

18 février 2013

## RESULTS OF THE SUMMIT OF 7 AND 8 FEBRUARY 2013

The political leaders of the Union, Mr. Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, Mr. Barroso, President, and Mr. Šefčovič, Vice-President of the Commission, as well as the general secretaries, respectively, Ms. Day of the Commission and Mr. Corsepius of the Council, have sent messages on the summit's results concerning the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).

All messages agree on the view that the **total savings of 2.5 billion Euros** were the best possible result and that we have to live with these savings.

We feel that, thanks to the strikes and other actions of the staff of the Council and the other institutions, the President of the European Council, the President and the Vice-President of the Commission have managed **to limit the damage** from the exorbitant demands of some Member States that were asking for savings of € 5, 10 or 15 billion.

However, **the result is still unacceptable** because it is **adding 1.5 billion euros** to the one billion euros of savings resulting from the Commission proposal on reviewing the Staff Regulations, and the brutal plan of cutting jobs which is already put to practice.

Of course, the **European Parliament** has yet to agree on the Multiannual Financial Framework, while the four big political groups have already made it plain that they seriously consider rejecting the MFF.

However, the Commission, even if it “would have preferred” an outcome closer to its original proposal, suffering less cuts by the European Council, does not seem really ready to fight to reverse the further cuts imposed by the Member States.

The decrease on Heading V (administrative expenditure) is in line with the reduction of the overall EU budget. Clearly, this is a big step backwards in the process of European integration. In an attempt of squaring the circle, senior EU leaders are trying to convince us that sharing the austerity measures would contribute to budgetary consolidation and growth. In reality, **austerity brings the opposite effect**.

### The Social Dialogue meeting on 11 February

At the Social Dialogue meeting on 11 February, Vice-President Šefčovič said it was now time to **unblock the legislative procedure of reforming the Staff Regulations**, which will involve triggering the dialogue; the legislative process of adopting the new Staff Regulations should come to a **“fast conclusion”**, so as to **“restore serenity”** in the working of the institutions.

Trade union representatives objected to resuming the legislative process before the European Parliament determines its position on the MFF.

### Questions not answered

Would the announced **2-year freeze of the adjustment of salaries and pensions** be adopted and applied at the same time as the re-introduction of a special levy, now re-named “solidarity levy”?

Reminder: Ever since its creation, the levy has been understood as the trade-off for a binding method for adjusting salaries, to which it was intrinsically linked.

### An austerity plan that deepens social divisions

The burden of the savings, which are already in the Commission proposal, is to be carried by the weakest.

The level of remuneration is becoming derisory for lower grades.

- The planned reduction of salaries for **new secretaries / clerks** will make recruitment practically impossible for several languages.
  
- Salaries of **contract staff** in FG I and II are a case of social dumping. The starting salary for contract staff in grade 1, step 1, is currently € 1 847.76, **while the minimum wage of an 18-years-old unskilled worker in Luxembourg is € 1 874.19.**

To counter this attack against the European public service and against the European social model, the staff can only rely on its own ability to organise its resistance and build its solidarity.

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