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SENIORS OF THE EUROPEAN
PUBLIC SERVICE
SENIORS DE LA FONCTION
PUBLIQUE EUROPÉENNE

BULLETIN

ASSOCIATION OF SENIORS OF THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC SERVICE | **DECEMBER 2024**



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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE 30,00 €

It is due for payment in January and no longer on the anniversary date of SFPE-SEPS membership. However, new members who registered after 30 June 2023 by paying the membership fee, will not need to pay for the 2024 fee. The next payment will only be needed in January 2025.

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CHANGES OF E-MAIL ADDRESS

Urgent Call: Please let us know as soon as possible, if your e-mail address and/or private address have been changed.

This communication enables us to maintain useful contact with you, without interruptions, and to prevent relevant communications from going astray.

The address for reporting any relevant charges is by e-mail:

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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 Governing 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.

Pieter Kerstens
For SFPE-SEPS Governing Board

DATE AND SETTING OF THE LOCATION OF THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND INFORMATION MEETING

Our next General Assembly will take place on 20 May 2025 in a large meeting room at the Inter Institutional Centre in Overijse, will be followed immediately by the Information Meeting.

As to the material organisation, our meetings will take place in the customary format, including a convivial meal on the spot, at lunch time.

All affiliate members will receive the relevant information, including a detailed agenda and practical information on the logistics.

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1 EDITORIAL

Dear Members,

As we approach the end of the year 2024, I am pleased to offer you the latest edition of our Bulletin, which is also the last of the present operational year. The summer of 2024 was not as hot as many feared, literally and figuratively. We have benefited from an interim adjustment to our remuneration, which has partially alleviated the disadvantages of overall inflation.

Firstly, I would like to thank all those who have commented favourably on the last Bulletin. In the future your assistance will continue to be appreciated and all constructive ideas are most welcome. This includes editorial contributions on the subjects that are of particular interest to you.

In 2025 the physical format of our Bulletin will be slightly smaller, in order to meet with the budgetary and environmental constraints that OIB has recently communicated to us. Rest assured; the good quality of its content remains intact.

The statutory end-of-year General Assembly and the Information meeting took place on 10 December last year. You will find, in this Bulletin a brief overview of the subjects discussed. Other than statutory and organisational questions, of which the operational launching of SEPS-Italia and our projects for 2025, there have been exchanges on the Method, our Health Insurance scheme and rapid (sometimes too rapid) changes which affect all our joint informational communication instruments.

We have learned about the end-of-year adaptation to our incomes, according to the Method, an instrument which seems always to work correctly. DG HR will communicate the concrete details by a paper letter addressed to each active and former staff member individually. To be noted, the

colleagues who are still active will receive a slightly lower adaptation due to the increase in their contribution towards their pension. Some retired colleagues who reside in an EU state whose correction coefficient is greater than 100% may even face recuperation should certain coefficients have been drastically reduced. On the world stage the end of 2024 is anything except a calm and stable period. The arrival of the new College of Commissioners is being finalised after certain political tensions have finally been resolved. We wish the new members of the college an excellent start to 2025 with a heartfelt message to not neglect the pensioners. In this period of chaos, transparency and good communication are essential.

The radical change in the power structure of the United States of America, the military evolution in Ukraine, the respective government crises in several Member States of the European Union as well as climate change will be the focus of our attention and an on-going preoccupation. As a result, we will follow with the greatest vigilance to what extent the present context carries the risk of materially impacting our existence.

Allow me to present to you, in the name of the entire administrative board, my best wishes for a happy and joyous Christmas as well as an excellent New Year. May the coming new year offer you peace, good health, well-being and above all happiness. I look forward to meeting you once more in person during one of our meetings planned during 2025.

Thanking you for your attention, I wish you happy reading.

Best regards,
Pieter Kerstens, December 2024



Petrus KERSTENS
(Pieter, to his friends)

President of the SFPE-SEPS

2 INTERVIEW WITH ONE OF OUR PMO AMBASSADORS

WHO IS OUR AMBASSADOR IN BRUSSELS?



It was with great pleasure and at the same time with great apprehension that I accepted the request of SEPS-SFPE, presided at the time by our former President, Mr Crutzen, when he suggested I become PMO « Ambassador ».

Becoming ambassador for PMO was a real challenge for me, given that I had worked at PMO during 11 years and that I had very good relations with all colleagues in the various services I have worked in:

- The first five years in the service of JSIS, where I still have acquaintances ;
- The last 6 years working in the service dealing with Visas, which enabled me to have daily contact with embassies.

For the colleagues who ask whether there is added value in having a PMO Ambassador, my reply is that this function, recognised by PMO, allows for direct contact with the relevant services to try to find a solution for the problems of our members. For that it is necessary to initiate a meeting with the various directors of PMO, who will decide which colleague to nominate within their directorate to be the responsible contact person for finding a solution to a hitherto unsolved problem of one of our affiliates or if there are particular problems.

When a problem is simple, I try to resolve it myself without the intervention of PMO. To date, more than 30 special cases have been resolved with the help of PMO after my intervention.

Since the beginning of the SFPE-SEPS, we have always been able to count on the precious help of Ms. JAMES Helen, an excellent ambassador to the PMO.

As the need for help is increasing, our association considered it important to appoint a new colleague to support Ms. JAMES Helen in the person of Mr. Vangelos Spanoudis.

