

# ● Ordinary General Assembly of 6 June 2025

Minutes

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# Preamble

On 6 June 2025 at 10:12 am, the members of Afnic met in an Ordinary General Assembly at the Campus Cyber, 5 Rue Bellini, 92800 Puteaux and online <https://visio.Afnic.fr/b/sop-ak6-d8p-klm>.

Notice of the meeting, containing the agenda, had been sent on 15 May 2025, electronically, to all members (email notice sent via Asso Afnic).

The date and place of the meeting, the agenda and the working documents were available in the members' area: <https://asso.afnic.fr>.

# 1. Agenda

- Opening by the Chair
- Appointment of a Recording Secretary and Scrutineer
- Activity report 2024
- Presentation of the 2024 annual accounts
- Auditor's report
- Approval of the accounts for the 2024 financial year and allocation of earnings
- Vote on the 2026 overall budget allocated to trustee compensation
- Election of a trustee representing the International College

## 2. Attendees

Each member signed an attendance sheet at the beginning of the meeting. For members attending online, a screenshot was taken of the list to identify them and record their online presence on the attendance sheet. These documents can be consulted at the Afnic Members service.

In total, 49 members were present or represented, 46 of whom were entitled to vote. Those present were counted each time a resolution was voted on.

**2 Founding Members** represented by the Afnic trustees:

- Inria, represented by Mr Godefroy Beauvallet
- Inria, represented by Mr Luc Saccavini

**1 Honorary Member** (non-voting):

- Ms Annie Renard, attending online

**7 User Members, legal persons** (including 1 non-voting):

- Association [www.bzh](http://www.bzh), represented by Mr David Lesvenan
- Bibliothèque Nationale de France, represented by Mr Vladimir Tybin, having given power to Mr Nicolas Pawlak

- CCI Métropolitaine Bretagne Ouest, represented by Mr Claude Ravalec, having given power to Mr David Lesvenan
- INPI, represented by Mr Paul Perpère
- ISOC France, represented by Mr Nicolas Chagny
- Signal Spam, represented by Ms Minh Ha Nguyen
- Sparkling, represented by Mr Benjamin Louis

**13 User Members, individuals** (including 1 non-voting):

- Mr Sébastien Bachollet
- Mr Philippe Batreau, attending online
- Mr Ramanou Biaou
- Mr Antoine Boutignon
- Ms Fadhila Brahimi, having given power to Mr Paul Perpère
- Mr Nicolas Chagny
- Ms Anne-Marie Joly-Bachollet
- Mr Benjamin Louis
- Mr Nicolas Pawlak
- Ms Elisabeth Porteneuve, attending online

- Mr David-Irving Tayer, attending online
- Mr Axel Tessier, attending online
- Mr Laurent Toutain

#### **8 Registrar Members:**

- Cabinet Germain Moreau, represented by Mr Gaël Mancec
- DGS Monaco, represented by Mr Eric Lantonnet
- Domainium, represented by Mr Philippe Franck
- GANDI, represented by Mr Arnaud Franquinet
- NETIM, represented by Mr Sébastien Almiron and Mr Bruno Vincent
- ONE2NET, represented by Mr Pierre Geoffroy, attending online
- ORANGE, represented by Ms Sophie Jean-Gilles
- SCALEWAY, represented by Mr Cédric Leroy, attending online

#### **18 Correspondent Members of the International College:**

- ADETIC, represented by Mr Mahamat Ali Batran
- ANINF, represented by Mr Harold Christopher Adimanga Kouna
- ARCEP, represented by Mr Serge Roland Sanou, having given power to Mr Wilfried Quenum

