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## Luxembourg: a captive housing market

- The Court of Justice encounters permanent difficulties in recruiting staff, and then in keeping the staff it has recruited.
- This is due to a number of disadvantages, linked to lack of attractiveness either of Luxembourg or of the Court itself.
- Compared with Brussels, Luxembourg, the second biggest workplace for Community institutions, presents more disadvantages than assets.
- Although it's true that certain advantages for Brussels are almost « natural », several of Luxembourg's disadvantages are the result of political decisions.
- Indeed, by reason of its size, Luxembourg does not offer the same opportunities either for professional mobility, or for social and cultural life as Brussels.
- However, housing in Luxembourg is much more expensive and public transport is hardly reliable, since it is trapped by private traffic; *this state of things cannot be described as "natural"*.
- The choice of accommodation, if it is to be combined with an effective transport link to the office, is far more limited in Luxembourg than in Brussels.

<p>● <u>International transport links</u>, by air or railway, are much fewer, more expensive and seldom direct.</p>
<p>● Luxembourg, on the other hand, can rely on the advantage of a city of a manageable size surrounded by the countryside; and social tensions and contrasts which are less visible or, at least, confined to certain districts.</p>
<p>● However, policies led by decision makers in the past have done everything to waste these advantages away and exacerbate the disadvantages.</p>
<p>● All <u>projects</u> for building an integrated public transport network, financed generously through public funds, have been buried one after another.</p>
<p>● By contrast, the car and oil industries, road construction and underground parking are flourishing, to the detriment of people's mobility, purchasing power and quality of living.</p>
<p>● The political will <u>not</u> to offer effective short and middle distance public transport also aims at creating incomes linked to position, by preventing the housing market from spreading geographically, which would stop prices from rising.</p>
<p>● <i>EPSU</i> does not share the widely held view that, in matters which lie outside our Community "cocoon", "<i>there is nothing we can do</i>". There is a lot we <u>can</u> do, with your active support and participation.</p>