

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0633/04  
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to the Commission

Subject: Integration of the Commission in Brussels

The European Commission employs approximately 21 000 staff in Brussels and has an extensive range of buildings. In its communication on buildings policy and infrastructures in Brussels – COM (2003) 755 – the Commission develops an approach to its premises in Brussels with particular reference to quality of life in the European Quarter.

The communication sets out an action plan concerning various aspects of integration in Brussels: Europe's image in Brussels, mobility plan for the Commission, housing policy for staff, dialogue with the Belgian authorities at various levels.

Has the European Commission discussed these plans with the other European institutions and the various Belgian authorities? If so, when did the relevant consultations take place, if not what were the main obstacles to preventing this?

Will the Commission take the lead in starting discussions with the other institutions on this issue and convincing them of the need for a coherent approach?

The Belgian Government recently decided – following the example set by the Flemish government – to offer its staff free travel from home to work; is the Commission also considering measures of this kind?

Is Commission prepared to integrate its child-care and education facilities more closely with the existing infrastructure in Brussels and open them up to the entire population of Brussels (in terms of cost as well), to encourage greater contacts between the local population and Commission staff?