

STAFF UNION BULLETIN BULLETIN DU SYNDICAT BOLETIN DEL SINDICATO



4 June 2004

News and events - May 2003

Joining the Union: Good results

During the period 1 January and 31 May 2003, 77 colleagues have joined the Staff Union. Four have resigned. Sign-up and Unite!

New and important: Unemployment insurance and international civil servants

An information meeting was held on Wednesday 14 May at 17:15 in Room I on the voluntary scheme of unemployment insurance negotiated by the association for the social protection of international civil servants and the association of French international civil servants. Open to all those from European Union and EFTA member states

SARS

The Union was involved in the discussions concerning Circular Series 6, N°636 on the measures to be taken for the protection of staff against the epidemic. It was similarly involved in formulating provisions to be put in place for the ILC. The sense of individual and collective dignity and responsibility shown by all, following the terrible shock of Pekka Aro's death needs to be underlined. All the staff of the ILO Office Beijing resumed work after a period of 15 days. To our knowledge, there has been no further confirmed or suspected case among staff.

Titularization and personal promotions

Both these annual exercises were scheduled to start at the beginning of May 2003. The Union officials concerned are Renate Meyer and Bertrand Bernaz, assisted, as necessary, by Marleen Rueda-Catry and Jean-Victor Gruat. You should not hesitate to contact them for information or any assistance.

Employment of disabled persons

The informal Working Group coordinated by Azza Taalab finished its work at the end of April 2003. Its conclusions, in the form of preliminary recommendations to be adopted by the ILO as policy on the subject, will soon be submitted to the Joint Negotiation Committee.

Solidarity

May's First-Tuesday-of-the-Month meeting was on solidarity issues, featuring representatives of the Staff Union Assistance Fund (SUAF) together with the Staff Welfare Officer. There will be another SUAF recruitment campaign coming September since the number of requests for help continue to grow, most of them coming from the field.. The last campaign, held in May 2002, enabled the Fund to practically double its contributors, though numbers remain modest (a little over a hundred souls) given the potential total. Meanwhile the SUC is examining the possibility of increasing the Staff Union's contribution to the Fund. How other institutional mechanisms might be put to the test of active solidarity will also be the object of study and eventual proposals – including to the Administration, whose own financial contribution to the various social and welfare activities in the house remains very modest indeed.

Union Rules

A draft reform of Union Rules was submitted to the Electoral Commission at the beginning of May by the drafting group established at the first session of the AGM in January 2003. The results of the ensuing referendum will be presented at this autumn's session.

May Day

A joint SUC and Former Officials' delegation took part in the traditional May Day march in Geneva on 1 May. Other demonstrations of union solidarity were held in a variety of duty stations – from Katmandu to Lima.

The Joint Negotiating Committee

The JNC held its second meeting of this mandate on 8 April. The two parties were asked to examine together the two relevant agreements concerning the resolution of grievances and to start consultations immediately with the users and the different organizations who are involved in the implementation of procedures. It was also agreed to proceed with the re-examination of the facilities given to the representatives of the Staff Union to exercise their functions, taking into account the evolution of measures adopted during the 1980s which are still in force. With respect to the Agreement on a Procedure for Recruitment and Selection, the parties realized that most of the questions to be re-examined in this category would benefit as much from an evaluation of standard practice as from the terms of the collective agreement itself. The Union and HRD will each prepare a synthesis note evaluating existing procedures to be followed. These notes will subsequently be exchanged between the

parties who will then decide on what procedure to follow. Relative progress has also been made concerning the procedures of classification, of just treatment of personnel during budgetary cuts in PUBL, (the co-chairs, Union and Administration together met the Executive Director, in the presence of the Union Steward of PUBL), for the regularization of precarious contracts and the creation of an occupational health and safety service in the ILO. The parties have made a number of joint nominations for joint vacant posts (Review Panel, Independent Review Group [IRG], Joint Panel).
