



Seniors of the European Public Service  
Seniors de la Fonction Publique Européenne

# Bulletin

**Information Bulletin**

**Addressed to the members of the association.**

**June 2023**

**SEPS is at the disposal of all its members.**

**The secretariat can be reached :**

**by telephone: +32 475 472 470**

Please leave a message in case of no answer

or by internet: [info@sfpe-seps.be](mailto:info@sfpe-seps.be) [www.sfpe-seps.be](http://www.sfpe-seps.be)

***Version française au verso***

**06.07.2023**

NM/68/23.68 EN

### **SEPS Administrative Board 2023 – 2025**

<b>President</b>	Serge Crutzen
<b>Vice-Presidents</b>	Hendrik Smets (legal matters) Jean-Pierre Amond (Afiliatys-insurances)
<b>Treasurer / Members Management</b>	Marc Maes
<b>General Secretary</b>	Luigia Dricot-Daniele
<b>Secretary of the ASBL</b>	Nicole Caby
<b>Members :</b>	Monique Breton ; Yves Castel ; Jean-Marie Cousin ; Anna Angela D'Amico ; Patrizia De Palma ; Petrus Kerstens ; Antonio Pinto Ferreira ; Cristiano Sebastiani ; Catherine Tyliacos

**Ambassadors PMO** Helen James and Evangelos Spanoudis

### **Bulletin editorial team** (FR & EN) October 2020

Françoise Attal; Nicole Caby; Serge Crutzen; Anna D'Amico; Luigia Dricot;  
Helen James; Hendrik Smets; Yasmin Sözen; Milvia van Rij Brizzi

## **Membership fee: 30 €**

**It is requested in January and no longer on the anniversary date of SEPS / SFPE membership**

**However, new members who register after 30 June 2020 by paying the membership fee, will not need to pay for the 2021 fee. The next payment will only be needed in January 2022.**

**Bank account: IBAN: BE 37 3630 5079 7728  
BIC: BBRUBEBB**

## **Changes of e-mail address**

Many members forget to inform us of their change of e-mail address.

## **General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).**

Dear Member

We take the protection of personal data very seriously and we are committed 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 trusted us with 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**

#### ***Au Repos des Chasseurs***

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

**On 17 October 2023**

**Following the usual schedule of 10:30 – 17:00**

- News from SEPS-SFPE
- Replies from the Commission to the questions
- Inflation – Pensions adaptation
- Lunch
- News from CGAM
- Is there a question about Staff Regulations revision ?
- Problems encountered by members.
- Questions and answers

**SEPS/SFPE**, 175 rue de la Loi, bureau JL 02 CG39, BE-1048 Bruxelles  
105, avenue des Nerviens, bureau N105 00/010, BE-1049 Bruxelles  
Tel: **+32 475 472470** ASBL N°: 806 839 565  
Email: [info@sfpe-seps.be](mailto:info@sfpe-seps.be) Web: [www.sfpe-seps.be](http://www.sfpe-seps.be)

## Table of contents

page

I.	Letter from the Editor	5
II.	SEPS General Assembly and information meeting of 30 May 2023	
	1. Organisation of the 2023-25 Administrative Board	6
	2. 2022 Accounts and report for the G.A.	6
	3- 2022 Activity report	7
	4. Discharge of the administrators	8
	5. 2023 Programme of activities	8
	6. Defence programme	8
	7. Proposed change to the electoral regulations	9
	8. SEPS antennae	9
	9. Effective members	9
	10. Protest initiatives decided by the AB	9
	11. Review of JSIS activities and proposals	13
	12. Intermediate salary adjustment	15
	13. Training of volunteers	16
	14. Calendar of meetings	16
III.	How the complementary insurances compensate for the limitations and the ceilings of JSIS	16
IV.	Special reimbursement (Art. 72§3 of the Staff Regulations)	19
V.	Information and reminders	
	1. Increase in pension rights by transfer at the end of working life.	20
	2. Summer opening hours of PMO's telephone lines	21
	3. Travel insurance: why it is important to subscribe to one	22
	4. Travel to the UK	23
	5. Access card for pensioners – reminder	23
	6. Meeting with PMO at MERO	23
	7. Legal support available at SEPS/SFPE	24
	8. Accumulation of community pension with national pension	24
VI.	Annexes	
	Annex 1 2022 Activity Report	24
	Annex 2 Letter to Mrs Gertrud INGESTAT	31
	Annex 3 Correction coefficients (01.01.2023)	31
	Annex 4 How to obtain a SEPS/SFPE membership card	32
	Annex 4 In memoriam	33
	Annex 5 Documents available	35
	Annex 6 Membership application form	37
	Annex 7 Standing order form for membership fees	39

# **I. Letter from the Editor**

The months of April and May 2023 have been a time of lively anxiety among pensioners, who are infrequent users of informatics tools, and more particularly of the websites of the Commission. Several services of the Commission have indicated their desire to undertake more and more of their services using the internet and oblige users to do the same, eschewing the use of paper based procedures! The “Paperlessgate”!!

SEPS/SFPE as well as AIACE have been worried, knowing that a good number of pensioners do not use the internet! More than 300 of our members have never given us internet addresses. Our own evaluation of the situation is that over 30% of our pensioners do not or do not voluntarily use JSIS on-line or Sysper!

Of course, we, pensioners of the European Institutions, are not the only ones! The “Gang of Angry Oldies<sup>1</sup>” has informed me recently of their last article on the subject:

“We want service counters, we want respect!”

“These words, you have heard them from the mouths of hundreds of residents of Brussels who came to demand that a clear position be adopted against the proposed legal order initiated by the Brussels authorities, who wish to impose the internet by default, whereas the beneficiaries of the public services want to be able to address themselves to human beings whose hearts are not guided by algorithms. It is a particularly serious issue which will decide what kind of society will be established not only for able bodied, young and well-to-do persons, but also for all the rest, because we will all face the digital fracture at one moment or another of our lives. This issue merits public debate.”

The Commission has since a long time considered the right to non digital information, as stated in an old communication (COM(2016) 179 of 19 April 2016) as a given..

The Administration Board of SEPS has consequently decided to put these questions to DG HR, using Article 90§1 of the Staff Regulations to obtain confirmation that even if the long term evolution must be towards an increase in the use of informatics tools, the “paper procedure” remains guaranteed for those who cannot or can no longer keep up.

Additionally, a series of practical demonstrations will be organised regularly on Thursday mornings, at the offices of SEPS (N105) to help pensioned colleagues use JSIS on-line, Sysper, and pensioners’ My intraComm,...

This demand for paper procedure is also imposed on the insurers who offer complementary insurances to JSIS.

Serge Crutzen

---

<sup>1</sup> The Gang of Angry Oldies is an independent Belgian citizens movement, non partisan and transpartisan, which fights for future generations to be able to age with dignity. <https://gangdesviewxencolere.be/a-propos/>

## **II. SEPS/SFPE General Assembly and Information meeting of 30 May 2023**

The General Assembly was organised in person and through video-conference. It brought together some 60 odd members of the Association, of which 27 effective members.

### **1. Organisation of the AB 2023-2025**

Following the formal request to accept the mandate given to the elected administrators, it appears that Stefan Nonneman will no longer be in a position to take on the tasks which were offered to him: he will not be retiring before March 2025.

His allocated tasks will be redistributed between the president and the two vice-presidents. He will however remain the contact person between SEPS-Italia and SEPS-Brussels.

The composition of the AB, as decided by the General Assembly is given on page 2 of this Bulletin.

### **2. 2022 Accounts and report to the GA**

The summary of the accounts report is given hereafter. The GA approved the accounts for 2022.

