is at your disposal should you need further information. Please do not hesitate to contact us and we will get back to you within a couple of days or sooner.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Jerry Barton

President



ARICSA is a member Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants (FAFICS), representing UN System retirees world-wide (www.fafics.org).

How to reach the Vienna International Center (VIC):

Take the underground line U1 in the direction of *Leopoldau* until you *reach Kaisermühlen/Vienna International Centre* and then follow the signs to Gate 1 of the VIC, the main entrance.

The VIC is also easy to reach by car via the A22 motorway or from the city centre via the Reichsbrücke. Buses may park in the side street off Wagramer Strasse. Parking on the street is limited to two hours. You would have to park in a private parking garage. If you intend to drive, we recommend that you contact us to help find nearby parking.

The VIC is accessible to people with disabilities. See the map of the VIC in Annex 1.

Obtain a VIC conference participant's pass:

A conference participant's pass will be ready for you at the Pass Office, Gate 1. You will need to enter the VIC premises at Gate 1 and go through airport-style security prior to being admitted into the Pass Office area. Do not forget to have with you a valid passport or other official photo ID. We advise you to arrive early on Monday, July 17th. Mondays are traditionally busy at Gate 1 in the morning.

Covid regulations:

In line with the latest regulations in the Host Country and Host City, FFP2 masks are mandatory only in the VIC Medical Centre at the Vienna International Centre and in other medical facilities in Vienna. Some pharmacies still require masks. In keeping with the Austrian authorities' guidance and VIC Medical Service advice, wearing FFP2 masks indoors at the VIC is optional.

Although proof of vaccination or recovery is no longer needed to access restaurants and other facilities, it is always a good idea to carry with you a copy of your vaccination/recovery certificate.

Food and Drink in the VIC

The VIC Cafeteria (ground floor of F building) is operating as it did in 2019. It is free-flow and is open for breakfast as well as lunch. The VIC Restaurant is open Monday through Thursday as usual. The coffee bars on the 7th floor of C building and the ground floor of M building are in operation and have a small range of snacks and sandwiches. The Cocktail Lounge has recently reopened, but only Wednesday through Friday from 15:30.

Finding your way in Vienna:

The following website <https://www.wien.info/en> *Vienna. Now. Forever* provides all the information necessary to get acquainted with Vienna, book a hotel (see <https://www.wien.info/en>), use public transportation (see <https://www.wien.info/en/travel-info/transport>), Covid regulations (see <https://www.wien.info/en/travel-info/corona-information>) and other topics. As indicated, all the Covid-19 regulations have been lifted except in medical offices and hospitals where a FFP2 mask is still mandatory.

Concerning hotels near the VIC, the Park Inn (formerly directly across) has closed for rebuilding. The Arcotel Kaiserwasser (across from the UBahn stop), the NH Danube City (a block further than the VIC), and the Meliá Vienna (in the DC Tower very close to the UBahn stop) are all operating normally. If booking at these or other nearby hotels, be sure to mention that you are a participant at an international conference in the VIC. A more complete list of hotels around the VIC can be found at <https://www.iaea.org/events/hotel-list>.

You can find out about the weather at <https://at.wetter.com> or <https://weather.com>.

Banking

The VIC has branches of Bank Austria and the UNFCU in building C, first floor. They are open generally until 3 p.m., on Thursdays longer.

Facilities for People with Disabilities

There is a booklet discussing access to the VIC and facilities within the VIC for people with disabilities. If you would like this booklet, please contact us and we will email it to you.

If you need further assistance:

The ARICSA office is ready to help you if you need assistance. Our office is located in the C building, 2nd floor, room no. 0249B. Our telephone numbers are 01-2600-25116 or 01-2600-26116. Our email address is office@aricsa.org. Allow a couple of days for someone to get back to you.

Annex 1: Map of the VIC

