

## European Commission press release on the adoption of its plan for the consolidation of its services in Luxembourg (11 February 2003)

**Caption:** On 11 February 2003, the European Commission adopts a plan for the consolidation of its services in Luxembourg and empowers Neil Kinnock, Commission Vice-President for Administrative Reform, to sign the final agreement with Luxembourg's Foreign Affairs Minister, Lydie Polfer.

**Source:** RAPID. The Press and Communication Service of the European Commission. [ON-LINE]. [Brussels]: European Commission, [18.02.2003]. IP/03/2003. Disponible sur [http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guestfr.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/216|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=.](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guestfr.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/216|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

**Copyright:** (c) European Union, 1995-2012

**URL:**

[http://www.cvce.eu/obj/european\\_commission\\_press\\_release\\_on\\_the\\_adoption\\_of\\_its\\_plan\\_for\\_the\\_consolidation\\_of\\_its\\_services\\_in\\_luxembourg\\_11\\_february\\_2003-en-3aee6ba0-1e2d-4865-9cf6-6a1149edddb.html](http://www.cvce.eu/obj/european_commission_press_release_on_the_adoption_of_its_plan_for_the_consolidation_of_its_services_in_luxembourg_11_february_2003-en-3aee6ba0-1e2d-4865-9cf6-6a1149edddb.html)

**Publication date:** 23/10/2012

## Commission adopts its plan for the consolidation of its presence in Luxembourg

**The Commission has today adopted the definitive plan for the consolidation of its services in Luxembourg, and empowered Vice-President Neil Kinnock to formalise the agreement with the Luxembourg authorities. The plan will enable the Commission to ensure that its services in Luxembourg have sufficient size to enable them to operate with a high degree of autonomy and therefore higher efficiency. As the Commission made clear, this was the main objective of the process for consolidating the Institution's presence in Luxembourg launched in 2000. Consolidation will also entail an increase in the number of staff based in Luxembourg, from almost 3000 to 3400 by 2010.**

Neil Kinnock, Vice-President for Administrative Reform said: "The plan adopted today fulfils the objectives that the Commission set itself when we launched the process of consolidating services in Luxembourg. The Commission services in the Grand Duchy will gain in coherence and therefore in efficiency, and staff will benefit from working in services which have the critical size and the clarity of mission necessary to ensure a satisfactory working environment. We are also fulfilling our commitment to the Grand Duchy that this process would increase the level of Commission employment in Luxembourg, quantitatively and qualitatively by 2010. It is therefore a good result on all counts, and it deserves to be welcomed by anyone genuinely interested in the efficiency and durability of the Commission presence in Luxembourg. I look forward to signing the final agreement with Foreign Affairs Minister Lydie Polfer next week."

The main consolidation will lead to an increase of 460 posts in the Directorate General (DG) for Translation with the particular task of translations involving the languages of the new Member States; the creation of an Executive Agency and of a Directorate of the DG for Health and Consumer Protection to manage the new Health Programme; and the reinforcement of energy security activities of DG Transport & Energy, mainly by the transfer of some units that are currently based in Brussels. The Luxembourg services of DG Information Society and the EU Publications Office (OPOCE) will also be reinforced. DG Economic and Financial Affairs presence in Luxembourg has recently been consolidated through the transfer from Brussels of certain activities linked to the European Investment Bank and European Investment Fund.

A total of 74 posts in DG Health and Consumer Protection and DG Enterprise will move to Brussels.

Posts in DGs such as Eurostat and DG Personnel are not affected by the process because the size and coherence of their activities in Luxembourg are regarded to be satisfactory.

All told, the Commission commits itself to at least 3400 members of staff in Luxembourg by 2010, including four at Director General level and 17 at Director level. With the exception of the effect on Translation activities, this number does not take into account the general effects of the Union of enlargement on other Services. In keeping with its commitment to efficiency, the Commission will ensure the maintenance of the quality of the posts based in Luxembourg.

As the Commission has made clear from the outset, the plan will not involve compulsory moves of staff in either direction between Brussels and Luxembourg. The implementation of the plan will be monitored by the Commission administration, which will present an annual report to the Luxembourg government as provided for by article 10 of the 1965 Decision concerning the seat of the EU institutions.

### Note for editors

Today's plan is the outcome of sustained efforts launched after the Commission's first-ever systematic review of its tasks and resources (The Peer Group Review) published in July 2000. In January 2001, the Commission reviewed a study which suggested a framework for the consolidation of its services in Luxembourg. This then led to the drawing up of various options, thorough discussions with the staff unions and the Luxembourg authorities, and today's proposed consolidation plan.