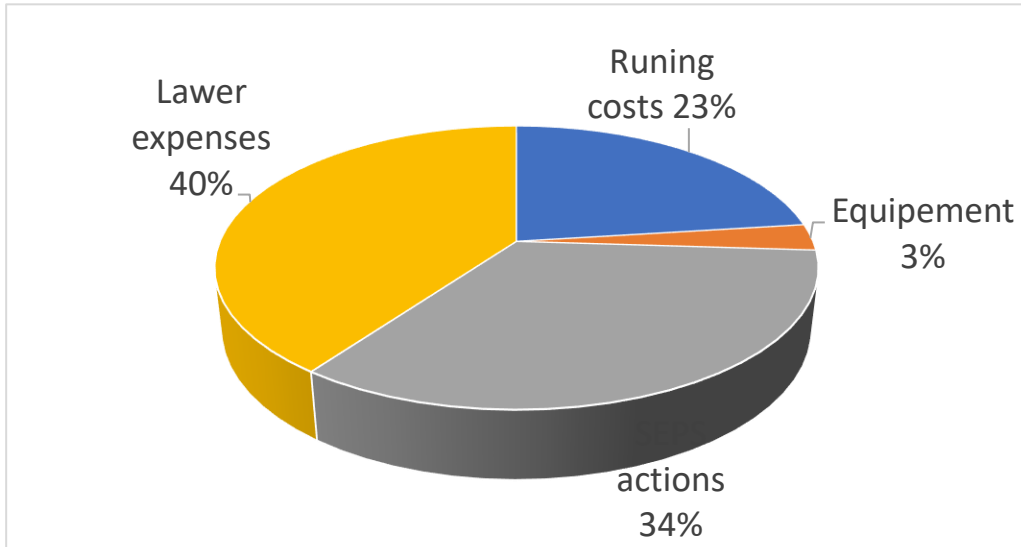
#### **SEPS-SFPE Brussels Accounts**

<b>Ordinary Exercise (€)</b>	
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>40,970.99</b>
<b>Total expenses ordinary exercise</b>	<b>30,235.15</b>
<b>Balance of the ordinary exercise</b>	<b>10,735.84</b>

<b>Extraordinary Exercise - lawyers' fees (€)</b>	
<b>Total extraordinary exercise</b>	<b>19,853.72</b>

<b>Overall Account (€)</b>	
Total receipts	40,970.99
Total expenditure 2022	50,088.87
Balance 2022	-9,117.88
Earlier balances (==> 2021)	65,109.14
<b>Total balance = Available in the bank account on 31.12.2022</b>	<b>55,991.26</b>

## Summary of the expenses



### The three auditors have confirmed the veracity of the report:

“In conformity with the Association’s statutes and with the commitments agreed to during the General Assembly of December 2022, I have the honour to report to you the results of my inspection mandate for the 2022 accounting exercise.

I undertook the examination of the accounts on 4 April 2023 and I received from the Treasurer the information and explanations that were requested.

The 2022 accounts report and the documents provide a faithful picture of the financial situation of the Association, which closes with a cumulated balance of €56,161.49, of which the SEPS-Brussels balance is €55,991.26, that of the SEPS-Luxemburg antenna is €0 and that of the SEPS-Italia antenna is €170.23.

I have received no knowledge during the course of my mandate as auditor of actions undertaken or decisions made which are in violation of the Association’s statutes.”

Done in Brussels, April 2023

Signed: **Filomena Paolone, Jacques Delincé, Evangelos Spanoudis**

### **3. 2022 Activity report**

The 2022 activity report is provided in Annex 1. It was disseminated in paper format to the participants and presented verbally.

#### **4. Discharge given to the administrators**

The General Assembly has unanimously given discharge to the administrators.

#### **5. Work programme for 2023**

The work programme continues the activities in coherence with the activity report. It is available on request.

Other than the usual activities: defence of the interests of pensioners, communication; reply to questions and direct assistance (pensions, legal, insurances, ...) discussions focused on the possibility of a social dialogue relative to the pensions system and the method. A defence group has been set up in readiness for the social dialogue which will assuredly emerge once DG HR will have revised the Multi Annual Financial Framework (MFF/CFP 2021-2027) for discussion with the Member States!

#### **6. Defence group**

The first meeting of the defence group took place on 25 April 2023 at the offices of SEPS/SFPE (N105),

The principles adopted for this Group are in part those developed in 2011-2012-2013 for the 2014 reform.

- Review the files of 2012-2013 as preparation.
- Study the principles underpinning the pensions system and the method (and possible variants) in order to be ready to understand and evaluate the consequences and the impact of the proposals which will be made.
- Flexibility, as we will not be able to influence the organisation of the social dialogue or its calendar. Members will have to be available, either remotely (ZOOM, WEBEX, TEAMS) for those who are not close to Brussels, or in Brussels if a meeting becomes necessary, or at the social dialogue meetings which will probably take place by video-conference (one or two members designated per group).

Meetings of the TGR (Technical Group on Remunerations) were held on 11 May and 29 June 2023 and the information provided by DG HR suggests that the Defence Group will not need to take part in social dialogue meetings for the foreseeable future.

The Commission proposes to increase the ceiling of Chapter 7 by €1.9 billion, essentially to cover the increased costs relating to new tasks conferred to the European Union, the increase in the cost of energy and the resulting high inflation.

This proposal, in addition to increasing other chapters of the Multi-annual Financial Framework will now be submitted to the European Parliament and the Council of the EU.



We will certainly be receiving complaints from the most frugal of the Member States ! This may signal the start of the Defence Group's work, though the Commission considers there to be no justification for revising Annexes XII and XI (pension system and the method)<sup>2</sup>.

The next meeting of the Defence group will be scheduled as events unfold.

## **7. Proposal to modify the electoral regulations**

Following the elections for the new Administrators in January 2023, for which only 16% of the paid-up members bothered to vote, several members were quite negative during the meeting and in writing about the feeble participation in the voting process.

Given the cost and the time needed to organise these elections for all the paid-up members, by mail and by internet and given the poor participation rate, despite the efforts of the electoral bureau, the need to modify the regulations has the support of several members.

The AB has however decided to maintain the principle of an election as "widespread and democratic" as possible, but with emphasis on reinforcing publicity and a more systematic use of the Bulletin.

Hendrik Smets has proposed a modification to the electoral regulations which will be proposed by the AB to the GA.

## **8. SEPS Antennae**

The SEPS-Italia antenna is well and developing.

The SEPS-Luxemburg antenna is on standby!

The issue of making SEPS an AISBL (International non-profit association) can be justified if several antennae are being developed. Several members of the AB are however of the view that the passage from ASBL to AISBL should take place without further ado.

## **9. Effective members**

On 1 December 2022 there were no more than 36 effective members "effectively" available.

The call for volunteers will continue with the aim to reach a total of 50 effective members.

## **10. Protest initiatives decided by the AB**

### **a. The elimination of paper and "paper" procedures**

Following the declared intention by the directors of PMO and the OIB to eliminate paper, on 14 March 2023 an Article 90§1 of the Staff Regulations procedure was addressed to DG HR by the President of SEPS. This request has been addressed to the Unit "Appeals and follow up of cases" (DG HR) ([hr-mail-16@ec.europa.eu](mailto:hr-mail-16@ec.europa.eu)) by Serge Crutzen, President of SEPS/SFPE:

---

<sup>2</sup> Reports COM(2022) 180 on the method and COM(2023)188 on pensions  
SEPS/SFPE

The objective is simple:

*Declarations during various meetings (for example: CGAM) on the part of directors of the services of PMO and OIB, for the wish to suppress the use of paper and thus to no longer accept paper procedures for several administrative initiatives, such as reimbursement of medical expenses, information documents, administrative declarations...*

*This so-called “paperless” approach, is it that of the Commission?*

*Will paper procedures still be accepted for pensioners who are either not or only poorly conversant with IT procedures given their age? They need to receive a minimum amount of information (by post) and need to be able to undertake their requests and declarations on paper.*

In addition, the response of [PMO-PENSIONS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:PMO-PENSIONS@ec.europa.eu), used frequently until very recently, is now “consult Staff-Contact”.

It is thus no longer possible to address a question to PMO-Pensions or to send a document by e-mail. It is now necessary to have an EULogin and be a habitual user of My IntraComm or use the public postal system! A note was sent to PMO-Pensions on 10 April 2023.

