

Bulletin

Information bulletin for members of the Association

June 2019

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***Most of the articles of the Bulletin were written in French.
Translations are mainly from Yasmin Sözen***

Membership fees : in 2019, they will have to be paid in January

and not anymore at the anniversary date of your registration to SEPS/SFPE

See next page !

Annual fees : €30

IBAN: BE 37 3630 5079 7728

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Changes of address

Many members forget to inform us of their change of postal address.
A telephone call to +32 (0)2 475 472 470, or e-mail or note to our secretariat
would avoid several weeks' gap in receiving news.

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General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

Dear Member

We take the protection of personal information very seriously and we commit ourselves to respect the General Regulation on the Protection of Data (GRPD).

Our contact information is used exclusively to ensure our responsibility towards you, as a member, for frank and transparent information on the activities of the Association and the decisions taken by the Administrative Board.

The information you have confided to us is used entirely for internal purposes; it is not made available to third parties (PMO, DG HR, ...) without your express permission.

The Association commits itself to protect this information against any form of dissemination and not to make it available to anyone, except where obliged to under the law or when undertaking an act at your request, within the limits of the social objectives of the Association.

Of course, you can access, rectify or delete this information at any time. You may object to the use of your information and have the right to withdraw your consent at any time by sending us an e-mail or a request by post.

Serge Crutzen
For the SEPS/SFPE Management

Information Meeting

*Location :Au Repos des Chasseurs***

Avenue Charle-Albert, 11 1170 Bruxelles (Boitsfort) +32(0)26604672

Tuesday 10 October 2019 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

On the basis of the traditional programme, from 10h30 to 16h30

- ✓ Information about SEPS/SFPE
- ✓ Conférence : Live Badge (health file on Internet)
- ✓ Congenial lunch
- ✓ Health Insurance – Pensions – Participation of PMO
- ✓ Problems encountered by members
- ✓ Questions

Do not forget to contact the Secretariat

- ✓ **To make a reservation for lunch and choose your lunch**
- ✓ **To indicate the number of persons who are accompanying you**

Financial contribution: €35 per person

Payment should ideally be made to the ING account of SEPS

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(Participants can also pay on the spot, well before 10h30, please)

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I. Letter from the Editor

The results of the European Parliament elections have provided several positive signals for those who prefer to be optimistic. In several Member States the voting rate was higher than 50%. The parties who are traditionally anti-European Union have not made any significant advances. The majority will however be composed of several groups of which most probably the group of the European Popular Party (EPP) and the group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D). The advance of the ecologists will certainly provide the necessary impetus in favour of climate change and pollution.

Is it therefore possible to count on what the heads of the 27 European states have declared at Sibiu at the beginning of May 2019 ?

« The decisions we take will follow the spirit and letter of the 10 commitments hereunder. The Union of today is stronger than that of yesterday and we want to continue to build its

strength for tomorrow. This is our commitment for the future generations. This is the spirit of Sibiu and of a new Union of 27 ready to embrace its future as one.

- ✓ We will defend one Europe - from East to West, from North to South. Thirty years ago millions of people fought for their freedom and for unity and brought down the Iron Curtain, which had divided Europe for decades. There is no place for divisions that work against our collective interest.
- ✓ We will stay united, through thick and thin. We will show each other solidarity in times of need and we will always stand together. We can and we will speak with one voice.
- ✓ We will always look for joint solutions, listening to each other in a spirit of understanding and respect.
- ✓ We will continue to protect our way of life, democracy and the rule of law. The inalienable rights and the fundamental freedoms of all Europeans were hard fought for and will never be taken for granted. We will uphold our shared values and the principles enshrined in the Treaties.
- ✓ We will deliver where it matters most. Europe will continue to be big on big matters. We will continue to listen to the concerns and hopes of all Europeans, bringing the Union closer to our citizens, and we will act accordingly, with ambition and determination.
- ✓ We will always uphold the principle of fairness, whether it be in the labour market, in welfare, in the economy or in the digital transformation. We will further reduce disparities between us and we will always help the most vulnerable in Europe, putting people before politics.
- ✓ We will give ourselves the means to match our ambitions. We will provide the Union with the means necessary to attain its objectives and carry through its policies.
- ✓ We will safeguard the future for the next generations of Europeans. We will invest in young people and build a Union fit for the future, able to cope with the most pressing challenges of the 21st century.
- ✓ We will protect our citizens and keep them safe by investing in our soft and hard power and by working with our international partners.
- ✓ Europe will be a responsible global leader. The challenges we face today affect us all. We will continue working with our partners in the world to uphold and develop the rules-based international order, to make the most of new trading opportunities and to jointly tackle global issues such as preserving our environment and fighting climate change.”

For us pensioners, several of these promises are important : they concern our way of life, the rule of law, equity, social protection, non-discrimination, security, ...

Whether we do it ourselves or network with other European associations for pensioners, it will be necessary to remain vigilant so that these promises do not become meaningless words. The European network of pensioners' associations « AGE¹ Platform Europe » is certainly the best of the lobbying associations, accredited to the Institutions, that we can support on this subject.

