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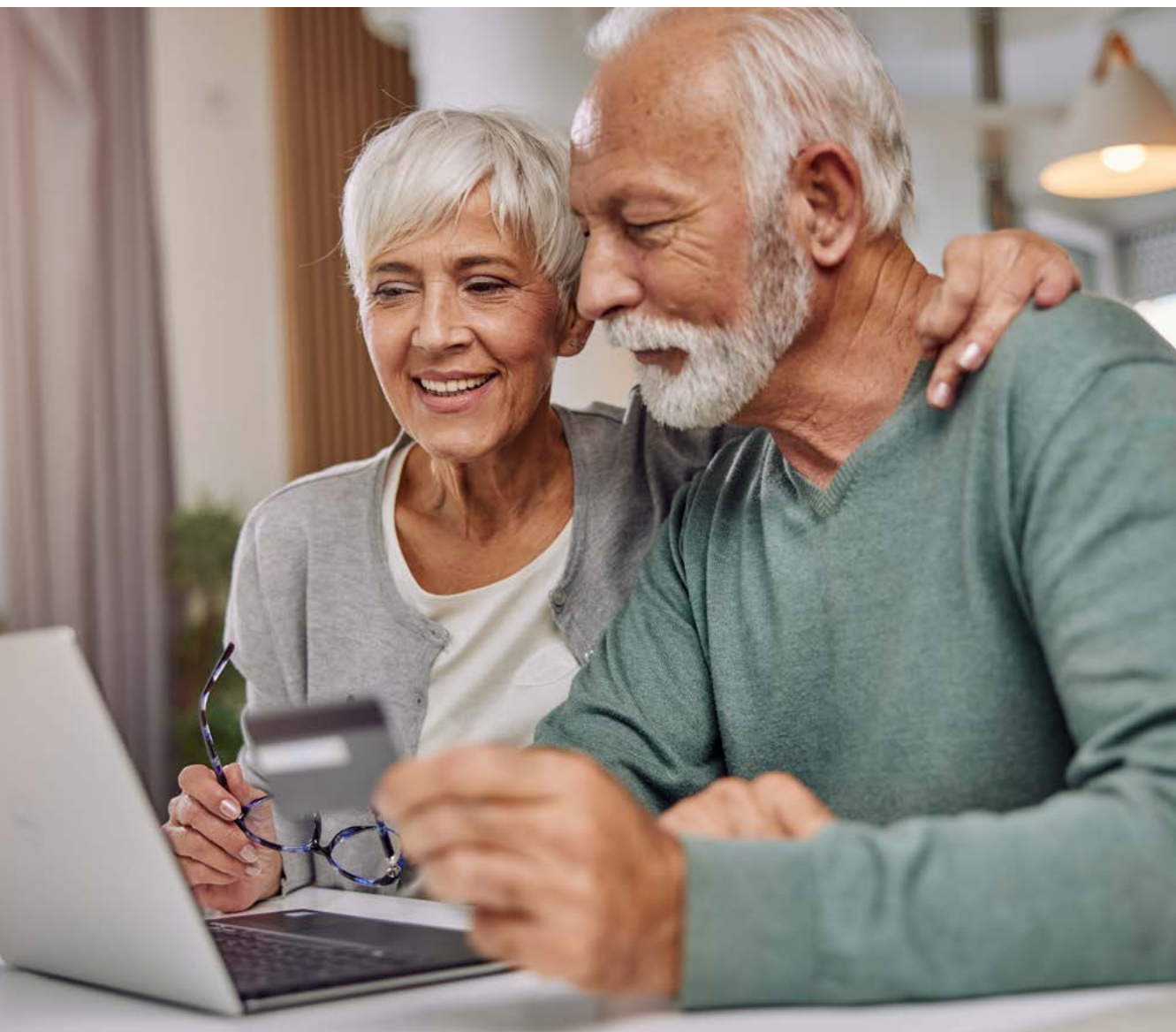
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SENIORS OF THE EUROPEAN  
PUBLIC SERVICE  
SENIORS DE LA FONCTION  
PUBLIQUE EUROPÉENNE

# BULLETIN

ASSOCIATION OF SENIORS OF THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC SERVICE | DECEMBER 2025



## SFPE–SEPS IS AT THE DISPOSAL OF ALL ITS MEMBERS

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### SFPE-SEPS GOVERNING BOARD 2023-2025

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<b>Vice-President</b>	Jean-Pierre Amond (affaires financières)
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<b>Ambassadors PMO</b>	Helen James, Vangelis Spanoudis

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Pieter Kerstens - Luigia Dricot-Daniele - Jan Willem Bronkhorst - Anna Angela D'Amico – Paquot Natalia  
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### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE 30,00 €

**It is due for payment in January and no longer on the anniversary date of SFPE-SEPS membership.**

However, new members who register after 30 June 2025 by paying the membership fee, will not need to pay for the 2026 fee.  
The next payment will only be needed in 2027 fee.

**BANK ACCOUNT** IBAN : BE 37 3630 5079 7728 BIC : BBRUBEBB

### CHANGES OF E-MAIL ADDRESS

**URGENT CALL:** Please let us know as soon as possible, if your e-mail address and/or private address has changed.

This communication enables us to maintain useful contact with you, without interruptions, and to prevent relevant communications from going astray.

**The address for reporting any relevant changes is by e-mail:**

[info@sfpe-seps.eu](mailto:info@sfpe-seps.eu)

# GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS (GDPR)

Dear Member,

We take the protection of personal data very seriously and we are committed to respect the General Regulation on the Protection of Data (GRPD).

Our contact information is used exclusively to ensure our responsibility towards you, as a member, for frank and transparent information on the activities of the Association and the decisions taken by the Governing Board.

The information you have trusted us with is used entirely for internal purposes. It is not made available to third parties (PMO, DG HR,) without your express permission.

The Association commits itself to protect this information against any form of dissemination and not to make it available to anyone, except where obliged to under the law or when undertaking an act at your request, within the limits of the social objectives of the Association.

