

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0216/01
by Wilfried Kuckelkorn (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Expatriation allowance of EU officials

Article 4 of Section 2 of Annex VII of the Staff Regulations applicable to officials of the European Union provides for the payment of an expatriation allowance of 16% of the basic salary.

1. Why should such an allowance exist at all when staff voluntarily decide to become European officials and therefore live abroad?
In addition to that, there are other inconsistencies: the allowance is paid throughout the period of employment and taken into account in the subsequent pension payments in the case of officials who are not nationals of the country in which they are working. However, staff who habitually resided or carried on their main occupation in the territory of the relevant State for a period of five and a half years prior to entering the service of the EU receive an expatriation allowance of only 4%. On the other hand, anyone who was working for an international organisation, i.e. including the European institutions, still receives an allowance of 16%.
2. How can this interpretation of the Staff Regulations or the Staff Regulations themselves be reconciled with the principles of equal treatment established by European case law?
3. Why exactly must the European taxpayer fund this allowance, which amounts to a considerable sum over a longer period and which, in view of the facts outlined above, is evidently not paid to compensate staff for having to adjust to life in a different country?