

# MIA's first e-AGM

The 2020 Annual General Meeting was held on 17 September, transmitted over video for the first time in 56 years. Over 400 MIA members joined the session live, actively taking part with questions and feedback about the Annual Report.

In his introduction, President Fabio Axisa said that the Institute has, over the past year, been closely engaged with members, authorities, and stakeholders to address the major issues affecting the profession and the country, namely, the coronavirus pandemic and the MONEYVAL report.

“As the largest profession in Malta, our views are respected and sought by other public and professional bodies,” said Mr Axisa. “In the past few months, the Institute participated in important national debates such as the Covid-19 measures launched by the government, Malta’s MONEYVAL submissions, and the CSP proposed framework.”

The President laid out the Institute’s ten-year strategy based on attracting better talent to the profession; widening outreach among the members; and ensuring the sustainability of the Institute.

A detailed account was given of the major strategic changes in the Institute’s operations. One key decision was the introduction of an improved Member Relationship Management system that caters for the specific needs of members.

The President said that the MIA is currently working on a number of different projects that will continue to elevate the quality and standards of the profession in Malta. Among these, the Institute is proposing amendments to the Accountancy Profession Act and collaborating with the Accountancy Board and the FIAU to issue sectorial guidance on AML/CFT.

“We presented government with a number of recommendations on how to revamp the Accountancy Board and give it the proper powers and resources to be able to serve its mission effectively,” explained Mr Axisa, adding that the perception of independence of the Accountancy Board must always be upheld.

Voting in this edition of the AGM took place through real-time polling and members had their say on a series of resolutions proposed by the Council.

Members present approved the nomination of Mr John Bonello as Chairperson of the MIA Disciplinary Committee and of Mr Lino Casapinta as Deputy Chairman. Mr Anthony Zarb, Mr Chris Galea, Ms Elisabeth Carbonaro, Ms Elvia George, and Mr Paul Mercieca, were similarly approved as members of the MIA Appeals Pool.

Mr Axisa took the opportunity to express his gratitude to the MIA management and staff for their hard work and devotion during this difficult year.

The AGM was concluded with the election of seven Council members for a two-year term: Mr Fabio Axisa, Mr Christopher Balzan, Mr David Delicata, Mr Jonathan Dingli, Mr Shawn Falzon, Dr Ivan Grixti and Ms Annabelle Zammit Pace. The newly elected Council members join Mr Etienne Borg Cardona, Mr Mark Bugeja, Mr Christian Gravina, Mr Noel Mizzi, Ms Lucienne Pace Ross, Mr William Spiteri Bailey and Mr Franz R. Wirth, whose term ends in 2021.

In the first meeting, the Council confirmed Mr Fabio Axisa as President and elected Mr David Delicata as Vice President, Mr Noel Mizzi as Secretary, and Mr Franz R. Wirth as Treasurer.

Also, during this meeting, Council appointed the following members to form part of the Disciplinary Pool: Mr Alexander Abela; Ms Charmaine Baldacchino; Mr Edmond Brincat;

Mr Dunstan Magro; Mr Frances Mifsud; Mr Stephen L. Muscat; Mr Jesmond Pace; Mr Mark Scalpello; Mr Anthony Scicluna; and Mr James M. Zammit.