Of course, you can access, rectify, or delete this information at any time. You may object to the use of your information and have the right to withdraw your consent at any time by sending us an e-mail or a request by post.

**Pieter Kerstens**  
*For SFPE-SEPS Governing Board*

## DATE AND SETTING OF THE LOCATION OF THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND INFORMATION MEETING

Our next General Assembly will take place on 19 May 2026, in a large meeting room. (To be specified later).

As for the organisation that day, our meeting will take place in the usual format, including a convivial meal on the spot, at lunch time.

All affiliate members will receive the relevant information, including a detailed agenda and practical information on the logistics.

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Meetings	Dates	Place
CA	Thursday January 15, 2026	SFPE-SEPS offices in Brussels 105 Nerviens
CA	Friday February 13, 2026	SFPE-SEPS offices in Brussels 105 Nerviens
CA	Friday April 17, 2026	SFPE-SEPS offices in Brussels 105 Nerviens
AG	Tuesday May 19, 2026	To be specified later
CA	Friday Septembre 11, 2026	SFPE-SEPS offices in Brussels 105 Nerviens
CA	Friday Novembre 6, 2026	SFPE-SEPS offices in Brussels 105 Nerviens
AG	Tuesday December 8, 2026	To be specified later

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# 1 EDITORIAL

**Dear members,**

This is the last edition of our Bulletin in 2025. This Bulletin is being sent to you as part of the preparations for the new 2026 year, which initially promised to be a quiet and transitional one, but which may well hold some very unpleasant surprises.

Indeed, the professional studies on the modernization of human resources within the EU Institutions, part of the mandate of the current College, risk leading, much sooner than expected, to a reopening of the Staff Regulations with significant modifications that would not necessarily be in favor of promoting an independent European Civil Service.

In this edition, we discuss the ongoing elections for a new Governing board for our Association. You should have received the necessary information to enable you to vote. The election procedures are explained therein. Normally, the 2026 exercise will begin in early January with the inaugural meeting of the newly elected Board, which will take charge of our own modernization and likely also a swift move to new premises in Brussels.

You will learn more about the context of the specific letter that some of you recently received from the Belgian Federal Pensions Service, as well as the broader context in which everything is taking place. The European Commission's central services have mobilized in force to address this matter appropriately as quickly as possible. You will find helpful advice on what to do and what not to do.

In a separate contribution, we share with you the ambiguous approach adopted by Commission's DG HR during the proper implementation of the Code of Good Administrative Conduct. The result of the confusion between the Staff Regulations, which are working rules, on one hand, and the general legal framework applicable to citizens, on the other, is a structural



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**Petrus KERSTENS**  
*(Pieter, to his friends)*

President of the SEPS-SFPE

and unnecessary discrimination against the staff of the Institutions vis-à-vis the public.

In this document, we also inform you of current issues in the field of health insurance, particularly through contributions provided by the PMO.

The precise communication of the annual adjustment of salaries and pensions is currently still premature and speculative. However, persistent rumors suggest that the Method could bring us an overall increase of 3.0%.

You are also invited to participate in the Statutory General Assembly that we are organizing on December 9 at the European Interinstitutional Centre in Overijse, for which you will automatically receive the invitation in due course.

To all of you who may be unable to participate in person or online in this event, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you all again in good health sometime in 2026.

Finally, I reaffirm that the entire content of this Bulletin is the result of genuine intellectual work by real people, without any recourse to artificial intelligence. Thank you for your attention, and I wish you a pleasant reading.

Yours sincerely,  
**Pieter Kerstens,**  
**December 2025**

## 2 INTERVIEW OF JEAN MARIE COUSIN



### Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

Please note that I am no longer a novice with a degree in commercial and financial sciences, supplemented by a teaching qualification for higher education and a law degree. Following a competitive examination, I began working for the European Commission.

After obtaining my degree in Commercial and Financial Sciences and having succeeded in an EPSO competition, I started working for the European Commission in Luxembourg in 1975, namely at the OSCE.

After three years, I was transferred to Brussels to the Staff Training division; where I was responsible for organizing middle management seminars, assisted by Ms. Luigia Dricot, who was my closest collaborator during this period. I then worked at DG XX, the Financial Control department; there, among other things, I was tasked with auditing the expenses declared by the UK under the «We Want Our Money Back» program.

After this period, following a secondment, I joined the unit in charge of Commission's delegations related to the Lomé Conventions and others (under DG VIII). Then, through a reorganization, all the delegations spread across the world were brought back under the umbrella of DG I, under the name «External Service»; there, I was responsible for the «Finance» department (budget, accounting for the delegations, and auditing).

A brief return to Luxembourg (DG XVIII) to head the department responsible for monitoring the use of ECSC funds and other Community projects. And finally, a call back to Brussels, to DG BUDG (DG XIX), to lead the department responsible for the Institution's accounting, debt recovery, and consolidation of accounts for all the Institutions (a task assigned by the Treaty of Rome).

### Happy at work, happy in life!!!

In my personal life, for many years I was a sworn wine taster in various wine concours in France, after attending wine tasting training seminars. Pretty cool, right?

Another hobby is forestry practiced in forests inherited or purchased, which I maintained with undisguised pleasure: in fact, perhaps unconsciously, I was extending my father's passion and activity.

And finally, I greatly enjoy admiring works of art wherever possible: beauty elevates and soothes the spirit. With my passion for old stones, castles, and religious buildings, the circle is complete.

I am serious about what I do, I love the pleasure of living, and I always have a smile on my face (I just can't seem to lose it).

### Happy at work, joyful in life!



# 3 OUR ITALIAN PAGE

## SEPS ITALIA

Dear members, over the last few months, many of you have contacted us asking for information about your rights in the event of a loss of independence, whether temporary or permanent. Also, many of you were not aware that reimbursements could be given in the following cases:

- Carers
- Medical auxiliaries/nurses
- Nursing and convalescent homes
- Convalescent and post-surgery care
- Medical costs in case of disability

However, to obtain reimbursement in the mentioned cases, there are some rules and procedures to follow. We take this opportunity to provide a summary.

