Report on the EU pension scheme – COM (2023)188 final of 14.4.2023

This report on the actuarial balance of the Pension Scheme and the budgetary implications of Annex XII to the Staff Regulations was adopted by the Commission earlier this month. It follows on from an interim report published at the end of 2018.

The report considers that the actuarial-based rules in place have kept the scheme in balance whilst the Reforms of 2004 and 2014 have achieved significant savings, with more savings in prospect as the structural changes introduced by the reforms progressively take effect. Regarding the idea of creating an actual pension fund as an alternative to the present notional or virtual fund, this is not considered desirable, both for reasons of higher budgetary cost and the risk of exposure to the financial instabilities of the capital markets.

Compared to most of the Member State pension schemes for its own public officials, the EU pension scheme involves a higher pensionable age and a higher level of contributions. However, the reforms have led to challenges for the attractiveness of the institutions, especially in terms of staff recruitment.

In its conclusions to the report, the Commission considers that it is not appropriate, at least at this stage, to propose any amendments to the rules set out for the pension scheme in Annex XII to the Staff Regulations.

The 26-page report contains a great deal of interesting statistical data and analyses. We will be studying the report in detail and expect to discuss its contents with Commission representatives in the coming months.

MC 26/4/2023