

Ispra, 26 May 2016

NOTE TO THE ATTENTION OF MS K. GEORGIEVA
VICE-PRESIDENT BUDGET & HUMAN RESOURCES

From “JRC Ispra” to “EC Ispra”: extending "Synergies and Efficiencies" to the Ispra site

Dear Ms Georgieva,

The undersigned Trade Unions are following with great interest the recent set of proposals concerning "Synergies and Efficiencies", aiming at implementing changes to the way we work in key support functions such as HR, Communication, ICT and Logistics & Events, thus making the Commission a more efficient and streamlined organisation.

In particular, we welcome the wish that *"where appropriate, making more use of Offices such as the PMO, the OIB/OIL, EPSO, or the European School of Administration can be examined. This will not only **reduce the cost of support functions**, but also **provide better career opportunities for contract agents**."*

Also welcomed in the draft report on “Logistics & Events”, is the proposal to *"group some of the decentralised logistic services in a central service of OIB where there would be significant efficiency gains and synergies to be obtained"*. As you have correctly recognised on many occasions, simplification of administrative procedures is indispensable to create the conditions for redirecting resources and ensuring the Commission can most effectively serve European citizens.

As formally approved by the College yesterday, the JRC is undergoing a major reorganisation to reflect its recently developed new strategy 2030. Amongst others, this reorganisation contains a new vision of infrastructure and logistics management and the reorganisation of several support functions.

By combining the two ongoing exercises (Commission-wide and JRC), **we consider the JRC reorganisation as a first step** setting the framework to be followed by further moves towards a **full integration of the Ispra site** within the framework planned for the whole Commission.

In other terms, in line with the vision contained in the "Synergies and efficiencies" framework, we ask to **transfer to OIB**, which is already present at the Ispra site with responsibilities currently limited to social services, **the management of conventional infrastructure and logistics of the Ispra site**, leaving only non-conventional (nuclear) infrastructure under the remit of the JRC. A more integrated management of the infrastructure at Ispra represents a necessary step to address many of the findings and conclusions reported in the *“Audit of JRC portfolio of buildings”* of 04/11/2014.

Furthermore, the transfer of **Administrative (Finance) Support to an Office** could also be envisaged to improve efficiency. For example, reimbursements of experts at Ispra are currently performed by the JRC whereas in other DGs the same reimbursements are performed by PMO.

The benefits of this change would be manifold:

- Ispra, the third largest Commission site, would be structured and **function as any other major Commission site** (Brussels and Luxembourg), allowing DG JRC to focus its energies and resources on its core business of creating and managing knowledge in support of Commission's policy cycles;
- a comprehensive and consistent use of Offices promises an increased efficiency and the **reduction of the cost of support functions**;
- transferring a significant number of Contractual Agents currently in DG JRC Ispra based support services to an Office could provide them with **better and more stable employment conditions**;
- a DG-neutral management of our site infrastructure would offer standardised and reliable conditions **to host, in the future, other DGs at Ispra, which may co-locate here some knowledge intensive activities**, fostering their interaction with Commission's central science hub;
- the Ispra site already hosts a very advanced crisis management infrastructure, and can provide **increased resilience through geo-distribution of vital Commission services**, thus guaranteeing business continuity in case of extreme events impeding their normal functioning at other major locations.

As you already witnessed during your visit last year, **the Ispra site provides a welcoming and effective work environment**. Ispra is located at the heart of Europe, close to several major transport links, and is well-placed to become an even better working place, fully in line with Commission rules, practices and standards. Investments aimed towards growing the Ispra site may help to reduce the strain caused by infrastructure shortages and high costs of rented buildings currently faced at Brussels and Luxembourg.

Already today, the Ispra site hosts the JRC, DG HR, PMO and OIB. To reflect reality and future ambitions, the site should best be referred to as "**European Commission Ispra**", rather than simply "JRC Ispra".

We are available to elaborate this idea with you in person and count on your support to consider our suggestions in the best interests both of the Commission and the Ispra site.

Kind regards,

Stefano Reschiglian



Robert Kenny



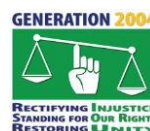
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Cc: Mr Selmayr, Mr Navracsics, Mr Italianer, Ms Souka, Mr Šucha, Ms Rute

Annex: Audit of JRC portfolio of buildings