Let me present myself : My name is **Evangelos SPANOUDIS** and I was born in Athens. In 1979, I arrived in Brussels, at the age of 21, to continue my studies in Hotel management in Athens and at CERIA in Anderlecht.

At the end of my studies, in 1982, I took up employment at the Hotel Central and 2 years later, at Olympic Airways, the Greek aviation company until its closure in 2010.

After having succeeded at an EPSO competition I joined the Commission in 2011 and worked there until 2022, when I retired.

3 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

→ SUMMARY OF THE STATUTORY EVENTS THAT OCCURRED ON 10 DECEMBER 2024

General Assembly in the morning and Information Meeting in the afternoon, Organised at the European Inter-Institutional Centre in Overijse.



The Chairman opened the meeting by thanking the participants for their interest in attending in person or via video conference. The General Secretary confirmed the meeting's validity, given that the quorum of effective members was well more than the statutory requirement. The Chairman explained that

- the 2025 Work Plan was very similar to that adopted for the 2024 financial exercise;
- training and information activities continue to grow. Depending on the demand from the departments concerned, we will need to mobilise more volunteers to meet the foreseeable challenges in 2025.

He thanked the Treasurer, Marc Maes, for his preparatory work on the Draft Budget 2025 and mentioned the excellent financial management demonstrated in 2024.

Thanks to a very positive trend in membership numbers, it will be possible to increase the expenditure needed to meet the costs of external services, which are rising in line with general inflation.

Specific changes to the Articles of Association in 2025 could also impact expenditures. However, the result for 2025 is expected to be better than that for the current financial exercise.

The Meeting adopted the 2025 Work Plan and the Draft

Budget without comment or amendment. All members had received a copy of these documents in the invitation to the meeting. The same applied to the planning of statutory meetings in 2025.

Regarding statutory matters, the President reported that the new SEPS-Italia Section



had developed well, made good progress, and would be formally registered with the Commercial Registry in Varese. This new section currently has 150 members, and we will allocate its endowment in 2025.

The effect of this new section will be that the current administrative structure of our Association will have to be modified:

- on the one hand, by conversion into an AISBL (Association Internationale Sans But Lucratif), made up of several sections (the current SFPE-SEPS, SEPS-Italia, and in the future also SEPS-Luxembourg, and others);
- and by changes to the Articles of Association.

It will be necessary to set up a common base to manage the parts shared by all the Sections, such as the Bulletin and the website.

As for the collaboration agreements with the major institutions, the one signed with the Council of Ministers will continue to exist as it is, the one planned with the European Commission is almost ready for signature, and the one with the European Parliament will follow in 2025. These Conventions purpose to provide to our Association a legitimate basis to confirm what is already existing in the field. Taking a part in the Council, the arrangements are currently still exclusively based on good will.

As previously announced, our assistance to members will be strengthened with IT training on using the administration's digital tools. From 2025, members can contact us by telephone via free WhatsApp. The physical offices at N-105 in Brussels will be maintained.

After noting the participants' satisfaction with the content of the General Meeting, the Chairman concluded the meeting by inviting those present to an end-of-year drink, followed by a convivial meal.

4 INFORMATION MEETING

After the lunch break, the Information Meeting was discussed.

Given that Jan-Willem Bronkhorst, our permanent representative on the Technical Remuneration Group, is absent for family reasons, the Chairman has announced that the adjustment planned for this month, with retroactive effect from 1 July 2024, is 4.1%. In April 2025, the Moderation Clause will result in an additional extension of 1.0%. These rates apply to everyone with a weighting of 100.0, which is the case for most pensioners.

For working people, the increase in pension contributions by one percentage point tempers part of the announced adjustment. For those affected by correction coefficients other than 100.0, there is the prospect of a sometimes-significant reduction in these rates, sometimes reducing the actual adjustment by almost the entire amount. DG HR and the PMO will communicate this information directly by letter.

Monique Breton, President of the CGAM, gave an overview of the latest developments at JSIS and the discussions at the CGAM, mentioning that the adoption of the 2023 Annual Report is far from unanimous since too many questions remain unanswered by the PMO. Since our last meeting, there has been no visible

progress on the international recognition of JSIS. The Chairman added that he would 'bite the bullet' on this issue until it is resolved, as it has been outstanding for too long.

We then had the pleasure of a videoconference with Ms Susan Panter, Director of HR. D, and her senior HR.D.2 staff. The Director briefly explained the developments underway in the field of resources.

For Mrs Panter:

- The arrival of the new College will not risk reopening the existing Staff Regulations at any time soon. She assured us that our acquired rights would continue to be respected in the future, as before, including the application of the existing Method, which has been formally spoken in extra-time;
- the SFPE-SEPS will continue to be based on the Institution's premises near the Rond-Point Schuman, even if building N-105 is no longer allocated to the Commission;
- as a matter of logical prudence, Ms Panter preferred not to discuss issues arising from the hearing, which, in terms of content, were more at the PMO's discretion.

Taking advantage of Ms Panter's participation, the

Chairman warmly thanked the departments of the HR.D Directorate, in particular HR.D.2 and the PMO, for their cooperation in solving specific problems, expressing the hope that this constructive climate would continue in 2025.



After bidding farewell to the speakers from DG HR, we lively discussed the future joint communication tools for the Institutions.

Finally, the President closed the meeting by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2025, filled with joy, health, and peace.

