

# DIGEST

*News from the Executive Committee*



## THE NEW EXCO

Assembly brought many changes to AIIC, including a new, and truly global, Executive Committee.

Jenny Fearnside (AIIC Italia) will be staying on for another term, this time as President, along with vice presidents Francisco 'Paco' Garcia Hurtado (USA) and Haris Ghinos (Greece & Cyprus). They will be joined by three new VPs, Sylvia Amisi (Africa), Martin Barrère (South America), Damien Fan (Asia Pacific) and Treasurer Lila Guha (Spain).

# MAJOR DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE GENEVA ASSEMBLY

Declaration on Auditory Health ([R22109](#))

Declaration against Online Bullying and Defamation ([R22010](#))

## Ethics

- ✓ Restructuring the Code of Professional Ethics ([R22021](#))
- ✓ Resolution on Conduct towards clients ([R22106](#))
- ✓ Resolution instructing all AIC Officers to declare any Conflict of Interest ([R22009](#))

## DI

- ✓ Amendment to the Code of Professional Ethics and the Professional Standards to take into consideration DI ([A22010](#) – [A22013](#) – [A22011](#))
- ✓ Resolution on Cognitive Load ([R22028](#))
- ✓ Resolution on DI ([R22101](#)) concerning working conditions and the precautionary principle

## ISO

- ✓ Resolution aimed at coordinating the work of groups on ISO matters ([R22011](#))
- ✓ Resolution on the individual use of booths during the pandemic` ([R22102](#))

## Sectors

- ✓ Resolution encouraging Agreement sectors to amend their Rules of Procedure regarding voting rights. ([R22007](#))

## Governance

- ✓ Resolution on strategic planning by ExCo ([R22012](#))
- ✓ Resolution instructing ExCo to consider options for simplifying, shortening and streamlining AIC's basic texts ([R22017](#))

## CACL

- ✓ Pre-candidates have the same duties as members ([A22067](#) – [A22002](#))
- ✓ AIC pre-candidates can state their affiliation with the Association ([A22036](#))

## Finance

- ✓ Approval of the 2017-2020 accounts and discharge of the Treasurer
- ✓ Approval of the proposed programme of activities and the financial framework for 2022-2024
- ✓ Dues Structure review by the Budget Committee introducing a three-tier structure ([R22004](#))
- ✓ Renewal of the dues waiver for the Baltic sub-region ([R22025](#)) and for Turkey ([R22104](#))
- ✓ Recall that the refund to regions shall not be used to financially reward volunteers ([R22024](#))
- ✓ Resolution on 2022 dues aimed at using the 2021 surplus to reduce 2022 dues ([R22108](#))

Status of Honorary President bestowed on Malick Sy and Honorary Memberships on Manuel Sant'iago Ribeiro and Linda Ballantyne. Special mention to Veniamin Daskalakis for his outstanding contribution to the IT transition.



# NEWS FROM THE REGIONS



**BRAZIL** - Greetings from the Southern Hemisphere! 2022 starts off with great news from ISO. The Brazil Bureau is proud to announce that after the adoption of ISO 18841:2018 – Interpreting Services - General Requirements and Recommendations by the Brazilian

Standardization Association (ABNT), under AIIC's leadership, the group of members from local associations and the Academia is ready to start working on the adoption of ISO 22155: 2022 – Conference Interpreting – Requirements and recommendations. Congratulations for their dedication and effort! This is only one of the many initiatives developed locally with the support of AIIC volunteers. Check out [AIIC Brazil Region's video](#) on International Volunteer Day 2021.

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**GERMANY** - On January 7th, 2022, Dr. Margarete Mehdorn received the French order of merit "Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite" for her achievements in furthering Franco-German friendship. It was given to her by the French ambassador to Germany Anne-Marie Descôtes in Berlin. Margarete Mehdorn is a conference interpreter and member of the German



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AIIC region. She was instrumental in setting up the Franco-German citizens' fund which offers assistance and financing for projects dedicated to Franco-German friendship so that these become visible and accessible for the broader public.

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## 2022 DUES

You may have noticed that you haven't received the invoice for your dues on February 1st as you usually would. Based on a decision taken at the Assembly, invoices will be going out on March 1st this year.



# NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

**AIIC Training and Professional Development (ATPD)** has been through a period of transition over the past 18 months, with a new coordinator (Michelle Hof) and a number of new members joining the group. In that period, much of the group's efforts have been focused on keeping up the momentum in our training activities while adapting to new realities under the Covid-19 pandemic. Now, with the group's membership settled for the medium term, we plan to direct our energies toward finding new and effective ways to contribute to the profession through training while keeping up our existing projects.

New initiatives will include improving communications between ATPD and AIIC's other networks, groups and committees and with the regions. We are also looking at improving our outreach to members and to the broader conference interpreting training community by expanding our ATPD mailing lists to include a newsletter. Novel training formats will also be explored as we seek to increase the impact of our training efforts. We intend to find ways to implement our sponsorship program, as outlined in the ATPD budget, despite ongoing travel restrictions due to Covid-19.

In terms of existing projects, we will continue to work on ensuring that ATPD's presence on [aiic.org](http://aiic.org) is what it should be, helping the Executive Secretary and his staff optimize AIIC's event registration, payment and certificate issuing processes, maintaining the [Schools Directory](#) and the list of trainers, and – of course – providing quality Training of Trainers and CPD opportunities for the conference interpreting community.

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## WELCOME...

...to the new Advisory Board, representing the regions and groups inside AIIC. They will be ably guided by the members of the Steering Committee: Phil Smith (Switzerland), Camille Mercier-Sanders (France), Felix Ordeig (Spain) and Andrew Constable (TFDI).





**The Technical and Health Committee (THC)** is currently running several testing and research projects aimed at testing ISO compliance of cloud-based videoconferencing systems and of microphones used by speakers in RSI. RSI and non-RSI related health issues are also being explored.

A database of existing and ongoing scientific research and medical literature on topics directly or indirectly related to interpreters' health will be set-up in the upcoming months. The THC welcomes input from all AIIC members.

The THC is also planning to collect self-reported symptoms of negative health impacts (including a variety of auditory complaints such as tinnitus and hyperacusis, and other medical complaints including dizziness, nausea, confusion, mental fog, insomnia, headaches, concentration difficulties, optic nerve sensitivity) among interpreters that started or worsened over the last 2 years which they would attribute to RSI assignments.

Evidence-based findings will help us designing a research project on interpreters' health in DI configurations that will be used to underpin future guidelines and recommendations.

As of January 26, 2022 the THC has a new line-up:

Andrea CANIATO (Brussels)  
Andrew CONSTABLE (The Hague)  
Kathleen RATEL (Gâtineau)  
Marzia SEBASTIANI (Milan, Coordinator)  
Gabriella VERDI (Bologna)  
Klaus ZIEGLER (Hannover)

The THC thanks Klaus Ziegler, outgoing Coordinator, and Cyril Flerov, Francesca Lo Truglio Lombardo and Gabriela Hecht, outgoing members, for their hard work and dedication and welcomes Kathleen Ratel as a new member from Canada.

