



FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATIONS OF FORMER INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS
FÉDÉRATION DES ASSOCIATIONS DES ANCIENS FONCTIONNAIRES INTERNATIONAUX
FEDERACION DE ASOCIACIONES DE EX-FUNCIONARIOS INTERNACIONALES

20 May 2014

Message to all member and associate member associations

We have been receiving many requests for advice on how those UNJSPF beneficiaries who have received indirectly a petition to the UN Secretary General should react. The petition was circulated electronically by staff unions on 15 May.

The issues in question are not new and have been under discussion for some time both in the Pension Board and in the United Nations General Assembly. They concern the revision of the administrative arrangements under which the Pension Fund Secretariat operates under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Fund and the United Nations. However, the petition refers not only to these administrative arrangements but also alludes to concerns for the management of investments.

FAFICS and our Member Associations in New York and Geneva have been carefully monitoring the situation and actively seeking clarifications from the Secretary/CEO of the Fund.

At the request of the President of FAFICS, the President of AFICS/NY met with the CEO/Secretary of the Pension Fund and his deputy on 14 April and received assurances that any changes in the MoU would be brought to the Pension Board for approval before being referred to the General Assembly for decision.

On 30 April, the President of FAFICS wrote to the Secretary/CEO of the Pension Fund to express concern about the rumours which were circulating on the matter.

This letter is reprinted here:

30 April 2014

Dear Sergio,

Thank you for your email attaching your letter of 8 April to the Secretaries of SPC's and seeking my thoughts and suggestions on the topic.

I have read carefully your message. I have been somewhat surprised by the extent of further communications on this subject which I - and some of our AFICS members - have received. The issue is clearly contentious.

Let me recall, for the record, that I have supported some relaxation of the UN administrative processes including the recruitment and promotion of UNJSPF staff members through the renegotiation of the MoU between the Fund and the United Nations. In interventions in the Board, I cited the example of the MoU between the ICSC and the UN which I felt might be a model for the discussions of the matter in the Fund.

However, what is seemingly being proposed through the issuance of an SGB(*) goes far beyond the required flexibility in human resources management processes and is of concern to me and to the Member Associations of FAFICS.

FAFICS is grateful to you for meeting with our Vice-President, Linda Saputelli, on 14 April at which, I understand from Linda, you confirmed that no action would be taken in respect of any administrative issuance until the normal procedures of consulting the Board had taken place. I was reassured by this message.

The matter, however, appears to continue to inflame passions to such a degree that our Member Associations - notably in New York and Geneva - are expressing continuing concern for the effect that this matter is causing to the serenity which we have come to expect in our dealings with the Fund Secretariat. This can and does have an impact of the invaluable services the Secretariat provides to beneficiaries worldwide and also to the management of the investments of the Fund.

We very much hope that a period of calm can be re-established in order to allow for the necessary consultation with the staff of the Fund, the UN Office of Human Resources Management and with the members of the Board to allow a thorough review of the proposed changes in the Fund's human resource management and of the potential consequences of the proposals which, from the drafts that have been circulating so widely, have been under consideration.

At all events FAFICS must insist that no action be taken to circumvent the review and consideration by the Board of any action being contemplated in the area of delegation of authority.

I am copying this note to the Chairman of the Board with a request that the Board members be informed appropriately.

With best wishes

Roger Eggleston

President,

FAFICS

Mr Sergio Arvizu,

Secretary/CEO, UNJSPF

Note: * An SGB is a (UN) Secretary General's Bulletin

On 19 May, AFICS/NY wrote to the CEO and the RSG (Representative of the Secretary General for Investments) to ask whether “the significant changes mentioned in the petition, especially those with respect to the items related to investments [are] in fact being contemplated” and asking for their views.

We hope that this message will help clarify at least some of the questions being asked by those beneficiaries who have been made aware of the UN staff unions’ petition.

As far as FAFICS can determine there is no concern for the investments of the Fund nor for the continued payment of pensions.

As is stated in the President’s letter, we very much hope that the calm we expect from the Pension Fund secretariat will be restored as soon as possible and we shall continue to monitor the matter and to exert pressure to his end.

As soon as further information is forthcoming, we shall advise member associations accordingly.

Roger Eggleston, President

FAFICS