### Carers

First, please remember to request prior authorization by adding the completed dependency form, duly filled in by your practitioner, and a medical report. Once the initial authorisation is granted, you can proceed with the reimbursement request by adding a detailed invoice.

Please note that the carer must be officially approved, meaning legally authorised to practice the carer profession.

### Medical auxiliaries/nurses

These persons must also be legally authorised to exercise, and a medical practitioner must prescribe the treatment.

If you are receiving home care, a prior authorisation is requested for the treatments not provided by the carer. Otherwise, you can fill in a standard reimbursement request by attaching the medical prescription and the detailed bill.

### Nursing and convalescent homes

A prior authorisation is requested. Once the initial authorisation is granted, if JSIS primarily covers you, you can also ask for direct billing. This allows the hospital to send the invoice directly to the JSIS. However, the remaining portion not covered by the reimbursement rate (usually 15%) will then have to be recovered by JSIS and deducted from your later reimbursements.

If you paid the invoice yourself, you can claim reimbursement by attaching the medical report and a detailed bill.

### Convalescent and post-surgery care

Again, prior authorisation is required; once approved, you can submit the reimbursement then you can claim by including the medical report and a detailed bill. Please note that the care must be provided under medical supervision in convalescent centres equipped with appropriate medical and paramedical infrastructure. Additionally, the care must start within three months of the illness or surgery for which it was prescribed.

### Medical costs in case of disability

In this case, you can request recognition of "serious illness". If granted, the reimbursement rate for the costs associated with the serious illness will exceed the standard rate.

As indicated above, this is only an overview of the possibilities you have and the procedures you have to follow if you are experiencing one of these cases.

If you need more detailed information, you can contact us by email at [seps.italia@gmail.com](mailto:seps.italia@gmail.com), by phone at +39 351 6471722, or by joining us every Tuesday and Thursday from 13h00 to 14h00 at the Club House in Ispra, sala Ginestre.



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**Herold Evelin**  
Vice-président Seps-Italia

## 4 JSIS USEFUL INFORMATIONS

### —> ANNUAL VACCINATION : FLU AND COVID (BY E. SPANOUDIS)



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#### UPDATE ON FLU AND COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

Starting this autumn, the European Commission is changing its approach to flu and COVID-19 vaccinations.

##### **What is changing:**

we recommend getting vaccinated against flu and COVID-19 at your chemist's or GP's surgery.

##### **Why this change:**

Flu and COVID-19 vaccines are widely available and easily accessible from pharmacies throughout Belgium at a reasonable price. This change will allow staff to choose where and when to get vaccinated, offering greater flexibility and convenience.

##### **Reimbursement:**

You can receive an 85% reimbursement for the flu vaccine and a 100% reimbursement for the COVID-19 vaccine. To receive these reimbursements, we recommend purchasing them and having them administered at a pharmacy – no prescription is necessary.

If you purchase the vaccines at a pharmacy but have them administered by your doctor, you will be reimbursed for the vaccines with a maximum of 42 € for the administration of the vaccine.

##### **How to claim reimbursement:**

To obtain an reimbursement for your vaccines, you will need to submit your official pharmacy receipt via JSIS online/MyPMO. If the vaccine is administered by your doctor, you must submit the invoice for the consultation only, via JSIS online/MyPMO.

**If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Brussels Medical Service. (HR-MAIL-D3@ec.europa.eu).**



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## 5 MYCARENET (PMO)

We have already informed you about MyCareNet in the October 2025 bulletin. In this December 2025 bulletin, we are going to go further, because **MyCareNet has arrived! MyCareNet is here!**

JSIS is now integrated into MyCareNet, the Belgian eHealth platform that enables the secure electronic exchange of medical certificates between doctors and health insurers in Belgium.

### Why register?

No need to submit reimbursement requests for general practitioners' and specialists' consultations in Belgium.

Secure and fast transmission of eAttests directly to JSIS.

Less paperwork and faster reimbursement processing.

### How to register?

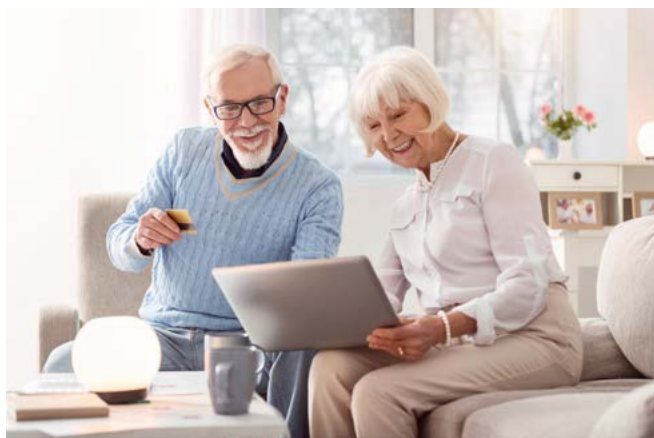
Go to MyPMO or JSIS Online.

Enter your NISS/BIS (Belgian Social Security Identification Number, also known as National Register Number) without dots or dashes.

Provide your explicit consent.

→ You can also register your spouse/partner and children insured on a primary basis.

→ For more details about the registration process,



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please consult our tutorial leaflet. MYCARENET-LIVRET.pdf

→ For further information, please consult our article on the Pensioners' portal or the PMO Service Guide.

→ Need help? Contact the PMO single phone number **+32 (0) 2 291 1111** or **PMO-RCAM-MYCARENET@ec.europa.eu**

We remind you that if you have any difficulties connecting to EULogin, you can contact us by e-mail at **PMO-IT-APPLICATIONS@ec.europa.eu** or by telephone on **+32 2 29 11111**.

### WHO is excluded from the scope of MyCareNet for RCAM?

- Dependents of the subscriber who are covered by another social security scheme (for example INAMI, Mutualities).
- Family members who can benefit from RCAM coverage on a supplementary basis.
- The procedure for beneficiaries with supplementary coverage remains the same: you must submit your reimbursement requests. WHO is excluded from the scope of MyCareNet for RCAM?



