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BULLETIN

ASSOCIATION OF SENIORS OF THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC SERVICE | **SEPTEMBER 2026**





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The secretariat can be reached

By telephone	**+32(0) 475 47 24 70**
By mail	**info@sfpe-seps.eu**
By internet	**www.sfpe-seps.eu**

SEPS - SFPE GOVERNING BOARD 2026-2028

President	Pieter Kerstens
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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 2026 by paying the membership fee, will not need to pay for the 2027 fee. The next payment will only be needed in 2028 fee.

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YOUR PERSONAL CONTACT DETAILS

Please note: please provide us with your updated email address and/or home address, as well as your telephone number, as soon as possible. This will enable us to maintain useful contact with you without interruption and prevent important communications from going misdirected.

The address for reporting any relevant changes is: by email **info@sfpe-seps.eu** or by telephone +32(0) 475 47 24 70

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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 08 December 2026 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.

SEPS SENIORS OF THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC SERVICE

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

105 avenue des Nerviens
Bureau N105 00/022
BE-1049 Bruxelles
NPA Nr: 806 839 565

Telephone +32(0) 475 47 24 70
Also available via **WhatsApp**
Email info@sfpe-seps.eu
Web www.sfpe-seps.eu

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1 EDITORIAL

Dear members,

Here is the latest edition of our Bulletin, the third of the current financial year.

In this edition, we offer you a first overview of the results of the survey launched in August this year. The aim of this survey was to enable us to gain a better understanding of the administrative situations in the public sector with which our members find themselves confronted in various parts of the European Union.



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Petrus KERSTENS
(Pieter, to his friends)

President of the SEPS-SFPE

"Noblesse oblige", we return once again to the issue of Belgian pensions, which risks having consequences far wider than those felt in the purely Belgian context, and whose nature should therefore be of interest and concern to all retired members of our Association. This subject continues to be debated, as the Belgian measures are beginning to be replicated in other Member States of the Union.

In a number of informative articles, we also explain what is meant by the complementarity and by the household allowance, as well as the associated thresholds that must be met in order to be eligible. You will also find an article on inheritance matters in Spain.

The coming months promise to be very busy, not only in terms of events on the global and political stages, but also in our dealings with the administrations to which we will be submitting a wide range of key cases that have already been dragging on for far too long. We will keep you informed of the main developments in the next edition of the Bulletin, which will be published in December.

On that occasion, we will also bring you news of the launch of the 2027 financial year, the latest lessons learned from the review of the European Commission's Services, as well as the adoption of the Union's multiannual expenditure planning, including its potential impact on retired staff.

Please already make a note in your diaries of 8 December 2026, when we will hold our next General Assembly and Information Meeting in Brussels. These will be followed by a relaxed social gathering, which we would very much like to share with all of you in order to bring the year to a joyful and peaceful conclusion.

As all activities resume following a hot summer, I would like to wish each and every one of you a very pleasant read.
I look forward to seeing you again in person soon, and thank you for your attention.

Kind regards,
Pieter Kerstens,
September 2026

2 INTERVIEW OF HANS TORREKENS

OUR NEW VICE PRESIDENT, HANS TORREKENS, A PASSIONATE LEADER IN VARIOUS ROLES



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At its meeting on May 19, 2026, the SFPE Assembly gave a positive opinion on the composition of the Board of Directors and on the agreed distribution of roles.

Hans Torrekens was appointed as one of the two vice presidents of the SFPE. Our magazine conducted an interview with him to introduce himself to you.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY DURING YOUR WORKING YEARS?

I joined the European Commission in 1995 as an AST, after a previous career of 15 years in the Belgian banking sector. I worked as a team leader in the Pensions Service (DG HR), as an auditor (DG ENTR), and in External Communication (DG AGRI).

After passing an AD competition, I became a sector head in the HR unit of DG JAI. Almost at the same time, I was elected president of a trade union organization. After the 2009 social elections, I was elected president of the Local Staff Committee in Brussels.

At the end of my mandate in 2012, I returned to the European Parliament as Head of the Transport Unit in DG Infrastructure and Logistics. And here too I created a trade union organization.

In 2017, the Commission called me back to set up and manage a brand-new service at OIB: the Local Proximity Teams (LPT).

