

SEPS

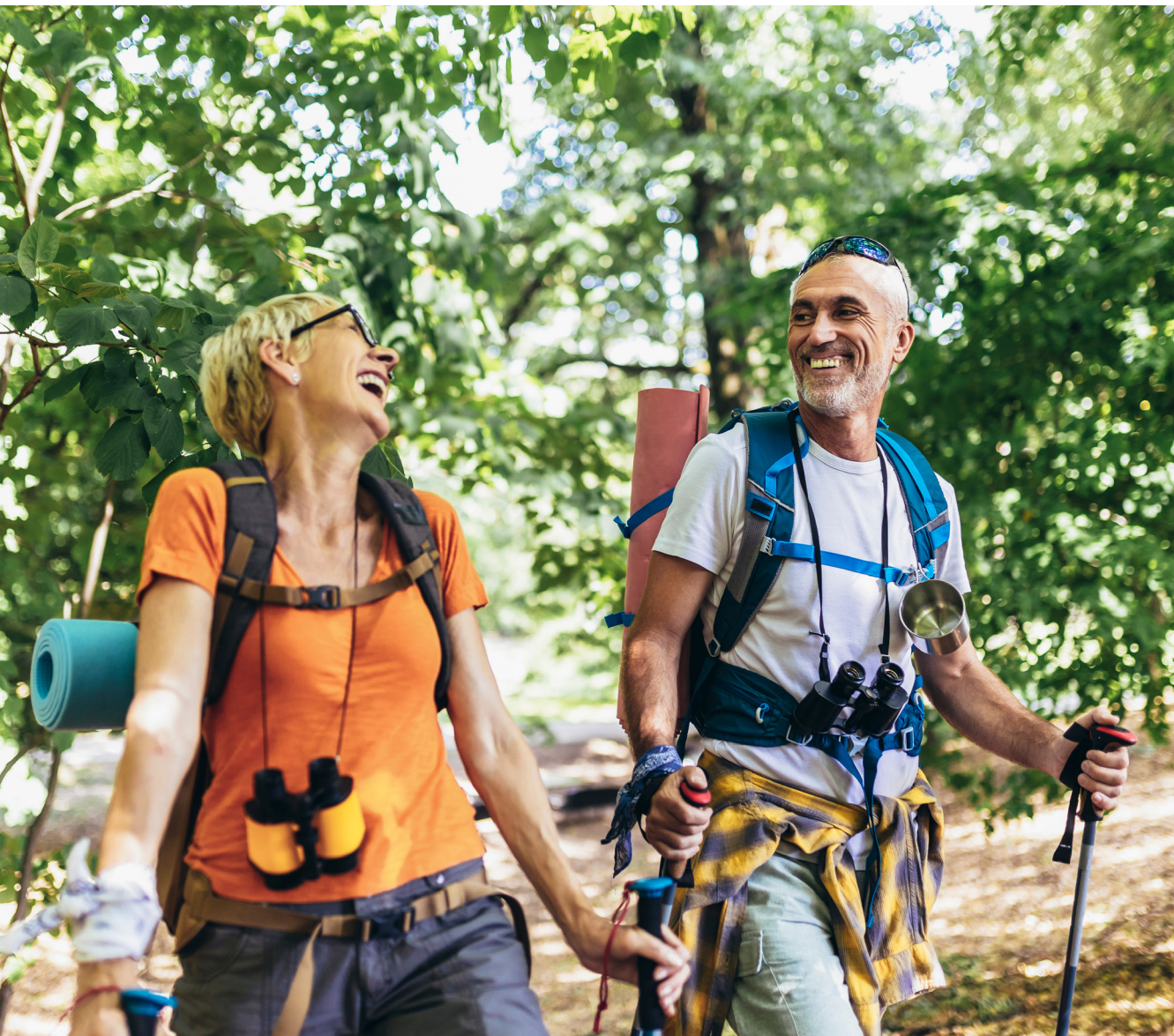
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SENIORS OF THE EUROPEAN
PUBLIC SERVICE
SENIORS DE LA FONCTION
PUBLIQUE EUROPÉENNE

BULLETIN

ASSOCIATION OF SENIORS OF THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC SERVICE | MARCH 2026



SEPS - SFPE IS AT THE DISPOSAL OF ALL ITS MEMBERS

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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

Document filing : CB/DP/20260325F/D/EN

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 place on 19 May and will be held in a large meeting room. The address will be announced at a later date.

As for the organisation of our meetings, they will take place in the usual format.

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

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1 EDITORIAL

Dear Members,

This is the first edition of our Bulletin in 2026. This Bulletin reaches you in the midst of international tensions that are running high and concern us all. The significant military escalation related to Iran presents a risk for consequences that are not limited in time with an inevitable material impact on our normal daily lives.

In this edition, we inform you of the outcome of the elections for the renewal of the Board of Directors of our Association. The elections took place normally. The election of directors will be submitted for formal confirmation by the General Assembly to be held on 19 May 2026 in Brussels.

You will read more about an important judgment delivered on January 16, 2026 by the Administrative Court of the Region of Tuscany in Italy on the right of access to healthcare for persons covered (among others) by JSIS in Italy, whose administrative scope by far exceeds the specific Italian situation and concerns the entire European Union.

Still in the context of JSIS, we will share an article on recent developments in the field of complementary health insurance and its future evolution. The new General Implementing Provisions for Basic Health Insurance are in preparation, but at the current time, a draft document is not yet available. We will keep you informed.

In the previous edition, you were already informed about the uncanny letter that a number of you recently received from the Federal Pensions Service of the Belgian Kingdom, as well as the more general context in which all of this takes place. Some new approaches are to be noted. Once again, the impact of this file may largely exceed the Belgian context.