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## → CONSENT FORM -MYCARENET

For the Collection and Transmission of Personal Data by the PMO to Belgian Healthcare Providers via the MyCareNet Platform

### Purpose of Data Processing

The purpose of the collection and transmission of your personal data by the PMO to Belgian Healthcare providers via the MyCareNet platform (hereinafter referred to as “processing operation”) is to facilitate the assessment by Belgian healthcare providers of the insurance coverage status of JSIS beneficiaries and to allow such providers to transmit digital invoices and related documentation directly to the PMO for reimbursement purposes.

### Categories of Personal Data Processed

The following personal data will be collected, encoded and transmitted via MyCareNet to the healthcare providers located in Belgium whom the beneficiary consults:

- Full name and surname,
- Date of birth,
- Belgian national registration number (NISS/BIS),
- JSIS insurance coverage status, including data covering 3 days prior to and 3 days following each relevant transmission date.

### Limited access to Data

The PMO will not have access to any medical records or clinical information beyond what is already included in medical invoices.

The transmitted invoices will contain no more personal information than is currently submitted for reimbursement under standard JSIS procedures.

Data will be retained by the PMO strictly for the duration necessary to fulfil the stated purpose, in accordance with the retention periods set forth in the “Specific Retention List for PMO Files”.

### Role of MyCareNet

MyCareNet acts exclusively as a technical intermediary for the secure transmission of electronic invoices. It does not retain, access, or otherwise process any personal data.

### Legal Basis

In accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725<sup>1</sup> on the protection of personal data by Union institutions, bodies, offices, and agencies, explicit consent is required to process and transmit personal data to third parties established within the Union, excluding other Union institutions and bodies.

### Data Subject Rights and Withdrawal of Consent

Pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, I am entitled to:

- Request access to my personal data,
- Request rectification of inaccurate data,
- Request erasure or restriction of data processing,
- Object to the processing of my personal data on grounds relating to my specific situation.

All requests will be duly assessed, and a formal response will be provided.

Consent may be withdrawn by notifying the Data Controller:

- via email to PMO-RCAM-MYCARENET@ec.europa.eu or
- by post to : European Commission - JSIS Brussels, 41 Avenue de Tervueren, 1049 Brussels

Following the response to the withdrawal request, the NISS/BIS will be deleted from the PMO JSIS system.

### Contact information

- For issues regarding the protection of your personal data at the Commission, you may contact the Commission Data Protection Officer at: DATA-PROTECTION-OFFICER@ec.europa.eu
- If you consider your rights under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 were infringed, you may lodge a complaint with the European Data Protection Supervisor at: EDPS@edps.europa.eu

<sup>1</sup> Regulation regarding the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32018R1725>

# DECLARATION OF CONSENT

## Online Consent Declaration

If you are our **principal affiliate**: your consent (including for your minor dependants) must be given ONLY via MyPMO under “My Health → Administrative Data & National Number” or via JSIS Online under “My Data → National Number.” All checkboxes must be ticked.

If you are an **adult dependant** (spouse/partner or child): your consent must be given after printing this document, by ticking the boxes below and completing point 9 of the form. When the principal affiliate enters your NISS number in the JSIS profile under “My Data → National Number” or in MyPMO under “My Health → Personal Data & National Number,” a scanned copy of page 3 of this duly completed document must be uploaded.

## Paper Consent Declaration (only if the steps above have not been completed)

Your consent must be given after printing this document, by ticking the boxes below and completing point 9 of the form. The completed form may be sent by post to the following address: European Commission – JSIS Brussels - 41, Avenue de Tervueren B-1049 Brussels, or by email to the functional mailbox: **PMO-RCAM-MYCARENET@ec.europa.eu**

By ticking the boxes <sup>2</sup> below, I explicitly consent to the following:

- ☐ The collection and when needed the encoding by authorised PMO personnel of my Belgian national registration number (NISS/BIS) in the JSIS IT system.
- ☐ The reuse of my identification data (name, surname, and date of birth) already available in the JSIS system for the purposes of this processing operation.
- ☐ The electronic transmission of medical invoices between Belgian healthcare providers and the PMO within the scope of this processing operation.
- ☐ I understand that I may withdraw my consent at any time without affecting the lawfulness of processing based on consent prior to its withdrawal.

## Acknowledgement

JSIS affiliate details:

Surname, First Name : .....

Personnel / Pension Number: .....

Spouse/partner – dependent child details:

Surname, First Name: .....

NISS or BIS Number: .....

Place and Date: .....

Signature: .....

Please write the mention “Read and approved” hereafter: .....

- ☐ I confirm that I have read and understood the information provided in this consent form, including the associated privacy statement. I have received appropriate clarification on the questions I raised, if any.

<sup>2</sup> All boxes must be ticked.

## 6 GENERAL INFORMATIONS



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### STRUCTURAL INTELLECTUAL MISUSES OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

The European Commission's Code of Administrative Conduct, which was published in October 2000, well before the Lisbon Treaties entered into force, contains the cryptic and destructive phrase (on the penultimate line of the text): «The relationship between the Institution and its staff is governed exclusively by the Staff Regulations.»

This phrase has proven to be anything but innocuous or innocent. Any attempt by the President of the SFPE-SEPS to remove it from the existing text has been systematically rejected by the Administration. The argument that laws applicable to the general public, including the rights derived therefrom, are not applicable to staff, persists, without the slightest room for discussion or reflection.

Following the judgment in Case C-640/20 P delivered by the Court of Justice of the European Union, in which the honorable judges acknowledged and confirmed that the relationship between the Institution and its staff is not solely governed by the Staff Regulations but also by several other sources.

Following our request, dating from 2022, the Directorate-General for Human Resources (DG HR) promised to give a favorable response to the upcoming revision of the Code, although the overhaul was not deemed urgent.