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II. Summary of the General Assembly held on 6 June 2019

1. Activity Report for 2018

The report was approved: It highlights the following:

- √ The continuity of the SEPS/SFPE activities in the defence of our acquired rights, communication with members and assistance provided to members
- √ The call for the nomination of new effective members
- √ The nomination of Marc Maes, administrator, as Treasurer from 31 March 2018, following the resignation of Georges Distexhe on 31 December 2017.
- √ The attempt to launch a SEPS/SFPE antenna in Luxemburg
- √ The collaboration with staff unions on the basis of exchange: access to SEPS documents (Bulletin, Vade-mecum...) in exchange for the support of the unions for the participation of SEPS at all meetings of interest
- √ The decision of the Administrative Board to take an active part in a court case against the over-billing of medical care in Luxemburg by becoming one of the plaintiffs (Case successful: Positive decision on 30 April 2019)
- √ An extraordinary budget was approved for lawyers' fees relating to a number of either on-going or foreseen cases
 - Overbilling of medical expenses in Luxemburg and elsewhere
 - Adaptation of salaries and pensions in 2011 and 2012
 - Progressive resumption of work following invalidity or after suffering a handicap
 - Non allocation of reversion pension by the Belgian Federal Office of Pensions
- √ Better access to PMO4 – Pensions
 - Address of the functional mail box for pensions – PMO4: PMO-PENSIONS@ec.europa.eu
 - Access to SYSPER Pensions which can be granted to a pensioner who has an EU Login for consultation of pension slips and the printing out of fiscal declarations.
- √ The protection of personal data (RGDP): a text on this issue has been added to the Bulletin and to the application forms
- √ Ten year anniversary of the ASBL SEPS/SFPE which was celebrated during the information meeting of 10 October 2018.
- √ The collaboration with Afiliatys which has become “lighter”. It will relate to advice on insurances, to precise and limited activities, for example advice and expertise in certain areas and support for certain social actions such as St Nicholas for children. Replies to

questions from colleagues of the institutions and support for the transfer of Hospi Safe contracts from Cigna to Allianz Care nonetheless remain significantly weighty tasks.

2. Financial Report for 2018

The Treasurer's report has been approved. The accounts show a surplus in relation to the ordinary budget. The extraordinary budget (lawyers' fees) represents more than €8 000, taken from the "war chest":

Summary in €

Total income 2018	34.660,22
Total expenses - ordinary exercise - 2018	33.236,36
Surplus 2018 when considering the ordinary exercise	1.423,86
Total expenses –extraordinary exercise - 2018	8.204,68
On the accounts on : 31.12.2018	52.890,59

3. Discharge for the Administrators

The discharge given to the Administrators was unanimous.

4. Work programme for 2019

- √ The programme was approved. The President insisted on the probable resumption of social dialogue relating to pensions which could occur in the margins of the new Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027 and of BREXIT. These discussions will probably not commence before the nomination of the new Commission.
- √ As in the past SEPS/SFPE will be vigilant about the discussions and the changes in attitude of PMO with regard to changes to the rules of the JSIS and to modifications to the General Implementation Provisions during the coming two years.
- √ As usual, SEPS/SFPE will provide a maximum of information to its members, and seek the input from its members to be transmitted to the committees.
- √ To the extent possible, SEPS/SFPE will reply to questions from members, it will help in communication with the Administration/PMO and resolve what differences of opinion may arise. Legal support will be provided. Substantial legal support will, however, only be provided where it benefits the interest of the members in general.
- √ The Internet site of "SFPE-SEPS" has been adjusted to meet necessities over the years, but the changes remained modest until now. A decision has been taken by the AB to modernise it. This activity should be over by autumn 2019.
- √ The Seminars for Retirement remain a weighty but important task (24 seminars foreseen during 2019, FR and EN). It is as a result of these seminars that there are about 100

new members who join each year. A group of 'orators' will be created to ensure a better coverage of these seminars in FR and EN. This group will also be responsible for updating all the SEPS/SFPE documents pertaining to the insurances.

- √ Also to be noted: the contribution to the negotiations with Allianz Care relative to the transfer of the insurance contracts from Cigna to Allianz by 01.01.2020 (Annexe 3) and the response to questions from members of the Institutions.
- √ Legal advice for problems relating to relations with the services of the Commission (application of the Staff Regulations) or for private matters (inheritance or fiscal problems) can be provided. Hendrik SMETS, Doctor of Law and licensed notary, Vice-President of SEPS/SFPE in charge of legal matters, is available to provide advice in all discretion and respecting his probity as a former EU official.
- √ **The SEPS/SFPE Administrative Board needs to be renewed every three years. Elections will be launched on 15 December 2019. A call for candidates is launched as of now: members of the association and effective members in particular are invited to announce themselves.**

5. 2019 Budget

The 2019 Budget was proposed and approved by the General Assembly of 6 December 2018. It is based on the accounts of 2018. As 2018 passed without surprises, the budget approved in December 2018 has not been amended by the GA of 6 June 2019.

6. Nomination of the account auditors for 2019

Three persons are available to be called on to audit the accounts for 2019. These are: Tine Schmale, Filomena Paolone, Nadine Froment. Two out of the three are enough to satisfy the regulations.

7. SEPS/SFPE antenna in Luxemburg

The call to manifest interest for a Luxemburg antenna of SEPS/SFPE, sent to the residents of Luxemburg and surrounding areas, yielded no result. It is likely that this project will need to be reviewed by the AB.

8. Collaboration with staff unions

Collaboration based on exchange: the right to SEPS publications (Bulletin, Vade-Mecum, ...) in exchange for the support of the unions for the participation of SEPS at all meetings of interest.

It was decided to propose such collaboration so that those aged 55 and over, members of staff unions, could become associate members of SEPS/SFPE.

R&D has agreed to this; Save Europe has given its approval which will be signed; FFPE Commission has signed an agreement; FFPE Council of the EU has signed an agreement.

9. Duty station presences of SEPS/SFPE

Duty station presences at office N 105

- √ Mondays and Thursdays: Gina Dricot, Antonio Pinto (10h00-12h00 and 14h30-16h30) – Staff regulations-related and general questions
- √ Tuesdays: Giustina Canu (10h00-12h30); Patrizia De Palma (12h30-16h00) – General questions
- √ Thursdays: Helen James (10h00-12h30) – Questions relating to JSIS. Nadine Froment (12h30-15h00) – General questions
- √ On demand: Nicoletta Flessati

Duty station presence at the Council:

- √ Tuesdays: Nicole Caby, Serge Crutzen (Anna Giovanelli)

Duty station presence via telephone: Nadine Froment, Helen James, Brigitte Pretzenbacher, Serge Crutzen

III. Interim (5 years) report from the Commission to the European Parliament and to the Council

1. Report on the application of Annex XI to the Staff Regulations

COM(2018) 830 final. Presented at the GRT on 11.04.2019.

