

At the Court of Justice, it didn't take a health crisis to get us all wearing masks 🤧. In 2019, **the organisation chart** on the Court's intranet was 'revamped', 'in line with the times'. This involved removing pertinent information and replacing people's faces with identical grey shadows.

Of course, everyone is still 'free' to upload their own photo (and why not any image?) themselves, but who established the **presumption that our colleagues prefer to go unnoticed**? This is not an innocuous question.

'**Protection of Personal Data**' is just shorthand that causes misunderstandings. Neither the [Charter](#) of Fundamental Rights, nor the [Treaty](#), nor the [Regulation](#) are intended to protect 'personal data' as such. It is **the natural person** who 'has the right to the protection of personal data concerning him or her'.

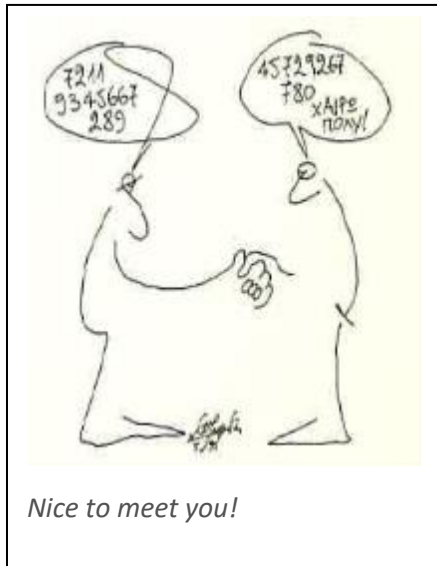
In the 'new look' organisation chart, references to **status and grade** were removed, on the grounds that visitors to the site (i.e. colleagues working at the Court) "do not need to know" such data. Everyone understood that it was actually a matter of erasing information that arouses envy, malice and gossip, implicitly considered to be endemic qualities within the house.

'Solidarity', a hollow word?

The word '**solidarity**' is recurrent in the institution's discourse. But solidarity is about making society together, it is about wanting to belong to a community of free and equal people. The absence of photos by default leads to the opposite

result: to a retreat into indifference, to anonymity. It prevents colleagues **from making a connection between a name and a face**.

Depersonalizing → Weakening our sense of responsibility



How does this 'protect' people? In a **dictatorship**, a dissident has every good reason to want to escape the attention of the regime. At the opposite end, in a **democracy**, citizens have every good reason to show their faces; it's a first step towards **participating in public life**. Without participation democracy fades, it is reduced to the purview of 'professionals' or 'specialists'.

This is what we are now seeing. Most of our colleagues have been lost in a faceless crowd, **except for a few 'celebrities'**, who speak 'on behalf of the people' through a post-democratic *star system* that has been very skilfully set up.

- **We invite the institution to reconsider its policy.**
- **In the meantime, we invite colleagues to upload their own photo to the organisation chart** on the institution's intranet site (http://intranet-curia/jcms/p_292674/portail-organigramme) (→ "Information/Photos" (http://intranet-curia/jcms/p_292527/photos)).
- **and their email address** (→ see [instructions](#)).