The matter remained unresolved until spring 2025, when an update to the text of the Code, adopted in December 2024, was discovered. This update was available in EUR-Lex but had not been communicated to staff through any administrative notice. In this new text (which remained unchanged), the sentence in question had not been removed or amended. Thus, DG HR maintains its initial position.

By doing so, the Administration creates a permanent and ineradicable confusion between the Statute, on one hand, which is nothing more than a standard set of work rules, and the fundamental rights of the Institution's staff, on the other. However, equating these two reference texts is a gross aberration that willfully ignores the natural hierarchy of the distinct levels of rights and the priorities to be respected.

It is not disputed that work rules are necessary, but their scope must be limited to the procedures and *modus operandi* between the Institution and its staff regarding the execution and implementation of daily work, during the performance of operational missions of active service, during working hours. This includes hierarchical relationships, expectations of loyalty, schedules, career paths, remuneration, and maintaining order.

The Administration maintains the extension of these principles to all contacts between the Institution and its staff, which is a clear deviation. When staff members, including retirees, interact with services such as the PMO and DG HR, their relationships are entirely separate from those related to day-to-day operations, being more akin to client-supplier relationships. In this case, those requesting services are treated like any other member of the general public.



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Staff Regulations are designed to organize the working methods for those who hold a job paid for by the European Commission and who are expected to know how to perform their duties in accordance with Institution's established objectives.

However, when the relationship has nothing to do with daily work, those requesting services, even if their income falls under the Staff Regulations, are simply clients, to whom the Code of Conduct must automatically apply. The concept of «client» should be reinstated in the EU Pension System, the Common Health Insurance Scheme, and in the relations between DG HR and non-hierarchical staff.

Annexes VII and VIII of the current Staff Regulations are, in fact, a serious conceptual error. The main provisions of the Staff Regulations, which establish solidarity rights in the medical field and for post-retirement survival, are sufficiently covered by the core articles contained in the Staff Regulations (such as Articles 55, 72, 73, 82, etc.).

Annexes VII and VIII should not even exist as an integral part of the Staff Regulations. The content of these Annexes is indeed necessary, but it should consist of separate sections, which could be described as General Conditions. Such conditions govern the supplier-client relationship between the Commission's services (DG HR, PMO) on one hand, and the users of the services offered on the other, since this falls within the scope of services provided, as exists in the public and commercial sectors. When you are a citizen in a Member State of the Union, without any connection to the Union institutions, your relationship with your health insurance fund or your pension fund is never governed by your employer's work rules.

When you are a citizen of an EU Member State, without any connection to the EU institutions, your relationship with your health insurance fund or pension fund is never governed by your employer's work rules or the provisions of your social security agency, but solely by the customer-supplier contract you (voluntarily) entered into bilaterally with the relevant provider. In the event of a dispute or litigation, your employer is not even involved and has no role to play.

In this situation, all customers have established rights, such as receiving a response within 15 days; being able to communicate in their own official EU language; having good administration as defined in Article 41 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union; and having social security as defined in Articles 34 and 35 of the same Charter.

To illustrate its impact, this latest opening will allow for either the international recognition of the RCAM (Regional Pension Scheme for Civil Servants), or the end of the obligation to be affiliated with the RCAM. For the moment, this is not at all debatable, and the «tinkering» on the social level persists, with monumental abuses in Italy, Poland, and Sweden, which no one within the Administration wants to acknowledge or resolve at all. The structural disregard for the fundamental rights of staff regarding the Staff Regulations causes a persistent and daily grief. It is essential to put an end to this. Therefore, there is food for thought, as this will inevitably resurface during the reopening of the Staff Regulations, which seems to be under consideration by the current College and is being prepared under the guidance of the established expertise of the former Secretary-General, Ms. Day...





## THE LETTER DISTRIBUTED BY THE BELGIAN FEDERAL PENSIONS SERVICE

### ANOTHER BELGIAN STORY? NON, PEUT ÊTRE!

A significant number of retired staff members with tax residency in Belgium received a letter from the Belgian Federal Pensions Service (SFP). This letter was dated October 15, 2025, and was sent out in the following days. In this letter, the SFP announced the extension of the ceiling on Belgian national pensions to all those receiving a pension from European institutions.

This last point attracted our full attention. Initially, we even thought it was a bad joke by hackers, but after researching the sources and origin, we concluded that it is indeed a genuine letter. It appears that the PMO was not informed of this Belgian initiative, which was published in the *Moniteur belge*, the Belgian Official Journal on July 29, 2025.

The central services of the European Commission seem to have been caught off guard by the Belgians and were completely taken aback, as were all of us.

In the letter, recipients were ordered to provide, within 14 days: their full name; their file number; the type of pension they receive; their pension number at the PMO; and the last monthly pension amount received.

At present, we do not know which target population the amended and promulgated Belgian legal framework seems

to address. Assuming that this only concerns EU pensioners residing in Belgium, with a non-EU spouse (a Belgian citizen) and/or other income taxable under Belgian law, the number of people addressed could easily exceed 3,000 pensioners for the European Commission alone. If all those concerned are included by analogy within the aforementioned EUIBAs (Council, Committees, EA, and JU), expect this figure to be exactly doubled. The letter in circulation refers to the pension ceiling.

Certainly, the Kingdom of Belgium is sovereign in deciding the internal rules applicable to Belgian citizens. However, EU staff (and pensioners) are generally not considered Belgian nationals for tax purposes, regardless of their nationality. As a reminder, the staff of the Institutions contribute to the financing of their own social solutions and provisions, including the pension system. With regard to Belgians, EU staff are completely foreign to their national system.

The case law established by the Court of Justice of the European Union, including judgments C-6/60 (Humblet), C-408/14 (formerly supported by the SFPE-SEPS), and C-558/10, the General Court of the EU, has provided very precise and impactful guidance on the concepts of taxation and capping as conceived and implemented by the Belgian authorities.

Logically, the Court of Justice of the EU will not be called upon to revisit the long-standing arguments regarding the lawful interpretation of Article 12 of Protocol No. 7

and the case law. In the event of a dispute, the staff of the Institutions will prevail.