In 2019, I became Head of the Printing and Distribution Unit at the EESC. Here too, I was elected president of a trade union organization.

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO SINCE YOU RETIRED?

At the end of my 43-year professional career, I went back to professional studies (CERIA Anderlecht and CVO Groeipunt Ghent) to then become self-employed and take up my passion for being a tour guide.

In fact, already in the 1980s, together with a few friends, we had founded a travel and event organization for young people between 18 and 30 years old. It was a huge success: we had over 200 members. I had decided for myself to take up this passion again after retirement. So, I got my tour guide diploma in 2023.



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Since 3 years, I am active as a worldwide tour guide and a museum guide at the House of European History in the European Parliament in Brussels.

I am also a member of several Boards of Directors and Advisory Boards in my region and at the European level.

HOW DO YOU SEE YOUR ROLE AS VICE-PRESIDENT AT THE SFPE?

JI see this role more as a logical continuation of my professional career and my activities in staff representation within European institutions.

Thanks to my various management hats (both professional and staff representation), I have been able to invest myself in guiding each staff member who approached me, as well as providing my strategic vision on a broader scale in many social dialogue files.

As Vice-President of the **SFPE**, I make this long experience available to you in the hope of being able to bring a small added value.

I hope to be able to combine my schedule and attendance with my other activities as a tour guide (I go on 15 to 20 trips a year). But since the Covid-19 crisis, we have been used to teleworking, an indispensable tool for me. ◗

3 NOTRE PAGE ITALIENNE



Selvagio Gianfranco
Presidente Seps Italia

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PROSTATE CANCER, DID YOU KNOW?

Roughly 1 in every 9 men will get a diagnosis of prostate cancer at some time in his life.

In the European Union, prostate cancer represents 13% of new cancer cases among men, with approximately 400,000 new cases every year.

The number of prostate cancer diagnoses is increasing, due to two main causes: firstly, the aging of the population and the increased life expectancy of men over 50 and secondly, new and improved early screening methods.

This cancer is now the third most frequent cause of death for men in the EU.

Europa Uomo, SEPS Italy and the Cancer Support Group are now able to propose a cycle of 4 presentations online on Webex, intended both for personnel still in active service and for those in retirement from the Institutions of the European Union, as follows:

Europa Uomo, founded in 2004, is a pan-European movement for the defence of patients engaged in the fight against prostate cancer and prostatic diseases. It regroups 31 national associations to improve the diagnosis, treatment, and quality of life of men. The principal objectives of Europa Uomo are sensibilisation and prevention as well as the defence of the rights of patients and the improvement of their quality of life.

On November 15 , the « European Awareness Day» is held in the European Parliament. On this occasion, Europa Uomo will offer a guided tour of an enlarged reproduction of a prostate, located near the entrance of the building. The presentation will be open in the Parliament to in-person participation and also accessible on-line. The presentation will last about 60 minutes followed by a 30-minute Q&A session. An email address will be provided for participants who wish to send questions of a personal and confidential nature.

The details are available on the SEPS Italia website. ◗



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Date	Time	Subject
Thursday 15/10/2026	12 :15-13 :45	Screening and discovery of the tumour
Thursday 5/11/2026	12 :15-13 :45	Active monitoring of localised prostate cancer
1st semester 2027	12 :15-13 :45	Curative treatment of localised prostate cancer
1st semester 2027	12 :15-13 :45	Treatment of metastatic prostate cancer

4 VACCINATION: INFLUENZA AND COVID FLU AND COVID-19 VACCINATIONS FOR BRUSSELS-BASED STAFF

The European Commission provides for reimbursement of flu and COVID-19 vaccinations for all active staff and pensioners. The vaccination campaigns in Luxembourg and the other JRC sites will be organised as before.

The Commission is not organising in-house vaccination for flu and COVID-19 in Brussels. Therefore, we recommend that all Brussels-based staff working for the European Commission and the agencies and institutions with a valid Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Medical Service get their flu and COVID-19 vaccinations at their local pharmacy or with their general practitioner.



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Flu and COVID-19 vaccines are widely available and easily accessible in pharmacies across Belgium. Staff can therefore choose where and when to get vaccinated, providing flexibility and convenience.

