

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(77) 714 final.

Brussels, 3 January 1978.

COMMISSION REPORT TO THE COUNCIL ON THE LOCATION OF COMMUNITY DEPARTMENTS

Situation at the end of the third quarter of 1977

COM(77) 714 final.

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Article 10 of the Decision of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States on the Provisional Location of Certain Institutions and Departments of the Communities (Merger Treaty) states that "the Governments of the Member States are willing to locate in Luxembourg, or to transfer thereto, other Community bodies and departments, particularly those concerned with finance, provided that their proper functioning can be ensured. To this end, they request the Commission to present to them annually a report on the current situation concerning the location of Community bodies and departments and on the possibility of taking new steps to give effect to this provision, account being taken of the need to ensure the proper functioning of the Communities".

Each year since 1968 the Commission has presented a report to the Council¹ in compliance with these provisions.

This report, the tenth, describes the situation at the end of September 1977.

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I. STAFF EMPLOYED IN BRUSSELS

1. At the end of September 1977 a total of 6 741 officials and local staff (administrative and research expenditure) were permanently assigned to the various Commission departments in Brussels. This total was made up as follows:

Category A	1 806
Language Service	937
Category B	1 234
Category C	2 169
Category D	334
Local staff	261
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	6 741
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¹Ref.: SEC(68)3350 final, 25 October 1968;
 SEC(69)4897 final, 17 December 1969;
 SEC(70)3681 final, 27 October 1970;
 SEC(71)4684 final, 20 December 1971;
 SEC(72)4493 final, 4 January 1973;
 SEC(73)4390 final, 3 December 1973;
 SEC(74)4771 final, 9 December 1974;
 SEC(75)4070 final, 3 December 1975;
 COM(76)710 final, 6 January 1977.

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2. A number of departments located in Luxembourg have assigned some of their staff to Brussels for the purpose of maintaining contacts with departments in Brussels.

The officials involved number 51, from the following departments:

SOEC	30
Computer Operations Division ¹	7
Management and Financial Data-processing Applications Department ¹	3
Analysis and Programming Department ¹	2
Directorate-General for Scientific and Technical Information and Information Management	9
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	51
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II. STAFF EMPLOYED IN LUXEMBOURG

At the end of September 1977 a total of 1 757 officials and local staff (administrative and research expenditure) were permanently assigned to the various Commission departments in Luxembourg. This total was made up as follows:

Category A	291
Language Service	260
Category B	43
Category C	569
Category D	73
Local staff	130
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	1 757
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III. COMMISSION DEPARTMENTS LOCATED IN LUXEMBOURG

The staff of the Directorates-General and other departments of the Commission located in Luxembourg was broken down as follows:

1. The Statistical Office: 260 officials (97 A, 89 B and 74 C); (1976: 240 officials). (Note: a further 30 officials - 15 A, 9 B and 6 C - are assigned to the Brussels branch office.)

¹These divisions and specialized departments used to be part of a single Computer Centre Division, which has now been reorganized.

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2. The Health and Safety Directorate (Directorate V-F) of the Directorate-General for Employment and Social Affairs: 62 officials (27 A, 17 B and 18 C); (1976: 67 officials).

Following the allocation of responsibilities among its Members, the Commission decided to transfer some of the responsibilities of Division V-F-1 (Environmental Health and Radioactivity Monitoring) to the Environment and Consumer Protection Service in Brussels.

3. The Directorate-General for Scientific and Technical Information and Information Management: 127 officials (47 A, 25 B, 51 C and 4 D); (1976: 123 officials).

4. The Directorate-General for Credit and Investments: 74 officials (29 A, 27 B, 18 C); (1976: 78 officials).

5. The Directorate-General for Energy: 112 officials (29 A, 55 B and 28 C); (1976: 114 officials).

6. The Commission/European Investment Bank Liaison Office, attached to the Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs: 3 officials (3 A); (1976: 3 officials)*.

7. The Information Office, Luxembourg (Directorate-General for Information): 3 officials (1 A, 1 B and 1 C); (1976: 3 officials).

8. Administrative departments attached to the Directorate-General for Personnel and Administration: 831 officials and local staff (38 A, 260 LA, 109 B, 279 C, 60 D and 85 local staff) (apart from the staff paid out of the social service appropriations); (1976: 832 officials).

It should be noted that:

- (a) the Computer Operations Division, the Management and Financial Data-processing Applications Department and the Analysis and Programming Department, except for the branch office at the Brussels Terminal, serve both the departments located in Luxembourg and those located in Brussels;
- (b) the Medium- and Long-term Translation Service, attached to the Official Publications Office under Article 8 of the Decision of 8 April 1965 of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States on the Provisional Location of Certain Institutions and Departments of the Communities, was set up on the basis of an agreement between the Commission and the Office making available to the Office the translation capacity needed to handle all translation work requested by the Office on its own behalf or on behalf of the Community institutions.

*One official from DG II and two seconded from DG VIII.

The number of translators to be made available to the Office is determined on the basis of this agreement, which means that the staff of the Commission's Medium- and Long-term Translation Service in Luxembourg is kept under constant review. At the time of the merger the Translation Service in Luxembourg consisted of 68 Language Service staff; its staff has gradually increased since then to 260 today.