The response from Mrs Catherine Heldmaier-Renier (Head of Unit PMO-Pensions) gives the principles that DG HR intends to follow to take account of the difficulties of pensioners. We find these principles mentioned in other recent DG HR documents:

*Although we are orienting ourselves towards a digitalisation of communications, both for the question of security of personal data and for the efficiency of our services, I can assure you that we also share the concern to assist those persons who have difficulty in accessing IT tools.*

*This is why we have initiated a number of accompanying measures, among which support for the creation of an EULogin, the improvement of the pages in Staff Matters and the creation of a contact form with pensioners in mind for those who are nonetheless able to establish digital connection. For those who are not able to communicate in this way, we have obviously not eliminated the possibility of communication in paper format without some accompanying measures, namely to have easier access to ambassadors, to social workers or any other accredited person. We are currently working to put in place an authorisation procedure which will enable pensioners to be represented in total security by a person of their choice when dealing with our services.*

*Rest assured that we remain vigilant to the needs of pensioners and open to all alternative accompanying measure suggestions which can facilitate the process towards the further digitalisation of services.*

## **b. New regulations on the requests/appeals submitted on the basis of Articles 90§1 and §2 and Article 24 of the Staff Regulations**

A letter has been sent to DG HR to protest Administrative Information Note N°10, published on 15 February 2023 (My IntraComm) concerning Article 90 and 24 letters to DG HR: no paper, all by e-mail, following rules and procedures which make things difficult if not impossible for a good number of colleagues and more particularly for pensioners (cf Annex 2.1)

*The reply received from DG HR (Annex 2.2) is reassuring and insists on the fact that: the methods foresee the possibility to introduce a request/complaint/request for assistance by post. Moreover, in the absence of an electronic address, HR-F-6 continues to communicate with the complainant/claimant by post, and this includes the possibility for the complainant/claimant to submit documents in paper form during the procedure.*

### **c. That which our “mutual benefit insurance” JSIS should be offering its affiliates**

The “paperlessgate” has triggered an awareness of the progressive reduction, over several years now, of the services that PMO is offering JSIS affiliates.

The desire, expressed by PMO, that a delegation procedure should be put in place allowing all pensioners to designate another person of his/her choice to act in their stead, raises fears as to the abuse this could engender, even if all the legal guaranties are in place and training is provided for such “delegates”.

The proposition: “Pensioners should be able to remain autonomous and independent for as long as they can” is a basic working principle of the AB, which is not in favour of proposals to identify a “tutor” for any colleague who might have difficulties with IT equipment and information from JSIS.

It is not at the cost of essential services for its staff that the Commission should be making savings. The elimination of a continuous welcome service, the difficulties in obtaining a response to telephone calls, the dehumanisation of contacts which have become anonymous, the stereotyped responses from an invisible person cannot be justified by an insufficiency of human resources: The Commission must take upon itself the responsibility and the burden for the staff it has engaged in the context of

- An absence of an official social security system of a Member State
- The principle of equal treatment for all affiliates whatever their place of assignment

All pensioners and their dependents must be able to fulfil the administrative formalities using paper procedures or basic information tools, for as long as they are in a position to do so. They simply need all the necessary information. Carers and other persons who assist them must be able to access this information, namely: The regulations governing JSIS – the GIPs of JSIS; the list of medication that is reimbursed; the procedure for prior authorisation, ... This information should be available in all the official languages of the EU.

SEPS/SFPE has therefore launched a procedure in accordance with Article 90§1 (question to the administration) which may become a complaint (Art 90§2) or a request to the European Mediator or even evolve into a legal case brought against the Commission.

The request based on Article 90§1 of the Staff Regulations, drafted by the AB, specifies 17 principles considered to be legitimate expectations from the affiliates of JSIS:

1. The Common Regulation (CEE, Euratom, CECA) n° 259/1968) and the up-dated GIP, the guides for reimbursement with its codes, updated, published on a site accessible to all
2. The availability of the list of medication, the analyses, the treatments that are reimbursable, those that are subject to prior authorisation and those that are not reimbursed
3. The publication of the list of ceilings, country by country, including the list of ceilings applied to preventative health care.
4. All the above-mentioned documentation in all the official languages of the EU and the ability to access them without needing an EULogin
5. The publication of the general opinions of the Medical Officer (in the three working languages) so that patients and medical practitioners can determine whether a certain type of treatment would be eligible or not for reimbursement and whether it is subject to a prior authorisation.
6. The reinstatement of physical duty stations in the three payment offices, at a minimum from 09h00 to 17h00 catering for several official EU languages
7. The reinstatement of effective telephone duty stations, covering all the languages during at least 8 hours of the day from Monday to Friday. Contact with a PMO colleague.
8. The possibility of sending documents, correspondence and to receive a response in writing: by post or e-mail, or orally, in all the official languages
9. The availability of all JSIS documents in all the official languages of the Union
10. The availability of an emergency call service to respond to emergency direct billing requests that occur out of service hours; either in-house or by resorting to an external service provider with the help of regulating medical practitioners.
11. The reinstatement on the financial breakdowns of reimbursement of the names and telephone numbers of the contact person in the event of query.

12. The re-establishment of the calculations of special reimbursements under Article 72, §3 of the Staff Regulations, executed automatically every six months.
13. Clear responses, precise and definitive, on the occasion of prior authorisations.
14. Clear responses in the event of direct billing so that there are no surprises on receipt of the final bill.
15. The creation of JSIS on-line and Staff Matters websites adapted to handicapped persons, in line with those being developed by DG SANTE for the public
16. The possibility of consulting the payments offices to know if a cost put forward by a service provider or a hospital cost estimate correspond to non-discriminatory pricing practices.
17. The publication of the entirety of the agreements concluded between JSIS and third parties (and their purposes, for ease of reference) for the purpose of being forewarned and if necessary to check on their legal application.

In conclusion, it would be necessary to ask for a website for JSIS to be created, without password, with all the linguistic versions of documents and the normal email addresses, accessible from the outside (not blocked by EULogin) with telephone numbers giving direct access to persons capable of providing answers in various languages and one or several electronic functional addresses for each language.

## **11. Review of the work and the proposals of the CGAM**

Monique Breton provided an overview of the current work of the CGAM and the proposed changes to the GIPs.

In May 2018 the CGAM decided on the principle of reviewing the GIPs (General Implementation Provisions) (certain ceilings to take account of inflation). A working group was created to establish a list of priorities and a calendar. (Note: staff proposal: link with the Method)

The improvements foreseen by JSIS concern the revision of the GIP: the mechanism for adjusting ceilings, hospitalisation and operations; dental health, prostheses, preventive medicine.

PMO's financial liberty is, however, limited, even if the 2022 accounts allow improvements to the system.

2022 Annual accounts:

- ✓ Surplus of receipts over operational expenditure: €37 million
- ✓ Annual result: +€34.9 million

- ✓ Reserve: Currently more than €350 million

### **Insurance card**

The CGAM has asked (once more) for the recognition of our health insurance scheme throughout the EU and the EEE, without giving up the specific characteristics of JSIS. The Member States seem reticent!

The urgency for an insurance card to access care; the digitalisation of all the insurance schemes; prescriptions, bills, results of analyses; the creation of an electronic medical file.

### **Revision of the GIPs**

Modification of the ceilings and establishment of an annual adaptation mechanism; adjustment to evolutions in medical treatment; digitalisation of documents, circulation by electronic means; clarification of provisions which cause problems of interpretation (complementary coverage...); improvement of coverage of costs relating to handicap, to the loss of physical autonomy and to serious illnesses (important for pensioners).

The idea is to adapt these ceilings every year as a function of the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile of each type of treatment in each EU Member State, in order to reach the statutory rates of 85 or 80% instead of accepting the present erosion. However, if the resources of JSIS do not permit guaranteeing all these increases, an order of priority will be put in place; firstly the ceilings concerning handicapped persons, those who have lost physical autonomy, those with a serious illness; thereafter the general medical costs; last of the priorities: spectacle frames.

### **Hospitalisations and operations**

Addition of hospital care at home. Reference to palliative care in accredited structures.

### **Publication of the list of eligible treatments**

Reimbursement at 100% for serious illness, child birth, hospital stays which include at least 3 days in intensive care, palliative care, stays of more than 30 consecutive days, for the total duration of the hospital stay.

Stays in paramedical institutions or in old age homes with medical care.

Access to reimbursement under Article 72§3 for these types of costs, which are so far excluded.

Improvement in the reimbursement of costs relating to accommodation and temporary nursing care.

### **Dental health care**

Objective: treat dental care as real therapeutic care and not as purely aesthetic treatment

Strengthen prevention: improve the reimbursement of preventive treatment.

Creation of new codes for dental care without prior authorisation outside of the yearly allocation.

Orthodontics: Start of treatment before 20<sup>th</sup> birthday and not the 18<sup>th</sup>.