Conclusions of the report are well accepted by the Council.

They are reproduced hereunder.

Since its introduction in 2014 Annex XI to the Staff Regulations and Article 66a thereof have been successfully implemented by the Commission. The Method for update of remuneration and pensions set therein by the European Parliament and the Council have proved its efficiency and effectiveness over the five annual cycles of its implementation (2014-2018).

The Method has achieved its objectives while putting aside the inter-institutional tensions and court cases known from the past.

In particular, the following conclusions may be drawn based on the implementation of the Annex XI to the Staff Regulations and Article 66a for the period 2014-2018:

(1) In 2013 and 2014, salaries and pensions of EU officials were “frozen” in nominal terms. This came on top of limited salary adjustments in 2012 (0.8%) and no salary adjustment in 2011.

(2) As of 1 January 2014, a solidarity levy was reintroduced at an increased rate. This effort of solidarity translated into an increased contribution of EU officials to the general EU budget in the

aftermaths of the economic crisis. This contribution has been growing throughout the period even as the economic and social situation of the Union significantly improved.

(3) Since 2015, national civil servants of 11 reference Member States have seen the purchasing power of their salaries increase by 2.1%. As a result of the application of the principle of parallelism inherent to the Method, since 2015 the purchasing power of EU officials increased in parallel with that of national civil servants in those 11 reference Member States. The use of data for all EU28 Member States though would have produced different figures (+ 5.4%).

(4) Following an initial phase of a higher-than-average increase of the figure of the update in 2015 and 2016 that could be described as a “catch-up” effect in the Member States after the economic and social crisis, the following yearly exercises in 2017 and 2018 have resulted into moderate nominal salary increases.

(5) In net terms in 2018, the Method resulted into a decrease of the purchasing power of EU staff by 0.4%.

(6) As the Method contains an automatic annual update and automatic crisis clauses, it effectively remedied the difficulties in the implementation of the previous methods. At the same time, the Method remained constantly scrutinized by the European Parliament and the Council via the annual reports delivered by the Commission.

(7) The Method also successfully stood legal scrutiny before the European Courts in the few individual cases brought against it. It also avoided social tensions as no major strikes took place in the Institutions during that period.

(8) When it comes to the full implementation of the principle of equality of purchasing power among EU staff in different places of employment via the system of correction coefficients, few issues have been identified to be closely followed during the next implementation period.

2. Report on the application of Annex XII to the Staff Regulations

COM(2018) 829 final. Presented at the GTR on 11.04.2019

Conclusions of the report are well accepted by the Council.

They are reproduced hereunder.

The implementation of Annex XII to the Staff Regulations by the Commission ensured stability of the PSEO and the balance of the notional fund while the 2004 and 2013 Staff Regulations reforms are successfully implemented, increasing progressively yearly savings.

In view of the above, the application of Annex XII to the Staff Regulations has fulfilled its specific aim to guarantee that the PSEO is in balance, as the pension contribution paid by the staff to the budget covers one third of the rights acquired every year due to the following reasons:

- the contribution rate calculated by Eurostat covered one third of the pension rights acquired that year;

- the calculated contribution rate was validated by national experts and qualified independent experts;
- the applied contribution rate was very close to the calculated one;
- small differences between the calculated and applied rates were due to the specific provisions of the Staff Regulations. As these differences can be positive or negative, they tend to cancel each other out in the long term.

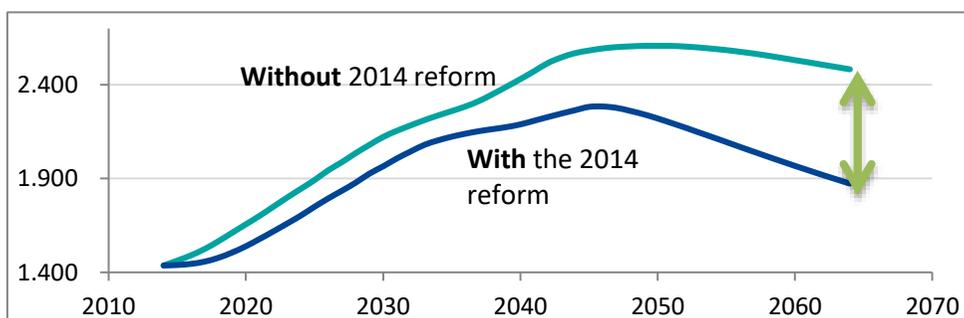
The co-legislators decided that the present report should focus on the 2014-2018 actuarial balance of the pension scheme and not on the future evolution of pension expenditure. By contrast, it should be mentioned that in its proposal for a Council Regulation laying down the next MFF the Commission presented the expected expenditure for the period 2021 – 2027 based notably upon the yearly growth of pension expenditure.

On this occasion, the Commission also undertook to reflect on the feasibility of the creation of a capital-based pension fund for EU staff in the framework of the mid-term review of the MFF in 2023.

Summary of calculated and applied contribution rates for pension

Year	Contribution level %
1993	8.25
2010	11.60
2015	10.10
2017	9.80
2019	10.00

Evolution of long-term pension costs (figures in EUR million at constant prices)



The budget in 2045 reaches 2.4 B€. This fact induced the CoRePer at the end of 2016, to ask for economies on the pension.

IV. JSIS – Revision of the General Implementation Provisions (GIP) of 2007

Preventive Medicine

The new programmes have been defined, as indicated in preceding Bulletins. For reasons relating to the protection of personal information, the agreements with the medical screening centres have not been established. **It may not be until autumn that the new programmes become available.**

The analysis of the new screening programmes by several medical specialists has demonstrated that there are several limitations due, most likely, to the need for financial prudence by PMO.

It is important to remind colleagues that preventive examinations can be proposed by their family doctor independently of the medical screening programmes or complementary to these programmes: such additional tests will be reimbursed at 85%.