9. A number of departments located in Brussels have assigned staff to Luxembourg to improve contacts with the departments located there or to take up duties with bodies based there. A total of 25 officials are posted on this basis:

Secretariat-General	7
Legal Service	4
Security Office	4
Directorate-General for Budgets	3
Directorate-General for Financial Control	<u>7</u>
	25

IV. PUBLICATIONS OFFICE

An "Official Publications Office of the European Communities" was established pursuant to Article 8 of the Decision of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States. Under a Decision taken by the Community institutions (including the ESC) on 16 January 1969, the Publications Office is directed by a Managing Board consisting of representatives of the five institutions.

The Office was given six additional posts for 1977 (3 B and 3 C).

This means that its staff is now as follows:

Category A	13
Category B	104
Category C	88
Category D	9
Local staff	<u>45</u>
	<u>259</u>

V. PREMISES OF THE COMMUNITY INSTITUTION IN LUXEMBOURG

Following the transfer of almost all the Commission's Luxembourg-based staff to the Jean Monnet building in 1976, the Commission and the Court of Justice, which will shortly require additional accommodation as well, approached the competent budgetary authorities of the Council in 1977 about an extension to the present building.

Meeting on 27 July 1977, these authorities agreed to the Commission's signing a lease for the extension.

Upon completion of the Monnet extension the Court of Justice will take over the building now occupied by the Commission's Computer Centre which is situated alongside the Court. The Commission will then be able to rehouse the Centre in new premises tailored to its future needs and at the same time accommodate all its departments in the Kirchberg complex, vacating the three remaining outlying buildings, which at the moment are still essential.

The administrative wing of the new third section of the Jean Monnet building should be available towards the end of 1978, while the new Computer Centre will be ready in the summer of 1979.

From then on, both Court and Commission will be rationally housed in permanent premises.

As already indicated in the report on the situation at the end of the third quarter of 1976, the Secretariat of the European Parliament has moved into the Robert Schuman building, which was specially designed for it, and the adjacent Tour building.

Work on the new building for the European Investment Bank - also located on the Kirchberg in the immediate vicinity of the other Community institutions - is proceeding apace. The Bank should be able to move in in 1979, thereby placing all of its departments, which at the moment are dispersed in ten different buildings, under one roof.

As was pointed out in last year's report, the Official Publications Office of the European Communities has had a building near the Luxembourg station since 1973 which meets its current needs and those of the foreseeable future.

Lastly, the Court of Auditors is about to be accommodated in a building in the town centre, on the corner of rue Aldringen and rue Notre-Dame, previously occupied by Commission departments and now completely renovated.

VI. COMMISSION PREMISES IN BRUSSELS

As forecast in last year's report, the Commission had to rent a new building at the end of 1976 in anticipation of its requirements in 1977. The building was chosen for its size and location to fit in with the short- and medium-term programme presented to the Council in April 1975, which provides a regrouping of all Commission departments in accordance with the scheme outlined last year. The building is now fully occupied and helped solve the accommodation problem created by the increase in staff and the expansion of the Commission's activities.

The Commission was hoping that plans relating to the location of the Community institutions in Brussels which have been under discussion in the Council for a number of years would take firmer shape in 1978. No real progress has been made, however, so it seems unlikely that the Commission will be able to carry out its planned moves in the near future by vacating the least convenient or secure buildings. Although the Council has given the go-ahead for negotiations with the owner about the plan to extend the Joyeuse Entrée/Cortenbergh building to house the financial and administrative departments (the second part of the Commission's programme), there is likely to be considerable delay in carrying out the plan.

This setback has nothing to do with the Community institutions: it is entirely a matter for the Belgian authorities, which are doing all they can to remove the obstacles that have unexpectedly hampered execution of the programme.

The upshot is that the Commission is still unable to make any long-term plans for its office accommodation in Brussels and, since there is little prospect of premises becoming available for rent in the area close to the Commission, departments will presumably have to be even more scattered about the city in the future.

In addition to office requirements, the Commission is still seeking a satisfactory solution to the problem of organizing conferences with simultaneous interpretation. Following the Belgian authorities' rejection of the scheme for a conference centre in the Parc du Cinquantenaire, the Commission considered other alternatives. It produced plans for two suggested sites (Place Jourdan and Square de Mérode) which appeared particularly suitable.

Following vetting by an international group of experts and an internal working party, the Commission decided to enter into an agreement with the developer for renting the conference centre to be built near the Place Jourdan for an initial period of twelve years. This decision has been notified to the budgetary authorities.

VII. PROGRESS AND PROSPECTS

1. One of the more significant developments in 1977 was the decision adopted by the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States on 5 April making Luxembourg the provisional seat of the Court of Auditors, in line with the Commission's proposal.

The Members of this new institution took up office at the end of October and, as anticipated above (last paragraph of section V), the Court of Auditors has been housed in the building on the corner of rue Aldringen and rue Notre Dame..

2. No decision affecting the European Monetary Cooperation Fund (EMCF) was taken in 1977 so that its accommodation in Luxembourg remains unchanged.

3. In its 1976 report the Commission undertook to take the necessary steps to streamline the running of the EIB Liaison Office. It also promised that the staff of the Brussels Liaison Office of the SOEC would be reduced to the number required for liaison duties with the Commission's departments in Brussels. The Commission has not lost sight of these objectives and will continue to seek means of attaining them.

4. As indicated in section V, most of the Commission's offices to the south of the Kirchberg motorway have been taken over by the European Parliament. The advent of a "new look" Parliament, following the direct elections scheduled for 1978, will mean that existing premises will have to be refitted and extended.