It must be noted that the incident in this instance with the Belgian Federal Pensions Service is neither an isolated incident nor a temporary blip. The 65-year history of the European Commission's operations teaches us that this kind of misconduct is anything but exceptional. It is almost never the work of some random bureaucrat, driven by administrative overzealousness, acting on behalf of an autonomous administrative department, but rather stems, almost always, from deliberate, hierarchical attempts to erode the acquired rights of staff within the institutions and bodies of the European Union.

In legal disputes, a relentless campaign by national authorities, right up to the highest level, becomes evident. Cases brought before the Court of Justice of the European Union provide irrefutable proof of this. Please note that these examples primarily concern the French Republic and the Belgian Kingdom. Other Member States are likely to do the same, but, logically, Belgium is in the spotlight, since it hosts a very large proportion of the population concerned, which statistically increases the risk of disputes and administrative litigation of all kinds.

Having taken note of the letter from the Belgian Public Service, the SFPE-SEPS contacted Commissioner Serafin to request his proactive support in ensuring continued respect for the Privileges and Immunity of the Union Institutions, and thereby also in maintaining the attractiveness of the Union Civil Service.

The feedback we have received from the PMO Pensions Service is positive and indicates a full awareness of the seriousness of the situation by senior management. This matter will be handled with all due diligence.

In the meantime, the PMO has prepared a template letter that all those concerned can use to respond effectively to the formal notice from the Belgian FPS, without, however, providing all the requested information, which is in fact not within the national purview of the Member States.

For the SFPE-SEPS, individual responsiveness must be clear and consistent in all cases. With regard to national authorities, the taxpayer colleague honestly admits to receiving an EU pension (or salary) that is subject to Protocol No. 7 (which is also evident from the annual tax certificate provided in Sysper for this purpose, without specifying an amount), while indicating that the amount to be taken into

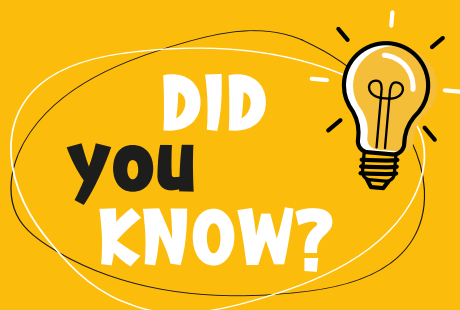
account for calculating the remaining taxable income is €0. Based on the amount of EU income, which is automatically zero for tax purposes, the issues of progressivity and accumulation/splitting are automatically eliminated from the outset.

Those of us with a sense of nostalgia, including long-standing members, will vividly recall that this context was already addressed in our February 2013 Bulletin (page 16). Nothing new under the sun... For any questions on this subject, our members are invited to contact the Secretariat of our association during office hours, using the contact details generally available. As soon as there are any new developments, you will, of course, be informed without delay.



## 8 DID YOU KNOW?

### → THE DIFFERENT FORMALITIES TO COMPLETE BEFORE AND AFTER THE DEATH OF AN OFFICIAL OR STAFF MEMBER OF A EUROPEAN INSTITUTION/AGENCY



#### Le Saviez-vous ?

A few months ago, you received information from the administration regarding the rules to follow in the event of a death. However, to make this situation easier for your beneficiaries, we suggest that you prepare two documents to be personalised and placed in an envelope addressed to the appropriate person. These will be useful in making this situation less stressful for your beneficiaries.

Forms to be completed before death concerning:

- personal information
- health and accident insurance
- wishes – specific requests

Place these in an envelope addressed to the appropriate authority. They will be useful in making this situation easier for the beneficiaries.

#### A. PERSONNEL DATA

- Data on retired official
- Data on spouse
- Data on ex-spouse
- Data on children
- Important files and documents
- Keys and codes
- Etc...

#### B. INSURANCE

- General data Insurance
- Supplementary insurance
- etc...

#### C. Relating to special wishes

- Etc...

**You can find the entire document on our website:**  
**SFPE-SEPS \_ Vade-mecum Part 2**

2. The different procedures to be followed following the death of a civil servant or employee of a European institution/agency

Important preliminary remarks:

**Ensure that your personal details are up to date in SYSPER 2: Different procedures to follow following the death of a civil servant or employee of a European institution/agency** <http://www.cc.cec/SYSPER2/per/viewPerson.do#>.

**Online :** connectez-vous à Sysper via My Remote Teleworking (lien exact) avec votre login et password sur 'Go to web application' ACCESS et apporter des modifications, si nécessaire. (Vérifier cheminement)



## Or

**By telephone (PMO):** Single number +322911111 – option 2.2 – survivor's pension, and provide your personal pension number (.....)

### A. STEPS TO BE TAKEN BY THE BENEFICIARIES.

Contact a funeral director to organise the funeral. This person will be able to issue the death certificates and help you make various arrangements.

→ Inform the PENSION-SURVIE service: Single number +322911111 - option 2.2 – survivor's pension (do not forget your personal pension number (.....))

- Inform other relevant authorities: local authorities, consulate, solicitor, bank, etc.

### B. DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE INSTITUTION BY THE BENEFICIARIES:

- Death certificate
- Bank details of the beneficiaries
- Copy of the identity card of all beneficiaries

### C. ENVOYER LES DOCUMENTS OFFICIELS À L'ADRESSE SUIVANTE

COMMISSION EUROPEENNE

Service PMO Pension

Rue de la Loi 200

1049 BRUXELLES

**OR** Par mail : PMO-PENSIONS@ec.europa.eu

### WHAT THE INSTITUTION WILL PAY FOLLOWING DEATH

- Based on the funeral expenses invoice, the Institution will pay a lump sum of up to €2,350, after deduction of any outstanding invoices.
- The deceased's pension will be paid to the surviving
- The deceased's pension will be paid to the surviving spouse and dependent children for three months following the death.
- Beyond this period, a survivor's pension is granted in particular:
- To children who were dependent at the time of death until the month of their 26th birthday.
- A spouse receiving a survivor's pension becomes a primary member of the RCAM (joint health insurance)

### D. WHAT ABOUT TAXATION?

- The amounts of pensions paid by the Commission are exempt from all national taxes. This exemption does not exempt pensioners from the obligation to file an annual tax return in their country of residence, to which they must attach the exemption certificate provided by the Commission.

