

## Luxembourg – Institutions of the European Union : growing differences in salary

In **Luxembourg**, on the national level, wages are increased, even if indexation is delayed and does not include all items of income.

By contrast, in the **European institutions**, the Council has practically frozen any salary adjustment. Not only the modest salary increase (less than inflation), but also the lowering of the rate of pension contribution, both resulting from sets of rules which were applied in a technically undisputable manner and are legally binding, are refused in breach of the rules in force, which the Council itself adopted in 2004.

As a result, the salaries of contract staff:

- of function group I ( manual and administrative support service tasks), grades 1 and 2, and
- of function group II (clerical and secretarial tasks), grades 4 and 5,

are falling below the **statutory minimum salary of a skilled worker in Luxembourg**.

Contract staff in grade 1, regardless if they meet the qualifications and professional experience required for skilled workers, are earning barely **one** Euro more than an unskilled 18-years-old worker in Luxembourg.

But the damage has not been completed: If the Commission proposal to isolate the **secretaries and clerks** within a new function group **SC** is finally adopted, this time you will also have EU officials earning less than skilled workers in Luxembourg.

This is how the Commission expects to attract to Luxembourg secretarial staff covering all 23 EU languages, while the cost of living in Luxembourg is making recruitment in European institutions less and less interesting, if not prohibitive.