5 DID YOU KNOW?



→ AGE | ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE SANS BUT LUCRATIF

AGE is an *aisbl* (Association Internationale sans But Lucratif) that lives up to its name. AGE is not an acronym, it is age moving forward and becoming ageing. That is the purpose and the field of activity of this association, and that is also its paradox: if you listen carefully, what its members have to say points towards an ultimate goal, which would be to do away with age (advancing age) as a selection criterion for access to the various areas of social, professional, cultural and community life.

Idealistic, you may say? Perhaps, but it is this idealism that underpins the enthusiasm and commitment of the members of this 'platform' (as they themselves define it) and enables them to achieve remarkable and very positive results in their activities and initiatives.

SFPE-SEPS is proud to be a founding member of AGE. We attend its General Assembly and follow its activities.

AGE's action is one that I would not hesitate to describe as 'militant'. You could even say that it is the 'Older People's Lobby' (in the good sense). They put pressure on the highest authorities, such as the United Nations and the European Parliament, to promote the cause of older people. And this is bearing fruit.

It would be impossible to list all these activities and initiatives here. I refer you to their website

(<https://www.age-platform.eu>). You will find a wealth of information there.

Among all these recent achievements, I would like to highlight two:

At the United Nations: the 14th session of the United Nations Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, held in May 2024, resulted in the unanimous adoption of recommendations to promote a legally binding international instrument for the rights of older persons. This decision is the result of many years of advocacy by civil society, in particular AGE Platform Europe and the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older Persons. These organisations have highlighted gaps in the protection of the rights of older people and mobilised support among Member States. The Chair of the Working Group emphasised the importance of contributions from national human rights institutions and NGOs. Thanks to this mobilisation, the idea of a UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons was included in the recommendations presented to the General Assembly.

At the European Parliament: Ahead of the last European Parliament elections in June this year, AGE launched its Manifesto in collaboration with key EU officials and partners. It was a timely opportunity to summarise the key issues facing an ageing Europe. At an event organised by MEPs Milan Brglez and Jaroslaw



Duda, there were interventions by members of the cabinet of Commission Vice-President Dubravka Suica and of the European Parliament. All the speakers welcomed the AGE Manifesto and its call for a strategy for age equality. On behalf of Jaroslaw Duda, Magdalena Rygalska said:

'It is essential that we not only advocate the adoption of a legal framework on ageing with a human rights-based approach, but that we actually adopt it. This legal framework must aim to bridge the generation gap and resolutely prevent age discrimination in all areas of society.'

These are just two examples of what AGE is achieving, but there is much more, and at different levels: meetings with local and international partners, conferences, visits, seminars, very comprehensive and interesting studies, intergenerational dialogue, etc., etc.

AGE is a platform made up of 105 member organisations from 30 European countries.

At the risk of sounding a little simplistic, I

would say that its members can be divided into two categories: on the one hand, there are organisations which, at a local level, carry out work comparable to that carried out by AGE at a more global level, i.e. the promotion of the rights of older people in all areas; and on the other hand, there are organisations which represent certain groups or categories of the population or certain sectors of activity. According to this categorisation, the SFPE-SEPS would fall into the second group.

However, this does not mean that some members are more important or carry more weight than others. The important thing for AGE is to be as representative as possible, and each organisation lends its support by being part of the platform. This is what gives it the strength that enables it to do its excellent work.

I invite you to visit their website. You will not only find a wealth of information, but also ideas and ways to get involved in this fantastic initiative (<https://www.age-platform.eu>).

BRUZUAL LUIS

6 CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS



Dear colleagues,

We still need volunteers but currently this voluntary work will focus on helping colleagues who have problems with:

- Contact with PMO
- Filling in documents
- Etc...

This is because we would like to be able to offer more personalised assistance to retired colleagues who need help, and we would like to organise half-day presences in order to satisfy a maximum number of colleagues in difficulties.

Please help us to help them...

That means we are interested in other forms of assistance.

Let us know about your interests and assets for all good. SFPE - SEPS certainly needs you in:

- IT field;
- presentations of the Association, IT tools, etc...
- Translations into English, Italian, German and even French;
- Secretarial support;

Whatever task you can help with, you'll be doing it for the good of all.

Thank you in advance for joining us, whether you are in Brussels or elsewhere, as the SFPE-SEPS applies the rules of teleworking.

SFPE | SEPS

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7 INFORMATION BY THE ADMINISTRATION

→ 7.1 A SIMPLE REMINDER OF THE TRAINING COURSES THAT HAVE BEEN REQUESTED OF US

1 REMINDER OF THE TRAINING COURSE ABOUT ALL COMPLEMENTARY INSURANCES (see October 2024 bulletin)

Our members aged 55 and over, and therefore most of whom are active, can discover the importance of supplementary insurance, some of which must be taken out before retirement; We offer comprehensive training on these different types of insurance, whether in person or by videoconference, already at the end of beginning of February.

If you are interested in this training, do not hesitate to register:

NAME:

FORENAME:

FACE-TO-FACE:

OR THE INTERNET

2 TRAINING REMINDER: HOW TO USE COMPUTER TOOLS (see October 2024 bulletin)

One of our computer scientists agreed to help us use the different tools, on a Thursday morning in the offices of the SFPE-SEPS – building N105 – office 00/22

If you are interested, and you have a laptop or tablet and an active and operational EU Login, please register. In addition, if you have specific questions, please send them to us; Training will only be more useful.



3 GOOD AND IMPORTANT NEWS

From the first bulletin of 2025 a new section will appear:

JSIS Information.

