

Sharing experience
Building solidarity

Open letter to the Court of Justice

State of emergency – solidarity through concrete measures!

Preserving the health of its staff is the institution's priority. This is why the Court has decided, since mid-March, to send everyone home. This is reflected in the messages of the President and the Registrar of the Court, and the general lockdown certainly contributes to this goal.

The Communications Directorate's *Newsletter* and the Staff Committee's '*Courriel*' are full of kind advice about how to organise oneself at home and the right routines to adopt, language courses and online training, as well as successful portraits of our colleagues: Certainly, good reading for those who would still have the time to read ...

The Court wishes its Staff Committee to undertake more 'social' actions. Thus, in this sort of 'war' we might forget for a moment the coronavirus and live a moment of happiness. However, the Court cannot continue to hide its head in the sand!

While some may feel 'happy' in a **compulsory telework**, others are going through an ordeal. Single parents and families with young children are particularly affected by the lockdown, but nothing is done to help them. Good advice is not enough.

European school pupils would return to school by 25 May at the earliest. Nurseries and day-care centres would also remain closed. As a result, parents must do the childcare for children under 4, teaching for children under 12, shopping and cooking for everybody at noon, and respect the timetable, while meeting deadlines, for the Court, because "the show must go on".

Not everyone has the computer equipment to do telework *and* home-schooling. Not everyone has enough room for each family member to have their own work corner, which only makes sense if the children are independent. We get by as we can.

The boundaries between **work and private life** have faded. There is no longer 'free time'. Permanent stress sets in. It's hard to do your working hours and respect deadlines.

A motivated employee and dedicated parent is forced to struggle with both roles at the time. In this situation, the risk of exhaustion is high.

To **preserve our colleagues' health**, it is not enough to send them home and –possibly– equip them with a laptop so they can carry out their tasks. They must also be enabled to assume all the roles they have to cope with in the exceptional situation we are going through.

To ensure that this is more than fine statements, **concrete measures** are needed to reduce the expected workload to the material and family conditions of each person, especially for parents with children under the age of 12, thus enabling them to preserve their health and motivation.

Under a **state of exception, solidarity** is all the most necessary. And solidarity only makes sense when it is directed to the most vulnerable through concrete measures. Without it, we would not be able to overcome the challenges that lie ahead at the end of the lockdown.

EPSU CJ, the solidarity that is built daily ✓