Handicapped persons and JSIS

Following his inquiry into the manner in which the European Commission treats handicapped persons within the framework of JSIS, the European mediator exhorts the European Commission to review the GIP in such a way that handicapped persons shall, in future, be treated in conformity with the United Nations convention on the rights of handicapped persons. (UNCRDP).

The mediator insisted that associations or family members of handicapped persons be consulted meaningfully and as required throughout this whole process. Pensioner associations may also be interested to add their views.

The provisions for general application should be modified so as to allow improved access to full reimbursement of costs relating to a handicap.

One proposal specifically concerns the recognition of a serious illness, linked to a handicap and the recognition of a handicap.

Increased contribution to JSIS?

Within the CGAM, the Union Syndicale has raised the issue of increasing the contributions to JSIS by 2 to 4%, despite the opposition of the Member States to this. The aim is to provide cover for social expenditure, in addition to health insurance, so that social assistance can be granted financial stability.

Insurance card

This request should emanate from a staff union as PMO is not authorised to submit these questions to the Commission's Legal services.

SEPS could underwrite such a request. This would greatly facilitate the lives of affiliates. However, a European Health Insurance card should not be accompanied by a transfer of health coverage to a national system.

As explained in the March 2019 Bulletin, one of the Dutch Friendly Societies will be concluding an agreement with the Commission. PMO will transfer a small amount so that its affiliates, who reside in the Netherlands, can obtain a health insurance card from the Friendly Society, which will serve as a European health insurance card elsewhere.

This agreement should serve as model for other countries, starting with Belgium, given that almost 60% of expenditure occurs in this country.

JSIS Financial aspects

Although contributions have globally experienced a small increase (3.6%), the accounts for 2018 register a deficit of about 1.5%, due to the number of late payment of bills during 2018. This deficit is insignificant, given its origins.

The amount of the reserve has increased slightly because interest rates are extremely low and it is difficult to avoid negative interest rates. DG ECFIN is expending a lot of effort to ensure the balance remains positive.

V. European Court of Justice decision against medical over-billing in Luxemburg

The over-billing applied to associates of the European Institutions during hospitalisation in Luxemburg, constitutes a discrimination linked to nationality. It is the European Court of Justice who said this. And it is now 23 years that this has been going on.

The ruling Wattiau/European Parliament (action which SEPS/SFPE supported financially by becoming co-plaintiff), published on 30 April 2019, concludes that neither the Government of Luxemburg, or the Commission have respected the principle of non-discrimination when signing the convention authorising over-billing in Luxemburg.

The fact that officials and agents of the European Institutions do not pay taxes on their salaries into national health systems and do not contribute to any national social security system is not a valid argument because these officials and agents are not demanding a reduction on the cost of their medical treatment or on any other social security benefit, merely that they be allowed to pay the normal price, without discrimination, for their medical care.

The ruling of 30 April asserts that there exists no objective justification which could render the said discrimination legal.

DG HR is in the process of preparing the termination of the 1996 convention with the hospitals in Luxemburg which allowed the 15% over-billing. There is great hesitation about the approach to be adopted towards the hospitals subsequently.

VI. Expatriation allowance

Article 20 of the Staff Regulations stipulates that “An official shall reside either in the place where he is employed or at no greater distance therefrom as is compatible with the proper performance of his duties. The official shall notify the Appointing Authority of his address and inform it immediately of any change of address”:

Article 69 of the Staff Regulations stipulates that the expatriation allowance is equal to 16% of the basic salary plus the family allowance and the child allowance for each dependent child and that this allowance cannot be lower than €503.39.

During a seminar organised in Trier, Germany, by the Academy of European Law / Europäische Rechtsakademie (ERA) early April 2019, I put the following question to the representative of the European Parliament in Luxembourg: “if a civil servant, who is not a national of Luxembourg, for example a German, a Frenchman, or a Belgian and is assigned to Luxembourg, but remains resident in his country of origin, does he have a right to the 16% expatriation allowance?”

He replied, yes. Article 4 of Annex VII stipulates that the expatriation allowance (...) is granted to the civil servants who have not and have never been nationals of the State on whose territory is situated the place where they are employed and who during the six months before they entered the service did not reside or carry on their main occupation within the territory of that state for another State or for an international organisation.

In other words, a civil servant, national of another state than the Member State where he works, will have the right to an expatriation allowance, even if he remains resident in his country of origin, on condition that he resides in a place, at a distance that does not impede the proper performance of his duties.

Consequently, a Belgian who resides in Arlon, a Frenchman who resides in Longwy, a German who resides in Konz or even in Trier is entitled to the expatriation allowance. Additionally he will benefit from the correction coefficient² (if it happens to be different from the Brussels coefficient). The same is true for Germans who work in Strasburg or for French nationals who work in Geneva and remain resident in their country of origin within a reasonable distance from their place of employment.

There are however two exceptions which allow civil servants to benefit from the entirety or part of their expatriation allowance:

- 1) This is the case of the civil servant who does not have or has never had the nationality of the Member State where he is employed, but who has worked in that Member State for an employer other than the state or an international organisation: in this case he would receive $\frac{1}{4}$ of the expatriation allowance.
- 2) This is the case of the civil servant who, even if he has, or has had the nationality of his country of employment, has the right to the expatriation allowance if, during the 10 years preceding his employment at an EU Institution, has resided habitually outside the territory of his

² An official's remuneration expressed in euros shall, after the compulsory deductions set out in these Staff Regulations or in any implementing regulations have been made, be weighted at a rate above, below or equal to 100 %, depending on living conditions in the various **places of employment**.

new place of assignment for reasons other than employment with a state or an international organisation. This could be work for a private employer in another Member State or work for a NGO in a developing country, or where a spouse accompanied his/her partner to another Member State.

If the civil servant voluntarily acquires the nationality of the country of his employment, he/she will obviously lose the expatriation allowance, unless he/she meets the qualifications for the 2nd exception.

