

The Method
<p>✿ It must be stressed that the annual pay adjustment is <u>obligatory</u>. Our system of reviewing pay is not based on free bargaining, which most probably would not turn out in our favour.</p>
<p>✿ On the contrary, Annex XI to the Staff Regulations (SR) lays down a precise 'Method' for reviewing our remuneration.</p>
<p>✿ This Method deprives the Council of the discretionary powers granted to it by Article 65 SR.</p>
<p>✿ Accordingly, our remuneration is reviewed annually on the basis of data collected by Eurostat (the Commission's Statistical Office). To that end, Eurostat:</p>
<p>① records the evolution of the cost of living for European officials in Brussels;</p>
<p>② collects and centralises the information supplied by the statistical offices of 8 Member States (B, D, E, F, I, L, NL, UK) on the changes in the purchasing power of national civil servants in their central governments.</p>
<p>③ compares the purchasing power of European officials serving in the capitals of the Member States with that of their colleagues in post in Brussels, to work out <u>correction coefficients</u> applying to the former.</p>
<p>✿ However, the SR state <u>expressly</u> that stage ③ does <i>not</i> apply to Luxembourg : "<i>No correction coefficient shall be applicable in Belgium and Luxembourg</i>" (Annex XI, Article 3(5)).</p>
<p>✿ <u>Creating</u> a correction coefficient for Luxembourg would clearly require an amendment of <u>the Staff Regulations</u>: a cumbersome procedure (Article 283 of the Treaty), doomed to failure and providing the Council with an opportunity to charge headlong into the Staff Regulations.</p>