

AIM GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2026 LEIDEN

SPECIAL BRIEFING

22-23 JUNE 2026





A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

The General Assembly in Leiden honored me by electing me as President of AIM, and it is with particular pride but also a great sense of responsibility that I begin this term.

First of all, I would like to pay tribute to my predecessor, Loek Caubo, who presided over AIM for 6 years with an intelligence and a sense of diplomacy from which I hope to draw inspiration.

In a world searching for its bearings, the values we share within AIM are more relevant than ever.

We are convinced that the values of solidarity should govern the functioning of our health systems more than the pursuit of profit.

We are convinced that the values of humanism and democracy must serve as a reference both inside and outside our groups.

We must be ambitious for AIM, which must constantly ask itself how it can be useful to its members. AIM must be the forum where mutuals, health funds, and health insurance organizations communicate with each other and with European and international institutions.

To achieve this, we must strengthen our representation by welcoming new members and revitalize the activity of our network wherever we are present.

As members of AIM, we must also ask ourselves how we can be of service to the association. AIM needs its members, the commitment of its elected representatives, and the participation of its experts in working groups.

AIM must be ambitious, but it must also be frugal. Financial flexibility is very limited; all our organizations are subject to significant financial constraints, and every euro spent by AIM must be a euro that benefits its members.

We have so much to do together but I know I can count on you, on the whole AIM team, Cristina, Corinna, Charlotte and Lazlo and its executive director Sibylle Reichert and on the formidable Presidium team

See you very soon.

Yannick





AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST COMMITTEE

WHAT HAPPENED

The AIM Africa and Middle East Committee meeting brought together in-person and remote participants around a shared objective: strengthening regional cooperation, AIM's visibility, and the practical impact of mutual organisations in health, social protection, and solidarity.

Opening remarks stressed the value of regular dialogue among African, Middle Eastern, and European organisations. The aim is to build collective action based on members' real-life contexts, shared experience, and complementary expertise, while delivering useful and concrete results.

The Committee welcomed representatives of Côte d'Ivoire's Military Provident Fund (FPM). Its formal admission as a new full AIM member was expected during the 51st General Assembly. Members welcomed the organisation's experience and its willingness to contribute actively to regional exchanges.

A presentation on health insurance in the digital era highlighted how digital tools — including mobile money, USSD services, digital cards, electronic claims management, and artificial intelligence can improve access to care, reduce administrative delays, and strengthen trust between mutual organisations and their members. Digital transformation should nevertheless remain gradual, locally adapted, interoperable, and mindful of data protection.

The Moroccan experience of cooperation between mutuals and non-profit associations illustrated the value of durable local partnerships in addressing communities' social and health needs more effectively. The proposed 2026–2029 work programme focuses on stronger regional governance, with the Steering Committee (COPIL) playing a central role, and the creation of two working groups: one on technical matters and cooperation, and the other on communication and advocacy. A mapping of regional members and their expertise will support a more coordinated and visible regional strategy.

Finally, the Committee discussed strengthening AIM's presence in Africa through a gradual approach: a feasibility study in 2026, followed by a possible pilot arrangement from 2027. Initial priorities include launching the working groups, identifying key technical topics, mapping members, planning advocacy and events, and preparing a shared response to urgent issues — including a possible solidarity statement for Lebanon.



LATIN AMERICA COMMITTEE

WHAT HAPPENED

During the General Assembly, Alejandro Russo led a discussion on the preparation of AIM's regional work programme for the upcoming mandate. The strategy will aim to help members respond to major global trends and risks, including growing social inequalities, climate change, cybersecurity threats, and geopolitical instability.

The discussion also highlighted key achievements from the 2023–2026 period. These included exchanges on the possible application of the Fair Price Calculator in Latin America, AIM's participation in COP16 in Colombia, and AIM's observer status within the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy (UNTFSSSE).

The Assembly also welcomed Waltheri Katajamäki from the International Labour Organization (ILO), who led a session on how AIM members in the region can contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the UNTFSSSE framework.

As an observer organisation within the UNTFSSSE, AIM helps connect the expertise of mutual organisations with global discussions on social and solidarity economy policies, statistics, decent work, and enabling legal frameworks.