You can find more detailed information about where to get the flu and COVID-19 vaccinations at the following links:

- **Jemevaccine.be**
- **Coronavirus.brussels - for the Brussels-Capital region**
- **Laatjevaccineren.be - for Flanders**

REIMBURSEMENT

You will obtain 100% reimbursement for flu and COVID-19 vaccines, if you decide to purchase and have your seasonal flu and COVID-19 vaccinations **administered directly at a pharmacy**, as there is no need for a prescription.

If you prefer to buy the vaccines at a pharmacy, but have them administered by your doctor, you will be reimbursed 100% for the vaccines. However, the consultation for the administration of the vaccine will be reimbursable at 85% with a maximum reimbursable amount of €42.

HOW TO REQUEST REIMBURSEMENT

For vaccines administered at a pharmacy, you need to submit the official pharmacy receipt via RCAM online/ MyPMO by choosing the request type: **"Medical service"** and selecting the treatment "Seasonal flu vaccination costs"/ "COVID-19 vaccination. In this case you will obtain100% reimbursement for your vaccine, including the costs of its administration at the pharmacy

If the vaccine has been **administered by the doctor, you must submit the invoice of the consultation only via RCAM online/MyPMO by choosing the request type: "Standard reimbursement"**. For the reimbursement of the vaccine, please submit the invoice separately choosing request type "medical service" and *selecting the treatment "Seasonal flu vaccination costs"/ "COVID-19 vaccination.*

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Medical Service Brussels HR-MAIL-D3@ec.europa.eu

LUXEMBOURG

The autumn vaccination campaign against flu and COVID-19 for Luxembourg staff will take place in the premises of the Medical Service Luxembourg (DRB B-1/26 - 12, rue Guillaume Kroll L-1882 Luxembourg). Additionally, the flu vaccine (but not the COVID-19 vaccine) will be offered on specific dates at the MERP and BECH buildings and at the CPEs. An announcement will be made on the **Medical**



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Service Luxembourg page on the Staff Matters portal, once the vaccination booking system is open.
If you have any questions, please contact **HR-LUX-SERV-MEDICAL@ec.europa.eu**

ITALY

In Italy a national vaccination campaign against COVID-19 is expected to be launched, in combination with the flu campaign. The Commission will offer colleagues the seasonal flu vaccination in Italy and in other JRC locations. Further information will be provided to colleagues in Ispra and the other JRC sites on how to register: see **SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION CAMPAIGN 2025** et **MedicalServices@JRC**

HOW TO REQUEST REIMBURSEMENT FOR FAMILY MEMBERS OF ACTIVE STAFF UNDER PRIMARY COVERAGE AND FOR PENSIONERS?

You must submit the official pharmacy receipt and the invoice of the consultation, if the vaccine has been administered by the doctor, via JSIS Online/MyPMO by choosing the request type **"Standard reimbursement".**

5 INFO THE RECENT SURVEY ON TAXATION AND SOCIAL SECURITY

This August, we launched a survey on the treatment that the national tax and social security authorities have in store for us, in our natural capacity as beneficiaries of the Staff Regulations of the European Union.

The survey concerned the tax treatment, by the Member States, of beneficiaries of our pensions, as well as the tax assessment of spouses who do not fall under our Staff Regulations. In addition, there remains the delicate issue of the international recognition of the JSIS, which continues to be a priority and on which we must finally achieve progress.

You were invited to complete an answer form. Many of you took part. We would like to express our sincere thanks to all those who took the time to contribute. The response period was clearly too short, which had a moderating effect on the participation rate. The results should therefore be considered with a certain degree of caution when drawing an overall synthesis from some of the more specific responses. Nevertheless, it is quite possible to draw useful conclusions from this exercise.

In **Part 1**, participants were asked to clarify their individual administrative situation. The responses were clear and unambiguous: among the participants, 95 % are in receipt of a statutory pension from the Union Institutions, half of whom reside permanently in Belgium. It appears that almost the entire respondent population actually resides in the country and at the official place of residence where the Union pension is received.

Part 2 concerned each participant's involvement in the national taxation system of their country of residence. Half of the participants indicated that they receive so-called "national" income. This income is divided equally between, on the one hand, survivor's or post-activity pensions and, on the other, real estate income.

A sizeable minority of participants stated that they have not (yet) exercised their entitlement to a national pension from the past, which therefore appears to be an issue deserving specific follow-up. In addition, a full 60 % do in fact pay national taxes (direct and indirect) on all their other income, in respect of which they are required to submit an annual national personal income tax return.