In this section we will inform you on a specific subject e.g. dental costs or costs for glasses etc. with information on the conditions, reimbursement rates and any other useful information on this subject

→ 7.2 RECOVERY OF UNNECESSARILY TRANSFERRED PENSION RIGHTS

WANTED!

A European civil servant or contractual agent close to retirement...

1. Who has not acquired the necessary credits for a full pension.
2. Who has not undertaken to transfer his/her national pension rights, even though these would have increased the already acquired pension rights.
3. Who would agree to undertake all the phases of the laid-out procedure:
 - Demand according to Article 90(1) of the Staff Regulations.
 - An Administrative Complaint according to Article 90(2) of the Staff Regulations.
 - An action for annulment to the European Union Tribunal.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE?

To obtain the modification of the maximum deadline accorded by Article 11§2 of Annex VIII to the Staff Regulations (10 years and 6 months (the 6 months represent a grace period granted by the Commission). After the rejection of the Article 90(1) Demand, and the rejection of the Article 90(2)-Complaint, recourse will be made to the European Union Tribunal. **This action to seize the European Union Tribunal will be financed by SFPE-SEPS.** Candidates who are interested and willing (including non-members of SFPE-SEPS) can contact the secretariat of the Association (info@sfpe-seps.be) or its Vice-president directly (hendriksmets@yahoo.fr).

WHY AIM FOR THIS MODIFICATION?

When the transfer of national pension rights to the Common pension system, not yet undertaken, could be useful to increase the pension rights already acquired to reach 70%, **staff members should be able to request this transfer during the 3 months following the notification of the amount of their pension (or from the receipt of their first pension slip)** and not, at the latest after 10 years (and 6 months) of active service, as is the case at present. This request would be initiated by the Article 90(1)-Demand but would almost certainly be rejected.

Subsequently, the person concerned would introduce the Article 90(2)-Complaint which would be formulated under the supervision of SFPE-SEPS.

This complaint would invoke an exception of illegality of Article 11(2) of Annex VIII of the Staff Regulations, which foresees a legal deadline of 10 years, which is of a nature to prevent the civil servant from making an informed choice and this choice about whether to transfer national pension rights should be possible until the point of retirement, the only date at which the civil servant will possess all the pertinent factual and legal elements to make an informed choice.

In the event that this Complaint is formally rejected by the Authority invested with the Power of Appointment (AIPN), this would open the legal right to directly seize the European Union Tribunal, backed by a well-documented case file.

Hendrik Smets – Vice-President
President Responsible for Legal Affairs

→ 7.3 SURVEY ON HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE 2024 FOR THE PENSIONERS OF THE EU INSTITUTIONS



a similar communication has been sent out to those concerned who are retired members of the other Institutions and organs of the Union.

When, in August, it became evident that the rate of response was significantly below the most pessimistic of forecasts, the competent service of ESTAT sent out a communication in paper format (a reminder letter together with an explanatory fascicule) the distribution of which occurred under the auspices of OIB, by classical postal services; the post stamp dated **19 September ...**

This time the entirety of the targeted population received a copy. The majority of the destinees received this correspondence by **24 September**: others, days, even weeks later. Despite the good intentions of ESTAT to extend the deadline for the receipt of responses, this change to the deadline of **30 September 2024** was not sent out to anyone.

Several destinees, notably those for whom the paper communication was the first communication received concerning this survey, were understandably enervated by the sudden haste that was being imposed, especially as the information to be provided in this survey is extensive in volume and cannot be produced within 5 minutes. Collecting the relevant details, at least in a serious fashion, requires a lot of time.

The questionnaire seems at first glance to be quite complete. An important body of work has been undertaken. However, what has truly astonished our affiliates is that the questions in the questionnaire cannot be said to have focused on the lives of the post-active and equivalent population. A questionnaire directed at active staff members would not be formulated in a substantively different manner and it would normally have had exactly the same composition and presentation. **The lack of questions aimed specifically at post-active**

During the course of last year all pensioners received an invitation to participate in a new survey on the costs they face in their daily lives. Such an enquiry among pensioners has not taken place since 2011, already 13 years ago. Given this fact, the question arises: what is the underlying reason for such a survey to be taking place after apparently languishing in oblivion...

After a long and thorough preparation by a dedicated team within DG ESTAT, the so-called "Family Budget Survey amongst retired EU staff 2024" was finally launched **in June 2024**. The targeted population is invited to complete the questionnaire for **the 30th September 2024**, if possible in English and in French.

Those concerned, who left active service at the European Commission, needed to wait until **29 July 2024** before receiving the first notification of this survey. The initial communication was made exclusively via e-mail to those whose electronic address was known to PMO. Those concerned who did not have an electronic means of communication consequently received nothing. Nonetheless these "unconnected" represent more than 1/3 of the total targeted population. In addition, it has not yet been possible to establish whether

staff and/or persons of a certain age and maturity, reduces the potential value of this survey quite substantially.

The question is therefore: who exactly could be interested by the conclusions and the innovative orientations that emerge from this survey? In order to provide an answer it is necessary to relativise.

On the basis of the addresses contained in our own list of members, which is a representative sample of the population of pensioners, we note that 85% of retirees are currently already subject under the Staff Regulations to the **corrective coefficient of 100.0**. The purchasing power parity issue does not concern them.

