

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Management of INLA
held on 23 June 2021**

Were present :

by video conference :

HORIN William, President

ABDEL-AZIZ Ahab
AMEYE Evelyne
BEYENS Marc
DOMINGUEZ Cristina
FORK William
JAVANAINEN Jyrki
MACIEL SANCHEZ Sara
NOMURA Toyohiro
REYNAERS Els
VASQUEZ-MAIGNAN Ximena

REYNERS Patrick, Secretary General

KEYMOLEN Bernadette, Administrative Secretary

by invitation and video conference :

BABICH Sergey
FANIELLE Sylvain
HERBACH Jonathan
OLAJOS Karoly
PRIETO SERANO Nuria
SANDERS Marc
VAN KALLEVEEN Alexandra

Apologies received :

GÜLEL BIRSEN Abide
JANSEN TERSTEGEN Achim
LAMM Vanda
LEGER Marc
SALTER Ian
TONHAUSER Wolfram



I. Opening

The meeting of the Board was held on 23 June 2021, using again a zoom platform kindly organized by the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency.

It started at 2.30 pm and ended at 4.45 pm. 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. He also drew the attention of the participants to the presence of Sylvain Fanielle, Jonathan Herbach and Karoly Olajos, all invited to join the discussion on the status of INLA Working Groups. He also reminded the Board members that, as Secretary General, he was not allowed to receive proxies which can only be given to other Board members

II. Adoption of the Agenda

The proposed Agenda [INLA Board (2021) 3] was included in the letter of convocation sent on 8 June 2021. The Secretary General suggested that item 7 on Secretariat be addressed after item 8 on Governance. Subject to this change, the Agenda was adopted.

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

The Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Board of Management held on 12 April 2021 [INLA Board (2021) 2] were approved without change.

IV. 2021 Action Plan for the Association

As a follow-up to the discussion within the Board at its April meeting, the President had taken the initiative to write to the representatives of Working Groups a letter inviting them to launch during the summer and early autumn period a series of topical, one-day, virtual sessions. The objective of such meetings, not restricted to WG members necessarily, was to reactivate the Groups, to encourage recruitment and to pave the way to the preparation of a virtual congress to be held later in the fall. That letter had been copied to the Board members and also to the authors of abstracts having been submitted after the announcement of the twice postponed Washington congress.

The president hoped that this initiative would create an opportunity for Working Groups to address topics of their choice and, in turn, provide material for the programme of the virtual 2021 congress. The US INLA Chapter was, on its side, already working on such programme and it intended to develop it in close liaison with the Working Groups.

Ximena Vásquez-Maignan supported this move and she thought that the WG2 had many interesting subjects to explore in view of the virtual congress. She saw an advantage in allowing the participation of non-members and the President confirmed that he indeed supported the idea, as part of the recruitment effort.

Nuria Prieto Serano's reaction was also positive though the WG5 activities, like presumably those of other Groups, had been much affected by the pandemic. She could envisage a meeting in the middle of September, so as to lead to the congress. The President observed, regarding such plans, that the Working Groups should consider themselves as entirely autonomous in the organization and content of their meetings.

Els Reynaers underlined the importance of ensuring a close coordination between the US Chapter and the Working Groups, and she suggested that issuing a notice providing information about the form, content and time schedule of the coming meetings could be useful.

V. Reports from INLA Working Groups and the Status of Fusion studies

Given the former presentation of the 2021 Action Plan, the discussion focussed on the situation of the WG6 on Nuclear Security and the question of creating a new group dedicated to nuclear fusion. The President introduced Jonathan Herbach and Sylvain Fanielle, both of the Office of Legal Affairs of the IAEA, who had offered to act as secretaries of the WG6, and he invited them to present their ideas for a reactivation of that Group. He remembered the Board that the WG6 had lately been affected by the unavailability of its chair, Carl Stoiber. One aspect of the presentation by Jonathan Herbach and Sylvain Fanielle was to consider a change of title of the Group in order to reflect more explicitly the non-proliferation component of its domain of competence. That could imply an adjustment of its terms of reference. They also hoped to obtain the participation of new members. Further, they had considered the question of a new chair for the Group and doing so, they had identified as a potential designate Sonia Drobyzs who was currently the Director of VERTIC.

Ximena Vásquez-Maignan supported the reorganization of WG6 and she thanked her IAEA colleagues for their interest and proposals. This extended to the possible nomination of Sonia Drobyzs who, she thought, would be well qualified for the position.