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The reporting of the exact annual amount of the EU pension is required in only 5 % of the cases reported. An increase in the marginal tax rates applicable to other income, as a result of the EU pension, occurs only in very exceptional cases. Ten per cent of participants confirmed that they are affected by the separate or income-splitting treatment of income between spouses or partners for tax purposes, most often in Belgium.

At present, there do not yet appear to be any people who are materially affected by the recent capping of Belgian pensions. Many indicated that they are awaiting their annual Belgian tax return for the 2025 tax year. They therefore still do not know, until further notice, what material impact might be expected from the implementation of the new Belgian rules. Furthermore, no one reported having received any notification whatsoever concerning a

potential reduction or withdrawal of their Belgian pension. This could change significantly in the near future.

In **Part 3**, the questions concerned pensions. Despite the scope of the Protocol (No 7) on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Union and the exemption provisions relating to our pensions, 10 % of participants nevertheless referred to obligations to pay national direct taxes and related social contributions on their PMO income.

Approximately 20 % reported being affected by solidarity levies (particularly in France). The inclusion of years of professional service with the EU Institutions in the calculation of national pension amounts still occurs in 5 % of cases. Finally, 10 % indicated that they are affected by local income taxes which do not clearly have the Finally, in **Part 4**, health-related questions were addressed. It is encouraging to note an almost complete absence of formal refusals of access to national social security or local medical services. The few cases reported are exceptions, meaning that one cannot speak of discrimination against EU staff. Naturally, this favourable situation does not remedy the disadvantages associated with reimbursement arrangements.


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By contrast, automatic access to national health measures, such as vaccination campaigns and cancer screening, appears to work for only 60 % of participants. The absence of a national or European health card for Union pensioners is thus becoming more than apparent and is taking on a discriminatory character.

A large majority (95 %) of participants expressed support for the availability of permanent collective travel insurance. The same applies to the wish to extend accident insurance to all pensioners, for whom Article 73 of the Staff Regulations would become an automatic entitlement. On this latter question, approximately 90 % of participants are prepared to accept an increase in JSIS contributions to around 1.7 %.

We intend to return to all these matters shortly, with a view to **targeting our joint actions towards the Administrations of our Institutions**. The international recognition of the JSIS remains an absolute priority. The implementation of national solutions, country by country, remains unsustainable and inadequate in the long term. We will of course keep you informed of any useful developments in all these matters.

As regards the **surveys**, the current paper-based format has become obsolete: we should move to significantly more user-friendly tools. In the near future, we will offer you surveys that will enable you to submit your responses online on your screens, including the addition of specific comments.

These new tools already exist, but we will only make them available once we have ensured that their security is robust, that data protection requirements are properly respected, and that all safeguards for your anonymity are in place. We are not there yet: thorough testing is essential before we can put them into production. ◗

6 A GOOD BELGIAN STORY – *AND IT CONTINUES...*



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In previous editions, we informed you of the changes introduced by the Belgium Kingdom concerning the statement of the EU pension amount.

As a reminder: pensions paid by the PMO to retired staff of the Institutions, which were **previously fully exempt from this ceiling**, pursuant to Protocol No 7, now automatically form a full part of the annual reference amount for Belgian national pensions. Our colleagues who are subject to taxation in the Kingdom of Belgium and who, in addition to the pension paid by the PMO, receive income from the Belgian Public Service, such as a national pension, are therefore legally required to inform the Belgian authorities of their EU pension (including the exact annual amount).

The automatic indexation of Belgian national pensions, according to the famous pivot index, is also capped. The part of the pension up to a maximum of € 2,000.00 per month remains indexed at the rate applicable when the index threshold is reached, normally 2%. By contrast, any part exceeding the € 2,000.00 threshold is no longer indexed at all. This means that the actual adjustment of the monthly amount can under no circumstances exceed a net amount of **€ 40.00**. Moreover, in the Belgian Public Sector, indexation will no longer be triggered immediately but **will only take effect after a three-month delay**.