- ARTCI, represented by Mr Philippe Kouamé and Mr Yannick Boyer
- CAMEROON DIGITAL, represented by Mr Oumarou Mounpoubeyi
- CII, represented by Mr Vojo Spahiu, having given power to Mr Ahmedou Haouba
- CNI, represented by Mr Félix Ndayirukye
- Domain HT, represented by Mr Max Larson Henry, having given power to Mr Souleymane Oumtanaga
- INPHB, represented by Mr Souleymane Oumtanaga
- IT-NUM, represented by Mr Wilfried Quenum
- JENY SAS, represented by Mr Deo Gratias Tonouhewa
- NIC Madagascar, represented by Mr Raft Razafindrakoto and Mr Marius Andriamparany
- NIC Mauritanie, represented by Mr Ahmed Salem Cheikh and Mr Ahmedou Haouba
- NIC Sénégal, represented by Mr Bassirou Kassé, having been given power by Mr Idrissa SARR
- Rwanda Internet Community and Technology Alliance, represented by Ms Grace Ingabire
- SAN, represented by Mr Agim Cami, having given power to Mr Félix Ndayirukiye



- Transversal, represented by Mr Max Henry, having given power to Mr Souleymane Oumtanaga
- Webnet Africa, represented by Ms Rita Tshimanga

**Also attending the General Assembly:**

- Mr André Schwob, future representative appointed by Inria
- Mr Olivier Souillard, auditor, Audit France
- Mr Benoit Ampeau, Partnerships and Innovations Director, Afnic
- Ms Gabrielle Apfelbaum, Communication Director, Afnic
- Mr Pierre Bonis, CEO of Afnic
- Ms Sophie Canac, Head of Associative Governance, Afnic
- Mr Lucien Castex, Research internet and society / Internet governance, Afnic
- Ms Caroline Duval-Favre, Secretary-General, Afnic
- Ms Marianne Georgelin, Legal Director, Afnic
- Mr Régis Massé, Director of Information Systems, Afnic
- Ms Virginie Navailles, Head of Transversal CSR Approaches, Afnic
- Ms Mégane Passereau, Assistant to the CEO, Afnic
- Ms Maëlle Pesquer, Events Communication Manager, Afnic

- Ms Kaviya Senthillingam, Communication Officer, Afnic
- Ms Emilie Turbat, Sales & Marketing Director, Afnic
- • Mr Pascal Vella, Digital Communications Manager, Afnic

# 3. Minutes

## 3.1. Opening by the Chair

The Ordinary General Assembly being lawfully convened, the Chair Mr Godefroy Beauvallet opened the session. He welcomed all participants.

Godefroy Beauvallet announced that the agenda would conventionally include the activity report and the financial statements, but also the election of a trustee representing the International College.

He recalled that some participants were attending the meeting remotely, and that the Afnic dinner would be held that evening.

## 3.2. Appointment of a Recording Secretary and Scrutineer

Mégane Passereau (Afnic) was appointed recording secretary and Sophie Canac (Afnic) was named scrutineer.

## 3.3. Activity report 2024

*Editor's note: The information presented is also set out in the Afnic 2024 Activity Report and the Afnic 2024 CSR Report, both available online on its website:*

<https://www.afnic.fr/en/associating-excellence/who-we-are/activity-reports-and-annual-accounts/> and <https://www.afnic.fr/en/associating-excellence/our-commitments/social-responsibility-at-afnic/>

## **The Association**

Pierre Bonis indicated that at year-end 2024, Afnic had 152 members, of which 24 were new additions. 48% had been members for 15 years. The attendance rate in consultative committee meetings remained stable. Lastly, the 2024 GA had a high turnout due to the elections within two colleges.

The Board of Trustees met four times, giving rise to important decisions concerning the relocation and the financial statements, through the change in accounting treatment of unearned income on year 1 creations. Afnic's Articles of Association underwent review in October 2024, resulting in the incorporation of the Scientific Council and the elimination of the requirement for a government commissioner.

Following their election at the General Assembly, the Board of Trustees welcomed Éric Lantonnet and Nicolas Pawlak.

A Thematic Working Group (TWG) on Abuse was set up to enable volunteer members to work alongside Afnic employees on topics relating to regulatory developments.

The International College discussed major issues: CDA (Coalition for Digital Africa), CSR, R&D, security and resilience, and paid tribute to Boubakar Barry.

Afnic organised two open days for its members in order to strengthen the ties between the Association's members and employees.

## **.fr activity**

Godefroy Beauvallet indicated that Afnic had shown caution in light of the events of 2024, which could lead to structural changes. The lack of confidence in the economic situation and business development is bringing into question adherence to an open Internet model and digital autonomy.