Among the remaining **15%**, a good half of those concerned are pensioners who have joined the Institutions since 2004, the bulk of whom have been recruited from the so-called EUR-10, Bulgaria, Rumania, and outside-Union. The result of the question on the corrective coefficient therefore has meaning for about 8% of the present beneficiaries of a pension from our scheme and that, **only for the part of their pension rights acquired before 2004**. In itself a low number, which for obvious demographic reasons, will continue to diminish...

The principal objective of this survey obviously consists of documenting in a scientific fashion the validity of the present Method, to ensure its continuation into the future and to adjust in a very precise fashion the corrective coefficients according to the Member States.

If this appears quite obvious at first, the form of the questionnaire leads to the distinct impression that the intended results are different. That is to say, the results are not intended to protect the pensions of retired staff but rather to prepare the future ground for legally reducing even more the annual adjustment the pensions of post-active staff members, potentially even dispensing with the acquired right of parallelism which exists between active and post-active staff members regarding the periodic adjustments, in application of the **Method**.

Of course, **we cannot seriously accept an orientation of this nature and if need be we retain** all our rights to contest what appears to be development of misleading surveys. The scope of this survey appears to be well beyond the initial search for the best indicators for objectively determining the parity of purchasing power between the Member States of the Union.

It would seem that the final purpose of the survey poses the real risk of putting the Method itself in peril and thus lead to the questioning of the mechanism in its entirety. It is obvious that this would seriously undermine the social peace within the Institutions, given that it concerns primarily the active staff members.

Such a development would also open wide the door for proposing other pertinent adjustments, such as the suppression of the artificial distinction between the cost of living in the capitals of the Member States and the remainder of these member states, in addition to the inadequate distinction offered by the corrective coefficients for active and post-active members of staff. The reference base for the calculations regarding the Method should in future also rest on the entirety of the Member States and not, as is currently the case, on a limited and biased sample of a few of them. Positions which should titillate and disturb all the Administrations...

On **30 September 2024** the President of **SEPS-SFPE** sent a note on this subject for the attention of Mrs Kotzeva, General Director of DG ESTAT, and has to this date not received the slightest response. This silence from DG ESTAT provokes serious suspicions, which is not constructive.

Nevertheless, within the margins of an electronic communication on a totally separate subject PMO indicated clearly in November that the deadline for responses to the survey to be submitted had been extended to 30 November. Almost no one is aware of this. The rate of participation in the survey will thus be very low and the conclusions will consequently have little credibility or legitimacy.

SEPS Italia was born in June 2021 as an extension of SFPE-SEPS Brussels, with the aim of better assisting the pensioners of the Ispra area who feel being too far away from the Brussels colleagues. Today Seps Italia counts more than 100 members: as a consequence starting from 2025, Seps Italia will become an independent association, nevertheless still continuing to closely collaborate with the Brussels office. Of course SEPS Italia welcomes not only colleagues or pensioners from the Ispra site, but also members living in other Italian regions or abroad but depending from the Ispra PMO settlements office and therefore preferring to address their questions to people being in direct contact with the Ispra office.

Seps Italia members can reach us every Tuesdays and Thursdays from 13h00 to 14h00 at the Club House of JRC Ispra, in order to come up with their doubts, questions or administrative problems. Alternatively, we can be reached by phone from Monday to Friday, from 11h00 to 14h00 or by email at seps.italia@gmail.com. Most questions so far concern health care aspects, but we are challenged on questions concerning the upcoming retirement, documents to prepare or aspects to think about. Indeed, our members can register starting from the age of 55, even if they are still active staff.

Since 2023 SEPS Italia introduced regular information seminars, which are organised twice a year, normally during the months of March/April and September/October. These seminars give overall information about rights and duties of staff wanting to retire, as well as possibilities of complementary health insurances, some hints on



• Varese



• Ispra

taxation or inheritance rules in the Member States and other useful details on practical procedures. These seminars have given so far very positive feedback from colleagues, who otherwise have no access to general information, as currently the Institutions are giving training on retirement only in Bruxelles.

If you need more information or desire to become members, don't hesitate to contact us via the above mentioned channels - you are welcome!

8 INFORMATION BY THE ADMINISTRATION (PMO)



The responsibility of the content of this article rests exclusively with the PMO, which has asked us to share the following information with you. The PMO is its author. This edition, four distinct themes are presented.

Suppression of SMS with the two-factor authentication into MyPMO

In 2025, EU Login will phase out SMS as an authentication option. Please make sure you have configured at least one of the other supported methods to avoid any disruptions. More details in the 'Help' link at the bottom of the page.

Explanations on secured alternatives, which are required to get access into MyPMO, are available at webpage <https://ec.europa.eu/pmo/guide/eu-login.html>.

Any issue related to the EU Login, as well as access to the PMO applications (Assmal and Pensions) can also be addressed by phone to the unique number:

Extension +32 2 29 11111 – reachable Monday to Friday, hours 09:30 am-12:30 am (CET).

The new two-factor authentication into MyPMO

When logging into the MyPMO mobile application, you will no longer need to manually navigate to EU Login for two-factor authentication and then back to MyPMO. With the new, simplified authentication flow, instead of being prompted to go to the EU Login mobile application, you will see it open on the same screen as your first two-factor authentication option. The system will then guide you through the process and take you back to MyPMO, saving you time and manual navigation.

Secure and dependable, the EU Login mobile application is highly recommended as a two-factor authentication method.



