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☛ Please stop joking!

The side-effects of the election campaign for the Commission's Local Staff Committee have not spared the Court staff: Trade Unions competing with each other in demagogy, good for 'customers' - voters, but explosive were such issues ever to land on the Council's table...

- Certainly, since the Method for adjusting remuneration is based on the premise that Luxembourg = Brussels, it unavoidably creates inequalities in purchasing power.
- However, it is not a **correction coefficient** (a flat rate applying to *all* levels of earnings) that would make up for these inequalities, which are limited to a specific layer of our population (the one with lower income).
- Let us repeat what we have consistently developed (flyers of the US Delegation, of 7 June and 15 June 2006, and, last, of 22 May 2007, which speeded up our leaving US Luxembourg):
 - ❶ Introducing a **correction coefficient** for Luxembourg involves an **overhaul** –and not just tackling technical details– of **Annex XI of the Staff Regulations**. Would you take that risk?
 - ❷ Reshaping the “Brussels International Index” so as to take account of the ‘real costs of rents in Luxembourg’ would obviously mean replacing, in the Staff Regs, the term “Brussels International Index” by a different wording...
 - ❸ Introducing a **rent allowance** would lead to revising not only Annex XI, but **the whole** of the Staff Regulations! Would you take that risk?
- Indeed, the old Staff Regs (Article 14a of Annex VII) provided the legal basis for the Council to adopt a Regulation about granting a rent allowance for specific places of employment.
- During reform negotiations, Article 14a was **repealed, with the agreement of Trade Unions**. Unfortunately, the Luxembourg Trade Union, which is now ashamed of having negotiated the reform, thinks we are all suffering from amnesia.

At the Court, the former *Union Syndicale* Delegation (now EPSU) has made concrete achievements: grade 1 **contract staff** will be classified in grade 2 in three years only, thanks to the **sole** argument which we have been repeating since July 2006: *i.e.* that contract staff grade 1 salaries are lower than a skilled worker's minimum legal salary in Luxembourg. All the rest is gratuitous publicity financed by the institution...