

Press release to mark the laying of the foundation stone of the new building for the Council (14 June 1989)

Caption: The foundation stone of the new building intended for the Council of the European Communities is laid on 13 June 1989 in Brussels. This building will later be named the 'Justus Lipsius Building'.

Source: Communication à la presse sur la pose de la première pierre de l'immeuble destiné au Conseil des Communautés européennes, 7325/89 (Presse 113). Bruxelles: Conseil des Communautés européennes - Secrétariat général, 14.06.1989. 21 p.

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Press release to mark the laying of the foundation stone of the new building for the Council of the European Communities (Brussels, 14 June 1989)

The foundation stone of the new Council building in Brussels was laid on Tuesday 13 June 1989 on the site between rue de la Loi, rue Froissart, rue Belliard and chaussée d'Etterbeek, by Mr Francisco Fernandez Ordoñez, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Spain and President-in-Office of the Council of the European Communities (see annexes).

The following were also present:

Mr Leo Tindemans, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Belgium

Mr Paul De Keersmaeker, State Secretary for European Affairs of the Kingdom of Belgium

Mr Jos Dupré, State Secretary for institutional reform, responsible for restructuring the Ministry of Public Works of the Kingdom of Belgium

Mr H. Christophersen and Mr R. MacSharry, Vice-President and Member respectively of the Commission of the European Communities

the Permanent Representatives of the Member States

the Secretary-General of the Council of the European Communities

[...]

Annex IV

Information sheet on the new Council building

The building is designed to accommodate around 2 500 officials (current figure around 2 100) from the Council's General Secretariat, together with Member States' delegates attending meetings. It will have 20 meeting rooms, a restaurant capable of serving 2 000 meals a day, and a press centre with space for 500 journalists, which might be expanded to over 1 000.

The new Council building will have a total gross area of around 215 000 m². Physically, it will include three separate but closely linked buildings:

— the 'Conference' building, the highest part of the complex, will front onto rue de la Loi. The façade here will be no higher than the Résidence Palace.

This part of the complex will contain conference and meeting rooms, office accommodation for the Presidency and the delegations, reception and ceremonial rooms, the press centre, restaurants and areas for related services.

— the 'Secretariat' building will descend in tiers around large patio areas to the lowest part of the site (chaussée d'Etterbeek). This part of the complex will house the offices of the General Secretariat, the print and distribution workshops, socio-cultural and sports facilities and a cafeteria.

— Beneath these two sections of the complex there will be shared infrastructure occupying the whole of the 4 ha site. This will include car parks, storerooms and archives.

The new complex will have patios and green spaces bringing a touch of greenery to the local area.

It will have a number of pedestrian entrances: the main entrance on rue de la Loi, in the main courtyard, and two other entrances in rue Froissart and near chaussée d'Etterbeek.

For vehicle access the complex will have three surface entrances/exits in rue de la Loi, rue Froissart and chaussée d'Etterbeek, and two entrances/exits via the 'Cinquantenaire-Loi' and 'Belliard-Schuman' road tunnels.

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— The budget ceiling for the total construction costs is BEF 10.6 billion (the Belgian authorities will be investing a similar sum in infrastructure (roads, provision and development of site, etc.)) spread over 5–6 years:

1989 budget appropriations: approximately BEF 650 million

1990 budget appropriations: approximately BEF 1.8 billion

higher outlay from 1991/92 budgets.

(By comparison, the budget appropriations for renting the four Council buildings in 1989 totalled around BEF 480 million)