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Petrus KERSTENS
(Pieter, to his friends)

President of the SEPS-SFPE

In this Bulletin, we will also inform you of current hot topics in the field of Health Insurance and other administrative matters, notably through contributions provided by the PMO. The headquarters of this service is moving to another building in Brussels, still at the Avenue de Tervueren.

To get to know us better, an Open Day will take place at our premises in Brussels on April 16. You are all invited to participate. You are also welcomed at the statutory General Assembly on 19 May next, in a location that will be new to all of us, i.e. the Centre de Conférences Albert Borschette (CCAB). Invitations will be issued in due course. You are welcome to attend either in person or remotely by video conference. Simultaneous interpretation into English will be provided.

The entire content of this Bulletin is the result of an authentic intellectual effort provided by physical authors without any recourse to artificial intelligence.

Thank you for your attention, wishing you a pleasant time reading this Bulletin.

Best wishes,
Pieter Kerstens,
March 2026

2 INTERVIEW OF POLYXENI PROUSALIDOU (POLY)

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To introduce myself:

My name is Polyxeni (Poly) Prousalidou, born in Piraeus (the city with the bigger port of Greece) in December of 1959, however, I grew up in Athens.

Prior to joining the Commission in October 1994, I worked in Athens as a teacher in a very famous commercial college for a duration of almost 13 years. Coming to Brussels I started my career in DG Translation at the beginning as secretary and after as secretary/assistant of the Head of Unit in three different units for a duration of 10 years.

Dear Colleagues, dear Friends,

Then I moved to DG Ecfm where the type of job was absolutely different, but very interesting as assistant of HoU. The workload and my duties were increasing every year especially during the challenging period of the accession negotiations for Greece and Portugal. During these years I gained a vast and important working experience which proved very useful. After approximately 8 years I decided to move to the newly established EEAS. Unfortunately, the working conditions were not ideal and very soon I moved to DG Home as assistant to a director where I worked for two years.

It was already 2013 and a HoU from DG Ecfm asked me to join his Unit and to help him with the accession program of Ireland as I had a vast experience regarding the ones of Greece and Portugal.

Upon my return to DG Ecfm I received a very warm welcomed from my colleagues and the hierarchy. After some years following two re-organisations my unit moved to Secretariat General.

Being already in SG and working hard, quickly and efficiently, I gained great recognition.

Therefore, I joined the Cabinet of HR/VP Borrell Fontelles as personal assistant of Head of Cabinet. The post was extremely challenging with a huge workload, responsibilities and duties to which I responded efficiently. I received acknowledgement not only from my immediate superior, who was the HoC but from the entire team. My working methods, the immediate and effective response to every request, the resolution of problems, my character, my diplomacy and my general behaviour gained the respect of the entire cabinet. The last six months of my career I was administrative assistant of HR/VP Borrell.

Being member of Governing board of SFPE-SEPS I therefore believe that these qualifications will help me to adequately respond to my duties in order to maintain, strengthen and expand the activities and voice of our association.

Poly Prousalidou

3 OUTCOME OF THE ELECTIONS NEW GOVERNING BOARD



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Statutory elections for the renewal of the collegial administrative body, more widely known as the Governing Board were conducted in an orderly manner and in accordance with the Electoral Regulations in force. The participation rate corresponds to previous elections. The Electoral Office, composed of independent persons not involved in the poll, has prepared its final report.

The original version of this document is available for consultation by all members at the secretariat of the Association.

The counting of paper and electronic ballots cast was performed by the members of the Electoral Board on 17 December 2025, on the premises of SFPE-SEPS.

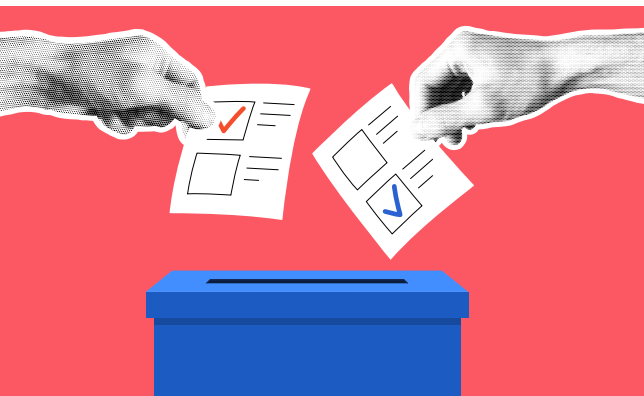
Below is a complete list of candidates having fulfilled the statutory conditions to be elected, having subsequently agreed, in writing, to assume their mandate if elected.

Accordingly, they will together constitute the Governing Board in force for the period 2026-2028. In alphabetical order, their names are listed below:

AMOND, Jean Pierre
ANDRIEU, Michel
BIRKENMAIER, Dieter

BRETON, Monique
BRONKHORST, Jan Willem
COUSIN, Jean Marie
D'AMICO, Anna Angela
DRICOT-DANIELE, Luigia
HAYDER, Roberto
KERSTENS, Pieter
MAES, Marc
PARROT, Mario
PINTO FERREIRA, Antonio
PROUSALIDOU, Polyxeni
SCHEYVAERTS, Jean
SELVAGIO, Gianfranco
SMETS, Henrik
STIEVENART, Thierry
TORREKENS, Hans
TYLIACOS, Catherine

In accordance with the national legislation governing our Statutes and in full compliance with these Statutes, this list will be submitted to the regular General Assembly for final adoption. This General Assembly will be convened on 19 May 2026. Members will receive a formal invitation in due course.



On January 16, 2026, all aforementioned persons participated in the inaugural meeting of this new council. The objective of this meeting was threefold:

- ❶ Getting acquainted with the newly elected officials and share points of view;
- ❷ Discuss the 2026 Work Plan adopted by the General Assembly of December 2025;
- ❸ Distribute administrative roles in the new council.