Pierre Bonis explained that despite the uncertainties that emerged in 2024, the .fr TLD recorded a create volume of over 800,000 domain names, in conjunction with a slow and continued decline in the renewal rate, an early sign of a market downturn. .fr won market share against .com in the French market.

Afnic implemented actions in favour of the online presence of VSEs/SMEs and young people.

The public's perception of the .fr TLD influences its attraction compared with other TLDs. Rules were established with regard to information provided to registrars, support in the fight against abuse, and cautions regarding sanctions. The identification and verification of holder's data have resulted in good performance in terms of the abuse rate on the .fr zone in a context of competition. Some domain name disputes arise from misunderstandings and involve mediation, a less costly procedure. The number of alternative dispute resolutions procedures was down in 2024, on the back of a three-year rise.

Godefroy Beauvallet indicated that the R&D and Innovation activity grew substantially in 2024.

Pierre Bonis confirmed the favourable R&D context, motivated by the Afnic engineers but also by the Scientific Council and the International College. Furthermore, R&D was diversified thanks to research with a stronger focus on

human sciences. 2024 saw several projects finalised, such as Ibrahim Ayoub's thesis. Afnic has financed the launch of a SCHC chair with IMT Atlantique.

Godefroy Beauvallet indicated that Afnic contributes to international Internet governance and is involved in organisations working on this subject with regard to the technical aspects.

Pierre Bonis noted that Internet governance now includes the analysis of risk and dependence, not just organisational dynamics alone. 2024 was marked by intense activity on Internet governance, in view of the upcoming World Summit on the Information Society WSIS+20 review, scheduled for 2025, in a tense geopolitical context. At the technical level, Afnic followed all the discussions concerning the DNS and Internet technologies in the IETF, RIPE NCC and DNS-OARC. It also contributed to the work of ICANN. Lastly, Afnic took part in the preparations for the AI Action Summit, focused on international Internet governance, and has been a member of the telecommunications standardisation (ITU-T) and development (ITU-D) sectors since 2022.

### **The Afnic Foundation**

Godefroy Beauvallet recalled that Afnic does not have shareholders. However, it generates sufficient cash flow to distribute a dividend equivalent, as part of a public interest mission.

Pierre Bonis explained that, in 2024, the Afnic Foundation pursued its commitment to a more inclusive digital industry with greater solidarity, undertaking several structuring actions spread across 95 projects and amounting to over €1,368,250.

The Foundation has supported several initiatives, including Hospi-connect, the NATA application developed by the Paris "Samu social" emergency service, Refugee Food, and the initiatives targeting young people run by Pompiers sans

Frontières. In addition, it organises workshops in response to certain needs and finances CEIs, supporting more structuring and more large-scale projects, such as those of the Fondation pour l'Enfance and Entourage pro. Partnerships are in place, such as the partnership on research into digital solidarity with Mednum, within the framework of the Digital Inclusion Observatory.

### **Non-.fr activity**

Afnic is a French registry operator handling the back-end management of TLDs. Paris City Hall appointed it as concession holder for the .paris TLD following an open selection. .museum has continued its consolidation.

Afnic is preparing to bring a service offering to market for new generic TLDs (gTLDs), Afnic Registry Services, which gave rise to discussions within the 'Cercle des .marque' (BrandTLD Club). Beyond just expertise and resources, Afnic has been developing a Qualiopi-certified training programme catalogue for the past three years as a means to put into practice its participatory mission in a professional manner and to measure satisfaction. It runs training on cybersecurity and provides support to improve the management system under the NIS 2 directive, for small registrars in particular.

Godefroy Beauvallet indicated that this initiative is crucial for SMEs and associations.

Luc Saccavini explained that he views AI not as a threat, but as a high-impact assistance and technology tool that improves information collection and synthesis.

Godefroy Beauvallet agreed. Afnic uses AI for protection ends and to combat abuse.

Pierre Bonis thanked Luc Saccavini for his input and commented on the same ambivalence in terms of the threats and opportunities of blockchain. Afnic has set the priority of developing and incorporating AI into its support and commercial divisions as a means to detect abuse.