Orthodontics for adults: Case by case evaluation of the functional nature and necessity for the treatment

Prostheses: Retention of the 6 year renewal limit

Implants: maximum of 8 implants and after at least 6 years possibility of 2 further implants

Improvements for occlusodontics, periodontics

Prosthodontics, orthopaedic prosthesis and medical accessories

Clarifications for spectacles. Contact lenses: reference to the cost of a subscription to disposable lenses. For other contact lenses: reference to 80<sup>th</sup> percentile. Ocular prostheses reimbursed at 100%.

Hearing aids reimbursed at 100%, renewable after 4 years

### **Preventative health care**

Accessible to dependent children over 18 years old. Access for spouses or partners covered under primary or complementary insurance. Health centres whether approved or not. Complementary examinations possible.

### **Dialogue underway:**

These concern a few ceiling increases for consulting doctors €40 and €60, dental crowns (€350), hearing aids (€1800) and incontinence protection (€1200).

Artificial procreation assistance facilitated, extended to single women and to female couples.

## **12. Intermediate salary adjustment**

### **The salary adjustment which occurred in June 2023:**

a. Inflation in Brussels and Luxembourg: JBLI = 103.7 (+3.7%)

b. However the data relating to national salaries demonstrates a substantial reduction for the period July 2022 – June 2023: -3.8%. Thus, for the intermediate adaptation, corresponding to the period July 2022 – December 2022, GSI = 98.1 (a reduction of 1.9%, half of 3.8%)

c. Consequently adaptation in June 2023:  $(103.7 \times 98.1) / 100 = 1.7\%$  with retroactive effect to January 2023.

### **Uncertain forecast for the adaptation of December 2023**

a. Inflation for the period January 2023 – June 2023: Eurostat forecast: 0% ??? (JBLI = 100)

b. the evolution of national salaries: idem to preceding period: -1.9%, knowing that this is the result of the average of the reference Member States data, which was -3.8% for July 2022 to June 2023 (12 months)!

c. Adaptation in December 2023:  $(100 \times 98.1) / 100 = 98.1$ , namely -1.9%???

If this data on inflation and the evolution of national salaries, which needs to be taken into account end September, do not change relative to the forecasts made in April 2023, the adaptation in December 2023 will be negative with retroactive effect from July 2023.

### **13. Training of volunteers**

SEPS/SFPE has various on-going training activities

- ✓ Seminars for preparation prior to retirement
- ✓ Mid-day conferences (WEBEX – ZOOM – TEAMS) Insurances, pensions...
- ✓ On Thursday mornings at N105, training for volunteers but also open to members (maximum 14 per session)(Insurances, pensions, method, ...simple use of JSIS on-line, SYSPER, Staff Contact...)

Training for volunteers by DG HR D2 for home based assistance: The members of the AB are interested by this training, but few volunteers are likely to offer their services for assistance at the homes of pensioners.

### **14. Calendar for future meetings**

This calendar of meetings is in principle fixed!

Meeting	Date	Place
Information Meeting (IM)	17.10.2023	Repos des Chasseurs
AB	14.11.2023	N105
GA and IM	12.12.2023	Repos des Chasseurs
Audit of accounts 2023	23.01.2024	N105
Information Meeting	06.02.2024	Repos des Chasseurs
AB	19.03.2024	N105
GA and IM	16.04.2024	Repos des Chasseurs
AB	18.06.2024	N105
Information Meeting	15.10.2024	Repos des chasseurs
AB	19.11.2024	N105
GA and IM	10.12.2024	Repos des Chasseurs

## **III. How the complementary Health Insurances compensate the limitations of JSIS**

The file on the complementary health insurances to JSIS (health, accident, assistance – the latest version) is available on request from [info@sfpe-seps.be](mailto:info@sfpe-seps.be). There are several editions each year.



**A frequent question concerns the real significance of the 100% reimbursement rate of the insurances Hospi Safe Hospitalisation and other policies which are however no longer open to subscription.**

This question relates to the regulations of JSIS which introduce:

- ✓ **Reimbursement ceilings**
- ✓ **Specific reimbursement limits : the principle of excessiveness**
- ✓ **Exclusions for certain types of medical treatment, such as aesthetic medical practices**
- ✓ **Reductions in reimbursement in countries where medical care is expensive**

Article 20 of the Common regulation concerning the coverage of the risk of illness of officials of the European Communities (24.11.2005) stipulates:

Article 20 General rules for reimbursement

1. (Ceilings) For the purposes of ensuring the financial balance of the JSIS and in keeping with the principle of social coverage which underpins Article 72 of the Staff Regulations, reimbursement ceilings can be fixed in the general implementation provisions for certain treatments.

If the costs incurred by the affiliate are below the ceiling, the reimbursement is calculated on the basis of the actual cost incurred.

2. (Excessiveness) For treatment where no reimbursement ceiling has been fixed, the part of the costs considered to be excessive relative to the normal costs in the country where these costs have been incurred, is not reimbursable. The part of the costs considered to be excessive is determined on a case by case basis by the payments office after consulting the Medical Officer.

3. (Exclusion) The costs relating to treatments considered as non functional or unnecessary by the payments office, after consulting the Medical Officer, are not reimbursed.

Article 21 of the same regulation stipulates:

Article 21

Particular reimbursement rules for treatment outside the European Union

1. (Countries with high medical costs) The costs incurred in a country outside the EU where costs are particularly high, are subject to reduction by application of a basket reimbursement coefficient, which allows the reimbursement to be made on the basis of a cost comparable to the average cost in the countries of the EU.

In practice, remember this

## Reimbursement ceilings

The insurances HospiSafe (Afiatys-Allianz Care), Hospitalisation (AIACE-Cigna BCVR 8673) EurPriv Santé (Cigna BCVR 8672), Euro Santé (Allianz Care, reimburse at 100% in complement to the JSIS reimbursement. The ceilings of JSIS do not limit the reimbursement by the complementary insurances.

## Excessiveness

Currently, if the principle of excessiveness is applied by JSIS, the complementary insurances in principle reimburse a complement as in the case of ceilings, 100 % reimbursement. For Hospi Safe this rule is guaranteed. It is possible there may be a change in attitude (or an increase in the annual premium) if the principle of excessiveness were to be more widely applied by JSIS.

## Exclusion

The complementary insurance companies generally align themselves with the rules of JSIS. It is therefore logical for treatments which are excluded from reimbursement by JSIS are not covered by the complementary insurances. NB: some exceptions exist.

## Countries with high medical costs

If JSIS applies a substantial reduction factor in the case of some non-EU countries (Switzerland, USA,...) it is possible that the reimbursement made by JSIS represents less than 50% of the costs incurred.

The complementary insurance Hopi Safe<sup>3</sup> (Afiatys-Allianz Care) will reimburse at 100% on condition the amount in question is under €25 000 (per year) if incurred in a country outside the European Economic Space (EES). NB: EurPriv Santé (hospitalisation) and Euro Santé (hospitalisation) so far apply the same principle.

The insurance Hospitalisation (AIACE-Cigna) will reimburse at a maximum that which JSIS reimburses, but without other limits

Example: hospitalisation in the USA, €40,000: JSIS reimbursement: 35% (€14,000). The reimbursement should be 65% by "Hospi Safe" but limited to €25,000. The reimbursement by "Hospitalisation" would be 35% (€14,000).

See also: <https://sfpe-seps.be/> and <https://www.afiatys.eu/en/>

SEPS-SFPE : +32 475 472 470

---

<sup>3</sup> Warning: Hospi Safe (**Hospitalisation**) , **not** Hospi Safe Plus, which for several medical interventions reimburses 80% of the difference between the billed costs and the JSIS reimbursement

## **IV. Special reimbursement (Article 72§3 of the Staff Regulations)**

This procedure applies when the total of the medical costs to you, within the space of a calendar year (for example from January to December, or February to January, or March to February, consult your various reimbursement receipts in the one before last column “Amount charged to the affiliate” ) exceeds half of your monthly salary or pension.

