

## ANNEX 5

1) - I am 58 years old and female. I am a UK citizen but also have Italian citizenship. I originally came to Italy as part of my undergraduate honours degree course in 1975/76. I graduated from Hull University in 1977 and immediately returned to Rome to set up my home. I found employment with the British Council but decided to return to the UK between 1979/81 to complete postgraduate studies. On my return to Italy ( Rome ) in 1981, I started working as a 'lettrice' in Rome University and I have been doing this job since then.

Over the past thirty years I have watched my salary go down rather than up. I have watched my work be rendered banal and uninteresting because the authorities were afraid that I would take them to court if I were 'too' professional. But take them to court I did and was awarded due recompense! I currently have another law suit pending against the University that I have been working in since 1988 and unless I am awarded what is due to me, ( i.e. the difference between what I was *actually* paid and what I *should* have been paid ), I am facing a very poor retirement indeed. After thirty-two years of service, my take home salary for full-time employment as a lettrice' is € 921. My pension will be approximately two-thirds of that amount.

I have one daughter living and working in the UK (and she would never return to Italy given the drastic unemployment situation) and my other daughter is currently applying to travel abroad with her company, as she describes Italy as the Costa Concordia of Europe.

My final comment to anyone thinking about moving freely to work in Italy would be that Italy is a lovely sunny country and the wine is great but.....think long and hard before making that move.

2) I am a 59-year-old woman from South Wales. In 1976, after graduating in modern languages, including Italian, from Salford University, I felt it was a natural step for me to go and work abroad for a short time to improve my language skills. I was offered a teaching post at a private language school in Catania, Italy, and then stayed on, mainly to gain more experience and, subsequently, for personal reasons. During my course of studies I had also worked in Florence, Italy and Germany. I have worked at Catania University teaching English since 1986.

I married an Italian in 1981, automatically becoming an Italian citizen and my children automatically became British citizens through me. My daughter, 29, has however left Italy to work in the U.K., where she is reasonably content. Who knows if she will come back. This is the case of many of my British friends' children, too.

When I can finally retire, I will stay here in Italy since I have made my life here.

Hopefully in the meantime our pending court-cases will have been resolved in our favour and I will be able to enjoy my place in the sun.

I think Italy is a wonderful place to live in, but I would not advise young people to try and find a career here – at least not at the moment. However, if they want to have an experience and learn the language, then let them come!

3) I am a 55 year old male and a UK citizen. I have worked in one other EU country – Portugal. I came to Italy 30 years ago to teach English with the original intention of staying an absolute maximum of 2 years, but family commitment - My partner would be loathe to leave Italy while her elderly mother requires looking after.

I intend to return to the UK when feasible, but worry if my pension will actually arrive in the UK. In addition because of

pending court cases – my pension will not be paid at the level I am entitled to. I am suing for over 20 years of arrears in unpaid wages and pension contributions. My experience in Italy would lead me to advise most young UK citizens not to migrate to Italy. Take casual employment, by all means, but do not expect contractual obligations to be adhered to. Be especially wary of working for state institutions. Above all, heed the warning that I, as an impetuous youth, failed to act on. 'Italy differs from Northern Europe where corruption can be a significant **fact** of life. In Italy corruption is a **way** of life.'

4) I am a 62 year old male I am a UK citizen (no dual nationality). I have worked in one other EU country – Greece. I came to Italy, originally on holiday, found a job and stayed. Family commitment, rather than work, was what ensured my continued residence in Italy. My daughter has dual nationality (her mother is Italian). She took up residence in the UK 13 years ago and is still there. She has a job, and one factor that would discourage her from migrating to either Spain (she is fluent in Spanish) or Italy is the poor prospect of finding work.

I intend to return to the UK when I retire but am worried about whether or not my pension will actually arrive in the UK. In addition because of pending court cases – my pension will not be as high as it should be, I am suing for arrears in unpaid wages and pension contributions. My experience in Italy would lead me to advise young UK citizens not to migrate to Italy – at least not as a “career choice” – but might advise it for a max of 2 years – to learn Italian and have a gap year or 2 before thinking more about a career.

5) I am a 57 male, born in the UK, and a UK citizen (no dual nationality). As my father (a UK civil servant –former Department of Employment) was retiring, the family decided to move to my mother’s family estate in Italy. Family commitment - death of mother, followed by looking after aged father, rather

than work became the main reason for my continued residence in Italy. I have also worked for the British Council for 2 years in Macedonia.

I always hoped to return and retire in the UK, but following my experience in Macedonia with papers going missing, I became worried that my pension from Italy would not arrive, a problem which Italian friends who had worked twenty years in the UK had never experienced. I persisted with a hope that something from court cases for arrears in unpaid wages and pension contributions would be remedied, knowing that my pension would remain pretty low. As a safety measure, for the past five years, I started paying in a private pension (tax-deductable) scheme through my bank, to help make up some of the differences. The continual indecision, the refusal of the university to abide by court decisions, and most recently the Gelmini law, has made me to begin to lose heart and trust in honesty; for with a low pension I have also to consider how much my Italian home will fetch, and should I be able to afford something decent back home.

I would advise any young Briton, especially with an Italian connection not to work in Italy for an Italian organization, or to give her / himself a maximum of not more than 3 years. Their Italian in-laws will be happier visiting them in the UK, and their partner will experience the best of two countries and not the worst of one. My father, previously a war veteran (since died), even advised his comrades dreaming of uprooting themselves late in life and live close to their Italian wives' families to rent houses for summers, not to buy, and never to stay permanently despite easier bureaucratic authorisations. They should also realise that after a certain time they will become disenfranchised from voting in UK elections either at national or European level (as I have since 2000), and they will fear, though no longer in khaki uniform, of becoming the "forgotten army" of ex-pats abroad.

6) I am a 51 year old UK/Australian passport holder. I came to Italy after I graduated from Edinburgh University in 1985. I presently work at the University of Brescia and as this wage has remained the same since 1994, I am also a free-lance translator/teacher. I have published in International journals. I was separated from my first Italian wife with whom I have two sons, now 11 and 15 years old. I intend to stay in Italy until they both leave school if possible. I am presently married to a British national with two children, aged 3 and one newly born.

After winning recognition for my status as university teacher (and pay arrears for 20 years), I have very recently seen this decision annulled, (i.e., the appeal denied me access to due judgment), leaving me with the same basic wage of €1000 per month. I have been ordered pay back my retirement benefit (€39,000) as this was also saw this retrospectively denied, by the Gelmini law.

Presently, I do not believe I can pay maintenance and mortgage payments so I may well need to move back to the UK or elsewhere.

Despite feeling at home in Italy, I would advise anyone not to move here for work. The state institutions are still based on power relationships and pay little regards to justice, merit or opportunity.