

**Ms. Roberta Metsola
President of the European Parliament
European Parliament
Rue Wiertz 60
1047-Ixelles
Belgium**

Brussels, 08 April 2022

Voluntary Pension Fund (VPF)

Dear President,
Dear Roberta,

The voluntary pension fund (VPF) was set up in 1990 to allow Members of the European Parliament to acquire complementary pension rights in addition to national pension rights or to get pension rights if a Member State did not grant any pension rights. Some Members are entitled to the additional pension rights on top of their regular pension rights, which were newly created in the Members Statute after 2009. Payments into the voluntary pension fund were divided, with Members paying 1/3 and Parliament paying 2/3 of the contributions. The scheme closed in 2009 for new admissions. Due to the stop of contributions and its unsustainable structure, the fund only has means to last until some point between 2024 and 2026 and according to estimations might run an overall deficit of at least 371,4 million EUR. Robust figures of the yearly deficit have only been communicated scarcely, while the external report, which forms the basis for its calculation, has not been shared. Further, DG FINS has notified these entitlements to former Members in documents issued at the end of the last legislature, which require a legal assessment.

Therefore we are concerned that any further inaction on behalf of the Parliament will only reduce the little time available to find an adequate solution.

The modalities of the fund have been the subject of several court cases, the most recent of which is understood to confirm the increase of the retirement age for beneficiaries of the additional (voluntary) pension scheme to 65 years and a levy of 5 % on all pension

payments for pensions established after 1 January 2019 as decided by the Bureau in 2018.

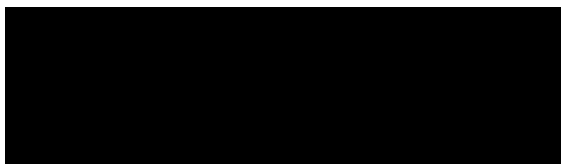
As a first step, we request clarification about the legal situation and the consequences of the decisions of the Court of Justice concerning the rights of the former Members and the responsibility of the Parliament. Additionally, we would like to receive information about former Members already requesting the pay-out of all their entitlements and the financial implications of this move on the voluntary pension fund.

Furthermore, we believe that the potential devastating reputational risks for the European Parliament and the work of our institution must be avoided, bearing in mind that Parliament does not have yet a future fit solution, even though it has been known for years that the voluntary pension fund will be insolvent in the near future. A public debate on such irresponsible behaviour including the financial risks and the damages to former Members would be detrimental to our public role as defender of social rights and as forerunner of sound financial management.

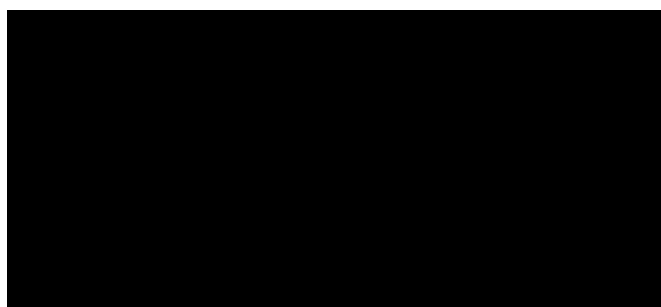
On this matter, we kindly ask you to expeditiously call for a meeting of the Bureau, the Quaestor in charge, representatives of the administration, in particular those from DG FINS and the Legal Service, representatives of the voluntary pension fund, insurance experts, and designated Members of the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Budgetary Control to discuss this matter and agree on a roadmap to tackle the challenges of this worrying issue before the release of the draft of Parliament's 2024 annual budget. We underline our commitment to actively contribute to a feasible, fair, and financially sound solution and hope to have your support to resolve this issue.

We remain at your disposal for any questions.

Yours sincerely,



Monika Hohlmeier



Johan van Overtveldt