I hope this contribution will help dissipate once and for all the doubts and suspicions felt towards civil servants who are in the situations described above.

Hendrik Smets
Vice-president responsible for legal matters

VII. AGE Platform Europe General Assembly 2019 - Final declaration (12.06.2019)

The European Parliament elections last May showed how deeply divided European citizens are. The public opinion is polarized on critical issues such as representative democracy, living-together and solidarity, migration or climate change. Young and old largely agree on the areas that governments should address in priority: fighting against poverty and unemployment, ensuring adequate income and support for all, guaranteeing access to education for every child and life-long learning opportunities regardless of age, introducing fair taxation, and ensuring a sustainable ecological transition.

Representing 106 organizations of and/or working for older people as delegates of **AGE Platform Europe's members** from 24 countries gathered at the annual General Assembly on 12 June 2019, we wish to engage with our political and institutional actors to find solutions and address these major challenges, respecting the rights of all generations to fully contribute to and benefit from a more prosperous, equal and inclusive EU.

A new intergenerational contract is needed to sustainably support equality and social justice

We are conscious however that a change of mindset is needed if we want to achieve an inclusive society where no one is left behind. Picturing older persons as selfish and a burden to younger generations, the current mindset tends to blame older citizens for the recent radical changes in electoral results and policy choices. Especially in times of austerity, pervasive ageism justifies an 'age-based rationing' in the provision of public services, ignoring the impact that such cuts have on other generations and threatening the capacity of all to live in dignity. Such views turn age groups against each other and hinder the advent of a social contract that would address our common challenges in a fairer and more sustainable way.

Our socio-economic status, education, gender, household circumstances, physical and mental abilities, ethnicity and sexuality, impact us all throughout our lives. Yet these are not purely individual characteristics but issues that concern us all: children living in poverty will often face

difficulties to fulfil their potential as adults, inequalities in accessing education, employment and poorer health in old age; the lack of quality affordable eldercare services prevents younger relatives with care responsibilities from contributing fully to the labor market and increases gender inequalities in employment and precariousness of women in older age, who continue being the main care providers.

We believe that Europe can successfully tackle the challenges ahead if we stop putting generations in competition against each other, and instead design together a society for all ages. By enabling cooperation across generations Europe will preserve its most precious natural resource: its human capital. A proper management of Europe's human capital requires a comprehensive life-course approach that supports solidarity within and between age groups as this will not only benefit individuals but society as a whole.

Act against ageism for the benefit of young and old

During the campaign to the last European elections it was quite common to hear ageist statements: some national leaders and candidates mocked their opponents calling them 'dinosaurs', urged for a 'generational change' in EU institutions or referred negatively to a candidate's age.

We believe more than ever that action is needed to eradicate ageism that pervades our societies, even fifty years after the term was first coined by Robert Butler M.D. Ageism prevents Europe from finding socially and environmentally sustainable answers to the pressing demographic and climate challenges.

Ageism continues to divide our societies into age groups perceived as having de facto conflicting interests. Even policies and laws enshrine age-specific approaches, thereby ignoring that life is intergenerational by nature. Whilst it is the contrary which is needed. Empowering people at every stage of life and facilitating exchanges within and among age groups can help break down stereotypes, strengthen the diversity. Age equality and intergenerational fairness will eventually make our societies more cohesive and prosperous. Given the pervasive nature of age stereotypes, policy makers at all levels have their part of responsibility to reduce ageism and promote intergenerational solidarity. These two objectives must be addressed in the current debate among the European institutions and national governments on EU priorities 2019-2024.

To this end, AGE Platform Europe members welcome the 10 commitments of the EU Heads of State and Government in the Sibiu Declaration in particular “to protect our way of life, democracy and the rule of law and to uphold the principle of fairness”. Building on this broad pledge, we call on our governments, the newly elected European Parliament and soon-to-be nominated European Commissioners to do their utmost to rebuild a collective project for the EU integration and identity, based on the shared values that bound EU citizens: social progress, inclusion and solidarity across generations and countries.

VIII. Important information

The majority of the information under this heading of the Bulletin is established on the basis of the experience of members of SEPS/SFPE who ensure the telephone assistance duties.

The requests for assistance justify the transcription into the Bulletin and the Vade-Mecum of several texts taken from My IntraComm, since a good number of members do not or no longer access My IntraComm³.

This information has been adapted by SEPS/SFPE to the case of members of the association who prefer to receive a document in the post, rather than have to search for the information on the internet.

This information may also duplicate the information given in the Information Bulletin of DG HR D1 "Info SENIOR" as also information provided in earlier Bulletins of SEPS/SFPE. **It is very important to insist on certain rules and to recall them: the services of PMO ask us to do this.**

1. The new SEPS/SFPE website

Since 6 June 2019 SEPS/SFPE has a new website: www.sfpe/seps.be, which is more convivial than the former one.

This site offers important announcements on its home page. Other than the description of the organisation and the essential documents like the Vade-Mecum, the various legal documents, reports on General Assemblies, ... a heading has been added for complementary health insurance options to JSIS.

Access to these internal documents via "Connect" is protected by a login and a password which members can obtain from the secretariat (info@sfpe-seps.be)

2. Taxa marger

PMO 4 informs the colleagues who receive several retributions from the Commission (20.06.2019)

You are beneficiary of two sources of income paid by the European Institutions. Therefore, you are subject to the rules of accumulated tax. Please be informed that, together with the June payroll, we will update the amounts of this tax merger in accordance with the indexation of the incomes from July 2018. Therefore, any debt generated will be managed following the usual practice : if the debt is less than 200 (whatever the currency), it will be directly recuperated in June 2019, otherwise an amount of maximum 15% of the basic salary will be deducted monthly on your pension's slip starting from the month of August 2019.

³ It is necessary to have an EUlogin
SEPS-SFPE

3. 100% reimbursement for the follow-up of serious diseases that are no longer recognized as such by PMO3 / JSIS.

