



Summary of the 419th Meeting of the Governing Board

Tuesday, 12 January 2021, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

10th meeting held virtually

- The Meeting of the Board, the first of the New Year, was the occasion for the expression and exchange of good wishes for 2021 and an exit from the crisis that was caused by the pandemic.
- The Governing Board focused on discussing two agenda items, the first being the conduct of elections for seats on the Board for terms that ended in 2020 and were going to end in 2021. As already well-known, because of the COVID pandemic, elections could not be held in 2020. Now, elections will be held in *hybrid* form; part remotely *via The Internet*, and part by means of the traditional *ballot*. In view of added complexities, it has been recommended to use a vendor's service, who would conduct the process from start to finish. The Board will finalize its decision at its forthcoming February Meeting, with a view to holding the Elections in late Spring (April-May).
- The other major items concerned the events projected for 2021 to mark the 50th Anniversary of the founding of AFICS/NY. After the successful event of 9 December 2020, which had to be held *virtually*, the Board was looking forward to a *mix* of activities: part virtual, part *in-person*. The Working Group tasked with preparing all the necessary arrangements is also planning to organize a *Raffle*. It is also finalizing the details for a 52 pp. celebratory Bulletin, which will serve to mark the occasion.
- The Members of the Board observed a Minute's silence in memory of the late Sir Brian Urquhart, former Under-Secretary-General, who passed at 103. They also mourned the passing of three other former Staff members, one of whom had been the victim of the virus.