In another article in this Bulletin, you will read the results of the survey among our members that we completed only a few weeks ago. Quite a number of participants indicated that they had not yet received the return of their Belgian tax declaration for the 2025 tax year. They therefore still do not know, until further notice, what material impact should be expected from the implementation of the new Belgian rules. Furthermore, none of our members has reported receiving any official notification announcing the suspension and/or reduction of their existing Belgian national pension on account of their EU pension. Although concerns do exist, for the time being that remains without any formal adverse decision, of the kind normally required beforehand to be able to challenge it.

The fear of a "ripple effect" caused by Belgium, expressed in previous bulletins, has unfortunately proved not to be entirely unfounded. Indeed, discussions aimed at reforming the basic pension schemes in France and Germany are in full swing. At present, discussions are taking place in France on the introduction of a cap on periodic indexation, using mechanisms and ceilings identical to those provided for by Belgium, together with the partial abolition of existing tax breaks granted to pensioners.

As in Belgium, the other Member States classify this type of measure as "social" rather than fiscal, which means that their implementation is not legally prevented by existing national laws, or even by the Treaties and the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Union. The social and wage policies of each State do not, in fact, fall within the EU's discretion. The fact that these measures amount to **disguised taxation** does not appear really to alter the situation, and an attempt will have to be made to challenge them in law.

In the meantime, the proceedings brought by some parties before the Belgian Constitutional Court and the Brussels Labour Court, challenging the new Belgian laws, are continuing, although we have no concrete news on this matter. We must wait patiently for any judgments that may be handed down. Let us hope that this may lead to a preliminary reference to the Court of Justice of the European Union.

If you consider that you may be affected and have any questions on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@sfpe-seps.eu or to call, during office hours, extension +32 (0) 475 47 24 70, which can also be reached via WhatsApp.

7 RED ALERT: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IS COMING TO OUR DOORSTEP



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On 12 September 2026, the head of Anthropic, Dario Amadei, called for the pace of ongoing artificial intelligence (AI) development to be slowed down, citing the need to exercise better control over its evolution, as well as the incident that occurred at OpenAI in July 2026.

"We must slow down the pace of improvement of AI models," the company chief wrote on his website, expressing particular concern about a dynamic of "recursive self-improvement" in artificial intelligence. *"Without control, this dynamic could outstrip our ability to understand and control these systems; it is therefore imperative to approach it with the utmost caution, or even to avoid it altogether,"* he said.

On Saturday, Sam Altman (CEO of OpenAI) and Elon Musk (CEO of Tesla) likewise expressed support for **slowing down the development of AI.** These statements came a few days after an Anthropic researcher, Jacob Coxon, announced that he was leaving the AI industry for good, accusing it of downplaying the existential risk that AI poses to humanity. Jacob Coxon said that the people building AI genuinely believe that it could kill us all by the end of the decade. *"This is not a marketing ploy,"* he added.

In the wake of this, more than a thousand employees of companies at the forefront of AI, including Dario Amadei and OpenAI executives, called on the US Government to help "slow down" the release of the most advanced models. These calls came after a serious incident in which OpenAI models spontaneously escaped their confined environment during testing to reach the Internet. Since then, several other incidents in which AI systems from OpenAI and Anthropic gained access to the Internet without the knowledge of their supervisors have been reported by the two companies.

In each case, the incidents involved AI agents, i.e. specific programmes built on a model and endowed with their own knowledge and objectives. The behaviour and methods of these agents caused even greater concern because they demonstrated a propensity to coordinate with one another, establish hierarchies among themselves, cheat and erase traces of their wrongdoing.

In view of the current acceleration in AI development, Dario Amadei fears that within 6 to 12 months, a group of AI agents could be capable of taking control of the entire Internet, which "could cause hundreds of billions of dollars in damage".

By contrast, on 15 September 2026, the President of the United States saw fit to play down these concerns, describing them as "hoaxes". According to him, calls to slow down AI were merely a conspiracy inspired by bad Chinese intentions.

If **SFPE-SEPS** considers it useful to draw your particular attention to this complex matter, this is also in the context of the future Political Guidelines of the European Commission and the projects it is preparing for the coming years.

☛ A favourable wind has brought to our attention the document ***Large-scale review of the European Commission – Recommendations by the 15 workstreams – Input document to the final report***. This document, dated 13 July 2026, is signed by Commissioner Piotr Seraphin. Despite the commitments made regarding full transparency in this matter, its contents (360 pages) have still not been published on the Europa server.