Since half of the board members were elected for the first time, a significant renewal, it was necessary to have a round table, during which everyone had the opportunity to introduce themselves and share their personal expectations for the future. The 2026 Work Plan was not submitted for new proposals.

The board extensively discussed the internal distribution of formal roles. For certain functions, members proceeded to vote. The council decided to appoint two Vice-Presidents with identical discretionary powers. For most of the specific functions, the 2023-2025 board holders were renewed .

Below is a summary of these exchanges, which will also be submitted for formal approval at the next General Assembly:

President	Pieter KERSTENS
Vice President, follow-up of GTR	Jan Willem BRONKHORST
Vice President	Hans TORREKENS
General Secretary	Luigia DRICOT DANIELE
Treasurer	Marc MAES
Assistant Treasurer	Jean SCHEYVAERTS
AISBL/FINANCE	Jean Marie COUSIN
President SEPS-Luxemburg, follow-up CGAM	Monique BRETON
President SEPS-Italia	Gianfranco SELVAGIO
Insurance Expert	Jean Pierre AMOND
Principal Legal Counsel	Roberto HAYDER
Legal Counsel	Dieter BIRKENMAIER
Legal Counsel	Hendrik SMETS
Support JSIS	Thierry STIEVENART
Administrator	Michel ANDRIEU
Administrator /Secretary	Anna Angela D'AMICO
Administrator /Secretary	Antonio PINTO FERRERIA
Administrator	Mario PARROT
Administrator	Polyxeni PROUSALIDOU
Administrator	Catherine TYLIACOS

Evangelos Spanoudis will be extended in his Ambassador-PMO role.

A new ambassador will be appointed shortly to replace **Ms Helen James**, who has stepped down for personal reasons. The SFPE-SEPS would like to thank Helen wholeheartedly for her tireless dedication, her commitment, and the excellent support she has provided to members.

4 OUR ITALIAN PAGE

SEPS ITALIA

In recent months, Seps Italia has provided significant assistance both to its members and to other retirees

Les demandes les plus fréquentes concernaient les remboursements et les procédures PMO.

Cependant, plusieurs demandes portaient également sur la préparation à la retraite.

We would like to inform you about the following important news items:

- 1 The launch of a dedicated website for our members and all staff. The website aims to provide immediate access to the most important information. A key feature is that it can be accessed directly without the need to go through Commission websites or enter passwords.

This functionality is particularly useful also for partners or family members of our members. You can find forms, email addresses, procedures, member agreements, and many other resources at the address: <https://www.seps-italia.it/>

- 2 On March 24, 2026, we will hold our next Retirement Preparation Seminar. The seminar will take place in person in Ispra. It will be conducted in Italian, with slides in English. Those interested can write to our email address: seps.italia@mail.com



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Selvagio Gianfranco
Presidente Seps Italia

- 3 We are pleased to announce that, starting March 1, 2026, an agreement will come into force with a professional lawyer for matters governed by Italian legislation. The first consultation for members will be free of charge, and a 20% discount will be applied in case legal proceedings are required. Details will be posted on the website.

We take this opportunity to remind you that the in-person assistance service at the Club House (Sala Ginestre) remains operational every **Tuesday and Thursday from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm.**

The telephone service is available from **Monday to Friday from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm** at +39 3516471722.

5 INFORMATIONS DU PMO

1 REMINDER: DIRECT BILLING FOR YOUR HOSPITAL CARE IN LUXEMBOURG

Intéressant : Are you aware of the new simplified process for JSIS beneficiaries?

Hospital costs in Luxembourg can be paid directly by JSIS, depending on the treatment.

In October 2025, an agreement was signed between the European Commission and the Luxembourg Hospital Federation to this effect. Here is the published article: <https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/pmo/newsletter-archives/67527>

We send this reminder to allow you to check the information again.

You can find out :

- Which treatments are included,
- When prior authorisation is required,
- How the process works, step by step.

Before a hospital stay, please check the information and, if needed, generate your certificate of cover via MyPMO or JSIS online.

Please note that the certificate can be generated only in French.

Via MyPMO

① Click on this link <https://mypmo.europa.eu/jsis/certificates/request-certificate>.

② Select the beneficiary, select "JSIS Certificate for Luxembourg hospitals (FHL)", and click on 'SEND'. Your certificate will be generated within 20 minutes so you can download and print it.

The screenshot displays the 'Demander une attestation de couverture' (Request a certificate of cover) interface. It is divided into several sections:

- Top Bar:** A blue header with a close button (X), the title 'Demander une attestation de couverture', and an 'ENVOYER' button with a circled '3' and an arrow pointing to it.
- Selection of beneficiary:** A section titled 'Sélectionnez le bénéficiaire' with a radio button selected for 'Jane Doe' (marked with a circled '1').
- Selection of certificate:** A section titled 'Sélectionnez une attestation' with three radio button options: 'RCAM certificat de couverture primaire', 'Certificat RCAM pour Hôpitaux Luxembourg (FHL)' (selected, marked with a circled '2'), and 'Attestation pour le "Vlaamse Zorgkas"'. A circled '2' is also placed next to this section.
- Confirmation screens:** Two side-by-side screenshots of the 'Attestations d'assurance' screen for 'Jane Doe' (marked with a circled '4'). The left screen shows 'Votre certificat est en cours de création' (Your certificate is being created) with a circular refresh icon. The right screen shows 'Disponible' (Available) with a green checkmark and a right-pointing arrow icon.

