

Dear colleagues,

I would like to inform you about the latest developments concerning the review of the Staff Regulations and explain to you the position of the Commission.

This afternoon, [COREPER](#) adopted a mandate for the Council to enter into trilogues with the Parliament and the Commission. The first trilogue will take place on Monday, 13 May.

My participation in this trilogue will be on the basis of the Commission proposal of December 2011. It is important to underline that the Commission proposal remains unchanged and is the basis for the negotiations.

The College confirmed this morning that the Commission continues to defend its proposal as we have done over the last year and a half. The Commission remains convinced that its proposal strikes the right balance. There is the unquestionable need for savings in the current political and economic context which cannot fail to have an impact on the EU administration and its staff. But there are also the needs of the institutions to attract and retain staff of the highest professional competence from all 27 Member States.

The mandate adopted by COREPER (*available on My IntraComm soon*) raises serious political and legal concerns. In its present form it would re-open the conclusions on administrative expenditure reached by the Member States at the [February 2013 European Council](#). Many aspects of the mandate are legally questionable with regard to the protection of acquired rights and legitimate expectations of staff, and the cumulative effect of the measures is simply incompatible with the needs of the institutions. For these reasons, the Commission has made clear in COREPER that the Council position is not acceptable for the Commission and I believe that it won't be acceptable for the European Parliament either.

On Monday, President Barroso met with President Schulz of the European Parliament and Taoiseach Enda Kenny for the Irish Presidency of the Council to pave the way for political negotiations on the [Multiannual Financial Framework \(MFF\)](#). They agreed to not re-open the figures agreed on administrative expenditure and to speed up the negotiations on the Staff Regulations in line with the decisions taken by the European Council in February 2013 as "part and parcel of the MFF package".

The up-coming trilogues should focus on the Commission proposal, the report of the European Parliament's Rapporteur and the European Council conclusions. The Commission sees no need or justification to open other issues.

The College mandated me, this morning, to continue contacts with the Parliament and the Council with the aim of reaching an agreement. I welcome the start of political level negotiations and hope they can be concluded quickly. I will defend the Commission's proposal, bearing in mind the possibility the Commission always has to withdraw a proposal if it is substantially denatured.

I will keep you informed as the negotiations progress. Further updates will appear on the Staff Regulations site on [My IntraComm](#), where you can also contribute your own questions and comments via the [dedicated forum](#).

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