

'Cost and location of European offices. The Committee of the Regions likes the Ardenne Building' from Le Soir

Caption: The Committee of the Regions occupied the same building as the Economic and Social Committee in Rue Ravenstein, Brussels, until 1996, when it moved to 79 Rue Belliard. In July 2000, the Committee of the Regions moved to 92–102 Rue Montoyer. Since June 2004, its headquarters is at 101 Rue Belliard.

Source: W.B., Du coût et de l'emplacement des bureaux européens. Le Comité des régions aime l'Ardenne. Le Soir en Ligne. [EN LIGNE]. [Bruxelles]: Rossel et Cie SA, [10.06.2002]. Disponible sur <http://www.lesoir.be>.

W.B., Du coût et de l'emplacement des bureaux européens. Le Comité des régions aime l'Ardenne. Le Soir en Ligne. [EN LIGNE]. [Bruxelles]: Rossel et Cie SA, [10.06.2002]. Disponible sur <http://www.lesoir.be>.

Copyright: (c) Translation CVCE.EU by UNI.LU

All rights of reproduction, of public communication, of adaptation, of distribution or of dissemination via Internet, internal network or any other means are strictly reserved in all countries.

Consult the legal notice and the terms and conditions of use regarding this site.

URL:

http://www.cvce.eu/obj/cost_and_location_of_european_offices_the_committee_of_the_regions_likes_the_ardenne_building_from_le_soir-en-of12b03b-44a9-42a8-bb82-de0dc1b24780.html



Last updated: 05/07/2016

Cost and location of European offices. The Committee of the Regions likes the Ardenne Building

It's official. The European Committee of the Regions is to move. On Tuesday we gave you the inside story. In brief, the Committee's President, the Frenchman Jacques Blanc, would have liked to lease 6 475 m² of office space, two conference rooms measuring 234 m² and a cafeteria covering 125 m² in the freshly renovated Josi Park Atrium on rue des Colonies. However, Parliament's Committee on Budgets vetoed this option. The Committee will move into the Ardenne Building (6 472 m², 123 offices and 47 parking spaces) on rue Belliard. So is Jacques Blanc angry? Not at all!

'This decision pleases me in many ways,' he explained, after the Committee had just held its plenary session at the '*Caprice des dieux*' building. 'First of all, it will allow our young institution, less than two years after it came into being, to move into proper premises where its administration will be able to establish an operational centre.'

Up to now the Committee has been sharing premises with the Economic and Social Committee in rue Ravenstein.

'Secondly, this forthcoming move (*in early 1996 [ed.]*) will, I hope, herald a future organisational independence, for which our plenary assembly has called,' continued Jacques Blanc. 'Lastly, this move points the way to the role that the **Committee of the Regions** intends to play in the interinstitutional architecture of tomorrow, where its consultative function must be strengthened, allowing the European Parliament to ask it for an opinion.'

Returning to the Brussels property aspect of the story, it should be borne in mind that the assignment of the Ardenne Building is only temporary. In 1998 the Committee will move definitively (?) to the Van Maerlant building, once Parliament has taken over the new offices in the Espace Léopold complex.

It will be recalled that Claude Desama, an MEP from Verviers and an active member of the Committee on Budgets, had suggested that a move to the Josi Park Atrium was not only inappropriate, since it lay outside the Espace Bruxelles-Europe, but also very expensive. Comparing the figures, this is the response from Jacques Blanc's office: (annual) rental of 185 offices in the Park Atrium would have cost ECU 1.75 million, whilst the 123 offices in the Ardenne Building will cost ECU 1.20 million. This means a cost per office of ECU 9 500 for the Park Atrium, compared with ECU 9 750 for the Ardenne.

OK, but are these offices really comparable? Are they designed, equipped and decorated to the same standard? Don't miss the next fascinating episode of the debate in the next press release.

W. B.