Install and initialise the EU Login Mobile App

Get the MyPMO mobile app by scanning the corresponding QR code:



Do you prefer to use the MyPMO web version on a larger computer or laptop screen?

Then it is good to know that it now has a new, easy to remember web address (URL) that you can add to your favourites: <https://mypmo.europa.eu>

For a transitional period of 1 year, there will be redirection so that even if you use the old address, you will arrive at the right place.

Staff Contact simplified

Since June, Staff Contact forms have been integrated into the new portal. The process of submitting and following up on Staff Contact forms has been updated based on your feedback, making it easier to request support and track the status of inquiries. Added resources, including tutorials, are available to guide you through these changes.



The updates include:

- Clearer notifications: Revised email notifications now provide more detailed information at each stage of your request.
- Step-by-step guidance: Updated messages on the portal offer step-by-step support for submitting, following up, and closing a request.

Additional Resources:
To assist you, the following resources are available:

- User Guide: <https://ec.europa.eu/pmo/HR-Servicedesk/StaffContact-quick-guide-EN.pdf>
- Video Tutorial on the updated process: <https://ec.europa.eu/pmo/HR-Servicedesk/Tutorial-EN.mp4>

Please note that email notifications for your requests now come from EC-SERVICENOW@sn.mail.ec.europa.eu.

At the PMO we are dedicated to improving your experience and making it simpler to find the support you need. Thank you for using Staff Contact.

Life Declaration (reminder)

The PMO regularly sends you a request for a Life Declaration every two years (or annually from the age of 80). This declaration is of crucial importance, as it allows the PMO to justify the payment of your pension. If you fail to reply, payment of your pension could be suspended.

We would like to inform you that the PMO is now able to use data collected via JSIS to extend the validity of your Life Declaration and automatically postpone the date on which this declaration request is sent to you. This data collected via the JSIS includes requests for direct billing, prior authorizations, as well as reimbursement requests for medical visits and examinations.

As a result of this development, the frequency with which you will be asked for a Life Declaration may vary depending on this data. Therefore, it is not necessary to send us a Life Declaration if you do not receive a request from us. Rest assured; we will not suspend your pension payments under any circumstances without first sending you a reminder.

Please note that the Life Declaration for the spouse is still required.

The upcoming phase out of SMS as EU Login authentication option

When logging into the corporate systems of the European Commission, you may have observed the following text on the webpage: <https://ecas.ec.europa.eu/cas/>

News | 06-11-2024

EU Login will phase out SMS as an authentication option. Please make sure you have configured at least one of the other supported methods to avoid any disruptions. More details in the 'Help' link at the bottom of the page.

However, when clicking on this link, you will already have observed that alternative methods have not been listed or identified clearly. The 'Help' is not helpful at all, creating just confusion.

On the webpage <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/cas/help.html> you can find a redirection to the relevant **User Guide**, which indeed contains adequate information. At its fourth and fifth pages, the existing authenticating methods have been presented. Unfortunately, when looking at the usefully very helpful page "Go to the new FAQ" prompts the message "Page not found" ...

Here is a brief list of the authentication methods accessible to retired staff.

EU Login supports a variety of verification methods. Several verification methods require using the EU Login Mobile App. The **EU Login Mobile App** is an application that you can install on your mobile device from the Google Play Store (Android) or the App Store (iOS). You first need to initialise the application. Using the **EU Login Mobile App** in combination with the password provides additional security. More on this in the abovementioned **User Guide**.

EU Login Mobile App PIN code – If the mobile device where your **EU Login Mobile App** is installed has internet connectivity then you can use the "EU Login Mobile App PIN Code" verification method. You will have to enter a 4-digits PIN code into the **EU Login Mobile App** to connect into EU Login. This

is the PIN code that you have chosen while registering your mobile device with EU Login. This method requires the **exclusive use of a smartphone**.

EU Login Mobile App QR code – If the mobile device where your **EU Login Mobile App** is installed does not have internet connectivity then you can use the "EU Login Mobile App QR Code" verification method. You will need to scan a QR code using the **EU Login Mobile App** to get a one-time-password, which you then introduce while connecting from your PC. This method requires still to initiate with a smartphone but you can then proceed with your navigations by the means of **a laptop or a desktop at home**.

On Mobile Authentication – If you are navigating on the same mobile device as the one where the **EU Login Mobile App** is installed, you can use the "On Mobile" verification method. To connect to EU Login, the **EU Login Mobile App** is smoothly triggered and you will have to enter a 4-digit PIN code there. This is the PIN code that you have chosen while registering your mobile device into EU Login. Alternatively, if your device allows it, you can authenticate using biometric tools, like face recognition.

Mobile Phone + SMS – Your mobile phone allows you to connect to EU Login by receiving an SMS, if your number is registered in your EU Login account. In some countries, you might not receive the SMS and should rather use another verification method. This method has been popular many years but is now being abandoned for security reasons.

Attention: PHASING OUT SOON!

MEMBERSHIP CARD

As soon as we receive your SFPE-SEPS registration form, a membership card will be sent to you, emphasizing that this is in no way an insurance card.

Its purpose is to provide you with valuable addresses should you need them. This card is in «credit card» format and will contain



✓ FRONT

Other than the information about SFPE-SEPS, please provide your name and surname and the personal details you would like to communicate to us.

✓ ON THE REVERSE

New Single Phone Number information.

