

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

POSTAL ADDRESS — ADRESSE POSTALE : UNITED NATIONS, NY 10017

CABLE ADDRESS — ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE : UNATIONS NEWYORK

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

19 July 2011

Dear Mr. Eken,

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I would like to thank you for your letter dated 13 June 2011 inviting him to the General Assembly of the World Federation of Consuls, to be held in Monaco in November 2012. We also acknowledge of your kind offer to present the Secretary-General the F.I.F.A.C. Gold Star, the highest honour of the World Federation of Consuls.

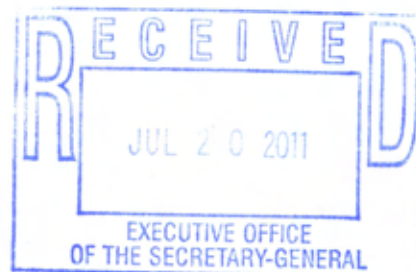
The Secretary-General appreciates your kind invitation and offer. Unfortunately, I regret to inform you that he will be unable attend the event, owing to prior commitments and pressing demands already on his schedule during the said month. Nevertheless, I am pleased to take this opportunity to convey his best wishes for a successful event.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vijay Nambiar', followed by a horizontal line.

Vijay Nambiar
Chef de Cabinet

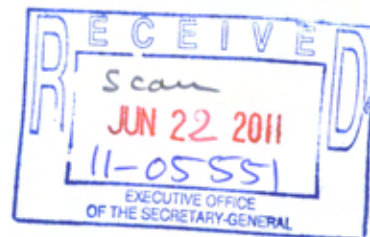
Mr. Aykut Eken
Secretary General
World Federation of Consuls
Brussels



ACTION
COPY

44C
VN

Ms. O'Brien
Ro



1-27781027

FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES CORPS ET ASSOCIATIONS CONSULAIRES AISBL

SECRETARIAT: Avenue de Tervuren 246, 1150 Brussels, Belgium Tel: +32 2 762 51 46 Fax: +32 2 762 86 67 ficac@skynet.be

Show to
Mr. Nambian
before sending
this out

Brus

H.E. Mr Ban Ki Moon
Secretary General of the United Nations

The World Federation of Consuls, F.I.C.A.C. aisbl, was established in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1982, to bring together consular corps and associations worldwide in order to share experience and coordinate efforts to enhance the status and effectiveness of the Consul. It has members in more than 80 countries worldwide and has consultative status with ECOSOC since 1993.

Seeing the success and usefulness of Honorary Consuls in promoting national interests, trade and cultural cooperation at no cost, Governments have been increasingly relying on the vehicle of Consular representation through Honorary Consuls. Honorary consuls have earned high praise for their work from heads of states and governments.

FICAC has been holding periodical conferences to strengthen bonding among Consuls and to channelize their experience in professional fields. It has held general assemblies and congresses every 2-3 years in various parts of the world: Copenhagen (1982, 1984, 1986); Vienna (1988); Monaco (1992); Cyprus (1995); Eilat (1998); Curacao (2000); Athens (2003); Montego Bay (2006); Izmir (2009). Regional conferences have been held in Bangkok (2007), Prague (2008), Accra (2008), Monaco (2009), European Parliament in Brussels (2010), Manila (2010), New Delhi (2011); Vatican - visit to the Pope (2011). FICAC also signed a partnership agreement with UNICEF to raise funds for the program "Unite For Children, Unite Against Aids".

Our next General Assembly and worldwide congress will take place in Monaco in 2012. The main topic of this event will be 'climate change' and for this purpose we signed last September a partnership agreements with the "Prince Albert II Foundation" and the "Agence Internationale de l'Energie Atomique" in Monaco.



FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES CORPS ET ASSOCIATIONS CONSULAIRES AISBL

SECRETARIAT: Avenue de Tervuren 246, 1150 Brussels, Belgium Tel: +32 2 762 51 46 Fax: +32 2 762 86 67 ficac@skynet.be

As Honorary Consuls and Honorary Ambassadors, even though our purpose is the same as Career Consuls, our responsibilities, as volunteers, are two folds. Not only are we serving the receiving state, as this is our native country, but also the sending state, as they have nominated us as Honorary Consul. Furthermore, like the UN Goodwill Ambassadors, we are working for World peace, health and prosperity. Sadly however, due to the lack of knowledge of our role, we are under-utilized, and under-recognized.

Vienna Convention on Consular Relations 1963 has been critically studied and discussed by FICAC in its conferences in Accra, Prague, Brussels and Monaco. The study brought out that, out of 30 Articles in the Vienna convention dealing with privileges of Consuls, there were 14 Articles under which privileges of career consuls and honorary consuls were the same; there were 11 Articles under which privileges of career consuls and honorary consuls were different but the disparity under these 11 Articles was well-founded and was not discriminatory; There were, however, five Articles (No. 34, 60, 62, 64, 66) which discriminated against honorary consuls for no justification.

The discrimination under these five Articles has been disturbing Honorary Consuls. Honorary consuls have been feeling that since they have proved their worth in diplomacy and have been doing the same work as done by career diplomats of the same rank at no cost to sending States, they deserve to be treated without discrimination. Our Monaco conference, held on 6 February 2009, resolved that a petition be sent to the Secretary General, UNO, requesting him to consider initiating review of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations 1963 with a view to removing discrimination against honorary consuls. Accordingly a petition was submitted to Your Excellency.

It is why we believe that the Vienna Convention status of honorary consuls should be revised with a view to respond to the requirements which are essential for the proper and independent functioning of honorary consuls. We would like to request your time to come and share with you our views and present papers about our work accomplished around the world, the benefits of our organization working with Career Consuls, as well as ideas to develop a way of increasing our role amongst world leader to enable them to utilize us more and in a better manner. To this end, I shall be grateful if an appointment in the months of July-August 2011 is given to the representatives of FICAC to make this presentation.



FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES CORPS ET ASSOCIATIONS CONSULAIRES AISBL

SECRETARIAT: Avenue de Tervuren 246, 1150 Brussels, Belgium Tel:+32 2 762 51 46 Fax: +32 2 762 86 67 ficac@skynet.be

During this meeting, the Board of Directors of F.I.C.A.C. wishes to present to Your Excellency the "F.I.C.A.C. Gold Star", the highest honour of the World Federation of Consuls, given only to most distinguished world leaders. F.I.C.A.C. Gold Star has so far been awarded to the President of the European Council H.E. Herman Van Rompuy, the President of the Republic of Turkey, Prince Albert II of Monaco, the President of Ghana, the Prime Minister of Jamaica, the president of the Philippines and H.H. the Pope.

It would be a great honour and support to have your presence at our General Assembly meeting, in Monaco in November 2012. We will send you further information about this event as we get closer and hope that you can attend.

I sincerely thank you for the attention you will give to this request and I avail myself of this opportunity to renew, to Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours Faithfully,

Aykut Eken , Secretary General