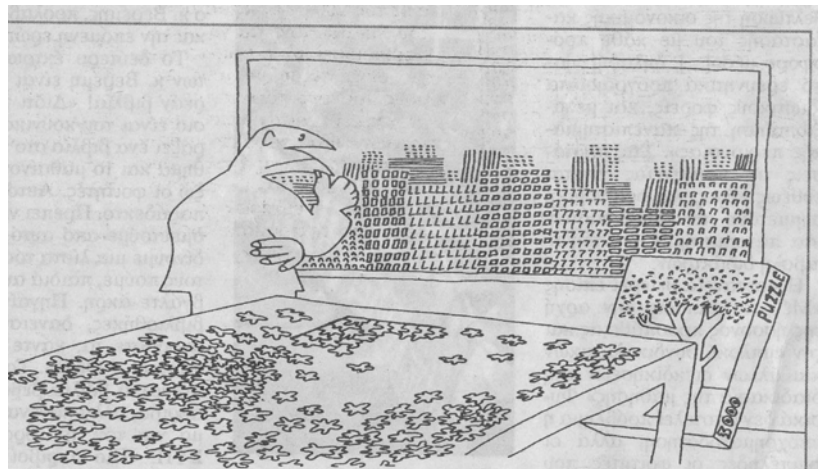


A third tower: have you given it serious thought?

Tower buildings keep proliferating on the Kirchberg plateau regardless of the disastrous impact which they have on the morale of the occupants of this kind of buildings. By obtaining 'consensus' through opaque means, the Court of Justice seems to converge with interest groups which should be alien to, indeed incompatible with, its own nature and vocation, to reach a no-return 'decision' (?) bound to undermine the Institution's future.



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In the 3rd Tower business, several stakeholders are involved:

- (i) The Luxembourg authorities, which (having given a blank cheque to the Urbanisation and Development Fund for Kirchberg) wish to create a new 'landmark' and a new tourist attraction.
- (ii) The 'architect of sensations', who is establishing his fame and wealth at our expense.
- (iii) The construction businesses, which will not only line their pockets, but will also build in such a way as to ensure (through the height of the buildings and the materials they use) the highest possible cost of maintenance, safety and cleaning of the masterpiece of the 'architect of sensations'.

So far, the stakes involved are clearly identified. By contrast, what is puzzling is the ease with which the Court is rushing to endorse the construction of a 3rd Tower, higher than the previous ones, which are classified as monuments of aesthetic arrogance and contempt for people.

Without contesting the interest which the Court sees in having its entire staff together on the same site, EPSU opposes this being done:

1. In an artificial and thoughtless rush; and
2. To the detriment of a friendly working environment.

More specifically:

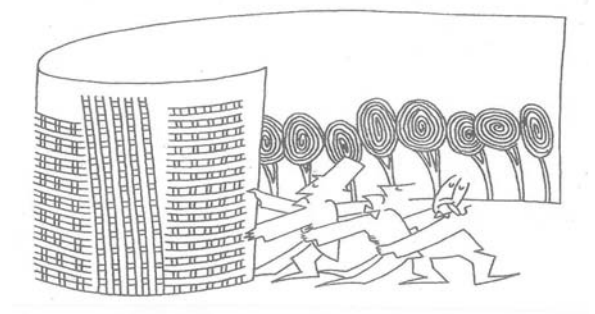
1. It can never be said that the office space created will be adequate to cover *all* future needs of the Institution (enlargements, new specialised bodies, etc.).

2. Underestimating the impact of the buildings on the 'morale of the troops' will create a (probably latent) unease, which will result in a high staff turnover.

EPSU calls on the Court of Justice:

- (i) **To reserve**, in view of a future extension, the area of land lying between the EIB and the T Building;
- (ii) **To keep** the T Building –which is highly appreciated by its occupants–as long as possible by extending its life through appropriate interventions;
- (iii) In any way, **to keep** the site on which the T Building lies, beyond its life length, in order to replace it by a new building;
- (iv) Since, as a result of the future layout of streets, the Court of Justice will come closer to the T Building, **to link** the two sides of Bd Konrad Adenauer either by an underground passage or by an air footbridge. In that way, the (existing or future) buildings on the north side of Bd Konrad Adenauer will become part of a single complex encompassing the Court's buildings.
- (v) **To avoid** making twice –indeed aggravating– the same mistake, by building a 3rd Tower, which will increase isolation between services, and foster passivity, indifference and alienation of individuals from their Institution.

EPSU raises the question: What interest is there in a 29-storey Tower, other than installing on top of it a Belvedere, offering panoramic views over the Grand Duchy? Is such a 'tourist' use compatible with the sound functioning and the very nature of the Institution?



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