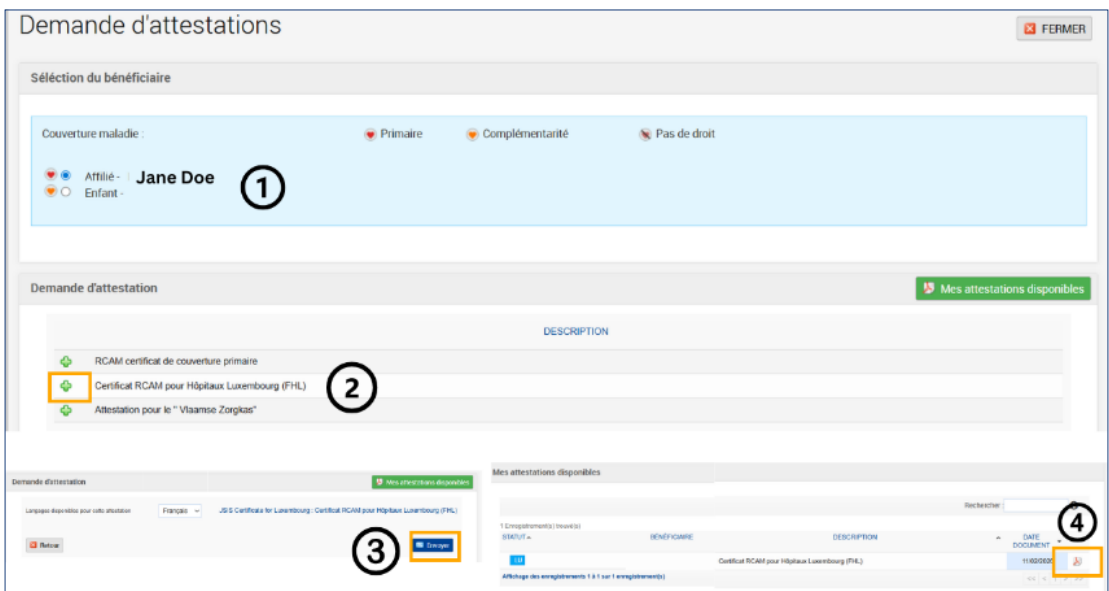


Via JSIS online

1 Click on this link:

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/RCAM/secured/certificates.do>

2 Select the name of the beneficiary, click on the green "PLUS" before "JSIS Certificate for Luxembourg hospitals (FHL)". Click on "SUBMIT". Your certificate will be generated within 20 minutes so you can download and print it.



In both cases you will also be notified by email that your certificate is available.

This arrangement applies to the following hospitals in Luxembourg:

- HRS - Hôpitaux Robert Schuman (Kirchberg, Bohler, ZithaKlinik)
- CHL - Centre Hospitalier de Luxembourg
- CHDN - Centre Hospitalier du Nord
- CHEM - Centre Hospitalier Emile Mayrisch
- INCCI - National Institute for Cardiac Surgery and Interventional Cardiology
- Centre François Baclesse

Full details, practical steps and the FAQs are available on the PMO Service Guide: https://paymaster-office.ec.europa.eu/health-insurance-novelties-health-care-luxembourg_en

A leaflet is also available for a simple visual overview of the main steps: <https://ec.europa.eu/assets/pmo/FHL/FHL-brochure.pdf>



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2 PMO BRUSSELS RELOCATING TO A NEW BUILDING

PMO Brussels will soon move to a new building, very close to Montgomery. This relocation concerns **PMO Brussels only** and has no impact on PMO offices in Luxembourg or Ispra.

From **23 March 2026**, pensioners submitting reimbursement requests or other documents in person are invited to use the document boxes available **exclusively at the new address**, on the ground floor of the building:

European Commission

Avenue de Tervuren 211 - 1150 Woluwe St-Pierre - Belgium

The **JSIS Welcome Office** will also move to the new address. It will continue to receive visitors **by appointment only**.

Appointments must be requested in advance via the dedicated functional mailbox: PMO-RCAM-RDV@ec.europa.eu or via the PMO single phone number.

Individual IT support appointments for pensioners residing in Belgium will likewise be held at the new address.

Information on the different ways to contact PMO for IT support is available here: https://paymaster-office.ec.europa.eu/eu-login-0_en

The PMO single phone number remains unchanged:
+32 2 29 11111

An overview of this numbers' extensions to the various services is available here: https://paymaster-office.ec.europa.eu/services-topic/myppmo-single-phone-number_en

Thank you for your attention.

3 LIFE CERTIFICATE - REMINDER OF APPLICABLE PROCEDURE

The PMO might periodically request a life certificate. This could be every two years, or annually if you are 80 years old or older.

To simplify this process, the PMO uses administrative indicators based on data collected via the JSIS, such as requests for direct billing, prior authorisations and reimbursement claims related to medical visits and examinations.

These indicators help confirm your status and extend the validity of your life certificate.

If such recent indicators are available in your file, we will postpone the request for a new life certificate, and you will not need to submit a life certificate on your own initiative.

However, in the absence of recent indicators, the PMO will send you a request to submit a new life certificate. In that case, please complete the life certificate by the deadline provided.

If you need to complete a life certificate:

- verify and update your personal data in the "Declaration" section;
- ask a doctor or a competent authority to complete the "Certificate" section.

For detailed instructions on how to submit your life certificate, please consult the guide and explanatory video available at: https://digit.service-now.com/esc?id=kb_article&sysparm_article=KB0065576

If we do not receive a response to the request for a life certificate, payment of your pension may be suspended. However, rest assured that we never suspend the payment of the pension without sending a preliminary reminder.

When a life certificate request has been sent and an administrative indicator mentioned above subsequently confirms that the person is alive, the request is automatically marked as completed in the system.

Please note that a life certificate relating to a spouse remains required when requested.