## CSR

Virginie Navailles explained that CSR covers a number of topics, not just the environment. A recent publication on the CSRD allows the good practices, solvency and sustainability approaches of businesses to be compared. The 'stop-the-clock' directive was voted on 3 April 2025 postponing application in order to simplify EU rules. To date, 80% of companies are no longer subject to the CSRD. Afnic has made commitments to sustainable development since 2012. In 2023, Numeum presented a roadmap to the French government with plans to reduce the environmental footprint of digital technologies.

Environmental data: Afnic has produced a carbon footprint assessment since 2012. Non-current assets (IT equipment & property following the Association's premises purchase) and freight (acquisition of delivery monitoring tools) increased in 2024. Procurement was down due to the completion of some of the projects initiated and due to the positive effects of the choice of service providers committed to sustainable development.

At European level, several indicators enable carbon accounting to be compared and assessed. In 2024, for example, a domain name managed by Afnic corresponded to 32g of CO<sub>2</sub>, in line with the targets set.

Social data: one of the components of the ISO 26000 standard covers the social, economic, and environmental development of the communities in which a company operates. Afnic has set up working groups and given talks in schools.



With regard to governance, voter participation at the GA demonstrates good practice in relation to decision-making within organisations. In 2024, the Board of Trustees set an objective of 60% implementation of the actions in the progress plan. To date, Afnic has fully achieved this goal. 80% of customers consider Afnic a responsible company. 93% consider that it takes CSR issues into account.

One of the goals set by the Association is to break away from single-criteria carbon targets. Sopra Steria suggested consideration of a measurement of the overall impact of the activity, thus incorporating CSR issues at the core of Afnic's strategy.

Pierre Bonis presented the labour data: the proportion of women holding positions within support services was greater than within the technical departments. At 99/100, the gender equality index was satisfactory.

The percentage of payroll set aside for training corresponded to 3%. The training programmes covered eco-design, law and economics. Staff turnover stood at 6%, reflecting new hires, upskilling, and the implementation of a support policy for departures (training, recommendation, etc.). The length of service of employees also points to the level of efficacy and expertise. In light of these findings, the forward-looking jobs and skills management project (GPEC) will be relaunched.

### 3.4. Presentation of the 2024 annual accounts

Caroline Duval-Favre presented Afnic's results for the 2024 financial year.

Revenues and trends: Afnic posted growth of 7.1% in its total revenues, which amounted to almost €24 million in 2024, explained by the fee increase (.fr and French overseas TLDs) for domain names as of 1 March 2024. Revenue growth is

primarily connected with that of the .fr TLD (+€1,623k / +19.%) and French overseas TLDs.

Back-end registry revenues were down 7.1% due to the price adjustment and fall in stock of .paris. Training revenues had been stable at around €100k for two years.

In addition, the Association posted higher personnel expenses (increased workforce and salary increases and promotions) and R&D expenses (+58%) due to new hires and the charges connected with the Tous en Ligne Maintenant [“All online now”] scheme.

Monitoring of contractual commitments: R&D investment stood at 9.5% compared with 6.4% in 2023. These results attest to the determined efforts made. General interest commitments (€50,000 donation to Mayotte, for example) stood at 11%.

Staff training: in 2024, 3.1% of the payroll was allocated to the training of Afnic employees.

Up 40% on 2023, operating profit represented 11% of revenues, with a net profit of €572,000.

As part of the move to harmonise the accounting practices applied to Afnic products, an adjustment has been made to the way Unearned Income on CREATE products is handled for the .fr and French overseas TLDs. Until now, the figure for the first 12 months linked to these products was recognised in its entirety on the invoicing date, without the periodification usually carried out for these sorts of commitments. In order to ensure a better representation of financial performance, and in accordance with the principles laid down by the French Accounting Standards Authority (ANC) on continuity and improving methods of estimation (ANC Regulation No. 2018-01), since 1 January 2024 Afnic has applied an

adjustment allowing income to be associated with the corresponding period in which the good or service is actually provided.