Example: The total of the amounts in the column entitled “Amount charged to the affiliate” on your reimbursement receipts, from June 2022 to May 2023 add up to €2,000. If your basic monthly salary or pension is €3,000, the half to be considered is €1,500. The special reimbursement will therefore be

- If you have a partner or if you have a dependent child, you will receive 100% of the amount which exceeds half of your pension:  $€2,000 - €1,500 = €500$ .
- If you have no dependents (no spouse, no children), you will receive 90% of the amount which exceeds half of your pension:  $€2,000 - €1,500 = €500 \times 90\% = €450$

This special reimbursement will only be granted on specific request from the affiliate: it is not automatic. There exists a specific application form in paper to initiate the paper procedure.

How to launch this procedure if you think you qualify for it?

Via JSIS on-line, on the opening page, in the blue line, on the right side of the screen click on the question mark marked “Assistance on-line”. Scroll down to find “Special rules”, then click on “Special reimbursement”. Click on the envelope to send the request, attach the relevant reimbursement receipts.

Via My IntraComm “Retirees Welcome”, on the central column of the opening page, click “Which medication is reimbursed”. On the following page, the column on the left click on “Special rules”, then click on “Special reimbursements” (still on the left hand side of the screen). Click on the envelope (Contact us) to send off the request, attaching the relevant reimbursement receipts. .

<https://myintracomm.ec.europa.eu/staff/EN/health/reimbursement/specialrules/pages/specialreimbursement.asp>

Based on what has been said under point II.10a here before a request in paper form (with the specific application form) must be accepted by PMO-JSIS if all the relevant JSIS reimbursement receipts are attached.

## **V. Information and reminders**

Much of the information offered to you under this chapter of the Bulletin does not concern all members but may interest a good number of them. It is being sent to you on the basis of experiences made by members of SEPS who man the permanent telephone line or at the request of PMO.

Some of this information may also duplicate information provided in the form of the information bulletin of DG HR D1 “Info Senior” and earlier SEPS-SFPE Bulletins. However, it is essential to insist on certain rules and repeat them: the PMO services ask us to do so.

### **1. Increase in pension rights by transfer at end of career – Call for candidates-** Reminder

We would like to remind you of Hendrik Smet’s article in the March 2022 Bulletin: if the transfer of national pensions rights to the community system, not yet carried out, would be useful in increasing the pension rights already acquired to 70%, members should be able to request this transfer within three months of notification of the amount of the pension (or receipt of the first pension slip) in the form of an application (Article 90 § 1 of the Staff Regulations) and not after 10 years (and 6 months) of service, as is the case today.

In the current situation, this application would be rejected and the civil servant would need to introduce a legal action (Article 90 §2, drafted by SEPS/SFPE).

This legal action would invoke an exception of illegality to Article 11 §2 of Annex VIII of the Staff Regulations, stating that the regulatory delay of 10 years (and 6 months) prevents the official from making an informed choice relative to the benefits of the transfer of national pension rights; this choice should be possible until the age of retirement, the only date at which the official possesses all the factual elements for making an informed choice.

This legal action, if rejected, would provide the right to refer the matter to the European Court of Justice with additional legal arguments.

As a result the Association SEPS/SFPE is launching an appeal in the hope of finding a civil servant or a contractual agent near to retirement who fulfils the following conditions

#### **NOTICE OF SEARCH**

##### **for a civil servant or a contractual agent**

1. Who will not reach 70% of pension rights to obtain a full pension on retirement,
2. Who has not undertaken the transfer of his national pension rights, despite the fact that this transfer could have increased the pension rights acquired,

and who agrees to undertake the procedure described above in order to obtain from the CJEU the modification to the deadlines of Article 11§2 of Annex VIII of the Staff Regulations.

The legal action to the European Court of Justice will be financed by SEPS/SFPE.

Candidates (including non-members of SEPS/SFPE) can make themselves known by contacting the secretariat of the Association ([info@sfpe-seps.be](mailto:info@sfpe-seps.be) ) or its Vice-President ([hendriksmets@yahoo.fr](mailto:hendriksmets@yahoo.fr) ) directly.

## **2. Summer opening hours of PMO phone lines (update)**

### Communication of PMO-PENSIONS

We are writing to bring to your attention an important correction regarding the contact information for Access and EU LOGIN provided in our previous newsletter.

Please accept our sincere apologies for any confusion or inconvenience caused by this oversight. We greatly value your engagement and want to ensure that you have the correct means of reaching us.

Kindly note that the corrected phone numbers for contacting PMO during summer months is as follows:

Our **Pensions phone line +32 2 297 88 00** will remain available for you.

- **From 1 to 30 July 2023 included** - Monday and Wednesday from 9.30 to 12.30.
- **From 1 to 31 August 2023 included** - Wednesday from 9.30 to 12.30.

The telephone line for declaring death **+ 32 2 295 20 17** remains available

from **Monday to Friday from 9.30 to 17.00.**

**Please also note the summer opening hours of the JSIS sickness insurance phone services :**

**From 1 July to 31 August 2023 included**, the following phone lines will be available **from 10.00 to 12.00.**

### **JSIS CONTACT**

Brussels +32 2 29 97777

Ispra +39 0332 78 57 57

Luxembourg +352 4301 36100

### **DIRECT BILLING**

Brussels +32 2 29 59856

Ispra + 39 0332 78 99 66

Luxembourg +352 4301 36103

## HEALTH-SCREENING

Brussels – Ispra – Luxembourg +32 2 29 53866

## Access & EU LOGIN

Brussels – Ispra – Luxembourg +32 2 29 76888

*I wish you a happy and peaceful summer season!*

*Catherine Heldmaier -Regnier*

*Head of Unit*

*PMO.2 – Pensions*

---

## PMO-EULogin address

The Email address [PMO-EU-LOGIN@ec.europa.eu](mailto:PMO-EU-LOGIN@ec.europa.eu) is replaced by

[PMO-IT-APPLICATIONS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:PMO-IT-APPLICATIONS@ec.europa.eu).

## Access to EU LOGIN

Bruxelles – Ispra – Luxembourg +32 2 29 76888

## **3. Travel insurance : why is it important to have one ?**

### **Message of PMO – Communication**

As the summer holidays approach, we would kindly like to remind JSIS members about the significance of travel insurance. This serves as a timely reminder, emphasizing the importance of protecting oneself from potential high out-of-pocket expenses associated with accidents requiring rescue operations, hospitalization, and repatriation.

To avoid finding yourself in situations as described above we kindly ask you to remember:

- Whether it is an illness or an accident, **neither the JSIS nor the accident insurance covers or reimburses the costs of repatriation, travel costs of a relative, or search and rescue operations.**
- Obtaining **direct billing is not guaranteed**, in the event of travel outside of the European Union, and particularly in countries with **expensive medicine** where the refundable level coefficient applies (Switzerland, United States, Norway). Please note that in some countries such as UK, and even within the European Union, where the cost of health care is particularly high (Greece, etc.), a **substantial part of the medical expenses may remain at your expense (if considered excessive).**
- In order to avoid any inconvenience, and having to pay substantial sums from your pocket, it is strongly advised **to subscribe to a private travel insurance**. Travel insurance can reimburse costs that are not covered by the JSIS depending on the formula chosen, the part

of the medical expenses, which will remain at your charge after the reimbursement by the JSIS. Travel assistance insurance can also be useful in hospitals that do not accept direct billing and require immediate payment.

- We also advise all JSIS members to opt for private **complementary insurance to supplement the JSIS** reimbursement in the event of major medical expenses (hospitalization, etc.).

#### **4. Travel to the UK**

New regulations come into effect in 2024 when travelling to the UK.

In addition to a passport, valid for at least three months beyond the travel dates, a new electronic authorisation to travel will be needed (ETA or ETIAS (European Travel Authorisation System)). This will need to be requested on-line from the government of the UK. Payment on-line.

It will also be necessary to fill in a questionnaire: address(es) during travel, the reason for travel and proof that you have the means necessary to pay for all costs you incur and even medical costs. On the website gov.uk it appears that you could be asked to show copies of your bank statements for the past six months to prove you have the necessary financial means! To be able to drive your car in the UK you will need an international driving license.

#### **5. Access card for pensioners (reminder)**

Commission pensioners must have a new access badge which they can obtain at the Security Office, PLB 3 – by making an appointment at the following address:

[HR-DS-CARTES-DE-SERVICES-BRUXELLES@ec.europa.eu](mailto:HR-DS-CARTES-DE-SERVICES-BRUXELLES@ec.europa.eu)

Pensioners of other Institutions are admitted on presentation of the access card given to them by their own institution.