✓ PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW

SURNAME (CAPITAL LETTERS)

NAME

ADDRESS (CAPITAL LETTERS)

EMAIL (CAPITAL LETTERS)

DATE

SIGNATURE

PENSION N°

ID CARD-SIZED PHOTO (3.3 cm x 4.1 cm) in jpg or png format sent to

EMAIL
info@sfpe-seps.be

BY POST
SFPE-SEPS
Avenue des Nerviens 105 - BUR 00/22 - BE1049 BRUSSELS

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

SFPE-SEPS VADE-MECUM, ENGLISH EDITION	INTERNET	BY POST
Part 2 (forms /pers. data)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Part 3 (addresses PMO – ADMIN. ...) Edition January 2023	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Part 4 (reimbursement forms – RCAM/JSIS) (June 2020)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supplementary health insurances Edition (October 2022)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dependence – How to request the reimbursement of some care and support costs, in case you partly lose your autonomy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Successions (Me. J. Buekenhoudt) (ed. 2018)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Invalidity allowance and survival pension (Hendrik Smets)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Orphan survivor's pensions (Hendrik Smets)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EU Officials and taxation (J. Buekenhoudt, LLM)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inheritance (J. Buekenhoudt, LLM) (May 2020)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
JSIS Guide (was sent by post to all pensioners)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SURNAME (CAPITAL LETTERS)

NAME

ADDRESS (CAPITAL LETTERS)

EMAIL (CAPITAL LETTERS)

DATE

SIGNATURE

SEPS SENIORS OF THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC SERVICE

175 rue de la Loi
bureau JL 02 CG39
BE-1048 Brussels

105 avenue des Nerviens
bureau N105 00/022
BE-1049 Brussels

Telephone +32 (0) 475 472 470
Email info@sfpe-seps.be
Web www.sfpe-seps.be
ASBL N°: 806 839 565

APPLICATION FORM | A/SC/MM/1807 FR

I, THE UNDERSIGNED

SURNAME + FIRSTNAME ⁽¹⁾

MAIDEN NAME FOR MARRIED WOMEN ⁽¹⁾

PERSONNEL/PENSION N°

DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YY)

NATIONALITY

PREFERRED LANGUAGE FOR DOCUMENTS FR EN

HOME ADDRESS ⁽¹⁾

TEL*

MOBILE*

EMAIL ⁽¹⁾

FORMER STAFF MEMBER OF (INSTITUTION + DG OR DEPARTMENT)

YEARS OF SENIORITY (IF STILL IN SERVICE)

- Declare to be a member of the asbl 'seniors de la fonction publique europeenne'**
by returning this application form to the address indicated and by paying the membership fee by bank transfer to the ING account below.
- Declare that you consent to asbl 'seniors de la fonction publique europeenne'**
recording the above personal data and keeping them until the end of your membership of the Association.

The Association undertakes to protect this data against any dissemination and not to communicate it, except as required by law or at its request within the limits of the Association's corporate purpose.

DATE

SIGNATURE

The annual subscription of €30.- is payable on 1 January.

New members joining posterior to 30 June will not be required to pay their second subscription until the second of January following their enrolment.

SFPE-SEPS ING BANK ACCOUNT: IBAN BE37 3630 5079 7728 BIC BBRUBEBB

COMMUNICATION INDISPENSABLE : Cotisation annuelle + NOM et prénom + N° pension

PLEASE RETURN THIS APPLICATION FORM TO :

SFPE-SEPS Office 00/22 • rue des Nerviens 105 • BE - 1049 Brussels or to info@sfpe-seps.be

If you choose the standing order option, we ask you to send the following document directly to your bank YOURSELF.

(1) CAPITAL LETTERS PLEASE * OPTIONAL

STANDING ORDER

I, THE UNDERSIGNED

SURNAME + FIRSTNAME ⁽¹⁾

HEREBY INSTRUCT (NAME OF BANK):

To pay the sum of € 30.- and, on 15 January each year, until further notice,

sum of	30 €
in favour of	SFPE - SEPS
	Bureau 00/22
	Rue des Nerviens 105
	BE - 1049 Bruxelles
Account ING	IBAN BE37 3630 5079 7728
	BIC BBRUBEBB

Reference:

Reference: Annual subscription + Name(s) and personnel/pension number(s)

