

We met with M. ÖTTINGER

Luxembourg, 10/10/2019

At the meeting on 24 September in Brussels with Mr Öttinger, Union Syndicale Fédérale asked the Commissioner Öttinger to meet specifically with the representatives of Luxembourg staff in order to discuss local problems.

This was done on 9 October: Commissioner Öttinger met with the Trade Unions in Luxembourg.

Union Syndicale Fédérale Luxembourg thanked the Commissioner for a successful agenda. The USF Luxembourg used the opportunity to ask him to inform the next Commissioner responsible for Staff - Joahnes Hahn – of the specific problems in Luxembourg, particularly on the cost of living and the attractiveness of the site.

1- Cost of living in Luxembourg: A lengthy discussion took place on the weighting and the cost of living in Luxembourg.

It is obvious that the differential between Brussels and Luxembourg is growing. A few months ago, the Luxembourg Government had asked the Commission to carry out a study on this issue, which would be made available to the Staff Representation at the request of the USF Luxembourg. However, no study needs to be carried out to find that the cause of this differential is the housing cost.

Contrary to what is expressed by a Union, a weighting coefficient for Luxembourg requires that the Staff Regulation is opened to amend its statutory provisions. Union Syndicale is firmly opposed to the reopening of the Staff Regulation, as Member States do not make any secret of their desire to reduce the budget allocated to Staff and the operational costs of the Institution.

Moreover, the Luxembourg Government has never formally requested a weighting coefficient. The same trade Union also lies to staff: Why?

USF Luxembourg has proposed to the Commissioner the creation of a ‘housing allowance’ which does not require to amend the Staff Regulation and which also has the advantage of allowing adaptations of each member of staff specific family situations.

2- Contract agents: Union Syndicale Fédérale Luxembourg has proposed the establishment of regular “screening” for contract staff to improve their career prospects.

The Commissioner showed interest to our proposal and has highlighted the need to improve the arrangements for implementing this exercise.

USF Luxembourg will inform you of further developments in these files.

Contacting USF Luxembourg is not just contacting an Union; it’s having access to expertise, a follow up, a daily availability

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