

## Cantines and restaurants: What you haven't been told !

Luxembourg, 13th December 2016

Administration took its responsibility and raised the prices of the cantines by 5.5%. This is due to inflation and the cost rise work and draw materials.

Staff usually thinks that unlike the Commission, the cantines of the other institutions receive some kind of subsidies; Nothing could be further from the truth: nothing for buildings, water, electricity, etc. However, Commission restaurants in Luxembourg are still managed internally and despite years of OIL efforts, they are still losing money: less meals sold, less people coming (teleworking seems to be playing a role there), etc. The restaurant "à la carte" has been transferred to the Foyer: will it make money? Its fate is in the hands of a working group of the Comité des Affaires Sociales.

Despite a subvention of €300.000 per year during 5 years given by the Commission to compensate for the cost of leaving the JMO (building, staff, etc), restaurants are still not making money, specially with staff exploded over 3 new buildings for a total of 7 sites – which multiplies fix costs.

In practice, many users complained to the canteen service that portions were getting smaller and of unequal quality. It also seems that quality of dishes and customer treatment differs wildly for one site to the other.

Is the raise going to solve all problems? More and more colleagues are opting for other solutions. For some the prices are too high, for others it is the quality of the dishes which is lacking. National eating habits certainly play a role, but for some there is not mucking about: it's not good!.

An internal workgroup (staff representatives + administration) at the Comité Restauration was created to set up a just and transparent method to adapt prices. The report was due beginning of 2017. Administration didn't wait for the report to decide.

We are afraid that the lack of serious action from the former Comité Local du Personnel and the systematic voluntary absence of the said CLP at Comité Restauration meetings did not help finding a concerted solution. After the message of the new CLP from the 5th December, our worries seem to become reality.

Union Syndicale Fédérale Luxembourg remains in favour of an internal management of cantines and cafeterias but also remains against any price rise before the definition and implementation of simple and efficient measures to make the situation better on the Luxembourg site. A study of the various proposals in the different sites could bring some additional information and sharpen the method of the workgroup. We are heavily working with the Comité Paritaire so that the relevant service takes charge of those quality questions. (activity management is not in the mandate of the working group).



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