



Kristalina Georgieva

Vice-president
Budget and Human Resources

Brussels, 14. 03. 2016
DC/yw A(16)449561 – S(16) 795223

Dear President,

I thank you for your letter of 27 January 2016 which you sent as a follow up to our interesting discussion last May. I can reassure you of my deep interest and constant care for the situation of pensioners from the EU institutions and, particularly, about improving our relations and communication.

With regard to the PMO, my services looked carefully at your proposal to create a dedicated "Single Settlements Office for Pensioners". It is certainly a suggestion that feeds into certain initiatives that PMO has already undertaken or would be likely to develop in the near future such as the existing welcome office for pensioners. At the same time, the most efficient way to deal with medical claims and administrative matters is based on a thorough understanding of the specificities of the Member State (MS) from which they originate. In this regard, the PMO has different sectors that specialise in each MS codes and systems used. The most appropriate way to improve their service is likely to make sure that the pensioners issues in a specific country are clearly understood by the PMO sector specialised in this MS, including through the intermediation of national AIACE sections. The Commission's services, and the PMO in particular, are fully open to cooperate with your Association on this issue (DG HR.D.1, Mr Koen Binon, koen.binon@ec.europa.eu / PMO Pension, Mr Giuseppe Scognamiglio, Giuseppe.scognamiglio@ec.europa.eu / PMO RCAM, Mr Bruno Fetelian, bruno.fetelian@ec.europa.eu).

Another topic of your letter concerns our pension scheme. In early 2015 the Council requested an update of the 2010 Eurostat study on the long-term budgetary implications of pension costs following the 2013 review of the Staff Regulations. Eurostat, working in cooperation with DG HR, is now in the process of finalising the draft study. This is taking place in the expectation of the adoption of a report by the College in the coming months. While the study does not fall under the scope of Article 3 of the framework agreement between the Commission and AIACE, in a spirit of transparency my services will inform you once the preparatory phase comes to an end as it was done for the last study in 2009. I understand that the AIACE has already been kept informed since a presentation was given in the "Groupe Technique Rémunérations" where AIACE is represented.

Mr Bernhard ZEPTER
President of AIACE International
SC 29 02/04



As you say, the question of our statutory pension scheme can cause considerable concern especially when some media deliberately misrepresent the real situation. I can reassure you that, thanks to the already implemented reforms to balance the budget costs, the current pension scheme is protected and is no longer called into question. Considering the importance that I attach to the partnership with your Association and particularly the invaluable expertise of some of your members, I would be happy to receive your analysis of the situation and to have the opportunity to discuss these issues with you in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Georgieva', written in a cursive style.

Kristalina Georgieva