



Brussels, 17.4.2020

**NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF Ms Pia AHRENKILDE HANSEN
DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF DG COMM**

Subject: Commission Representation staff rotation during coronavirus period.

Dear Ms Hansen,

The coronavirus crisis, together with all necessary countermeasures taken by EU countries, has caused many life changes not only for staff working in Brussels but also for colleagues in Commission representations. While many of them handle this stressful situation bravely, some are forced to face the particularly arduous additional problems related to their rotation. Not surprisingly, travel, finding a new place to live, organising schooling for children or care for family seniors, has become a nightmare for these colleagues. The usual ways of handling these tasks are simply either not available or extremely limited.

In 2019, Generation 2004 launched a survey to understand how DG COMM colleagues, mainly officials directly affected by rotation, perceive the rules currently in force. Of the respondents, only 18% voted to keep the rules in current form, while 45% felt that they should be replaced with a more flexible system taking into account the interest of the service. A further 14% of colleagues would like to see the rotation exercise take place at longer intervals in general, while 17% expressed need for a system adapted to type of post (outcome of the survey attached).

With these results in mind, we strongly believe it is necessary to revise the existing rules (now in force for 12 years). This is even more pressing given the fact that in the meantime the role of the Representations has significantly changed. We were recently looking for the possibility to meet you and discuss the subject. However, due to the COVID-19 crisis it has not yet been possible to have such a meeting.

Nevertheless, we would like to stress our conviction that the rotation of staff in Commission representations to Member States, in its current form, and especially during this crisis, for some colleagues is not possible/advisable. We therefore call on you to put the rotation process on hold for colleagues who express an interest in postponing their rotation.

Based on the aforementioned survey, we have prepared a draft revision of the current rules and we would be glad to meet you and discuss the details. Until then, we kindly ask you to sincerely consider our request in the interest of the service and concerned colleagues.

Kind regards,

Łukasz WARDYN

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Łukasz WARDYN', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chair of Generation 2004

CC. Mr Ewoud Sakkers, Head of Unit E1