This measure concerns medical acts strictly related to a serious illness that is no longer formally recognized after 5 or 10 years. For legal reasons, PMO3 cannot link this measure to any of the current 100% reimbursement procedures.

It will be regulated in the revised version of the General Implementing Provisions¹⁵ (GIP-DGE) currently being prepared.

To benefit from this, affiliates must submit to the JSIS Medical Adviser a statement from the medical specialist who follows them, confirming the need for examinations to detect any recurrence of the disease.

Once the authorization has been obtained, it will be necessary to introduce the reimbursement requests for the examinations mentioned under the “100%”, mentioning the agreement of the medical adviser.

4. Checklist for a trip without worry

Going on holiday or simply preparing a trip also means informing oneself about the administrative formalities which may arise and taking the necessary precautions.

Administration:

Identity documents, visas, authorisations, ...vaccination cards with validity dates, ...(often six months of validity are required)

Copy of documents

To prepare for theft or loss, take copies of documents, and keep these elsewhere than the originals. Possibly keep a copy on-line.

Indicate your presence

The authorities invite you to register your trip (for example on travelersonline.diplomatie.be)

Indicate your absence

For example, inform the police of your absence. Register your valuable possessions.
Think about health care

Certain vaccinations may be required by those places where you are heading.

Take an attestation of membership of JSIS (in the necessary language): a form for the declaration of an accident; a form for direct payment, ...

PMO insists: if you need to travel, think of subscribing to an “Assistance” insurance. This insurance will cover costs which are not taken on board by JSIS (transport costs or repatriation to domicile) and urgencies which are difficult for JSIS to cover in a limited space of time.

In some cases repatriation can become very costly, PMO gives us examples of bills of €100,000-€200,000 and more which cannot be adequately reimbursed by JSIS.

An 'Assistance' insurance can easily cover cancellations, problems with the vehicle, ...

Payments

Check the state of your credit cards: expiry dates, limits on validity, limits on payment, validity of cards in countries to be visited. From the outset, take only a limited amount of forex.

Highway code

Each European country has its own highway code. You are expected to know the rules and to respect them.

5. Article 72§3 – Special reimbursement

Special reimbursements can be granted under Article 72, paragraph 3 of the Staff Regulations on the non-reimbursed portion of medical costs, considered to be not excessive and falling within the scope of application of the General Implementation Provisions (GIP) and incurred by the affiliate for himself and/or the persons insured through him, if during the course of twelve months, the non-reimbursed portion represents more than half of a month's average basic salary paid in accordance with the Staff Regulations during that same 12 month period. (Basic salary or pension)

Reminder to Affiliates:

Requests for reimbursement under Article 72, paragraph 3 **need to be introduced by the affiliates themselves**, otherwise they will not obtain anything.

6. How to contact the services of PMO

PMO Contact has become Staff Contact

Since 15 May 2019 STAFF Contact has replaced PMO Contact.

This portal contains all the information pertaining to pensioners of the institutions and permits the posing of questions whilst offering a higher degree of security.

From now on, if you have a question on the reimbursement of medical expenses, a request for direct billing, or a question relating to your pension or for any other information, go to <https://myintracomm.ec.europa.eu/staff/> (access by ECAS/EU Login) and under the heading "Staff Matters" you will find the index for the various thematic headings.

DG HR has sent out a document on this subject to all pensioners.

To contact the Pensions Unit (PMO4)

- √ SYSPER Pensions by "my Remote" <https://myremote.ec.europa.eu>
- √ PMO-PENSIONS@ec.europa.eu for old age pensions and invalidity pensions

- ✓ PMO-SURVIVAL@eu.europa.eu for the beneficiaries of a survivor pension or an orphan's pension.
- ✓ A new single telephone number (+32(0)2 297 88 00) is accessible during working days, Monday to Friday from 09h30 to 12h30.
- ✓ Postal address: PMO (3 or 4) MERO B-1049 Brussels

To contact the JSIS unit in Brussels (PMO3)

- ✓ Staff Contact via My IntraComm: <https://myintracomm.ec.europa.eu/retired/>
- ✓ JSIS on-line to manage your situation concerning health insurance, checking on your detailed account, introduce your requests for reimbursement and for medical authorisations: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/JSIS/>
- ✓ Brussels: MERO, Avenue de Tervuren 41, Monday to Friday 09h30 to 13h00
- ✓ Telephone: +32(0)2 29 97777
- ✓ Direct billing (9h30-12h30) : +32(0)2 29 59856
- ✓ Prior authorisation : Fax +32(0)2 29 95351

To contact Unit JSIS in Luxemburg (PMO5)

- ✓ Building Brosbach, DRB B2/085, Monday to Friday from 09h30 to 12h30
- ✓ JSIS on-line: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/JSIS/>
- ✓ Telephone: +352 4301 36100
- ✓ Direct billing (9h30-12h30) : +352 4301 36103
- ✓ Prior authorisation : Fax +352 4301 36019

To contact Unit JSIS at Ispra (PMO 6)

- ✓ Club House Ispra – Sala delle Rose, Monday to Friday, from 9h30 to 12h30
- ✓ JSIS on-line <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/RCAM/>
- ✓ Postal address : Commissione Europea - RCAM
PMO/6 - Ufficio Liquidatore TP 740
Via E. Fermi, 2749
I - 21027 Ispra (VA) – Italie
- ✓ Tel. +39.0332.783030.
- ✓ Direct billing (9h30-12h30) : +39 0332 78 99 66
- ✓ Prior authorisation : Fax +39 0332 78 54 79

7. SYSPER Pensions – PMO 4

In addition to the availability of the pension slip, the tax certificate, the declaration of life, the new features in SYSPER Pensions will be as follows:

- Notification of a change of address
- Notification of a wedding, partnership or birth (but not yet a divorce)

- Declaration of Schooling
- Declaration of the activity of the spouse / partnership + declaration of their income
- Visualization and modification of personal data
- Visualization of the career (but only since 2002 - early date of SYSPER)

PMO 4 hopes to actually open these features "shortly", but it does not have a specific date yet.