#### **6. Appointment with PMO at MERO**

By e-mail: [PMO-JSIS-BRU-RDV@ec.europa.eu](mailto:PMO-JSIS-BRU-RDV@ec.europa.eu)

To prepare for such an appointment, please communicate the following:

- 1) your personal pensioner number
- 2) the reason (e.g. no medical breakdown) and the beneficiary
- 3) the payment slip or dossier number if possible
- 4) a telephone number or a person who can contact you if necessary to better prepare the meeting and to inform you of a possible last minute cancellation.

## **7. Legal support offered by SEPS/SFPE**

If you need legal advice for a problem related to your relations with a Commission service (application of the Staff Regulations) or in your personal life (inheritance, tax issues) Hendrik Smets, doctor in law, licensed notary, Vice-President of SEPS/SFPE in charge of legal matters, is at your disposal to give you advice in total discretion and respectful of his probity as a former European civil servant.

You can contact Hendrik Smets by e-mail: [hendriksmets@yahoo.fr](mailto:hendriksmets@yahoo.fr) or by telephone : +33.563.67.88.83.

Hendrik will undertake an initial analysis of your question and propose either a solution, or a consultation with a lawyer, free of charge for members who are up-to-date with their membership fees. This consultation must be proposed by Hendrik Smets. Any subsequent consultation will be charged to whoever requests the consultation.

## **8. Accumulation of a Community pension with a national pension (reminder)**

Hendrik Smets would like to draw the attention of members to his article on the same subject, which appeared in numerous earlier editions of our Bulletin.

***The European civil servants who have not transferred their national pension rights to the Community system and who benefit from a community pension can now introduce a request for a pension for the years worked for a national employer.***

***This is valid also for those who may already have introduced such a request and who have had this request rejected.***

Hendrik Smets is at their disposal to guide them through this (new) process, [hendriksmets@yahoo.fr](mailto:hendriksmets@yahoo.fr)

## **I. Annexes**

### **Annex 1.**

## **2022 Activity Report**

AG/SC.GD/23.41 01.05.2023

### **Preamble**

2022 was a year where normal activities were resumed after the COVID lock-down!

- **The reorganisation of the offices at 105 avenue des Nerviens and the appearance of new volunteers**



- The administration of the association and of the ASBL
- Support for the new SEPS-Italia antenna
- Information for members via the Bulletin
- Response to questions from members (+32 (0) 475 472 470 – [info@sfpe-seps.be](mailto:info@sfpe-seps.be) ) and the assistance that we are able to provide (information and legal assistance); insurances, JSIS, EU pensions, national pensions, inheritance, taxes, social assistance, administration, ...
- The up-dating and distribution of documents of the Association, for meetings and on request: Vade Mecum, insurances, taxes and inheritance, pensions, ...
- The presentation of the Association at the seminars for the preparation of retirement by video-conference (Commission, Council)
- Participation (via video-conference) at meetings of the TGR, of the CASS and of JSIS
- Study and follow-up of the complementary insurances to JSIS accessible to pensioners as well as to active staff. Collaboration with Afiliatys and presentations at the seminars for the preparation for retirement and midday conferences by S. Crutzen and Jean-Pierre Amond under the auspices of DG HR

## I. Management activities of the Association

### **1. Administrative Board 2020-2022**

President	Serge Crutzen
Vice-President	Hendrik Smets (legal affaires)
Treasurer and management of membership	Marc Maes
Secretary General	Luigia Dricot-Daniele
Admin Secretary of the ASBL	Nicole Caby
Ambassadress PMO (JSIS)	Helen James

Members:

Monique Breton, Pinuccia Corda, Jean-Marie Cousin, Anna Angela D'Amico, Evelyne de Houwer, Patrizia de Palma, Rosario de Simone, Barbara Felix, Petrus Kerstens, Antonion Pinto Ferreira, Cristiano Sebastiani, Milvia van Rij- Brizzi

### **2. General Assembly of 23 June 2022**

- ✓ Approval of the 2021 financial statements and the activity report: discharge given to the administrators
- ✓ Proposed programme for 2022

- ✓ Nomination of two administrators and call for more effective members
- ✓ Preparation for the elections of the AB 2023-2025
- ✓ Increased space available at avenue des Nerviens
- ✓ Collaboration with Afiliatys
- ✓ Support given by several members of SEPS to Ukrainian refugees
- ✓ Collection for the refugees
- ✓ Development of the “Insurances group” SEPS-Afiliatys
- ✓ Various SEPS promotional activities with the help of DG HR D2
- ✓ Assistance to EPSO and to DG HR for the selection of candidates
- ✓ Creation of a “Defence group” following the report of the Commission to the Council and to the EP on the application of the 2014 Staff Regulations
- ✓ Report of Monique Breton on the work of the CGAM

### **3. General Assembly of 8 December 2022**

The 2023 budget was proposed in line with those for 2022 and 2021 (Annex)

### **4. Habitual activities relating to administration**

- Financial management (Marc Maes)
- Management of the membership list (Marc Maes)
- Daily management by the management group and volunteers (Gina Dricot)
- Continuous up-dating of the Vade-mecum (Anna D’Amico); Training on Thursday mornings; membership cards; updating of the website
- Meetings of the Administrative Board
- Reports to the Business Tribunal (BE) for publication in the Moniteur belge (SEPS is a non-profit organisation, under Belgian law)
- Report to the Ministry of Finance (BE); register UBO

### **5. Management activities or preparation for necessities by**

- Management of relations with DG HHR, Directorate D, Unit D2 (Felipe Moreno Madrid, Alan Lenglet) and with DG PERS and ADMIN of the Council, the Unit Medico-Social (Rosario Pratas)
- Compilation and editing of the Bulletin (Editing committee)

Given the constrained working conditions of the OIB between March 2020 and March 2022 the Bulletin was distributed much delayed by post! As soon as it is sent to the OIB (approval by DG HR for its edition/distribution) the Bulletin is sent by e-mail to all members who have provided us with their e-mail address. Unfortunately, around 50 email and postal addresses were rejected. Volunteers are attempting to correct these addresses.

- Registration of new members, mainly resulting from the seminars for the preparation for retirement and from the presentation of the complementary insurances
- Up-dating of documents published by the Association (complementary insurances, survivor's pension, Vade-mecum, Power-Point presentations, ...)

## **II. Activities relating to the objectives of the programme**

### **1. Defence of our acquired rights**

The principle objective of SEPS/SFPE remains the defence of the acquired rights of pensioners and of that which constitutes their social security: the pension, the method for adaptation of remuneration to the cost of living, the health insurance scheme, the allowances, the complementary insurances, the accident insurances, ...

#### **Annual adaptation of pensions**

Follow-up of meetings (TGR): Confidential reports to members of the AB and reduced reporting in the Bulletins

#### **Evolution in the application of the JSIS regulations**

SEPS/SFPE closely follows the application of JSIS regulations: one member of our AB has regularly participated at the meetings of the management committee of JSIS (CGAM): Monique Breton (of the Court of Justice) is currently the President of this important committee

Cf articles in the Bulletin

### **2. Information – Communication**

#### **Bulletin**

The objective remains to fully and rapidly inform members, for which DG HR admits having difficulties: too many pensioners do not or only rarely use the internet<sup>4</sup>.

---

<sup>4</sup> 30% according to estimates from within SEPS  
SEPS/SFPE

The administration communicates via “My IntraComm” but also via a bulletin which DG HR calls “Info Seniors”, sent by post to all pensioners.

The information Bulletin of SEPS/SFPE is now published 4 times a year. It is a double head to tail EN-FR edition. It is thanks to a few volunteer members that the Bulletin and other documents are bi-lingual. The AB would like to thank Yasmin Sözen in particular.

### **SEPS/SFPE internet website ([www.sfpe-seps.be](http://www.sfpe-seps.be))**

The website is managed by Benoît Walckiers (service provider designated by the AB), Gina Dricot and Anna Angela D’Amico and Andrea Knott.

The site is regularly fed by information provided by SEPS/SFPE but also by Afiliatys and DG HRD.

### **Information meetings**

The daily management group has recommenced organising information meetings, initially in the meeting rooms of Albert Borschette (CCAB) on 17 March 2022 and subsequently at the “Repos des Chasseurs” for the meetings of 23 June, 6 October and 8 December 2022.

