



Luxembourg drained of its substance?

Luxembourg, 7/04/2022

As we all know, Luxembourg as a place of work for several EU Institutions and Bodies, has a serious attractiveness problem due to its relatively high cost of living. It looks like these Institutions and Bodies are thinking of doing something about it through the CALUX (the Group of the Heads of Administration of Luxembourg based Institutions). What they are discussing is not known to date and would certainly be very interesting but let's look today the situation from other perspectives too:

- Commission service increasingly make use of CA and TA posts as well as interim staff because they can't find people to fill the posts.
- PMO (mainly CA posts) is reorganizing itself. It would seem tasks providing for interesting careers are belonging to other sites. Besides, many colleagues get close to retirement. One could wonder if they will be replaced.
- OLAF initially had to reinforce its presence in Luxembourg due to the on-going launch of EPPO activities. They asked their personnel if they wished to move to Luxembourg for that purpose. As far as we know, only one colleague would have accepted;
- EPPO initially foreseen to be a 250 posts strong body but actually counts merely 120 posts. EPPO is begging for more.
- The Commission that had to enhance its manpower according to the Georgieva-Asselborn agreement by at least 150 posts on a five-year period (2015-2020) actually has lost 250 posts; a hard fact no one can deny or accept.
- OIL still does not have an appointed Director for more than two years. Will it be reorganized and/or merged with OIB?
- DG SANTE tasks are not clearly getting a Luxembourg geographical anchor. Let it be reminded that in the current Financial Framework, the financial means (programmes) of Health Programmes have exploded. Wherefrom will it be managed effectively (Brussels or Luxembourg)?
- CHAFAEA that was managing amongst others a health programme has been closed and its tasks and posts spread in various agencies in Brussels implying an important loss of people and knowledge. Amazingly the reasoning was that it costed too much to operate while salaries are identical to those in Brussels. Really?
- The European Schools based in Luxembourg remain with unsolved concerns. The most interesting being that they are also not attractive or competitive as they do not provide for proper adapted hiring conditions (salaries). What is the future of European Schools in Luxembourg? The other chartered European Schools managed by the State provide only for a very limited number of language sections.
- Etc.

Does the EU really wants to keep the Institutions and especially the Commission in Luxembourg ?
But isn't it the same in EP where the number of services decline / move to Brussels ?

The question has been on everyone thoughts for a couple of decades now and **Union Syndicale Fédérale Luxembourg** has more doubts every single day. "Selling" Luxembourg as a great place to live is fine (if you have the financial means) for now but it is less and less as a great place to work as it factually depletes in working conditions and career perspectives every day.

It's time to solve the attractiveness problem by setting up a housing allowance

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