



AIACE

International Association of Former Staff of the European Union

More than 12.000 members – open to former employees of the EU institutions and bodies

The Secretary General
77/2018



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This publication aims to be a link between the activities of our Association's international structure and its some 12.000 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 9th issue covers the period from June to December 2018.

Meeting with President Juncker on 11 October

On 11 October President Juncker met with the president, vice-president and secretary-general of AIACE (Joaquín Díaz Pardo, Heinz Zourek and Didier Hespel), effectively representing the interests of some 25 000 retired officials. They discussed the tenth anniversary of the cooperation and partnership agreement and the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of AIACE, which falls in 2019. Mr Díaz Pardo explained his initiative on the role of the European civil service, and called for greater involvement of AIACE in the social dialogue and an increase in the Commission's contribution to the financing of AIACE's social and welfare activities, which complement those of DG HR. President Juncker listened sympathetically to the points we raised and said he intended to sign personally the joint declaration to mark the tenth anniversary of the agreement. (<https://aiace-europa.eu>).

European civil service

The President, Mr Diaz Pardo, announced the launch of an initiative on the role and future of the European civil service, which will form the subject of a declaration at the Lisbon General Assembly next year. DG HR has drawn up a paper on future recruitment, along broadly similar lines, setting out a number of points that will guide thinking on a reformulation of policy.

Tenth anniversary of the cooperation and partnership agreement between the Commission and AIACE

The occasion will be marked by a joint declaration signed by the Commission and AIACE, which will be posted on the AIACE International website. (<https://aiace-europa.eu>).

The agreement has proved extremely positive and has enabled us to achieve substantial results (<https://aiace-europa.eu/publications/2008-agreement/?lang=en>).

It has underpinned a reciprocal commitment in three areas: AIACE's involvement alongside the Commission, within the terms of the agreement, in the process of social dialogue; practical, structured cooperation with the Directorate general for Human Resources on welfare measures; and the upgrading of AIACE's fund of expertise on a number of important areas within its specific remit, notably pensions and the JSIS.

Work programme

15 Sections : Belgique/België – Danmark - Deutschland – Éire/Ireland - España - France – Ελλάς/Grèce - Italia – Luxembourg - Nederland – Österreich – Portugal – Suomi/Finland – Sverige - United Kingdom

Office address : European Commission, N105 00/036, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium -
Telephone : direct line (+32-2)295.29.60 exchange (+32-2) 299.11.11
E-mail address : aiace-int@ec.europa.eu Website : www.aiace-europa.eu
Company n° : 0408999411

AIACE's Governing Board has confirmed the programme put forward by its president; you can find it on the AIACE International website (<https://aiace-europa.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/EN-Programme-de-travail-du-President-2018-2020.pdf>)

Consolidated document on Pensions

In view of widespread misunderstandings about our pension arrangements, we have brought together in one comprehensive document all the necessary information about its basis, nature and operation. This has been sent to the relevant authorities in the various institutions, and to the unions (some of which have been putting out wildly inaccurate information); you can find it on the AIACE International website ([https://aiace-europa.eu/under « Publications »](https://aiace-europa.eu/under%20«%20Publications%20»))

Tribunal ruling

Following lengthy proceedings, the Tribunal ruled on 13 December on the appeal lodged by AIACE, together with the staff unions, against the Council's failure to apply the method for 2011 and 2012. For the ruling, see:

Salary adjustment method

Once again the method has worked satisfactorily and delivered a reasonable outcome. The increase, backdated to 1 July 2018, is ...%. Only Finland and Ireland have a negative result.

Congress 2019 and going forward

The 2019 Congress will be held in Lisbon from 18 to 22 May. To broaden its relevance, more time will be devoted to talks and discussions, and costs have been cut to encourage more people to attend. See: <https://aiace-europa-assises.eu>

Our Governing Board is working on redefining the format of future Congresses, looking at suggestions set out in a paper drafted by the Secretary General.

Screening

The new healthcare screening programmes have been adopted and are being rolled out. The PMO is already negotiating agreements with Brussels hospitals, to be followed by Luxembourg, Italy and France and then the other countries. For the time being, the existing programmes and agreements are still in force. In addition to using the approved centres, members will be able to choose their own provider and then claim reimbursement.

Review of general implementing provisions

The PMO has begun a review of the general implementing provisions for the JSIS (Joint Sickness Insurance Scheme). For the time being it has simply adopted a one-off amendment to allow implementation of the new screening programmes, but it will shortly be undertaking a wholesale revision of several sections, including the chapters on dental care and equality coefficients

Insurance

Allianz Belgium, the insurance provider with whom AIACE negotiated our hospitalisation (« major risks ») policy, has announced a substantial (10-20%) increase in its premiums from 1 January 2019. Our broker, Cigna Eurprivileges, has suggested we switch to another insurer, Cigna Health Benefits, which already provides our accident coverage, and which would hold the increase at 5% for three years. But in any case an increase is inevitable, since the Belgian government has removed the ceiling on premiums, and the policy is running at a loss.

March Governing Board meeting

The Governing Board has decided to hold its meeting on 20 and 21 March in Madrid; negotiated hotel prices and low-cost flights mean this will be no more expensive than a meeting in Brussels.

Didier HESPEL
Secretary General