### **Seminars for the preparation for retirement**

In 2022 SEPS/SFPE presented a description of the Association at the seminars for the preparation for retirement at the Council and the Commission but in video-conference. These presentations were made by Serge Crutzen.

Within the framework of a volunteer contract with DG HR, the file on complementary insurances to JSIS is presented, in a neutral fashion, at the seminars of the Commission, but in the form of SEPS/SFPE activity at the Council. These presentations have been undertaken by Serge Crutzen and Jean-Pierre Amond.

### **Information for new recruits on the subject of insurances**

A document consisting of two pages has been distributed but there is no specific presentation. Several colleagues reproach us for not informing them about these insurances well before the seminars for the preparation for retirement!!!

### **Conduit for information emitted by PMO**

Several times during 2022 PMO has asked us to inform members by e-mail of certain decisions and modified working hours of various services during the holiday periods.

### **3. Assistance provided to members and the defence of their interests**

#### **Info and assistance 7/7: +32 (0) 475 472 470**

The use of a mobile number such as the call number of SEPS/SFPE, 7 days a week and virtually 24 hours a day to respond to questions in general and to pensioners who want to discuss a particular situation, a regulation of JSIS, the position taken by an insurance company, possible difficulties to contact PMO, difficulties in finding a form, evenings, weekends...

Often SEPS puts questions to PMO or to the Social Services (Assistance for pensioners) in the name of one of its members. Helen James "Ambassadress of PMO 3" intervenes directly to respond to questions and helps members who ask us: (Helen has privileged access to the payments office and other sectors of PMO 3). Often she prepares direct billing requests, requests for prior authorisation, attestations, ...

As has already been the case for the complementary insurances, survivor's pensions, orphan's pensions, the situation of divorcees, subjects can be proposed by members which can become the themes of research, comparison, and publication.

#### **Presence at N105 00/010**

In September 2022 the presences at the offices of the Avenue des Nerviens was reorganised. Generally speaking there is a presence of volunteers for general issues on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

The entire Daily management team is present during Thursday mornings.

#### **Legal assistance**

Hendrik Smets, jurist by education, is our legal adviser, who manages all the questions and request of members for legal advice (Staff REgulation rights, inheritance, fiscal law, national pensions, ...) This contribution of SEPS/SFPE is of substantial value. After examining the question, sometimes followed by an exchange of emails, the case can either be oriented towards a lawyer, leading eventually to a tribunal. Still very actual is the ruling A. WOJCIECHOWSKI of 10 September 2015 and the subsequent modification of Royal Belgian ruling (A.R. n° 50 of 24 October 1967 (Art 10).

*European civil servants who have not transferred their pension rights to the Community system and who benefit from a Community pension (even full) can introduce a request for a national pension for their years of employment with a national employer.*

A second case has been pursued since 2016, and since 2021 with the help of our lawyer Me Carlos Mourato, to seize the European Court of Justice, following the non-reintegration of a

colleague after a period of invalidity<sup>5</sup> (at the grade and step to which she would have been entitled) after a period of illness which lead to the invalidity. Operated in 2011 and placed on invalidity in 2012, the person in question asked to be reintegrated in 2014. Following the refusal of the Medical Service, she turned to our Association for help in 2016.

Drafted by our Vice-President several requests and complaints, based on Article 90 of the Staff Regulations were introduced by the person concerned, of which one was introduced to the European Mediator. Needing a lawyer to be able to seize the EU tribunal, Me Mourato obtained in January 2023 an amicable agreement, whereby the reintegration into the active work force was decided by the Invalidity Commission of the European Commission.

Monique Breton, currently President of the CGAM (cf 1.be hereabove) is also jurist. She takes part in the legal actions managed by Hendrik Smets but also initiates other actions generally related to JSIS.

## **Training**

SEPS has organised training for the use of simple informatics tools such as tablets and smart-phones to allow members to be able to remain in contact, to be better informed, to overcome loneliness, ... One particular objective is to encourage retired colleagues to use My IntraComm and JSIS on-line. On Thursday morning, it has become customary to offer a subject to improve the information of volunteers and interested members: JSIS, pensions, adaptation method, complementary insurances, defence of our acquired rights, questions from members...

Jean-Pierre Amond and Serge Crutzen are there every Thursday afternoon at N105 and Monday afternoons at the Council to explain the complementary insurances to JSIS and other insurances. At the end of the year Françoise Attal took charge of the secretariat of the insurance group.

## **4. Relations with other associations**

### **Collaboration between Afiliatys and SEPS/SFPE**

Serge Crutzen and Jean-Pierre Amond continue the activity "Insurances" in the offices of Afiliatys, following the attribution to Allianz Care (01.01.2020) of the framework contract "Hospi Safe" signed between Afiliatys and Allianz Care, subsequent to a call for proposals launched end 2018.

Following the difficult transition from Cigna to Allianz Care for more than 20,000 insured, the collaboration between Afiliatys and SEOS/SFPE has strengthened. This collaboration has been redefined by a modification to the agreement in 2021. It concerns the advice concerning the insurances and precise activities, such as the advice or expertise in certain areas and the support to certain charitable activities such as St Nicolas.

---

<sup>5</sup> Remember that SEPS defends the interests of pensioners and persons on invalidity  
SEPS/SFPE

## Collaboration with the Staff Unions

A collaboration agreement is maintained with FFPE-EC, FFPE-Council of the EU.

There is an in principle agreement with R&D.

However, SEPS/SFPE retains its autonomy and is independent from the unions as also from the Institutions.

## Participation in the AGE Europe Platform

By supporting the European AGE network, SEPS may (perhaps) have an influence on certain political aspects of the defence of European pensioners.

## Annex 2

### Letter to Th Director general of GD HR

#### Reply from DG HR

See French version overside

## Annex 3

### Correction coefficients (01.01.2023)

COUNTRY	PENSIONS* / Transfers	
	01-01-23 31-12-23	01-07-22 31-12-22
Czech Rep.	100	82.8(100)
Denmark	134,8	136.5
Germany	100.3	100.6
Estonia	100	98.1(100)
Ireland	128.6	129.0
Greece	100	84.8(100)
Spain	100	93.4(100)
France	106,6	107.7
Croatia	100	69.9(100)
Italy	100	94.1(100)
Cyprus	100	82.3(100)
Latvia	100	80.9(100)

COUNTRY	PENSIONS* / Transfers	
	01-01-23 31-12-23	01-07-22 31-12-22
Lithuania	100	76.6(100)
Hungary	100	58.8(100)
Malta	100	94.7(100)
Netherlands	111.6	110.7
Austria	112,4	110.6
Poland	100	62.0(100)
Portugal	100	89.7(100)
Romania	100	59.1(100)
Slovenia	100	83.6(100)
Slovakia	100	80.9(100)
Finland	119	118.9
Sweden	114,3	114.3
UK	127.5	125.4

\*CC higher than 100 for acquired rights before 2004

### Proposal for a Membership card

Several members of our association have requested membership cards.

In order to satisfy this request, we have elaborated a card which was approved by our Administrative Board by a majority of votes obtained by the deadline of 23 April 2021.

We are now in a position to offer this membership card and would like to insist that **this is not in any fashion an insurance card**. Its usefulness resides above all in the useful information it contains in case of need. It can be drawn up in EN, FR or DE according to request.

