



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**STAT 9
FIN 219**

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

from: Council Secretariat

to: Delegations

No. prev. doc. 6258/12 STAT 2 FIN 78

Subject: Outcome of proceedings of the Working Party on the Staff Regulations
- Report from the Commission to the Council on the Pension Scheme of European
Officials and Other Servants of the European Union

1. The "*Report from the Commission to the Council on the Pension Scheme of European Officials and Other Servants of the European Union*" (6258/12 STAT 2 FIN 78, hereafter "the report") was received on 7 February 2012. It is the Commission's response to the requests included in the Council conclusions adopted on 18 January 2011 (18250/10 STAT 48 FIN 769).
2. The Working Party on the Staff Regulations (hereafter "the Working Party") examined the report at its meetings on 15 and 16 February 2012, on 6 and 7 March 2012 and 20 March 2012.

3. At the meeting on 15 and 16 February 2012, delegations were invited to submit written questions to be put to the Commission, and those requests were collated in DS 1165/12. The answers provided by the Commission were set out in DS 1161/12.

4. When presenting the report, the Commission stated that it was based on the answers to a questionnaire provided by 26 of the 27 delegations. In the course of the discussion, the Commission also said that a comparison between the level of pensions provided on the basis of the PSEO and the level of pensions provided under national pension systems had not been requested, and that was why the report did not cover that aspect. It further indicated that the comparison did not cover a comparison with the pension systems of other international organisations (which would in fact have been the adequate standard of comparison) for the same reason.

5. The main message from delegations was that they did not agree with the Commission's conclusion that "*The PSEO is either in line or even compares less favourably (by granting lower entitlements) with the schemes of Member States as regards the accrual rate, the basis for pensions, the maximum possible pension rate and the staff contribution rate*" as they were of the opinion that the report suffered from methodological errors.

6. Delegations thus stressed that a comparison between the PSEO and the pension systems in Member States would have to take into account the differences in the absolute level of pensions and salaries.

7. Delegations also stressed a methodological discrepancy arising from the fact that the report included a comparison between the proposed changes in the PSEO with the situation in Member States in the autumn of 2010¹, whereas national pension systems had subsequently been modified. Moreover, the information provided by the delegations on the basis of the questionnaire did not reflect the national systems in sufficient detail. As a result, the comparison was limited to certain aspects only, and that affected the conclusions presented in the report.

8. Some delegations also indicated that not all the figures in the report were in line with the reality in their respective countries, particularly because changes had been made in recent months.

¹ Answers were due on 30 September 2010.