### E. PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

In the event of particular difficulties, social workers are available to families via the following numbers:

Brussels: +32(0)2 29 59098

Ispra: +39 0332 789081/5910

Luxembourg: +352 4301 33948/32634;  
of their 26th anniversary





## 9 CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS



© Adobe Stock

Dear colleagues,

**W**e still need volunteers but currently this voluntary work will focus on helping colleagues who have problems with:

- Contact with PMO
- Filling in documents
- Etc.

This is because we would like to be able to offer more personalised assistance to retired colleagues who need help, and we would like to organise half-day presences in order to satisfy a maximum number of colleagues in difficulties.

Please help us to help them...

That means we are interested in other forms of assistance.

Let us know about your interests and assets for all good. SFPE - SEPS certainly needs you in:

- IT field;
- Presentations of the Association, IT tools, etc...
- Translations into English, Italian, German and even French;
- Secretarial support;

**Whatever task you can help with, you'll be doing it for the good of all.**

Thank you in advance for joining us, whether you are in Brussels or elsewhere, as the SFPE-SEPS applies the rules of teleworking.

### SEPS SENIORS OF THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC SERVICE • ASBL Nr: 806 839 565

175 rue de la Loi  
bureau JL 02 CG39  
BE-1048 Bruxelles

105 avenue des Nerviens  
bureau N105 00/022  
BE-1049 Bruxelles

**Telephone** +32 (0) 475 472 470

Also available via **WhatsApp**

**Email** [info@sfpe-seps.eu](mailto:info@sfpe-seps.eu)

**Web** [www.sfpe-seps.eu](http://www.sfpe-seps.eu)



# 10 OUR SERVICES

## → MEMBERSHIP CARD

As soon as we receive your SFPE-SEPS registration form, a membership card will be sent to you, emphasizing that this is in no way an insurance card.

Its purpose is to provide you with valuable addresses should you need them. This card is in «credit card» format and will contain/



### ✓ FRONT

Other than the information about SFPE-SEPS, please provide your name and surname and the personal details you would like to communicate to us.

### ✓ ON THE REVERSE

New Single Phone Number information.

### ✓ PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW

**SURNAME (CAPITAL LETTERS)**

**NAME**

**ADDRESS (CAPITAL LETTERS)**

**EMAIL (CAPITAL LETTERS)**

**DATE**

**SIGNATURE**

**PENSION N°**

**ID CARD-SIZED PHOTO (3.3 CM X 4.1 CM) IN JPG OR PNG FORMAT SENT TO**

**EMAIL: [Info@sfpe-seps.eu](mailto:Info@sfpe-seps.eu)**

**BY POST: SFPE-SEPS, Avenue des Nerviens 105 - BUR 00/22 - BE1049 BRUSSELS**



→ FILES AND DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE | ORDER FORM

Please send this reply slip to the secretariat  
I should like to receive the English edition of the following documents

SFPE-SEPS VADE-MECUM, ENGLISH EDITION	INTERNET	BY POST
Part 2 (forms /pers. data)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Part 3 (addresses PMO – ADMIN. . . .) Edition January 2023	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Part 4 (reimbursement forms – RCAM/JSIS) (June 2020)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supplementary health insurances Edition (October 2022)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dependence – How to request the reimbursement of some care and support costs, in case you partly lose your autonomy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Successions (Me. J. Buekenhoudt) (ed. 2018)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Invalidity allowance and survival pension (Hendrik Smets)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Orphan survivor's pensions (Hendrik Smets)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
EU Officials and taxation (J. Buekenhoudt, LLM)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Inheritance (J. Buekenhoudt, LLM) (May 2020)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
JSIS Guide (was sent by post to all pensioners)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SURNAME (CAPITAL LETTERS) \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS (CAPITAL LETTERS) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL (CAPITAL LETTERS) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

SFPE SENIORS OF THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC SERVICE

175 rue de la Loi  
Bureau JL 02 CG39  
BE-1048 Brussels

105 avenue des Nerviens  
Bureau N105 00/022  
BE-1049 Brussels

Telephone

Also available via WhatsApp

Email

Web

+32 (0) 475 472 470

info@sfpe-seps.eu

www.sfpe-seps.eu



→ **APPLICATION FORM | A/SC/MM/1807 FR**

I, THE UNDERSIGNED

**SURNAME + FIRSTNAME <sup>(1)</sup>**

**MAIDEN NAME FOR MARRIED WOMEN (1)**

**PERSONNEL/PENSION N°**

**DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YY)**

**NATIONALITY**

**PREFERRED LANGUAGE FOR DOCUMENTS** FR ☐ EN ☐

**HOME ADDRESS(1)**

**TEL\***

**MOBILE\***

**EMAIL (1)**

**FORMER STAFF MEMBER OF (INSTITUTION + DG OR DEPARTMENT)**

**YEARS OF SENIORITY (IF STILL IN SERVICE)**

- ☐ **Declare to be a member of the asbl 'seniors de la fonction publique europeenne'**  
by returning this application form to the address indicated and by paying the membership fee  
by bank transfer to the ING account below.
- ☐ **Declare that you consent to asbl 'seniors de la fonction publique europeenne'**  
recording the above personal data and keeping them until the end of your membership of the Association.  
The Association undertakes to protect this data against any dissemination and not to communicate it,  
except as required by law or at its request within the limits of the Association's corporate purpose.
- ☐ **Declares that it can help the ASBL in the following areas**

**DATE**

**SIGNATURE**

The annual subscription of €30.- is payable on 1 January. New members joining posterior to 30 June will not be required to pay their second subscription until the second of January following their enrolment.