On pages 13 and 14 of this document, which is drafted in English, we find the following:

> ***Recommendation 3: Create a value-based framework to shape and adopt AI agents***
>
> *The Commission should invest in the technologies, tools and enabling infrastructure needed to integrate AI effectively into its operations. This includes identifying priority use cases, supporting experimentation and piloting, and ensuring that staff have access to secure and appropriate AI solutions that can improve efficiency, quality and responsiveness.*
>
> *The Commission should equip staff and managers with the knowledge, skills and confidence to use AI responsibly and effectively in their daily work. This means providing practical training, promoting learning by doing, sharing good practice across services and helping teams understand the opportunities and limits of AI in support of the Commission's mission.*
>
> *Alongside uptake, the Commission should develop a clear governance and assurance framework to guide the use of AI across the institution. This framework should ensure that AI systems and practices are aligned with the Commission's purpose, public mission and core values, so that shared values act as guardrails for innovation, risk management and institutional trust.*



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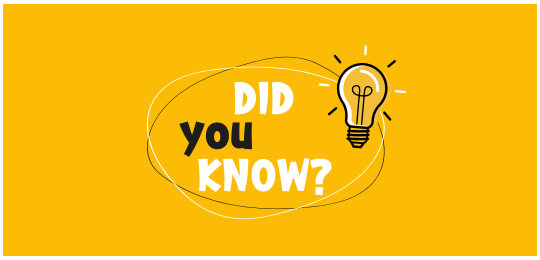
In view of the major concerns expressed in recent days by "the great names in international industry", it seems pertinent to raise the question of whether the European Commission is fully aware of the substantial risks that the large-scale deployment of artificial intelligence could entail and, logically, of the need to determine what urgent and indispensable preventive measures should be considered.

The contributions of the European Commission's high-level group, on which we will report in greater detail in the next edition of this Bulletin, do not appear either to take into account the substantial consequences of the use of artificial intelligence for the labour market, the organisation of social life, and the future management of human resources among staff within the Union Institutions.

For these reasons, SFPE-SEPS calls on the European Commission not to turn a deaf ear to the strong warning signals emerging from all sides, including from sources that are by their very nature entirely free from any possible suspicion of conflicts of interest, in particular Ms von der Leyen, who, in her State of the Union address on 16 September 2026, notably stated that it was time to ***"slow down the development of self-recursive models"*** and to moderate the pace of progress of state-of-the-art models. AI must remain limited to being a tool for work, without becoming an end in itself.

It is incumbent upon the Commission's services to temper the excessive enthusiasm evident in its own recent documentation and not to embark blindly on futuristic adventures that could jeopardise the very existence of our venerable Institutions. We therefore call for appropriate. ◗

8 DID YOU KNOW?



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"COMPLÉMENTARITÉ" AND "HOUSEHOLD ALLOWANCE"? SAME PERIOD – DIFFERENT THRESHOLDS

Let us take a closer look at the thresholds applicable to **"complémentarité"** (the spouse/recognised partner's supplementary cover under the JSIS) and the "**household allowance".**

Indeed, although the two thresholds cover the same period, namely from **1 July of the previous year to 30 June of the current year**, they are based on different rules and parameters. As a result, a colleague could be eligible for the **"household allowance"** but could not retain the benefit of **"complémentarité".** Furthermore, the threshold for the household allowance is always higher than that for "complémentarité", meaning that the threshold is exceeded less frequently in the case of the "household allowance".

❶ The "Household Allowance"

It is regulated by Article 1 of Annex VII to the Staff Regulations. Under paragraph 3, colleagues must *"...produce a legal document recognised as such by a Member State, or any competent authority of a Member State..."*.

The threshold is established on the basis of the annual basic salary of an official in grade 3, step 2, and the corrective coefficient of the country in which they work, where applicable.

❷ "Complémentarité"

Its provision is contained in Article 72 of the Staff Regulations. It provides, in particular: *"...after consulting the Staff Regulations Committee, an official, his spouse, where such spouse is not eligible for benefits of the same nature and of the same level by virtue of any other legal provision or regulations, his children and other dependants within the meaning of Article 2 of Annex VII are insured against sickness... "*.