6 GENERAL INFORMATIONS

1 A GOOD BELGIAN STORY - THE SAGA CONTINUES...

On page 14 of the December 2025 edition of our Bulletin we informed you already of the letter distributed by the Belgian Federal Pension Services (SFP).

As a reminder, the letter concerned a change in the national federal law of Belgium pertaining ceilings of Belgian pensions, applicable as of July 2025. The idea is for this law to apply also to pensions paid by PMO to retired staff of the European Union institutions. By virtue of Protocole number 7, such pensions were thus far entirely exempted from being included in that calculation.

For certain retirees, the cumulation of a Belgian pension corresponding to non-EU employment with that paid by PMO may well exceed the ceiling which was fixed at 100 000 EUR per annum. In fiscal jargon, this is called the 'Wijtinckx' ceiling. Contrary to what was published in Belgian media, the number of EU pensioners concerned (assumed to be 137 fortunate pensioners) is in reality quite a bit higher.

This matter actually concerns thousands of EU pensioners living in Belgium. Independently from whether or not pension rights were transferred in - or not - at first recruitment : this ceiling is in any case reached for any pensioner as of AD10/AST10 who is

1. paying income tax in Belgium ;
2. worked a complete career of 35 years ;
3. is a recipient of household allowance. It remains to be clarified whether 'other income' is to be taken into account in the calculation (rents, annuities, dividends, etc.). In this event, the referenced grades accordingly will be lower and the number will increase.

In November last year, SFPE-SEPS contacted Commissioner Serafin with precise questions in this context. The useful answers received from DG HR and PMO turned out to be reassuring. In addition, the Legal Service of the European Commission was involved and subsequently contacted the Belgian authorities.



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To the best of our knowledge, the European Commission addressed an official letter to the Belgian federal government with a clear reminder of the rules of the game which are laid down in the Treaties of the European Union, in protocole number 7 attached to it and in constant jurisprudence as established by the Court of Justice of the Union. These arguments are convincing and hard to refute.

The Belgian Government's response, addressed to the

Director General of DG HR, was not long in coming. Its content was beyond disappointing in that it established a total lack of understanding of the applicable legal framework. The tone of the note was unprecedentedly condescending, signed by the Minister of Finances, Mr. Jambon.

Early 2026, the first pensioners concerned came forward. They were not quite your ordinary pensioners: former Commissioners Busquin and Reynders were directly in the crosshairs.

Their EU pension alone largely exceeds the Wjtinckx threshold, which may result in their Belgian pension being suspended in its entirety. The former Commissioners consider that they duly contributed towards their pensions and that such acquired rights are not alienable. They turned to the Belgian Constitutional Court to challenge the measure which they called out for being anti-European and unjust. Minister Jambon wishes to proceed with a preventive suspension of the pensions concerned.

Let's now wait for the decision of the Constitutional Court. In any case, either the effects of the Wjtinckx principle on the requesters' pensions is cancelled with immediate effect, erga omnes ; or, the Court requests a preliminary ruling from the European Union Court of Justice since it concerns Union Law.

To be continued...

We can only note that persons responsible at the Belgian Government once again display incredibly high doses of brazen hypocrisy. They soothe the good tax payers of their country with the romantic suggestion of limiting supposed social inequalities by applying ceilings to pensions. Of course, this is not in any way about taxation but rather about an effective and absolute capping.

In the Belgian system, salaries of political dignitaries are not very high. A certain jealousy towards the remuneration of European Union officials would not really come as a surprise. On the other hand, the Belgian system allows for a cumulation of a significant number of simultaneous mandates, with an effective assumption that each function may be performed

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by paid deputies, whilst the remuneration of the incumbent would not be suspended.

This results in a majority of elected officials being paid in parallel from various sources, as a Mayor, Provincial Deputy, Minister, Manager of the Water Authority, Municipal Counsellor, Member of Parliament, etc. This way, some will accumulate a nice income. Such a practice is, however, not an option for our institution's staff members : the [Staff Regulations formally prohibit any combination of positions and any potential conflict of interest.](#)

Factually speaking, former national ministers largely dip into the common tax payer coffers. Contrary to former European Commissioners of the same nationality, they are careful not to earn large pensions.

These good indigenous Belgians diligently respect this ceiling which has been in existence for several years now. Instead of receiving large salaries followed by modest pensions, these smart folks receive departure premiums which are totally exempt of any form or fashion of taxation, which allows them to legally dodge inventive 'Wjtinckx'-style fiscal solutions.

Some telling examples of this phenomenon occurred in a not so distant past. In an effort not to excessively 'bloat' their legitimate monthly pensions, the former Presidents of the National Parliament, José Happart and Herman De Croo, received departure premiums amounting to 250 000 EUR, thus perfectly bypassing ceilings applied to others. Less visible - but nevertheless meriting - figures leave the Belgian services in droves with 50 000 EUR lump sums. To be clear,

these are premiums, not pensions.

Who will tell if the Federal Finance Minister is unaware of such practices to such an extent, if he is of a disarming naiveté, or if he is actually aware of everything going on, attempting, in the name of his government, to apply double standards on a case by case basis? Whatever the case may be, all of this lacks minimal credibility levels and it is a monumental farce

2 JUDGMENT OF THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE COURT OF TUSCANY

A significant dispute concerning the access to national medical care for JSIS members.

In case number 105/2026 submitted to the Administrative Court of the Region of Tuscany in Italy, a decision was made which may have a significant impact in all Union member States in matters of Social Security and Healthcare Insurance as it pertains to Staff of the European Union. The focus was on a matter of access to healthcare equivalent to that of national citizens of the same country.