**SFPE-SEPS ING BANK ACCOUNT  
COMMUNICATION**

**IBAN BE37 3630 5079 7728 • BIC BBRUBEBB  
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION + NAMES AND PENSION NR.**

**PLEASE RETURN THIS APPLICATION FORM TO**

SFPE-SEPS Office 00/22 • rue des Nerviens 105 • BE - 1049 Brussels or to [info@sfpe-seps.eu](mailto:info@sfpe-seps.eu)

**If you choose the standing order option, we ask you to send the following document directly to your bank YOURSELF.**

(1) CAPITAL LETTERS PLEASE \* OPTIONAL

→ **STANDING ORDER**

I, THE UNDERSIGNED

**SURNAME + FIRSTNAME <sup>(1)</sup>**

**HEREBY INSTRUCT** (NAME OF BANK)

To pay the sum of € 30.- and, on 15 January each year, until further notice,

**SUM OF**                      **30 €**

**IN FAVOUR OF**            **SFPE - SEPS**  
Bureau 00/22  
Rue des Nerviens 105  
BE - 1049 Brussels

**ACCOUNTING**            **IBAN** BE37 3630 5079 7728  
**BIC** BBRUBEBB

**REFERENCE**              Annual subscription + Name(s) and personnel/pension number(s)

**DATE**

**SIGNATURE**

**TO BE SENT TO YOUR BANK**

(1) CAPITAL LETTERS PLEASE



## → USEFUL ADDRESSES

SFPE-SEPS	<a href="mailto:Info@sfpe-seps.eu">Info@sfpe-seps.eu</a>
Afiliatys	<a href="http://www.afiliatys.eu/en/">www.afiliatys.eu/en/</a>
Afiliatys « Hospi-Safe » and « Hospi-Safe Plus »	<a href="http://www.afiliatys.eu/en/sections/297-hospisafe">www.afiliatys.eu/en/sections/297-hospisafe</a>
Allianz C Hospi Safe	<a href="http://www.allianzcare.com/en/group-hub/afiliatys.html">www.allianzcare.com/en/group-hub/afiliatys.html</a>
Allianz Care	<a href="mailto:IGO.assistance@allianzworldwidecare.com">IGO.assistance@allianzworldwidecare.com</a>
Allianz Care remboursement	<a href="mailto:IGOclaims@allianzworldwidecare.com">IGOclaims@allianzworldwidecare.com</a>
Cigna	<a href="http://www.eurprivileges.com/">www.eurprivileges.com/</a> <a href="mailto:info@eurprivileges.com">info@eurprivileges.com</a>
MyIntraComm	<a href="https://myintracomm.ec.europa.eu/retired/">https://myintracomm.ec.europa.eu/retired/</a>
HR.D.2 Social Welfare Officer	<a href="mailto:HR-BXL-AIDE-PENSIONNES@ec.europa.eu">HR-BXL-AIDE-PENSIONNES@ec.europa.eu</a>
HR Service Cards Office (appointment)	<a href="mailto:HR-DS-CARTES-DE-SERVICE-BRUXELLES@ec.europa.eu">HR-DS-CARTES-DE-SERVICE-BRUXELLES@ec.europa.eu</a>
RCAM online	<a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/RCAM/">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/RCAM/</a>
HR-Welcome Office	<a href="mailto:HR-BXL-WELCOME-OFFICE@ec.europa.eu">HR-BXL-WELCOME-OFFICE@ec.europa.eu</a>
HR Legal Advice	<a href="mailto:HR-BXL-LEGAL-ADVISER@ec.europa.eu">HR-BXL-LEGAL-ADVISER@ec.europa.eu</a>
PMO Pension (old age/disability pensions)	<a href="mailto:PMO-PENSIONS@ec.europa.eu">PMO-PENSIONS@ec.europa.eu</a>
PMO (Survivor's pensioners/orphans)	<a href="mailto:PMO-SURVIE@ec.europa.eu">PMO-SURVIE@ec.europa.eu</a>
PMO Certificates (for active and recently retired workers)	<a href="mailto:PMO-ATTESTATIONS@ec.europa.eu">PMO-ATTESTATIONS@ec.europa.eu</a>
PMO Direct Billing	<a href="mailto:PMO-RCAM-BRU-PRISE-EN-CHARGE@ec.europa.eu">PMO-RCAM-BRU-PRISE-EN-CHARGE@ec.europa.eu</a>
PMO Serious Illness	<a href="mailto:PMO-RCAM-BRU-MGR@ec.europa.eu">PMO-RCAM-BRU-MGR@ec.europa.eu</a>
PMO JSIS Reception Offices in Brussels	<a href="mailto:PMO-RCAM-BRU-RDV@ec.europa.eu">PMO-RCAM-BRU-RDV@ec.europa.eu</a>
PMO JSIS Reception Offices in Luxembourg	<a href="mailto:PMO-RCAM-LUX-RDV@ec.europa.eu">PMO-RCAM-LUX-RDV@ec.europa.eu</a>
PMO JSIS Reception Offices in Ispra	<a href="mailto:PMO6-JRC-HD@ec.europa.eu">PMO6-JRC-HD@ec.europa.eu</a>
Council of the EU - Pensioners	<a href="mailto:Retired.staff@consilium.europa.eu">Retired.staff@consilium.europa.eu</a>
Council of the EU - Social Service	<a href="mailto:rosario.pratas@consilium.europa.eu">rosario.pratas@consilium.europa.eu</a>
Council of the EU - Social Assistance	<a href="mailto:jana.lens@consilium.europa.eu">jana.lens@consilium.europa.eu</a>
Wilink Broker: Stefano Ristuccia	<a href="mailto:stefano.ristuccia@wilink.be">stefano.ristuccia@wilink.be</a>
OCA Broker (Lux)	<a href="mailto:jnguyen@oca.lu">jnguyen@oca.lu</a>

### SFPE – SEPS

105 rue des Nerviens • Bureau 00/22 • BE-1049 Brussels

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