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I have been working for the EU Delegation in India as an IT Officer since November 2001. Before this I worked in private sector. I am a law graduate and served as a local staff representative in India Delegation for 6 years. During this period, I efficiently dealt with Annual Salary Reviews, Provident Fund, Promotions, Reclassifications and other staff issues. In 2011, I was elected as a Full Member of the First EEAS Staff Committee.

I feel there should be one rule for colleagues working under the same umbrella. At this moment, EEAS staff is divided into numerous categories and all categories are governed by different rules. When one ponders, several questions arise:

- Why our CA colleagues performing the same job functions are in different groups?
- Why do the entitlements differ for pre and post 2004 recruited officials?
- Why our TA colleagues are not happy with their job assignments when they arrive in Brussels on rotation?
- Why local agents are completely ignored during crisis situations?
- Why there is no post-retirement coverage for local agents while all other staff categories are entitled to it?
- Why Local Agents are deprived of the pension scheme?
- Why is the retirement age different for various categories of staff?
- Why even the maternity leave rights are different for local agents?

EEAS staff needs a competent body to defend their interests vis-a-vis the Institution and I am confident that our team at "NEAR You" will be able to bring around the required changes.