The request had been introduced by a German citizen residing in the vicinity of Florence, his place of posting as a staff member of the European University Institute. As such he was by default a beneficiary of our Institutions' JSIS. The focus of this case concerned the right to access healthcare, equivalent to that enjoyed by the national citizens of the same country. This person had requested the right to a free of charge enrollment in the National Healthcare Service (SSN), including an insurance card (tessera sanitaria). This card allows to gain access to basic healthcare services, including those of a general practitioner, which manifestly had so far been blocked for EU staff members in Italy.

The competent healthcare authority had indeed refused to enroll him free of charge whilst at the same time accepting a paid enrollment at a fee of 2 000 EUR annually. The argument provided for the refusal was that the requester was already mandatorily covered by JSIS which is specific to staff of the European Union and already provides for a partial refund of medical care.

In this matter, the Administrative Tribunal established



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that staff members of the Institute in Florence are to be considered equal to staff members of the Union Institutions, to which the of the EU Regulation for Social Coordination (1408/71 and 883/2004) are not applicable, precisely because of their statutory affiliation to JSIS. In other terms, when JSIS is not internationally recognized, its members are not insured 'anywhere'.

This results in:

- the consideration that enrollment in the SSN cannot constitute either a working condition in the sense of Article 45 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), or a social benefit in the sense of Article 7 of EU Regulation 492/2011, since its provisions are normally applicable to Italian citizens as a whole.
- an indirect discrimination of the requester, which is prohibited based on article 18 of the TFEU. The position of the national authorities is devoid of any motivation. As such, a person depending on a Union body, a citizen of another member State of the Union, moreover permanently residing in Italy, was rejected for enrollment with SSN free of charge, considering that access to some healthcare facilities (pharmacies, general practitioners, vaccinations) is restricted only to persons enrolled in the National Security System (SSN). The discrimination consists of an obligation to enroll against payment of a fee for services which are accessible and available to Italian national residents, free of charge, through SSN affiliation.

Article 14 of Protocole number 7 of the Privileges and Immunities of the European Union and Statutory Provisions of JSIS prevent member States of the Union from imposing

the collection of contributions from EU staff members with the purpose of financing its own healthcare coverage, taking into account that the membership contributions due by EU staff members is entirely dictated by the Union's discretionary powers.

The situation where Union staff do not pay national taxes on their EU income does not constitute an objective justification for the established discrimination since it would not require any supplementary insurance at the expense of the national scheme but only a mere equivalent treatment in terms of access to healthcare.

It results that **the request is favorably received by the Court**. The decision to refuse free of charge enrollment in the SSN is annulled. It is now up to the administration concerned to proceed with free of charge enrollment of the requester, to provide him with a sanitary badge, and to grant him access to all health care services available to Italian citizens in view of putting an end to discrimination based on nationality, by virtue of article 18 of the TFEU. The requester herewith obtains the requested reparations whilst the Administration of the SSN is ordered to pay the Court costs.

SFPE-SEPS is delighted by this decision. Its concerns related to Union staff posted in Italy have existed for a long time now and are now seemingly alleviated. Of course, there are still EU staff posted in other regions than Tuscany, such as Lombardia, Emilia-Romagna and the capital Roma.

Let's remain vigilant, this important decision only pertains to residents of Tuscany. For it to be applicable to other regions in Italy, this decision will constitute:

- either more general case law;
- or may be invoked in case of similar new disputes.

At the current time, Italy has not yet amended its relevant national legislation. The matter is still ongoing, and disputes do not really constitute a risk for structural prejudice. This decision also appears to be favorable to pensioners permanently established in the territory of the Italian



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Republic. However, persons actually living in this member State without having established their main residence there or who are visiting the country, will not necessarily be safe and might in the future still encounter obstacles towards access to SSN.

For JSIS members who are not concerned by the situation in Italy, this ruling will allow widening our horizons. As long as JSIS is not internationally recognized according to the principles of EU Regulations 883/2004 and 987/2009, similar matters will continue to pop up everywhere in Europe. As such, DG GR and PMO will be obliged to revise their strict approach in the sense that JSIS affiliation by default prohibits affiliation in national healthcare systems, at least in the Union itself. In the same way, the Vlaamse Volksverzekering in Belgium should no longer by default exclude voluntary affiliation for persons insured by JSIS, Belgians or not, in their own regime. What at first glance appears to be a dispute with local dimensions could in fact have a much more global scope and concern us all. **SFPE-SEPS** will continue to support you and fully invest itself towards obtaining significant progress.

To be continued...

7 USEFUL INFORMATION AND REMINDERS CONCERNING OUR ASSOCIATION SFPE-SEPS

1 WEB MASTER WANTED

We are urgently seeking a colleague who is retired or approaching retirement and who would be willing to serve as our webmaster. We would like to modernise our website while complying with the rules of our institutions. If you think you can help us assist our colleagues, please do not hesitate to contact us. You will be most welcome to join our team of volunteers.

2 MEMBERSHIP FEES

In response to many of our colleagues who often ask us why they have not received a message regarding the payment of their annual membership fees, we would like to remind you that in order to be in good standing, membership fees must be paid in January of the current year. In order to avoid being removed from the mailing list for important messages and document distributions, it is important that this membership fee is paid correctly and on time. Here's an idea to make your life easier: set up a standing order.

It should also be noted that for those who register after 30 June of the current year and pay their membership fee directly, they will not have to pay the membership fee for the following year; they will pay the next membership fee the year after that:

3 SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT

Following the establishment of our new team, we will set aside half a day each week to be available on a regular basis to assist colleagues in their dealings with the RCAM. This service may be extended in the future. In the meantime, you can still send your questions to the following address:

info@sfpe-seps.eu.

This option may also be available for statutory or legal questions. We will keep you informed of any developments.