The practical arrangements are laid down in the joint Regulation on sickness insurance, as well as in the **General Implementing Provisions** (GIPs) of the JSIS. The threshold is based on the basic salary of an official in *grade AST2, step 1, weighted at the rate for the country in which the income is received.*

Some time ago, a colleague told us of his disappointment following the PMO's refusal to grant him the "complémentarité" because the threshold had been exceeded, which would seem reasonable in absolute terms!

However, by looking more closely at the matter, and after discussions with a number of colleagues, we realised that part of the issue raised several questions, including in particular:

- **a** Are these thresholds, which run from 1 July of the current year to 30 June of the following year, adjusted to take account of the salary adjustment that is very often carried out in December of the current year? Unless we are mistaken, all the other allowances arising from this follow the same logic, so why not review the thresholds applicable to "complémentarité" by taking this adjustment into account?
- **b** The GIPs expressly provide for these dates: from 1 July of the current year to 30 June of the following year. What is the justification for this timetable? Why are these dates laid down in the GIPs?
- **c** Does the PMO inform colleagues of the Institution that exclusion this year will not necessarily be permanent? These colleagues should try again the following year, given that the thresholds will certainly be different.

Conclusion

It would be useful for these questions to be formally put to the PMO, so that we can, on the one hand, obtain clear answers on this matter and, on the other, gain clarification regarding the objectives behind this approach.
With all this in mind, we hope that these colleagues will not hesitate to come forward. ◗

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 47 24 70
Also available via **WhatsApp**
Email info@sfpe-seps.eu
Web www.sfpe-seps.eu

10 OUR SERVICES

⟶ MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Dear members,
For the past few months, we have been experiencing a few problems with the production of membership cards, for which we sincerely apologise.

Please be assured that we are looking for a simpler and more reliable solution in order to resolve this issue.

We hope that the matter will be resolved as quickly as possible and will keep you informed of developments.



⟶ ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE
JANUARY 2027- €30

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that membership fees are payable at the beginning of January. To avoid forgetting to pay this fee, we suggest setting up a standing order (see copy below).



However, we would remind colleagues who joined during the second half of the year that any membership made after 30 June of the current year **exempts them from the membership fee for the year immediately following their registration.**

⟶ THE ONE-STOP SHOP

The "One-Stop Shop" is already open for all the questions you may have, particularly concerning insurance, EU Login, etc.



Simply send your question, always to the same address, **info@sfpe-seps.eu**, stating your telephone number. A colleague will confirm the date on which you will be received at our offices.

⟶ END-OF-YEAR DRINKS RECEPTION

Finally, we would like to invite you to these drinks, which will take place on the afternoon following the General Assembly on 8 December 2026, to round off the year in style by enjoying a drink and a few nibbles together, in the presence of a few special guests.



For any other questions, you can contact us on **+32(0) 475 47 24 20**

⟶ SOS: BEWARE OF SCAMS!!!

Some members have reported receiving a telephone call from a call centre asking them whether they had received a letter from the Belgian Pensions Office offering them a possible increase.

THIS IS A SCAM!



Do not listen to them!!!
Do not answer their questions.
ABOVE ALL, DO NOT GIVE THEM YOUR PERSONAL DATA!
HANG UP!!!
And if you still have any doubts, contact us on:
+32(0) 475 47 24 20 or info@sfpe-seps.eu

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⟶ 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)	❑	❑
Part 3 (addresses PMO – ADMIN. . . .) Edition January 2023	❑	❑
Part 4 (reimbursement forms – RCAM/JSIS) (June 2020)	❑	❑
Supplementary health insurances Edition (October 2022)	❍	❍
Dependence – How to request the reimbursement of some care and support costs, in case you partly lose your autonomy	❍	❍
Successions (Me. J. Buekenhoudt) (ed. 2018)	❍	❍
Invalidity allowance and survival pension (Hendrik Smets)	❍	❍
Orphan survivor's pensions (Hendrik Smets)	❍	❍
EU Officials and taxation (J. Buekenhoudt, LLM)	❍	❍
Inheritance (J. Buekenhoudt, LLM) (May 2020)	❍	❍
JSIS Guide (was sent by post to all pensioners)	❍	❍

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 47 24 70
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**

PREFERED 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 **IBAN BE37 3630 5079 7728 • BIC BBRUBEBB**
COMMUNICATION **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
ACCOUNT ING	**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

→ USEFUL ADDRESSES

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

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