**Tribute to the late Bernard Viret (delivered by AIDA President, Michael Gill, at the Presidential Council of AIDA in Sydney on 17 September 2013)**

Early in August 2013 Professor Marcel Fontaine was advised by Simone Viret of the death of her husband, Bernard Viret, former President of AIDA.

I well remember Bernard Viret's Presidency of AIDA, and will speak about his 'AIDA life' shortly.

Bernard Viret came from Villars-Tiercelin in the Canton of Vaud. He attended the University of Lausanne where he obtained his Doctorate in 1960. His thesis dealt with Suicide of the Insured in Life and Private Casualty Insurance.

As was remarked by the President of the Federal Tribunal for Insurance in 1996, “ Always wearing a bow tie, Mr Viret started his life professional life with La Neuchatelloise where he was assistant director in Neuchatel”. In 1963 he became Director of Insurance with Assurance Mutuelle Vaudoise in Lausanne.

In 1970 he became a Professor at the University of Lausanne, where he taught labor law and we believe insurance law. He also became a Co-Director of the Research Institute on Tort Liability and Insurance (Institut de Recherches su le Driot de la Responsabilité Civile et de Assurances).

In 1976, he created a law course about Pension Plans.

In the same year he was appointed an Assistant Judge at the Insurance Tribunal of the Canton of Vaud.

On the 8th of October1980, he was elected to the Federal Tribunal for Insurance. He remained in that position until his retirement on the 19th of June 1996.

On his retirement, the President of the Tribunal said “…I beg this great jurist, whose conciliatory mind is one of the main qualities, to accept our deepest gratitude for the considerable work he has accomplished in Lucerne. In spite of serious health problems, he was able to keep up his heavy commitments and he has pursued his remarkable scientific activity”.

In the meantime, he had been appointed an Assistant Secretary-General of AIDA in 1970 under the Presidency of Professor Antigono Donati of Italy.

He organized the subsequent AIDA World Congress held in Lausanne in 1974 around which time he was appointed to the Presidential Council.

In 1986 at the VII World Congress in Budapest, he was elected President of AIDA, a post which he occupied until the World Congress in Copenhagen in 1990. He then became an Honorary President of AIDA.

At the World Congress in Paris in 1970 he was one of the reporters on the theme of 'Insurance and Monetary Variations'. At the Budapest World Congress in 1986 he was the General Reporter on the second theme, which was 'Risk Aggravation and Other Modifications of the Risk Situation'.

Beyond his AIDA role, he was much published on labor law and insurance law, including a book on Swiss insurance law - 'Droit des Assurances Privées", 3rd ed. Zurich, 1991.

He will be well remembered by his many friends and colleagues in AIDA for the contribution he made to insurance and law in many ways.

We convey our sincere condolences to Mrs Simone Viret, his family and friends.

Would you now please join with me in observing one minutes silence in memory of Past-President Bernard Viret.