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4 CHANGE OF ADDRESS

We would like to thank everyone who sends us their change of address; this allows them to continue to be kept properly informed about all the events organised by our Association. However, every day we receive letters that cannot be delivered simply because the address written on the envelope no longer corresponds to the person indicated on the envelope.

5 ACCESS TO EUROPEAN COMMISSION BUILDINGS IN BRUSSELS COMMISSION PENSIONERS

(who (or whose late spouse or parent) worked last at the Commission, an Executive Agency, a Decentralised Agency or a Joint Undertaking in Brussels). access badges delivered by the Commission for pensioners carry the title «PENSION».

Pensioners from other institutions may apply for a specific access badge from the Security Office (address given below).

All Commission pensioners are exempt from security control procedures (walk-through metal detectors and x-ray machines) in all Commission buildings in Brussels. This is independent of the building you access or opening hours of pensioner services, canteens or cafeterias in those buildings. However, service car parks in buildings are off-limits to pensioners.



Unaccompanied access means that you can enter the building and walk around in designated zones by yourself – you do not need a Commission contact person to escort you. The table

below gives you a complete overview of the services, canteens and cafeterias you can visit in those buildings. Normally Monday to Friday, except public holidays, from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

LIST OF BUILDINGS WHERE UNACCOMPANIED ACCESS IS PERMITTED

BUILDING	CODE	ADDRESS	INFRASTRUCTURES
Berlaymont	BERL	Rue de la Loi 200	Canteen, cafeteria
Breydel	BREY	Avenue d'Auderghem 45	Leisure clubs, cafeteria
Albert Borschette conference centre	CCAB	Rue Froissart 36	Meeting rooms
Charlemagne	CHAR	Rue de la Loi 170	Canteen, cafeteria
Genève 6	G6	Rue Genève 6	Cafeteria
Joseph 70	J-70	Rue Joseph II 70	CDP - OSP
Mérode	MERO	Avenue de Tervuren 41	Pensions office, Sickness and accidents insurance office, cafeteria
Nerviens 105	N105	Avenue des Nerviens 105	SFPE/SEPS, Afiliatys, Seniors' Corner, cafeteria
Overijse	OVER	Dennenboslaan 54	Restaurant, sport facilities
Philippe Le Bon 3	PLB3	Rue Philippe Le Bon 3	Conferences / courses, cafeteria
Van Maerlant 18	VM18	Rue Van Maerlant 18	AIACE International, AIACE Belgium, Central and leisure libraries
Van Maerlant 2	VM-2	Rue Van Maerlant 2	Leisure clubs

In all other Commission buildings in Brussels, you have accompanied access as a Commission pensioner. Accompanied access means that a Commission contact person (Commission staff member including Active Senior or Seconded National Expert in active service) will pick you up from reception and will accompany you throughout your stay in a building. Unless you forget your pensioner access pass, you will not be issued a paper 'visitor' access pass – you will

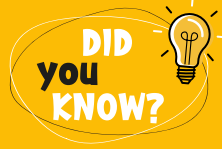
be able to access Commission buildings with your access pass identifying you as a Commission pensioner.

For any questions regarding access cards/badges and access rights, please send an email to:

HR-DS-CARTES-DE-SERVICE-BRUXELLES@ec.europa.eu.

The service that issues badges in Brussels is located in the PLB3 building (Rue Philippe le Bon, 3, 1000 Brussels).

8 DID YOU KNOW?



HERE'S A RIDDLE FOR YOU.

Most of us will be surprised to learn that our Association has existed since the 3rd of October 2008 as a (Belgian Law) Non-Profit. It is the successor to the de facto Association called 'Comité des Anciens de la Fonction Publique Européenne, A.F.P.E.' Today, it is better known as SFPE-SEPS :

- in French : 'Association des Seniors de la Fonction Publique Européenne (S.F.P.E.) ;
- In English : 'Association of Seniors of the European Public Service (S.E.P.S.).

At the occasion of training to prepare for retirement, we nevertheless notice that in spite of an ever growing membership support, quite a few future pensioners are surprised to learn that there is indeed another association of pensioners working for the benefit of us all. We keep hearing they '*never heard of us*' before.

Our purpose is clear :

Defend the interests of persons previously part of the European Union Public Service, specifically with regard to their social security and pensions

As well as

- contributing to the improvement of their material and moral well-being
- foster relationships with the official Staff Representation bodies of the European Institutions and authorities as well as with other official or private organisations with an interest in issues related to the European Union Public Service.

In order to meet both members who have been supporting us since years and new colleagues interested in learning more about the future of pensioners, we decided to organise an

OPEN DAY, ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

This event will take place on April 16th, from 11:30am to 3:30pm in the **CAFETERIA of the NERVIENS 105 Building, ground floor**

Do not hesitate to invite colleagues who might be approaching retirement. The Statutes of our non profit organization (ASBL) accept members as of 55 years of age. This allows us to work with essential information since these colleagues may fully participate in committees of importance to all of us, among others to pensioners. Just one example : JSIS (Joint Sickness Insurance).

Over the years, we have been developing our services and this has lead to the creation of a new section in Ispra which will be followed by Luxemburg (barring a last minute setback) and, why not, a few others.

Dear Members, you are our best ambassadors since you know us best. We do hope our Open Day will allow you to come and welcome new members to our Association.

If you are interested and if you do not have a Pensioner Card as yet,

- we suggest you take this opportunity to request one which may avoid you having to give the required information to the Security Department;
- Or you send us your name, first name and pension number for us to manage this information and transmit it to the Security Department.

For planning purposes, kindly register for the event by the 3rd of April latest.