A request has been made to the Director of DG HR D, Christian Roques, to dispose of his personal file, as it should, via SYSPER Pension, just as it is the case for the active staff. It will be necessary to count on the availability of DG DIGIT.

IX. Annexes

Annex 1

AGE Platform Europe Genberal Assembly final declaration in French

Annex 1 of the French version

Annex 2

In memoriam

<i>Nom, Prénom</i>	<i>Date de naissance</i>	<i>Date de décès</i>	<i>Instit</i>	<i>Nom, Prénom</i>	<i>Date de naissance</i>	<i>Date de décès</i>	<i>Instit</i>
GILLES Elise	14-02-28	29-01-19	PE	VERONESE Giuseppe	10-02-29	27-04-19	COM
GENTES Henri	15-07-37	28-02-19	COM	BARBI Giovanni	27-03-31	27-04-19	COM
ENGEL Irène	14-04-25	04-03-19	COM	PONDEVILLE Gaspard	21-09-32	27-04-19	CM
KENNY Michael	23-10-49	05-03-19	CJ	BORST Cornelia	08-04-30	28-04-19	COM
LOENING Klaus	17-08-31	10-03-19	COM	KONDER Herbert	16-10-21	01-05-19	COM
STRAUSS-CLAERBOUDT H	08-09-35	11-03-19	COM	PINTO DA SILVA Acacio	28-03-48	01-05-19	CM
HOESS Adalbert	08-07-41	14-03-19	COM	BLAUST Ole	22-09-45	01-05-19	COM
WENTZEL - SCHUMACHER H	29-04-35	16-03-19	COM	CIAMPI Giuseppe	23-12-32	02-05-19	COM
THUNUS-DOHET Christiane	01-03-34	17-03-19	COM	KLEYMANS Elektra	25-01-29	03-05-19	PE
RYAN Richie	27-02-29	17-03-19	CC	ROCCA Gianfranco	05-01-41	03-05-19	COM
WILSON Thomas	11-12-26	17-03-19	COM	FRAZAO Ana	03-07-49	03-05-19	PE
ANDRIESSEN Frans	02-04-29	22-03-19	COM	LOENS Julien	15-02-36	04-05-19	COM
MERZIGER Albrecht	07-11-27	23-03-19	PE	DALL'ACQUA Amedeo	30-05-30	05-05-19	PE
PETGES Yolande	03-01-26	25-03-19	COM	ANDERMANN Juergen	20-07-39	06-05-19	COM
HUGHES Tina	18-06-67	27-03-19	PE	NIELSEN Poul E.R.	17-05-52	06-05-19	PE
CARLIER Leon	14-06-33	28-03-19	COM	ROTHWEILER Wilfried	10-05-37	07-05-19	COM
FACCHETTI Sergio	05-12-31	30-03-19	COM	BROWN William	16-01-58	07-05-19	COM
DE MOOR Lucien	31-05-29	31-03-19	COM	BUSBY Roger	28-07-37	08-05-19	COM
HANSEN Bruno	13-08-41	31-03-19	COM	HASENJAEGER Hans	20-03-31	09-05-19	COM
TAK Johannes	02-02-44	01-04-19	COM	INGBER Georges	13-05-41	10-05-19	COM
RILEY Graham Peter	06-09-38	02-04-19	COM	ZAIMAN Harm	18-03-28	12-05-19	COM

COLUCCI Vito	12-07-41	02-04-19	CM	LAMING James	23-02-50	13-05-19	COM
CALTAGIRONE Giuseppe	21-08-42	03-04-19	COM	SAUNDERS Reginal Alan	20-06-30	14-05-19	COM
VITALI Mario	05-10-34	03-04-19	COM	CAO Luciano	19-10-39	14-05-19	COM
BAUMANN Michel	11-02-41	04-04-19	CC	MOORE Richard	20-02-31	15-05-19	PE
TONTODONATI Leandro	10-11-21	05-04-19	COM	PEETERS-MOONS M	10-07-27	16-05-19	COM
THYSSEN DEMORY Yvonne	26-10-37	05-04-19	COM	CUVELIER Huguette	27-01-25	16-05-19	COM
PIVETTA Gildo	15-07-44	05-04-19	COM	WOLLAST Estelle	27-02-31	18-05-19	COM
GEYER Claus	31-05-40	07-04-19	COM	JEFFREY Joyce	03-03-46	19-05-19	PE
DE HOE Paul	28-03-39	07-04-19	COM	BEDFORD Dennis	09-03-47	21-05-19	COM
HIROUX-LUONI Maria-Luisa	08-04-35	07-04-19	COM	DOMBROWER Joseph	07-07-50	21-05-19	REA
HENNING Ernst Guenter	25-02-24	09-04-19	COM	CONRATH Gertrud	07-02-38	25-11-18	COM
LOUWERIX Edgard Joseph	23-08-35	10-04-19	COM	COLPAERT Luc	05-01-46	25-04-19	COM
SPELLER Rita	01-04-43	13-04-19	COM	SALGO Laszlo	13-10-51	09-05-19	POL
CHARATAN Geoffrey	04-11-31	13-04-19	COM	MARIONI Gino	01-09-60	11-05-19	CM
MELCHERS Catherine	28-07-48	14-04-19	COM	HYLKEMA Jan Gerardus	30-11-31	16-05-19	COM
JERICHOW Henrik	01-10-30	15-04-19	COM	ALLION Maurice	15-11-33	18-05-19	COM
VAN HEESSEN Ariën	11-12-18	15-04-19	COM	KELLER Rene	13-07-40	22-05-19	COM
TROPPMANN Wolfgang	29-08-26	16-04-19	COM	VLAANDEREN Mary	14-09-46	22-05-19	COM
HELFENSTEIN François	21-02-30	17-04-19	COM	CONI-MOSCHOLIOS F	02-10-57	23-05-19	PE
TAILLY Raymond	05-05-32	18-04-19	COM	LARSSON Tor-Bjorg	20-10-48	24-05-19	ENV
SCHIPHORST Denise	30-05-30	19-04-19	COM	WIBAULT Henri	10-03-37	25-05-19	COM
DE NOVELLIS Ciro	22-07-39	21-04-19	COM	DE WINTER Pierre	06-08-46	26-05-19	CES
DUJARDIN-WACRENIER F	30-07-38	21-04-19	COM	BARRIOS GARRIDO J. R.	10-05-54	27-05-19	CM
PIZZUTO Patrizia	13-04-47	22-04-19	COM	PIGNI Cesare	13-04-40	28-05-19	COM
CARRARO Giuseppe	19-11-29	24-04-19	COM	CARNAIL Rolanda	12-06-32	29-05-19	COM
TANTER Laurent	12-01-25	27-04-19	COM	COVELIERS Gustaaf	05-05-28	30-05-19	COM
BIGNAUX Bernard	08-04-28	27-04-19	JET	ISCHEBECK Edith	27-02-31	30-05-19	COM
PRIM Alphonse	14-12-44	21-03-19	COM	CERRINI Lavinia	03-02-29	31-05-19	COM
HAZE Pietrenella	09-02-24	04-04-19	PE	LUCIDI Antonio	05-02-51	05-06-19	CM
ZIJLSTRA Catharina	08-07-29	15-04-19	COM	MATTENS Louisa	14-05-33	06-06-19	COM
DANIEL-MACGREGOR Ch	17-08-29	18-04-19	COM	JACQUEMIN Jean-Paul	11-12-40	09-06-19	COM
LEUNEN Paul	21-01-53	20-04-19	COM	SCHWARTZ Christiane	31-12-44	09-06-19	PE
WEBER Sibylle	14-03-45	24-04-19	COM	RUSSMANN Johannes	05-04-42	12-06-19	CES
DELEU Jean-Jacques	19-07-52	26-04-19	COM	MIGLIERINA Renato	03-05-25	14-06-19	COM
COLLING-REINESCH Edith	13-07-31	26-04-19	PE	KERZMANN Jemp	29-01-30	16-06-19	CC
MACDONALD Alistair	27-01-49	26-04-19	EAS	VIDAL Marie-Louise	27-02-30	19-06-19	COM
				CHARNAUT Claude	21-01-47	23-06-19	COM

