

Grandiose plans, miserable life!

- The fourth extension of the complex of buildings used by the Court of Justice is under way.
- The main new feature of this extension is that it is an upward extension: **twin towers** with 24 floors each, intended mainly to house the Translation Directorate.
- A service structured into Language Divisions, each of which coincides, in principle, with a **nationality!**
- Each language division will occupy 2 consecutive floors: to identify them, all that is needed is to hang up the flag of the Member State concerned!
- What kind of image does this give of a supposedly European civil service?
- This kind of physical **isolation** will only reinforce clustering by nationality, a phenomenon that is already firmly rooted in the daily lives of our colleagues!
- However, this was not taken into consideration at all; the architectural plans were only intended to enhance the image of the institution in the eyes of the outside world by incorporating it into a megalomaniac plan for the urban development of the Kirchberg.
- When this plan was adopted (in 2000, at the very latest), the Staff Committee, of which our trade unionists were not part, did not react or inform the personnel; when we were informed, we were told it was too late to make changes.
- Today, things look worse than we could have possibly imagined:
- In the view of the technocrats, the current configuration of the *rue du Fort Niedergrünewald* is too "rural" and therefore incompatible with the plan to increase the density of the urban fabric, the stated aim of the development plan for the Kirchberg.
- This road will be raised to intersect *boulevard Kennedy* at its existing higher level.
- Result: a substantial proportion of Annex C will be buried below street level, and passed by heavy traffic.
- And to take the plan to its logical conclusion, the small wood that has survived until now opposite the ThM building will make way for urban buildings filling the space between *bd. Kennedy* and *rue du Fort Niedergrünewald*.
- Acceptance of these grandiose plans by the institution gives the impression that it is sacrificing the working conditions of its staff to its own concerns about image and prestige.
- There is still time for the institution to oppose this unfettered development, which is bad for the environment and dictated by speculative interests.