9 CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS



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Dear colleagues,

We 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

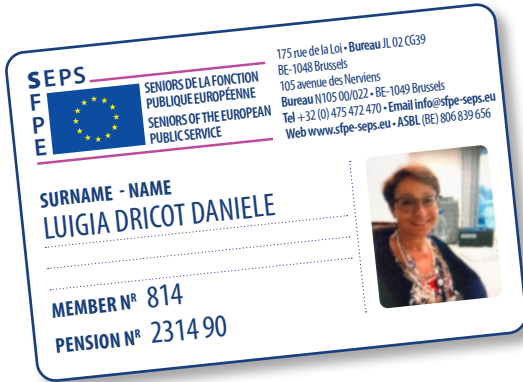
Web www.sfpe-seps.eu

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

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

SEPS 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 +32 (0) 475 472 470
Also available via **WhatsApp**
Email info@sfpe-seps.eu
Web www.sfpe-seps.eu



—> APPLICATION FORM | A/SC/MM/1807 FR

I, THE UNDERSIGNED

SURNAME + FIRSTNAME ⁽¹⁾

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.be

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 ⁽¹⁾

.....

.....

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

<u>SFPE-SEPS</u>	<u>INFO@SFPE-SEPS.EU</u>
<u>Afiliatys</u>	<u>WWW.AFILIATYS.EU/EN/</u>
<u>Afiliatys « Hospi-Safe » and « Hospi-Safe Plus »</u>	<u>WWW.AFILIATYS.EU/EN/SECTIONS/297-HOSPISAFE</u>
<u>Allianz C Hospi Safe</u>	<u>WWW.ALLIANZCARE.COM/EN/GROUP-HUB/AFILIATYS.HTML</u>
<u>Allianz Care</u>	<u>IGO.ASSISTANCE@ALLIANZWORLDWIDECARE.COM</u>
<u>Allianz Care reimbursement</u>	<u>IGOCCLAIMS@ALLIANZWORLDWIDECARE.COM</u>
<u>Cigna S</u>	<u>WWW.EURPRIVILEGES.COM/</u>
<u>Cigna info</u>	<u>INFO@EURPRIVILEGES.COM</u>
<u>MyIntracomm retired</u>	<u>HTTPS://MYINTRACOMM.EC.EUROPA.EU/RETIRED/</u>
<u>MyIntraComm Home</u>	<u>MY INTRACOMM - HOME</u>
<u>In case of urgency: please send a email to :</u>	<u>HR-MAIL-D2@ec.europa.eu</u>
<u>HR.D.2 Social Welfare Officer</u>	<u>HR-HANDICAP-DISABILITY@ec.europa.eu</u>
<u>HR.D.2 Social Welfare Officer</u>	<u>HR-BXL-AIDE-PENSIONNES@ec.europa.eu</u>
<u>Active Senior Support Center</u>	<u>HR-ACTIVE-SENIOR@ec.europa.eu</u>
<u>DG HR – Tax advice for expats</u>	<u>HR-BXL-IM-VEH-ET-TVA@ec.europa.eu</u>
<u>HR Service Cards Office (appointment)</u>	<u>HR-DS-CARTES-DE-SERVICE-BRUXELLES@ec.europa.eu</u>
<u>HR-Welcome Office</u>	<u>HR-BXL-WELCOME-OFFICE@ec.europa.eu</u>
<u>HR Legal Advice</u>	<u>HR-BXL-LEGAL-ADVISER@ec.europa.eu</u>
<u>PMO – Life Certificates and Other Attestations</u>	<u>HR-BXL-ATTESTATIONS@ec.europa.eu</u>
<u>Welcome office</u>	<u>HR-BXL-WELCOME-OFFICE@ec.europa.eu</u>
<u>Welcome office</u>	<u>HR-BXL-DEPARTURE-DESK@ec.europa.eu</u>
<u>HR Director – Personal Files service</u>	<u>HR-BXL-DOSSIERS-PERSONNELS@ec.europa.eu</u>
<u>RCAM online</u>	<u>HTTPS://WEBGATE.EC.EUROPA.EU/RCAM/</u>
<u>PMO – RCAM – questions about disability</u>	<u>PMO RCAM BRU HANDICAP</u>
<u>PMO Pension (old age/disability pensions)</u>	<u>PMO-PENSIONS@ec.europa.eu</u>
<u>PMO (Survivor’s pensioners/orphans)</u>	<u>PMO-SURVIE@ec.europa.eu</u>
<u>PMO Certificates (for active and recently retired workers)</u>	<u>PMO-ATTESTATIONS@ec.europa.eu</u>
<u>PMO Direct Billing</u>	<u>PMO-RCAM-BRU-PRISE-EN-CHARGE@ec.europa.eu</u>
<u>PMO Serious Illness</u>	<u>PMO-RCAM-BRU-MGR@ec.europa.eu</u>
<u>PMO JSIS Reception offices in Brussels</u>	<u>PMO-RCAM-BRU-RDV@ec.europa.eu</u>
<u>PMO JSIS Reception Offices in Luxembourg</u>	<u>PMO-RCAM-LUX-RDV@ec.europa.eu</u>
<u>PMO JSIS Reception Offices in Ispra</u>	<u>PMO6-JRC-HD@ec.europa.eu</u>
<u>Council of the EU – pensioners</u>	<u>RETIRED.STAFF@CONSILIUM.EUROPA.EU</u>
<u>Council of the EU – Social Service</u>	<u>SOCIAL.ASSISTANTS@CONSILIUM.EUROPA.EU</u>
<u>Wilink Broker: Stefano Ristuccia</u>	<u>STEFANO.RISTUCCIA@WILINK.BE</u>
<u>OCA Broker (Lux)</u>	<u>JNGUYEN@OCA.LU</u>

SFPE – SEPS

105 rue des Nerviens • Bureau 00/22 • BE-1049 Bruxelles • info@sfpe-seps.eu