



***Info for members
 January - February 2002***

**SFE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
 of 28 January 2002**

Approximately 40 members had accepted the invitation. The President, J. Vanhellemont, opened the meeting by commenting on the annual report (which had been mailed to members) of the outgoing executive committee. Some members took the opportunity to address the meeting, mainly to thank all the negotiators who had negotiated the reform.

This annual report was approved unanimously by the members present.

The political secretary then commented on the principal dossiers currently being treated: it is mainly the transition to the new status which is currently being discussed with the Commission.

The Status Committee has also started work with a view to studying all the amendments to the status in the framework of the reform. The next stage will be to submit the reform dossier to the Council. It is at that stage that the memorandum of agreement of 30 October 2001 between the Commission and the two trade union families, the Confederation and U.S.F., will enter into force.

The next item was the financial report, which was also approved unanimously by the members present; the financial controllers had given a full discharge to our treasurer, Ph. Leonet.

The members present approved the setting up of the electoral committee which is made up of Elisabeth Coussiou, Jean Vanden Bloock and Rudy Hautman. The President J. Vanhellemont thanked them warmly for their devotion.

The President then closed the meeting, after having introduced all the candidates in the internal elections (Disputes Committee, financial controllers and Executive Committee).

PREPARATIONS FOR COMPETITIONS

COM/C/1/02 French language Secretary/Typist

COM/C/2/02 German language Secretary/Typist

COM/C/1/01 Assistant clerk "Accounting"

COM/B/1/02 Financial management/Management of Contracts/Programme

In order to provide as much support as possible to help our members succeed in these competitions, we organise specific training reserved for members enrolled for these competitions.

Further information can be obtained from the secretariat.

- Closing date for candidates to enrol for the training programme: 15.02.02

NAME

ADMINISTRATIVE ADDRESS..... Tel.

I am a candidate in the **COM/C/1/02 Secretary/Typist FR** competition

I am a candidate in the **COM/C/2/02 Secretary/Typist D** competition

I am a candidate in the **COM/C/1/01 "accounting"** competition

I am a candidate in the **COM/B/1/02 Financial Management** competition

Depending on the number of participants, separate training courses may be organised.
 One training course for the secretarial competitions
 and the other for the C and B Accounting/Financial Management competitions.

To be returned to the SFE Secretariat L.102 05/20 before 15.02.02



The empty chair policy of R&D, FFPE, TAO/AFI and SFIE

The home straight during which 4 unions dropped out of the race!

For almost two years and right up to the last minute, the SFE participated in all the negotiations on the reform; its objective was to obtain the maximum for all our colleagues. After approximately 200 meetings, we are now in the home straight: the consultation of the statutory representation (the Interinstitutional Status Committee) before the Commission finalises the proposal that it will submit to the Council at the end of April.

That is not the case of the 4 unions and professional organisations (FFPE, TAO/AFI, SFIE and R&D) which preferred, in July 2001, to leave the negotiating table and thus forgo any possibility of making a positive contribution to the amendments to the Commission's initial proposals. We regret their attitude for the colleagues who put their trust in the representatives of those organisations. We are proud to have played our role, even if the conditions imposed by an extremely tight negotiating schedule and the accompanying political pressure, which was at times difficult to bear, did not allow us to obtain all we wanted.

On 31 January 2002, the last day of his authorisation to negotiate the final technical aspects of the proposed transitional provisions (new annex XIII) Vice-President Neil Kinnock held an informal meeting with the OSP, that had signed the memorandum of agreement with the Commission on 30 October 2001.

Despite the technical constraints and the budgetary limits imposed, and the need to work to a very tight schedule, which we had accepted, we succeeded in negotiating amendments concerning the status and the transitional provisions applicable to officials and others servants in place. Mr Kinnock acknowledged that the work of all parties, the representatives of the 2 unions as well as those of the administration, represented a considerable achievement, given the time constraints and the political pressure.

Our negotiators proved themselves very committed in their determination to obtain the current results which have still to be confirmed by a vote of our respective executives (SFE, Solidarité européenne/Commission/Luxembourg and CISL/Ispra).

The Commissioner confirmed that after the consultation of the Interinstitutional Status Committee (first meeting scheduled for Friday, 1 February), the 2 OSP will once again meet the Commission at administrative and technical levels and, if necessary at a political level, to review the texts examined by this Interinstitutional Committee.

As a reminder, please find below the provisional timetable for the procedure for the adoption of the Reform:

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| 1. Status Committee: | 01/02/2002 |
| 2. Proposals to amend the status to the Council: | end 04/2002 |
| 3. The Council's decision on the Reform "package", including the Method: | end 06/2003 |
| 4. Entry into force of the "new" status and the transitional provisions: | 01/01/2004. |

The date of **01.01.2004** corresponds, as planned by the Council, to the accession of the new Member States to the EU.

P.M: The method will no longer apply from 01/07/2003, but we are also negotiating this very important aspect.