



Renouveau & Démocratie

Trade union of the European institutions



Brussels, on 4th of December 2009

COREPER has deferred discussion on SALARY INDEXATION for 2009

R&D supports the Commission proposal for a 3.7% adjustment

Colleagues from the Council have just announced a possible strike!

COREPER has postponed until Wednesday 9 December discussion on the indexation of our salaries according to the objective method provided for in Annex XI to the Staff Regulation, as calculated by Eurostat. The Commission, supported by all the trade unions, firmly defends this proposal.

What are the political issues?

Our colleagues from the Council have just announced a strike notice. Given the large work load before the end of the year, the workings of the Council would be seriously hampered without its administrative infrastructure.

Thus, if the Council nevertheless persists in not adopting the Commission proposal, as is its legal duty, this would lead to a major inter-institutional crisis, at a point in time when important legal and organisational changes have to be implemented following the recent entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon.

Member States hope to base their attack against the purchasing power of our salaries on an article in the Staff Regulation (see below) which refers to exceptional measures under exceptional circumstances. However, this clause cannot be invoked by the Council. Instead, this would again require a Commission initiative. Such a scenario is highly unlikely at present.

For your information:

Text of Article 10 of Annex XI to the Staff Regulations:

If there is a serious and sudden deterioration in the economic and social situation within the Community, assessed in the light of objective data supplied for this purpose by the Commission, the latter (meaning the Commission!) shall submit appropriate proposals on which the Council shall act in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 283 of the EC Treaty.

R&D Council and Commission stand ready to take suitable action if the Council does not fulfil its legal obligation and risks a major crisis.

R&D as the leading Commission and Council trade union continues defending the principle of an objective and statutory method for salary adjustment in 2009