As you can see it will take the format of a credit card and will contain:

√ On the face:

Other than the information relative to SEPS/SFPE, your name and surname, **the personal details that you like or not to communicate to us:**

- Your photo, to be sent to us if you wish
- Your pension number, if you wish

√ On the reverse:

Some essential information concerning JSIS, PMO 4 and Assistance to pensioners

√ Procedure to be followed to receive this card:

To receive this membership card with the requested options, just place a X in the appropriate box and send us the document:

- Preferably to our e-mail address: [info@sfpe-seps.be](mailto:info@sfpe-seps.be)
- Or by letter to our current address (given the current impossibility to access our offices): SEPS/SFPE, 2A rue Emile Pirson – 5140 Sombrefe, BE

#### Photo

I would like to have my photo, annexed hereto / which

I will send you by post, on the card YES NO

#### Pensioner number

I would like to see my pension number indicated on the

card, which I give you herewith or will send to you YES NO

 ASBL (BE) N°806 839 565	Association de Seniors de la Fonction Publique Européenne Association of Seniors of the European Public Service  175 rue de la Loi, Bur. JL 02 40 CG39, BE-1048 Bruxelles 105, avenue des Nerviens, Bureau 00.010, BE-1049 Bruxelles  Tél. +32 475 472470 Email <a href="mailto:info@sfpe-seps.be">info@sfpe-seps.be</a> Web <a href="http://www.sfpe-seps.be">www.sfpe-seps.be</a>
Luigia DRICOT-DANIELE  MEMBRE N°  N° Pension :	



## **Annex 5**

### **In memoriam – up to June 2023**

<b>Mame</b>	<b>Birth</b>	<b>Death</b>	<b>Instit.</b>	<b>Résid.</b>
PLANQUE Gertrauda	01-03-38	20-08-22	COM	BEL
KLAISS Renee	22-10-26	26-12-22	CM	FRA
ADAM Aniko	06-04-54	02-02-23	PE	DEU
RICHTER Claude	25-11-53	02-02-23	COM	GBR
ELLIOTT David	08-02-30	10-02-23	CM	GBR
VERNIMB Carl-Otto	03-04-28	16-02-23	COM	BEL
WOODS Gregory	20-09-53	21-02-23	COM	BEL
VELT Grace	29-06-38	24-02-23	CES	BEL
BLOCH Antoine	15-03-34	25-02-23	COM	FRA
VAN ZONNEVELD Hans Herman	28-03-34	27-02-23	COM	NLD
ALONZO Ernesto	23-10-46	28-02-23	COM	BEL
BASSETTI Daniel	15-04-38	01-03-23	COM	FRA
KOLTZ Anise	12-06-28	01-03-23	CC	LUX
MOBIGLIA Enrico	07-11-38	02-03-23	COM	ITA
STAREK Daniel	27-12-48	04-03-23	CM	BEL
KERSCHEN Jeannot	31-05-39	04-03-23	CJ	LUX
MOUSTY Roberta	14-07-39	04-03-23	COM	ITA
SCHWEDLER Georg	11-04-33	05-03-23	PE	DEU
JONSSON Karin	30-10-49	07-03-23	COM	SWE
VANDENDRIESSCHE Stefaan	05-09-53	07-03-23	COM	BEL
MART-WEBER Liette	01-02-42	08-03-23	CC	LUX
GENERLICH Guenther	28-05-25	09-03-23	COM	DEU
ROJAS DE MONTIS Enrique	18-06-41	10-03-23	COM	ESP
KUNOVAR Mateja	28-04-72	10-03-23	EEAS	SVN
DAMIANI Nicole	16-06-48	11-03-23	COM	LUX
BOECK Thomas	26-07-43	12-03-23	COM	BEL
FERNANDEZ GARCIA Daniel	17-10-59	13-03-23	COM	BEL
BEGA-KAZBEG Jacques	20-06-41	15-03-23	COM	BEL
HEYNOLD Christian	25-12-39	16-03-23	COM	BEL
MINARDI Ettore	16-12-27	18-03-23	COM	ITA
SOLBES MIRA Pedro	31-08-42	18-03-23	COM	ESP
DE COCK-FISCHER Claire	20-08-24	20-03-23	COM	FRA
KIESEWETTER Josef	03-08-42	23-03-23	COM	DEU
DUPOSTY-DURRE Christiane	31-03-39	24-03-23	COM	BEL
VANDENBERGHE Ludwig	02-01-52	24-03-23	COM	BEL

MURI Teresita	28-07-30	25-03-23	COM	ITA
MEYFROID Paul	14-07-37	26-03-23	CM	BEL
TOUPY Arthur	19-04-29	16-03-23	COM	FRA
AZZARELLO Giuseppa	22-07-32	27-03-23	COM	ITA
JONIAUX Judith	28-05-58	30-03-23	PE	LUX
BRISAER Renee	13-06-29	31-03-23	COM	BEL
GRITZMANN-MARTIGNONI Giovanna	24-04-41	01-04-23	COM	ITA
KENDALL Anne	22-02-35	04-04-23	COM	GBR
TUOMARI Anja Kirsti	28-09-42	06-04-23	REC	FIN
LECLERCQ-DELAHAUT Francine	17-03-23	07-04-23	COM	BEL
SENN-TIQUET Catherine	15-08-39	07-04-23	COM	FRA
SORGE-RASCHI Maria Letizia	07-06-30	07-04-23	COM	ITA
TANI-CASADEI Maria	05-05-26	09-04-23	COM	ITA
VANDAMME-DEWANDRE Amelie	26-12-25	09-04-23	COM	BEL
FONSNY-JONGEN Suzanne	19-02-23	11-04-23	COM	BEL
VREBOS-HEDAYAT Nimtadj	02-11-32	12-04-23	COM	BEL
PELLETIER Yvette	25-07-29	13-04-23	COM	FRA
WHEELER Sandra	07-09-41	13-04-23	COM	BEL
DALDRUP Maria	02-04-26	13-04-23	COM	NLD
QUINART Gisele	01-02-34	17-04-23	COM	BEL
SCHARINGER-SCHRÖDER Hildegard	26-11-27	18-04-23	COM	DEU
AHRENS Ingrid	12-06-33	21-01-23	COM	BEL
MAISONNIER-DAIN Marie	05-11-30	20-04-23	COM	FRA
HELMERT Brigitte	24-06-36	24-04-23	COM	DEU
BRUSA Rosanna	25-05-32	27-04-23	COM	ITA
GHIJBEN-WILOD VERSPRILLE Adriana	11-05-23	28-04-23	COM	LUX
SCHEUERMANN-HODEL Marie	17-08-34	30-04-23	COM	CHE
BOCK-KRANZ Brigitte	05-01-31	02-05-23	COM	DEU
ASCOLI-BARTOLI BRENCI Maria-Teresa	23-12-25	04-05-23	COM	ITA
MANGELSDORF Irmgard	05-10-25	05-05-23	COM	DEU
PANNIER Louise	11-06-28	06-05-23	COM	FRA
HERMANN-GIEGLING Elfriede	04-01-24	06-05-23	COM	DEU
KREBS-FAKLER Irene	02-08-37	08-05-23	COM	DEU
LEOMBRONI Giovanna	03-01-29	13-05-23	COM	ITA
FRIEDRICHS Gisela	24-11-41	26-05-23	COM	DEU
ROESSNER-SCHENK Roswitha	21-04-39	29-05-23	COM	DEU

# 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 2 (forms /pers. data) ○ / ○

**Part 3 (addresses PMO – ADMIN. ...)** Ed. January 2023 ○ / ○

Part 4 (reimbursement forms – RCAM/JSIS) (June 2020) ○

**Supplementary health insurances** Edition (October 2022) ○ / ○

**Dépendance**-How to request the reimbursement of some care and support costs, in case you partly lose your autonomy ○ / ○

**Invalidity allowance and survival pension** (Hendrik Smets) ○ / ○

**Orphan survivor’s pensions**(Hendrik Smets) ○ / ○

**EU Officials and taxation** (Me. J Buekenhoudt) ○ / ○

**Inheritance** (Me. J Buekenhoudt) (May 2020) ○ / ○

**JSIS Guide (was sent by post to all pensioners)** ○ / ○  
(Replacing part 1 of the Vade-mecum)

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

Surname.....

First name .....

Address: .....

.....//.....

Emailaddress: .....

Date: ..... Signature: .....

To be sent to

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

Or

By Email:

[info@sfpe-seps.be](mailto:info@sfpe-seps.be)

# Application form

I, THE UNDERSIGNED (1) .....

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

PERSONNEL /PENSION N°: .....DATE OF BIRTH : .....

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

HOME ADDRESS (1) .....

.....

.....

HOME Tel: ..... GSM\*: .....

E-mail: .....

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

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 of January following their enrolment.

SEPS ING Bank account: **IBAN BE37 3630 5079 7728 BIC: BBRUBEBB**

Communication: **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](mailto:info@sfpe-seps.be)

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

To be sent to

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

Or

Email: [info@sfpe-seps.be](mailto:info@sfpe-seps.be)

## **STANDING ORDER**

(Please send direct to your bank)

I, the undersigned, .....

HEREBY INSTRUCT ..... (Name of bank)

to pay the sum of € 30 and on 15 January each year, until further notice, the  
same 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**