



European Public Service Union
Union pour le Service public européen
Cour de Justice

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€ 65.86

- ☑ This will be the increase in basic salary of a member of the *contract staff* (AC) in Grade 1, step 1, if the salary adjustment (of +3.7%) proposed by the Commission is eventually approved by the Council (- €14.56, for the increase of our pension contribution by +0.4%).

Even so, an AC's basic salary will remain *below* the minimum legal salary for a skilled worker in Luxembourg.

- ☑ That's important, but the fact is that 15 Member States' delegations in the 'Staff Regulations' Working Group have attempted to block the remuneration and pensions adjustment, calculated by the Commission in application of the 'Method', which was adopted by the Council itself in the form of Annex XI to the StaffRegs.

The ball now is in the CoRePer's court.

- ☑ The '*crisis*' argument is raised – and promptly spread by the Press – when it's really a matter of refusing EU staff and pensioners an entitlement which the Council itself, in its legislative capacity, has formally and bindingly granted them.

Indeed the sole means of suspending the application of the 'Method' would be by triggering the '*Exception Clause*', which is in very strict terms, in Article 10 of Annex XI to the StaffRegs:

'If there is a serious and sudden deterioration in the economic and social situation within the Community, assessed in the light of objective data supplied for this purpose by the Commission, the latter shall submit appropriate proposals on which the Council shall act in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 283 of the EC Treaty', i.e. the procedure used to amend the StaffRegs.

The gravity of that provision should suffice to cut short any trivialisation of the term '*crisis*'. What is the product then of this Press campaign other than the usual skirmishes of Member States' politicians playing to the gallery of their own constituents?

- ☑ EPSU's position is unequivocal: the 'Method', as enshrined in the Staff Regulations, must be respected by all the parties all the time, and, most of all, by the Council, which enacted it.

As for the Staff, we have every interest in bolstering the Commission's position before the Council. The ambiguous positions taken by some trade unions, which oscillate according to whether the outcome of the Method is favourable or unfavourable, can only weaken the Commission's position and undermine the credibility of our Eurostat colleagues, who conscientiously apply the best statistical methods, based principally on data provided by the Member States themselves.

- ☑ Let's remain united and vigilant!