The accumulated surplus, in proportion to the increase in net profit, stood at €13.3 million, thereby covering more than 16 months of fixed charges (personnel expenses and data centre hosting costs, in particular). These charges were lowered thanks to the relocation, as Afnic owns its new premises. Regarding the balance sheet, the “non-current assets” section was up for this reason. Cash & cash equivalents therefore declined between 2022 and 2032, with recovery of €4.2 million thanks to the fee increase and multi-year products.

Godefroy Beauvallet clarified that the fee increase is unprecedented in nature. Afnic is faced with the increasing constraints of NIS 2, for example. The increase must cover the necessary investments in the coming years. The multi-year assessment shows a favourable fee trajectory.

## 3.5. Auditor’s report

### 3.5.1. Report on the annual accounts

Olivier Souillard, Auditor, read the report on the annual accounts:

*“In execution of the assignment entrusted to us by your General Assembly, we have audited the accompanying financial statements of Association Française pour le Nommage Internet en Coopération (Afnic), as attached to this report and as presented for the year ended 31 December 2024. We certify that the annual statements are, in accordance with French accounting rules and principles, regular and sincere, and give a true and fair view of the result of operations over the past financial year and of the financial situation and assets of the Association at the end of this year. We conducted our audit in accordance with the professional*

*standards applicable in France and we believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. Without calling into question the opinion expressed above, we would draw your attention to the memo "Accounting treatment for Unearned Income – Exceptional impact in 2024" in the appendix to the annual accounts which sets out the harmonisation of the accounting practices applied to revenues generated by Afnic. The exceptional treatment of this impact is fully in application of regulation NC 201801, hence its designation under non-recurring charges. In accordance with the professional standards applicable in France, we also conducted the specific checks required by the legal and regulatory texts. We have no observations to make regarding the truthfulness of the information provided in the documents sent to the General Assembly, nor any observations to make regarding the financial presentation made to you and set out in the financial report.*

The annual accounts were certified without qualification.

### 3.5.2. Special report on regulated agreements

Olivier Souillard read the report on regulated agreements:

#### Agreements submitted for approval by the Association

*In application of Article R. 612-7 of the French Commercial Code, we have been advised of the following agreements, referred to in Article L. 612-5 of the Commercial Code, which were concluded over the course of the financial year just ended.*

*Agreement concluded with the association ISOC France*

*Mr Sébastien Bachollet, trustee, is Honorary president of the association ISOC France.*

*Over the financial year, your association made a financial contribution of €23,000 to the association ISOC France as part of the FGI France partnership, broken down as follows: €18,000 in cash, €5,000 in benefits in kind under “communication”.*

#### *Agreements already approved by the Association*

*In accordance with the statutory provisions of your association, we have been informed that performance of the following agreements, already approved by the General Assembly in previous financial years, continued during the financial year just ended.*

#### *Compensation of elected Trustees*

*The Extraordinary General Assembly of 20 November 2019 had decided that the elected Trustees would receive compensation for the duties entrusted to them, within the limits set annually by the General Assembly. In accordance with Article 14 of the Articles of Association and Article 2.1.5 of the Internal Regulations, this compensation, which must be requested by the Trustees, is paid quarterly.*

*In respect of financial year 2024, the following amounts were paid to the following elected Trustees:*

*Compensation paid: Mr Sébastien Almiron €10,500, Mr Sébastien Bachollet (H1 2024) €5,250, Mr Arnaud Franquinet (H1 2024) €5,250, Mr Souleymane Oumtanaga €10,500, Mr Éric Lantonnet (H2 2024) €5,250, Mr Nicolas Pawlak (H2 2024) €5,250.*

*In respect of Q1 2025, the following amounts were paid to the following elected Trustees:*

*Compensation paid: Mr Sébastien Almiron €2,625, Mr Éric Lantonnet €2,625, Mr Nicolas Pawlak €2,625, Mr Souleymane Oumtanaga €2,625.*

Olivier Souillard thanked the Afnic teams for their collaboration during the audits.

Godefroy Beauvallet underscored the high degree of trust, notably with regard to the accounting of non-recurring charges.

Luc Saccavini expressed his appreciation for the accuracy of Afnic's accounts and thanked Caroline Duval-Favre for her detailed presentation.

