

Report on the JCB meeting of 19 October 2017

The JCB met this time under the chairmanship of ASG, Executive Management, Mr. Wayne Bush. The joint letter by CNCSC and CNRCSA on his absence in previous meetings and related matters was not discussed. The CNRCSA was as usual represented by the Chair and the Vice-Chair. Because the date for the EXCOM had been set earlier than the JCB date it was not possible to prepare our JCB position in the EXCOM. Given the agenda this posed no problems. Prior to the meeting that started at 09.30 hours we could re-align our position with the CNCSC.

After the administrative agenda points the JCB WG on Medical Insurance Matters was on the agenda. The report of the WG was endorsed and information was given on the 48 hours AWC time limit that cannot be adhered to, resulting from turnover of personnel at AWC. A small daily penalty is incurred, which does not bother AWC. It seems however that the backlog is brought back from 14 days to about a week.

Proposals to amend the CPR to create a DCPS+ were tabled again but not discussed. A new proposal as requested in the last JCB for a defined benefit system based on the 3rd Council of Europe pension scheme was welcomed and will be the subject of a new WG. If copied, it will be cheaper for Nations than the DCPS but will constitute a real pension. The DCPS has failed in this respect.

Another meeting of the WG on Complaints and Appeals will be held prior to the end of the year. The CNCSC will demonstrate that the complaints procedure does not work. We have stated our opinion that pensioners need to revert to the old system in a letter, dated 12 September to ASG/EM, Mr. Bush. Though, there appears to be reluctance in the AP, ASG/EM, Mr. Bush, has stated to the CNCSC to be sympathetic to our common view.

As to the question how to deal with problems related to the claims handling by AWC, the JCB concluded with us that the procedure of article 7 of the AWC contract applies and not the NATO complaints procedure. The text of article 7, until recently not published, is now open to all. We requested a more easy accessible way to find the article on the internet.

A table with deadlines for staff that contest the employers' view that they are fit to work will be the subject of further discussion between management and the CNCSC. It is not really of importance for us.

The SSS, the Single Salary Spine has been approved in the CCR and will be presented to the Council for approval end of year/beginning next year. In the CCR paper it is clearly laid down that the SSS will follow Co-ordinated principles. The SSS will be gradually implemented, first for new entrants. This will take time because of the workload involved.

At the end of the meeting the CNCSC brought some minor issues on the table: There is hope that a separate salary table for Luxemburg can be agreed to next year and the CCR decision to lower the per diem, especially in capitals like Paris and Brussels, was criticized. The JCB cannot do anything in this respect.

The next JCB meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, 13 March 2018.

Hessel Rutten