



**Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Management of INLA  
held on 12 April 2021**

**Were present :**

**by video conference :**

HORIN William, President

ABDEL-AZIZ Ahab  
AMEYE Evelyne  
BEYENS Marc  
GÜLEL BIRSEN Abide  
DOMINGUEZ Cristina  
FORK William  
JANSEN TERSTEGEN Achim  
JAVANAINEN Jyrki  
LAMM Vanda  
LEGER Marc  
MACIEL SANCHEZ Sara  
SALTER Ian  
TONHAUSER Wolfram  
VASQUEZ-MAIGNAN Ximena

REYNERS Patrick, Secretary General

KEYMOLEN Bernadette, Administrative Secretary

**by invitation and video conference :**

GEOFFROY Fiona  
PRIETO SERANO Nuria  
SANDERS Marc  
TREILLARD Jean-Denis  
VANDEPUTTE Godelieve  
VAN KALLEVEEN Alexandra

**Apologies received :**

NOMURA Toyohiro  
REYNAERS Els



## **I. Opening**

This meeting of the Board was held on 12 April 2021, using a zoom platform kindly organized by the OECD/NEA. The session started at 2:20pm, Paris time. The President, Bill Horin, welcomed all participants and he expressed his appreciation for the NEA's technical support. The Secretary General, Patrick Reyners, confirmed that the quorum was reached. Concerning apologies, he noted with regret that Professor Nomura had not been successful in joining the meeting.

## **II. Adoption of the Agenda**

The proposed Agenda [INLA Board (2021)1] was included in the letter of convocation sent by the Secretariat on behalf of the President, on 24 March 2021. The Agenda was adopted without modification.

## **III. Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Management meeting on 8 June 2020**

The Minutes of the virtual meeting of the BoM, held on 8 June 2020 [INLA Board (2020)4], were approved without change.

## **IV. Consequences for INLA of the continued pandemic and alternative work plans**

The President acknowledged that the life of the Association had not been spared by the covid pandemic, as the Board was well aware, and he felt the need for new initiatives and contingency plans to prepare the future. He therefore introduced his plans for the period 2021/2, which he had already had the occasion to discuss with several colleagues.

The intention of the US Chapter, recognizing the harsh global road on which we are still travelling, with impacts on individual members, families, business and nations, was, with the support of the BoM, to sponsor a virtual, multi-phase INLA congress in 2021. The plan would consist of converting the traditional congress format into multiple Working Groups sessions on selected topics, during the summer and early fall. The idea was to encourage Working Groups growth and activity. Such virtual, single day, meetings for each WG would be open to all INLA members. And in the latter fall, there would be a - virtual again - two day congress, enabling the gathering of the membership.

And then... in 2022, we would finally hold a full congress in Washington D.C., run as we have in the past. He was determined throughout these projects to work with members who had already submitted proposals for papers and he would welcome new abstracts through the process. Further details on these plans would be provided in due time and in consultations with the WGs.



As underlined by William Fork, it was important to show that the Association was not paralyzed by the pandemic, and that came also at the time individual members were asked to pay their annual membership fees.

The Secretary General observed in his turn that following the 1st Congress Announcement circulated in the fall of 2019, and again after the release in October 2020 of a Revised 1st Announcement, some fifty persons had responded to the call for contributions. He felt it important that the authors of abstracts (the list of which had been sent to the BoM) be informed without delay of the situation and be associated to any decisions concerning their submissions and future congresses. He also suggested to set up a sort of programme committee including interested Board members and representatives of the WGs in coordination with the INLA-US Congress committee(s).

Wolfram Tonhauser supported the plan of actions identified by the President. He referred to the virtual Conference on Nuclear Law, to be organized by the IAEA 7-11 February 2022. He explained that this project was strongly supported by the Director General; a project Manager had been appointed. All interested persons were free to join the event and he hoped for an active participation from INLA. More information was available on the IAEA website.

The President welcomed this news and he hoped for a close coordination with our Association.

Ahab Abdel-Aziz was also supportive of the plans for actions outlined by the President. He cautioned however against charging too much a fee for the 2021 virtual congress, which could have a negative impact on participation.

Ian Salter indicated that, pandemic permitting, he intended to reschedule for September 2021 the UK Nuclear Law Day, which had had to be cancelled in 2020.

