



## 5 years standing by you. And now?

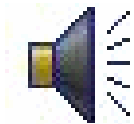
5 years ago, a group of experienced trade unionists created **EPSU-CJ**.

Early enough, **EPSU-CJ** became the reference trade union in the Court of Justice.

- o On the one hand, it obtained a **majority** of votes and seats in the **Staff Committee**;
- o On the other, it has become the only trade union recognized as **representative**.

*But* this is no time for self-complacency.

### The European public service at a turning point



While, within our institution we can claim a positive record, it is at the **inter-institutional** level that the situation is far more worrying.

In varying degrees throughout Europe, the achievements of workers, including civil servants, are under attack. The key-word 'competitiveness' is used as a spearhead against the European social pattern.



### Why join the union?

The European civil service could not remain unaffected by this general plan. The prospective **review of the Staff Regulations**, marked by budget cuts and social regression (*e.g.* increase in working time), has not yet revealed its full destructive force.

This is where the staff will, more than ever, *need* trade unions able to negotiate and willing to report on what they negotiate. And trade unions, in turn, will *need* concrete support from the ones they represent.

In our case, the reason why **EPSU-CJ** was created 5 years ago was to be able, in good conscience, to be accountable to its "natural" reference public, *i.e.* the colleagues of our institution.

However, the courage of breaking up with the undemocratic "transmission belt" tradition has its cost:

In an interinstitutional environment, being the only representative trade union at the Court of Justice is just not enough; you must fight your way to overcome the handicap of coming from a "small institution".

Furthermore, you must fight to carry equal weight to “big” institutions’ unions which operate despite derisory rates of members’ subscriptions, thanks only to generous logistical support from their employer.

An additional reason for joining **EPSU-CJ**:

The staff of the Court of Justice, which amounts to only 4% of the entire staff of the Union, will need **to counterbalance the weak weight of its population by a strong legitimacy of its trade union representatives!**

**EPSU-CJ** wishes to be more than an ‘inter-institutional’ cover for discussions dominated by parochial concerns.

In the coming months we will have to be actively involved in social dialogue and consultation meetings, while keeping you informed, consulting you and organising action.

**Give a strong message of support, *to whom it may concern*: [Join EPSU-CJ now!](#)**