**Files and documents available.
Order form**

Please send this reply slip to the secretariat

I should like to receive the English edition of the following documents
by Post / Email

SEPS Vade-mecum

- Part 1 (Procedures – edition august 2015 FR only) /
- Part 2 (forms /pers. data) /
- Part 3 (addresses PMO – ADMIN. ...)** Ed. May 2019 /
- Part 4 (reimbursement forms – RCAM/JSIS) (January 2019) /
- Supplementary health insurances** Edition May 2017 /
- Invlidity allowance and survival pension (Hendrik Smets)** /
- Orphan survivor’s pensions (Hendrik Smets)** /
- EU Officials and taxation (Me. J Buekenhoudt)** /
- Inheritance (Me. J Buekenhoudt)** (May 2018) /
- JSIS Guide (was sent by poste to all pensioners)** /

Please send these documents (by Post or by Email) to :

Surname.....

First name

Address :
.....
.....

Email address:

Date : Signature :

To be sent to

SFPE – SEPS
175 rue de la Loi,
Bureau JL 02 40 CG39,
BE-1048 Bruxelles

GSM: +32 (0)475 472470

Email:

info@sfpe-seps.be

APPLICATION FORM

I, THE UNDERSIGNED (1)

Maiden name for married women (1).....

PERSONNEL / PENSION N°:DATE OF BIRTH (dd/mm/yy):

NATIONALITY: Language desired for documents (2): **FR/EN**

HOME ADDRESS (1).....

.....

HOME Tel: GSM*:

E-mail:

FORMER STAFF MEMBER OF (Institution + DG or Dept.):

If still active: number of years' service:

HEREBY DECLARE MEMBERSHIP OF THE "ASSOCIATION OF SENIORS OF THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC SERVICE " (SEPS), by sending this completed form to SEPS and paying the membership fee..

HEREBY DECLARE THAT I AGREE TO SEPS REGISTERING AND STORING MY ABOVE PERSONAL DATA and to it being kept for the length of my membership.

The Association undertakes to protect your data and will prevent it being distributed, apart from when obliged to by law or in response to a request to do so by you, within the limits of the social purpose of the Association.

DONE AT:.....

DATE: SIGNATURE:

The annual subscription of **€30** is payable on 1 January. New members joining after 30 June will not be required to pay their second subscription until the second January following their enrolment.

SEPS Bank account N°:

ING bank, Brussels IBAN BE37 3630 5079 7728 BIC: BBRUBEBBCommunication: **Annual subscription + names and pension Nr.**

Please return this application form to:

SEPS/SFPE Office 02 40 CG39 175, rue de la Loi, B-1048 BRUSSELS

Or info@sfpe-seps.be

(1) Capital letters please (2) Please cross out where appropriate (*) optional

*If you choose to pay by standing order (see below), please send the slip **YOURSELF direct to your bank.***

To be sent to

SFPE – SEPS
175 rue de la Loi,
Bureau JL 02 40 CG39,
BE-1048 Bruxelles

GSM: +32 (0)475 472470

Email: info@sfpe-seps.be

STANDING ORDER

(Please send direct to your bank)

I, the undersigned,

HEREBY INSTRUCT(Name of bank)

to pay on (date) and on the same date each year, until further notice, the sum of : € 30

by debit of account N°

to: **SEPS - SFPE**
JL Office 02 40 CG39
175 rue de la Loi 175
B 1048 Brussels

Account N° **IBAN BE37 3630 5079 7728** **BIC BBRUBEBB**

ING Bank Brussels

Reference: Annual subscription + Names and personnel/pension number

DATE: SIGNATURE:

To be sent to your bank