

## Moratorium on the establishment of “open space”

Luxembourg, 6/05/2020

As expressed through various communications before, **Union Syndicale Fédérale Luxembourg** monitors the situation of buildings and real estate infrastructure in Luxembourg (future JMO II, DRB and the Mercier-Poste Publications Office). In that respect the Commission recently adopted a decision called 'workplace of the future' in which consultation of the Staff Representatives becomes optional (under its chapter titled “conceptualising and implementing the new workspace”).

Recent scientific studies show that open spaces have the opposite effect to that intended, including reduced productivity and lower employee morale. This clearly implies that open spaces should be the exception rather than the rule. **This is precisely why Union Syndicale Fédérale Luxembourg requests a moratorium on new open space arrangements in any Commission buildings.**

Besides, as particularly obvious with the actual epidemic, there are major risks for staff health resulting from overcrowding in this type of office space. As a precautionary principle, **Union Syndicale Fédérale Luxembourg expressly invites Director-Generals and Heads of Service to put on hold any action leading to the establishment of new open space arrangements until a thorough risk reassessment is carried out**, considering all worldwide lessons learned.

**Union Syndicale Fédérale Luxembourg** will hold accountable those Director-Generals and Heads of Service who decide to move forward without further reflection; of any new victim of contagion resulting from such a reckless rush.

**Union Syndicale Fédérale Luxembourg** also calls for the Commission to apply extreme caution and maximize health security measures for the return of all colleagues currently working in open space offices.

**You need help, questions? Contact us at:**

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