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INFORMATION NOTE

From: Legal Service
To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)
Subject: Case before the General Court of the European Union
- Case T-531/14, Sotiropoulou and Others v. European Union and Council of the European Union

1. By application notified to the Council on 22 August 2014, the applicants - natural persons resident in Greece who have retired and receive pensions in Greece - have brought an action against the European Union and the Council of the European Union pursuant to Article 340, second paragraph TFEU, seeking compensation for damages allegedly suffered by them because of the drastic reduction of the amount of their pensions supposedly caused by acts of the defendant related to the 2010 bail-out programme on Greece and namely, Council Decision 2010/320/EU¹ - as amended by Council Decisions 2010/486/EU², 2011/57/EU³ and 2011/257/EU⁴ - and Council Decision 2011/734/EU⁵ (which is a recast of Council Decision 2010/320/EU) - as amended by Council Decisions 2011/791/EU⁶, 2012/211/EU⁷ and 2013/6/EU⁸.

1 OJ L 145, 11.6.2010, p. 6.
2 OJ L 241, 14.9.2010, p. 12.
3 OJ L 26, 29.1.2011, p. 15.
4 OJ L 110, 29.4.2011, p. 26.
5 OJ L 296, 15.11.2011, p. 38.
6 OJ L 320, 3.12.2011, p. 28.
7 OJ L 113, 25.4.2012, p. 8.
8 OJ L 4, 9.1.2013, p. 40.

2. The applicants invoke that all the conditions for the non-contractual liability of the Union to be established are met. In particular, they maintain that the above decisions of the defendant related to the Greek bail-out programme are unlawful, as they violate the principles of conferral of powers and subsidiarity and the fundamental rights of the applicants enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and more precisely, their right to human dignity, their right as elderly persons to lead a life of dignity and independence and their entitlement to social security benefits and social services providing protection in cases such as old age, as enshrined directly in Articles 1, 25 and 34 of the Charter.
3. In accordance with Article 46(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Court, the Council has to lodge its statement of defence within two months of receipt of the notification of the application.
4. The Director-General of the Council Legal Service has appointed Mr Alberto DE GREGORIO MERINO and Ms Evgenia CHATZIIOAKEIMIDOU, legal advisers in the Council Legal Service, as the Council's agents in this case.