Sébastien Bachollet seconded this and suggested that the Board of Trustees review the level of trustee compensation in light of inflation.

### 3.6. Approval of the accounts for the 2024 financial year and allocation of earnings

Godefroy Beauvallet submitted to the vote the two resolutions concerning the approval of the accounts for 2024 and the appropriation of the result.

33% of members with voting rights were present or represented.

The following resolutions were passed unanimously:

Resolution 1: Approval of the accounts for the 2024 financial year

The General Assembly, having heard the report of the statutory auditor and the additional explanations provided orally, approved the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 as presented.

The General Assembly gave discharge to the trustees for the performance of their duties during the previous financial year.

#### Resolution 2: Allocation to the "other reserves and working capital" account

At the proposal of the Board of Trustees, the General Assembly resolved to allocate the accounting surplus for the year of €572,106 to the "other reserves and working capital" account.

### 3.7. Vote on the 2026 overall budget allocated to trustee compensation

Godefroy Beauvallet reminded members that in accordance with the Articles of Association, the General Assembly must vote each year on the amount to be made available for elected trustee compensation, and reminded them that this concerned only the five elected trustee, not all trustees.

There was no change in amount compared with previous years.

The following resolution was passed unanimously, with one abstention:

#### Resolution 3: Setting of a maximum annual budget to cover trustees' compensation for 2026.

Having taken due note of the documents provided and following additional oral explanations, the General Assembly set the maximum budget for the compensation of elected trustees so requesting at €52,500 (excl. tax) for the year 2026.

The amount is to be equitably distributed among the trustees so requesting and subject to their diligence.

None of the five elected trustees may receive more than one fifth of this budgeted amount.

### 3.8. Election of a trustee representing the International College

Luc Saccavini, Chair of the Nomination Validation Committee, presented his report to the members of the Association.

The Committee was composed of Souleymane Oumtanaga, Sébastien Almiron and Luc Saccavini. One of the Committee's assignments is to manage any conflicts of interest. Two nominations were submitted, that of Serge Roland Sanou for Arcep Burkina Faso and that of Raft Razafindrakoto for NIC Madagascar, and were approved by the Committee. Serge Roland Sanou withdrew out of conscientiousness as he was uncertain that he would be able to properly fulfil his position. The members of the International College therefore had a sole candidate for this election.

The members of the International College cast their votes under the supervision of two scrutineers chosen from among the Association's Management Committee.

Godefroy Beauvallet announced the results of the elections and congratulated the new trustee.



Announcement of the results of the election:

For the International College, NIC.MG, represented by Raft Razafindrakoto, was elected in the first round for a term of three years with 18 votes out of 18 voters.

The new trustee paid tribute to his predecessor, expressed his thanks to Afnic and praised the existence of a culture of shared governance. An approach that places the accent on listening rather than promulgating, maintaining collaborative leadership founded on mutual trust and dialogue within a framework of international cooperation, taking into account the aspirations of young people and societal transformation. Strengthening synergies encourages the sharing of experiences and expertise. Furthermore, they help structure joint projects. The support of colleagues on the ground will help build the skills of digital players.

Godefroy Beauvallet reiterated his thanks to the participants in the General Assembly and to Souleymane Oumtanaga for his six years on the Association's Board of Trustees.

Godefroy Beauvallet made the introductions between the General Assembly and André Schwob, the trustee appointed by Inria to replace him following the day's General Assembly meeting.

André Schwob commended the discussions during the General Assembly, retraced his professional career (Corps des Mines engineer, PTT, La Poste Group, notably) and expressed his hope for a term of office that would contribute to improving stability and prosperity in the world, thanks to Afnic.

Godefroy Beauvallet thanked the participants for their presence both in person and online.

He brought the session to a close at 13:11.

Pierre Bonis thanked Godefroy Beauvallet for his six-year term as Chair of the Association. The members seconded his thanks.

Drawn up in Puteaux, on 6 June 2025.

The Chair,

The Recording Secretary,

The Scrutineer,

Godefroy Beauvallet

Mégane Passereau

Sophie Canac