



AIACE

International Association of Former Staff of the European Union

11.500 members – open to former employees of the EU institutions and bodies

The Vice-President

121 /16



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Newsletter of the International Bureau to AIACE members

This publication aims to be a link between the activities of the international structure of our Association and our 11,500 members. It provides some brief information on the activities of the International Bureau and is forwarded to the sections so that they can distribute this newsletter to their members. This 5th issue covers the period from October To December 2016.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES DURING THIS PERIOD

PMO-HR-AIACE Technical Group

This group met on 12-13 September 2006, but we have not yet reported it in info-sections 4. It is a working group which brings together representatives of the Bureau and sections with the services of the PMO, under the chairmanship of DG HR. One of the issues we raised is the preventive medicine program for those over the age of 60. We proposed to re-establish screening for three major cancers. The result is explained in Vox number 105.

Bureau meeting of 24 October

Mainly devoted to preparing the Board of Directors for the following day.

A Bureau delegation met with the new PMO Director, Mrs. Veronica Gaffey. The latter intends to pursue the twofold objective of improving efficiency and information for affiliates and at the same time strengthening the human side of the contacts with the PMO.

Board of Directors on 25 and 26 October

The agenda included the Brexit, the PMO-HR-AIACE technical group report, the activities of the sections, the finances of our international association, the various aspects of communication and the preparation of the 2017 meeting in Maastricht. In the previous info-sections we told you about an insurance problem, namely the distinction between the two specific insurance contracts negotiated by AIACE and other insurance companies, notably Afiliatys, which are also presented at the seminars “Preparation for retirement”. We have sought and obtained a satisfactory solution, from our point of view, which is presented to you in the Vox 105.

Meeting with the Liquidating Office of Luxembourg on 21 November

Meetings were held between each of the three liquidation offices of our Sickness Fund, with representatives of the national sections attached to these offices and a participation of the International Bureau. Meetings with the Brussels and Ispra offices have already taken place. On 21 November, the meeting took place between the Luxembourg office and the representatives of the 3 sections Luxembourg, Germany, Austria, a member of the Bureau and of the International Help Desk. Telephone assistance is available in the morning between 9.30 am and 12.30 pm and on-site visits are possible, preferably in the afternoon. New premises are being prepared for the reception desk of the liquidator’s office, the Seniors area and even the departure desk (for those who retire).

Meetings of the CGAM on 23 and 24 November

Apart from reviewing appeals under Article 90, the CGAM devotes part of its meetings to aspects of the management of our Sickness Fund. This meeting included the preparation of the annual report 2015 that the CGAM should send each year to the heads of administration, as well

15 Sections : Belgique/België – Danmark - Deutschland – Éire/Ireland - España - France – Ελλάς/Grèce - Italia – Luxembourg – Nederland – Österreich – Portugal – Suomi/Finland – Sverige - United Kingdom

as the situation of medical overbilling in Luxembourg. The Head of the Liquidating Office in Luxembourg reported on a meeting she had held with a representative of the PMO and representatives of the Luxemburg Hospitals Agreement. These Hospitals representatives are aware of high amounts and the need for to better inform the patients by quotes. The situation is complex because in Luxembourg the National Sickness Fund (CNS) covers fixed costs for hospitals, since the patient is billed only for variable costs due to his visit. Another meeting will be held with the CNS to better understand this system of financing of fixed costs and their level. We do not anticipate any improvement in the short term and for now the PMO does not envisage a denunciation of the conventions currently in force. However, these agreements place JSIS affiliates in Luxembourg at a certain inequality of treatment vis-à-vis Luxembourg patients or in relation to JSIS affiliates in other countries(which are not billed for fixed costs in hospitals). At this CGAM meeting, we also reported on the meeting of the Technical Working Group and the proposals that AIACE presented to the Medical Council, perhaps with the hope of returning to a full abdominal ultrasound as before.

Bureau meeting of 13 December

One of the issues discussed concerns the relocation of our premises. This move represents an enormous preparatory work for our international secretariat, Anne-Pascale Descamps and Florentino Sotomayor. The International AIACE and the Espace Seniors will be located from January 2017 at 105, Avenue des Nerviens, opposite the Royal Museums of the Cinquanteenaire. These premises are located at a bus stop from the metro station Mérode (bus lines 22, 27 and 80, stop Gaulois), where the PMO welcome office will be located for both the actives and the pensioners. The Belgium section will move to the Rue de Genève, 1 – 1040 Evere

Communication seminar on 14 and 15 December

The Bureau had decided to organize a seminar in Brussels with representatives of national sections to exchange information on communication tools and policies with our members and to identify development priorities. Representatives from 14 sections participated. This seminar was organized and chaired by Mrs. Maruja Gutiérrez, member of the Bureau (a short article on communication tools for our members should be provided in VOX 106).

Annual adjustment of 3.3% of our pensions

This is good news to end the year. The Bureau would like to explain 2 things :

- from 2010 to 2014, over a 5-year period, we received only an adjustment of 0.9%, which means a loss of purchasing power of at least 10%
- the new system of adjustment of our pensions re-establishes the principle of parallelism between national civil servants and ourselves. The percentage of 3.3% is due for a small part to price developments in Brussels and Luxembourg. The main part comes from the fact that member countries have granted increases to their own officials: these member countries and their often anti-European press should take this into account

For more information on calculating this %, see the VOX 105.



Happy New Year 2017!