



Brussels, 28th March 2019

**NOTE TO THE ATTENTION OF MR GÜNTHER OETTINGER
EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR BUDGET & HUMAN RESOURCES**

Subject: In defence of EU staff

Dear Mrs OETTINGER,

At this moment in time when the spread of distorted and manipulated information seems to emanate from even the most inconspicuous sources, the staff association Generation 2004 would like to show its appreciation for your stance to clarify the status of taxes paid by EU officials. Thank you very much indeed for stepping up and coming out in the defence of the EU Civil Service and for setting the record straight in your reply letter to Mrs. KRAMP-KARRENBAUER's recent op-ed *Getting Europe right*, where she called for the end of the anachronism of taxation of EU officials.

We would however like to highlight the fact that the 6 to 7% special solidarity levy is not applied to retirement pensions, which in our opinion constitutes an unfair practice towards colleagues who have been strained by this levy for now more than 5 years. This is so despite the fact that many of our pensioners, most of whom were recruited before 2004, receive pensions that are higher than the salaries of comparable active-service colleagues, most of whom were recruited after 2004. If the special solidarity levy had been applied to staff and pensioners alike and had it taken greater account of resiliency of the persons concerned, its average value could have been set significantly lower. Not only would this have benefited the lower grades and contract staff in particular, but also and above all, it would have been in fact real solidarity, perhaps for the first time.

Yours faithfully,

Pascal LE GRAND
Chair of Generation 2004 adf

Cc: - Mr Laurent Duluc, Team Leader HR E.1
- Mr Marco Umberto Moricca, Director HR E
- Ms Irene Souka, Director General Human Resources and Security