DATE SIGNATURE

TO BE SENT TO YOUR BANK

(1) CAPITAL LETTERS PLEASE

USEFUL ADDRESSES

SFPE-SEPS	Info@sfpe-seps.be
Afiliatys	www.afiliatys.eu/en/
Afiliatys « Hospi-Safe » et «Hospi-Safe Plus »	www.afiliatys.eu/en/sections/297-hospisafe
Allianz C Hospi Safe	www.allianzcare.com/en/group-hub/afiliatys.html
Allianz Care	IGO.assistance@allianzworldwidecare.com
Allianz Care remboursement	IGOclaims@allianzworldwidecare.com
Cigna	www.eurprivileges.com/ info@eurprivileges.com
MyIntraComm	https://myintracomm.ec.europa.eu/retired/
HR.D.2 Social Welfare Officer	HR-BXL-AIDE-PENSIONNES@ec.europa.eu
HR Service Cards Office (appointment)	HR-DS-CARTES-DE-SERVICE-BRUXELLES@ec.europa.eu
RCAM online	https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/RCAM/
HR-Welcome Office	HR-BXL-WELCOME-OFFICE@ec.europa.eu
HR Legal Advice	HR-BXL-LEGAL-ADVISER@ec.europa.eu
PMO Pension (old age/ disability pensions)	PMO-PENSIONS@ec.europa.eu
PMO (Survivor's pensioners/orphans)	PMO-SURVIE@ec.europa.eu
PMO Certificates (for active and recently retired workers)	PMO-ATTESTATIONS@ec.europa.ec
PMO Direct Billing	PMO-RCAM-BRU-PRISE-EN-CHARGE@ec.europa.eu
PMO Serious Illness	PMO-RCAM-BRU-MGR@ec.europa.eu
PMO JSIS Reception offices in Brussels	PMO-RCAM-BRU-RDV@ec.europa.eu
PMO JSIS Reception Offices in Luxembourg	PMO-RCAM-LUX-RDV@ec.europa.eu
PMO JSIS Reception Offices in Ispra	PMO6-JRC-HD@ec.europa.eu
Council of the EU - pensioners	Retired.staff@consilium.europa.eu
Council of the EU - Social Service	social.assistants@consilium.europa.eu
Wilink Broker: Stefano Ristuccia	stefano.ristuccia@wilink.be
OCA Broker (Lux)	jnguyen@oca.lu

SFPE – SEPS

105 rue des Nerviens • Bureau 00/22 • BE-1049 Brussels
info@sfpe-seps.be



9 IN MEMORIAM

September-October | Septembre-Octobre 2024

NAME AND FIRST NAME NOM & PRÉNOM	DATE OF BIRTH DATE DE NAISSANCE	DATE OF DEATH DATE DE DÉCÈS	
BARWIG Verena	07-12-44	04-10-24	COM
BEGHON-KOHL Marie-Barbe	18-02-46	13-10-24	COM
BERTETTO Adelia	25-08-46	26-07-24	COM
BERTONA Franco	11-10-36	07-10-24	COM
BLUEMEL-RUDOLPHI Gerda	31-10-32	09-10-24	COM
BŒUF Andre	13-11-35	14-10-24	COM
BORRELL NIVERA Jose	20-04-41	05-10-24	COM
BOURATSIS Aristotelis	04-08-51	21-10-24	COM
BRUTEAU Corinne	26-07-51	14-10-24	COM
CASTEL YVES	25-02-53	04-09-24	COM
COLLING Francois	05-03-40	18-10-24	CC
CORBELLINI Maurizio	04-10-32	15-10-24	COM
CORSO Nadine	10-06-59	15-10-24	EEAS
COX Leonardus	27-09-50	25-09-24	PE
DE CLERCK Jozef	21-11-38	14-10-24	COM
DE CORT Marc	19-02-58	17-10-24	COM
DI DONATO Anna Maria	07-09-29	25-09-24	CM
DOCKHORN Robert	10-12-33	02-08-24	COM
DONATONI Giulio	17-06-43	13-10-24	CM
DURINI Ernesto	02-01-43	23-09-24	COM
FLORET Jacques	10-08-49	22-10-24	COM
GIGOT-FORTUNA Amelia	31-08-35	18-10-24	COM
GODEFROY Jean-Paul	15-01-46	18-10-24	COM
HANSEN Herbert	26-01-35	22-09-24	COM
HEDBERG Magnus	23-09-59	17-09-24	COM



NAME AND FIRST NAME NOM & PRÉNOM	DATE OF BIRTH DATE DE NAISSANCE	DATE OF DEATH DATE DE DÉCÈS	
HEMMERICH Johann	26-08-39	07-10-24	JET
HOLMES Christine	22-12-52	15-10-24	EEAS
HOUDE Daniel	15-03-51	22-10-24	COM
KUIPER Emiel	07-10-23	18-10-24	COM
KYRICOS Jeanne	24-06-43	20-09-24	COM
LIMMELETTE Dominique	16-08-55	01-10-24	EASA
LUNGAGNANI Vincenzo	05-04-31	07-10-24	COM
MEULEMANS Marc	05-10-48	08-09-24	COM
MIMEUR Rene	11-06-39	20-10-24	COM
MORTIER Jean Marie	21-11-35	24-09-24	COM
MURRAY Charles	05-09-43	10-10-24	COM
NELISSEN O'BRIEN Brigid	29-05-55	14-09-24	CM
PAPANDREOU Vasso	09-12-44	17-10-24	COM
PETRUCCI Gaetana	11-10-38	10-10-24	COM
PIGNOT Pascal	09-04-51	20-09-24	PE
RAGNO Marisa	31-07-29	03-10-24	COM
RICCI Maria Grazia	19-12-35	11-10-24	COM
RINDIN Jenny	22-03-57	04-09-24	PE
ROSINI Renato	28-08-47	10-10-24	CM
SAMZUN Guy	28-01-56	10-10-24	EEAS
SANTALA-ROBAIL Jaana	30-09-59	01-08-24	COM
SCHEURER Gertrude	23-12-41	24-10-24	CM
SOENENS Jacques	04-04-41	20-09-24	COM
TETRI Saara	27-03-62	15-08-24	ECHA
VANBERGEN Madeleine	30-01-38	07-09-24	CM
VERMEERE Marie Jose	03-07-41	13-10-24	COM
VOSLAMBER Dietrich	18-09-33	06-10-24	COM
WIEDOW Alexander	03-08-48	27-09-24	COM
WIJNGAARD Marina	22-08-46	24-09-24	PE
WITTHUHN Erika	24-06-36	30-08-24	COM