William Fork also supported the motion. He wondered what might be the line to be drawn between various non-proliferation issues, for example the status of nuclear weapons. Sylvain Fanielle stressed that when dealing with policy sensitive matters, the Group should restrict itself to strictly legal aspects.

The Secretary General, seeing that the Board seemed to welcome these changes, asked Jonathan Herbach and Sylvain Fanielle to prepare a note outlining a revised mandate for the Group. He would also contact Sonia Drobyzs, a long-time member of INLA, and discuss with her the question of her involvement in the Group, before a proposal is formally referred to the Board.



The Board members then turned to the recent suggestion to set up a new working group on nuclear fusion. The Secretary General referred in this respect to his letter to the Board, dated 18 June 2021, containing a detailed note on the subject, prepared by Karoly Olajos. Following the presentation by Karoly Olajos of his proposal, several members of the Board, including Bill Horin, Ximena Vásquez-Maignan, Sara Maciel and William Fork expressed their interest. The Secretary General explained that Ian Salter had initially envisaged to expand the scope of WG1 to include fusion but he had also become supportive of a special group on that subject. The Secretary General offered to work with Karoly Olajos with a view to draft possible terms of reference for a new WG8, and to discuss with him and the President the question of designating a chair and secretary. These would eventually be submitted to the Board for endorsement.

VI. IAEA Nuclear Law Conference

The Secretary General reminded the Board of its discussion, at the April meeting, concerning this conference to be held in Vienna from 7 to 11 February 2022. Since, he has obtained further information from Wolfram Tonhauser and his staff concerning the organization of the event. In particular, INLA as an "invited organization" is given the possibility to sponsor applications for the presentation of papers at the conference. IAEA member states and other invited NGOs are also given that possibility. Already, several members of the Association have approached the secretariat and have asked to be sponsored. Such requests have been relayed to the secretariat in charge of the meeting.

While approving in principle that INLA grant its sponsorship to qualified speakers, some members of the Board, particularly Ximena Vásquez-Maignan and Evelyne Ameye noted that there was a certain similarity between the IAEA conference and INLA biannual congresses and they insisted on the need to coordinate the organization of such large legal meetings. The secretariat will keep the Board informed of developments in this respect

VII. Auditors report (2019/2020)

The Secretary General referred to the report recently submitted to the Board by the INLA Auditors, Marc Roothoof and Luc Phan Van. This report was unusual as it covered two years 2019 and 2020 because, during last year lockdown, it had proved impossible for the Auditors to meet. The report, based on a control done "at distance", was sent to the Board on 21 May 2021 and it concludes that the accounts of the Association are well kept and accurate. The Secretary General also drew the attention to small changes in the presentation of the balance sheet table, meant to make the financial data more transparent, especially concerning the status of membership fees. He also noted that the secretariat had in the spring made a renewed effort to improve the rate of the collection of such fees though it was too early to judge of the results.

The President took the occasion to inform the Board of his intention to put on the agenda of the next meeting the question of seeking more adhesions to the Association and he insisted on the particular role of the Board members in this context.



VIII. INLA Governance

The Secretary General referred to the question put before the Board members at their last meeting, namely to move toward a new one-year extension of their mandate or to proceed with the election of a new Board. In either case, it remained necessary for statutory reasons to convene a General Assembly before the end of 2021.

Having regard to the continuing extraordinary circumstances of the covid pandemic and related restrictions, all members of the Board who took the floor spoke in favor of the one-year extension. Marc Beyens concurred but noted the need to verify that like in 2020, it would still be legally possible under Belgian law to hold a general Assembly by electronic means. The Secretary General will follow that question with Marc Beyens. A decision as to the date of the General Assembly was left open pending decisions concerning the organization of the virtual 2021 congress in the fall.

IX. Secretariat of the Association

As a follow-up to the April meeting when the Board had invited the Secretary General to move ahead with the conclusion of a work contract with Bernadette Keymolen, such a contract had been finalized and was now ready for signature. The nature of the tasks of INLA secretary were essentially the same as those performed for a long time by Brigitte Helderweirt, and now by Bernadette Keymolen. It was however agreed to expand them to tasks of financial administration. These tasks would be carried out as before under the direction of the Secretary General, at Bernadette Keymolen's domicile or at the Syban office. There were no objections raised and it was agreed that the contract could be signed, with effect on 1st July 2021.

X. Next Meeting

Consistent with the choice to fix the date of the General Assembly in the context of the organization of the virtual congress, no decision was yet made in respect of the next meeting of the Board.

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