



## 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



### INFO-SECTIONS n ° 7 - July 2017

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 7th issue covers the period from July to November 2017.*

### PRESIDENCY

Due to his serious health problems, President Bernhard Zepter is not in a position to perform his duties until a new president is elected. We wish him a quick recovery. In the meantime, in accordance with the Statutes, Vice-President Francis Wattiau replaces him and is the Acting President.

Exceptionally, the new president and vice-president will be elected during the March 2018 session of the Management Board, and not during the Assises. In principle, the current Bureau should remain in office until that date, if the new President sees fit.

### JSIS

The Brussels Settlement Office of the JSIS has found 9000 invoices that had been misplaced; the missing invoices are now being processed. On this occasion, it was noted (with astonishment) that incoming invoices are not registered (only scanned); despite this incident, the procedures for handling incoming invoices have not been changed.

### OVERCHARGING IN HOSPITALS IN LUXEMBOURG

The convention signed in 1996 by the Commission with the Luxembourg Government and the Luxembourg hospitals allows over-invoicing of a series of services; these amounts are clearly abusive (up to 8 times the price paid by members of the Luxembourg social security scheme). This situation is no longer in line with EU law. Given the refusal of the Commission to denounce this convention, F. Wattiau lodged a complaint with his institution (the European Parliament) which was rejected. With the support of AIACE, he therefore lodged an appeal with the Tribunal of the European Court of Justice. The Luxembourg authorities continue to consider that the JSIS is not equivalent to a public social security system and do not recognise the applicability of judgments of the Court of Justice to these conventions.

### PREVENTIVE MEDECINE

During our last Board meeting in October 2017 the PMO announced an early screening programme for pensioners. This is a significant step forward that responds to the AIACE's aims. Unfortunately, the projects presented to date do not constitute a screening programme specifically for pensioners (who no longer benefit from the annual statutory

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medical examination). Discussions are continuing on the content of these programmes and how to apply them in the different member states. To be continued ...

#### GOOD MANAGEMENT ACTIONS TO GUARANTEE FINANCIAL BALANCE

The CGAM (Sickness Insurance Management Committee) has set up a working group to study such actions. AIACE is represented. The report is expected in early 2018 for submission to the CGAM.

#### PENSIONS APPEALS

At this stage, there is no news from the Tribunal. To be continued ...

At the Council's request, EUROSTAT has prepared a report on the development of pension costs and possible savings over the next 50 years. Over the entire period (with some variations), the increase will be only 0.5% per year; in spite of this, the Council is asking for new savings, even affecting acquired rights.

#### BREXIT

At a conference of Commissioners Oettinger and King for British officials and agents, it was reiterated that the two salient points were the situation of pensioners in the United Kingdom (all nationalities combined) and the maintenance of social rights (this last point is the sole responsibility of the institutions and can be resolved internally). The Protocol on Privileges and Immunities must be maintained, and in any case a decision must not affect the active staff and the pensioners. The contribution of AIACE was publicly acknowledged.

#### YAMMER After EC

The Commission's contract with Yammer ends in May 2018; it is committed to finding a replacement. To be continued ...

#### ASSISES 2018

They will be held in Valencia, Spain from 22 to 26 May 2018. The program (with registration form) will be published in the next issue of VOX, no. 108; the site will be online soon.