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Staff Pension Contributions to increase to 10.25%

Staff have seen their pension contributions rise again and again in recent years, and there is now a proposal to further increase staff contributions to 10.25% as from 1.7.2005.

This represents an increase in contributions of over 25% in the last three years, despite the fact that a year's contributions are now worth only 1.9% of final salary, in place of 2%, or a reduction of 5% in value.

This far outweighs any increase in country coefficient for pensioners in countries with a coefficient less than 100, and adds further insult to financial injury for those in countries with a coefficient over 100, who will see their net payments brought down considerably. (UK pensioners stand to lose over 25%)

In all of the statements and explanations furnished by the Administration to justify this outrageous increase, one element is always left out, which is

The contributions of the Member States did not make for nearly two generations.

The original treaty arrangements specified that the cost of pensions for officials would be that staff should contribute one third, and the Member States the other two thirds.

For over thirty years the Member States not only paid nothing towards our pensions, as contributions from staff more than covered the payments due, but the excess was simply taken back into the general budget.

In other words, they stole our money.

Had the Member States paid their share from the start, our pension fund would today be sufficient to cover all pensions due for the century to come, even leaving staff contributions at the level of 6.25% as it was for the first thirty years of the institutions existence.

The institutions go to great lengths to recruit the brightest and the best, do they imagine we cannot recognize when we are being swindled?

Trevor Jones
Executive Committee, A&D-L

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