#### **V. Finance and Membership Fees**

The Secretary General drew the attention to the provisional Budget for 2021 as well as to the Balance Sheet and to the Profit and Loss Account per the end of 2020, all sent to the Board on 30 March 2021. He noted that, given the new postponement of the Washington congress, various items in the draft budget such as those related to meetings were likely to be substantially reduced. On the other hand, the trend to increase secretarial expenses and legal fees was confirmed. He took this opportunity to remind the BoM that the INLA Auditors had kindly offered to try and conduct at distance the control of the books of INLA for the years 2019 and 2020. Their report would be as usual communicated to the Board. There were no questions.

The Secretary General then turned to the recurrent problem of the collection of membership fees, newly aggravated in 2020, as reflected in the Profit and Loss document for that year and presumably linked to the quasi suspension of activities due to the pandemic. At the end of 2020, just 158 members had paid their dues (this before the sending of reminder letters). He also observed that the easier solution of using PayPal was relatively little used.



The President advised that this time the membership fee letter, to be sent shortly, make an explicit reference to the programme of activities discussed earlier by the Board, as a form of justification, and that it be systematically accompanied by invoices. Achim Jansen considered the sending of invoices was important to trigger the payment of dues; there was also the problem of undeclared retirements by members.

The Secretary General confirmed his intention to proceed as soon as possible with the expedition of membership fee letters + invoices + as the case may be reminders; he noted though that this was a time consuming task for a very light secretariat.

#### **VI. Management and Secretariat of the Association**

The Secretary General observed that these were in fact closely inter-related aspects of the operation of the Association. He reminded the Board that, historically, the Association had had its "residence" within the Belgian Nuclear Insurance Pool/SYBAN and, for a long period, the Manager of the SYBAN had acted as the Secretary general of INLA. The making available - and related costs - of a secretary (then Brigitte) as well as of office facilities and other associated services, was free of charge for the Association. Further, it had been understood all along that the other Pools contributed financially through the SYBAN to these support services. Yet, to his knowledge, there had never been mention of a particular arrangement between the SYBAN and INLA, or between the Pools and INLA, as a basis of such services.

Two recent developments had destabilized this "comfortable" situation for INLA, explained the Secretary General. Last summer, he had been approached by Alain Queré, the Manager of the Swiss Pool, who informed him on behalf of the other Pools that there was a desire to find a new basis for their (so far unformulated) relation with and support to the Association. At roughly the same time, the new Manager of SYBAN, Peter Lodewijckx, announced that the current contract (not communicated) under which Bernadette Keymolen was exclusively employed to do the secretariat of INLA, was not consistent with the Belgian legislation and should therefore be discontinued.

Since, contacts with Alain Queré had been maintained though without necessarily allowing a clarification of the Pools expectations vis-à-vis INLA. Also, the Secretary General has sought advice from the Denis Philippe law firm with a view to explore the basis of new work contract to be offered to Bernadette Keymolen as an independent worker, under the same general conditions as her present employment by the SYBAN.

On the aspect of the relations with the Nuclear Insurance Pools, Ian Salter and Achim Jansen, based on personal contacts, thought that the Pools demarche was not intended to lead to a complete disengagement but rather to a reappraisal of their relation with INLA. Willam Fork agreed and he considered that the Association remained a useful forum for the insurance organizations. Ahab Abdel-Aziz added that this was the sign of a shift of interest on the part of the nuclear industry. Generally, the Board was in favour of exploring with the Pools a future relation based on mutual benefits.

Marc Beyens felt that a reduction of the financial support so far provided by the Pools was kind of inevitable and encouraged the Association to explore the possibility to receive a form



of assistance from other nuclear institutions, which raised in itself the question of accepting sponsorship.

On the distinct but related issue of INLA hiring independently a secretary, several Board members, particularly Marc Beyens and Ahab Abdel-Aziz, considered there was no alternative to this solution, however more costly, and invited the Secretary General to proceed in that direction. The President agreed and he asked the Secretary General to move ahead with the contract already under preparation. The final text would be submitted to the Board before signature.

### **VII. Board of Management and General Assembly Meetings**

The Secretary General reminded the Board that at the time of the combined Board/General Assembly meeting held on 8 June 2020, the mandate of the Board had been extended for one year only, that is until 31 December 2021. Similarly, it had been decided that the General Assembly should again be convened before the end of the year 2021 (consistent with the then expectation of a congress the same year). Incidentally, the term of the Auditors and that of the Secretary General were also to expire end of 2021.

Taking into account the general context, a question for the Board was to propose a new one-year extension of their mandate as in 2020 or to opt for the election of a new Board. It was agreed that this should be on the agenda of the next Board meeting, and the date of 23 June 2021 was tentatively reserved for what could be again a virtual session.

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There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was closed