The session also underlined the positive regional impact of the ILO and its continued support for social and solidarity economy initiatives across Latin America.

Waltheri highlighted the important role mutuals can play by strengthening local capacities through peer learning, generating evidence and data, sharing good practices in health and social protection, and building strong alliances with governments and other social and solidarity economy actors.





EUROPEAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

WHAT HAPPENED

During the first panel, Prof. Xander Koolman from the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Pauline de Heer from the Dutch National Health Care Institute, Rico Bastiaans from Zilveren Kruis, discussed appropriate healthcare.

“Passende Zorg” (Appropriate Care) is a healthcare approach focused on increasing patient value while keeping the system sustainable. It does this by reducing unnecessary or ineffective care and aligning treatment more closely with what is truly needed. It is built on four pillars: patient-centered care, sufficient workforce capacity, financial sustainability, and environmental responsibility. A key idea is to avoid overuse of medical interventions so resources can be redirected to more effective services.

The model also addresses the tension between individual medical ethics and broader policy goals by embedding decisions about effectiveness and cost into clinical guidelines, rather than leaving rationing decisions to individual clinicians at the bedside. In mental healthcare, this is implemented through “Exploratory Conversations,” where patients, mental health professionals, and social care providers jointly decide whether specialized treatment is needed or if alternatives like social support or self-help are better. Early results suggest that about half of patients may not need specialist mental healthcare immediately, and the approach has helped reduce waiting lists and improve cost efficiency.

During the second panel, Denis Lacombe from the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC), Gytis Bendorius from the Lithuanian National Health Insurance Fund and Rasmus Prior Gjesing from WHO Europe were discussing treatment optimization and how to balance the gap between competitiveness and patients’ access to affordable treatment.

The panel highlighted major gaps between access to medicines and real clinical effectiveness, driven by limited trial data, underrepresentation of key patient groups, and missing real-world evidence. This leads to inefficient spending and uncertainty in treatment value. Speakers called for a shift toward investing in better data and stronger international collaboration, including platforms like EORTC and WHO initiatives, to improve evidence generation and optimize healthcare decisions globally.





GENERAL ASSEMBLY

WHAT HAPPENED

Alongside the formal proceedings, including the approval of AIM's annual accounts and the welcoming of the new member FMP from Côte d'Ivoire, the Vice-Presidents presented the main achievements of the 2023–2026 term from all regions. Loek Caubo delivered his farewell speech, stressing the need to further strengthen solidarity as a core value for the future of health and social care.

The second part of the General Assembly was dedicated to the election of a new Presidium. The relevant AIM members unanimously elected the following candidates:

- Yannick Lucas as the new President of AIM
- Alain Coheur as Treasurer of AIM
- Marion von Wartenberg as Vice-President for Germany
- Wouter Kniest as Vice-President, following his nomination by Zorgverzekeraars Nederland
- Liisa Merimaa as the representative of AIM's smaller EU members with up to ten million insured people
- Abdelaziz Alaoui as Vice-President for the Africa and Middle East region
- Alejandro Russo as Vice-President for the South America region

In his inaugural speech, Yannick Lucas underlined his ambition to combine global representation with regional leadership within AIM, in order to respond to members' needs as effectively as possible.

The General Assembly also voted to appoint Loek Caubo as Honorary President and Verena Nold as an Honorary Member, as both had completed their terms on AIM's Presidium.

At the end of the General Assembly, the future work programme and priorities for the upcoming term were discussed and confirmed. These priorities will be adapted differently across AIM's regions, according to the needs and expectations of their members.

During the discussion, German Vice-President Marion von Wartenberg highlighted the positive effects of AIM's improved communication strategy. In particular, AIM's growing activity on LinkedIn allows member organisations to follow its health policy work in Brussels in a timely manner. It also provides greater visibility of the issues on the agendas of other member states and organisations.

The following priorities were agreed for the upcoming term:

- Promoting solidarity-based health and long-term care systems
- Patient-centred innovation and digitalisation
- Fair prices for medicines
- Health in all policies and stronger prevention
- International cooperation to achieve universal access to health and healthcare for all



