

Council press release on the signing of the deed of transfer of the Justus Lipsius Building (Brussels, 18 December 2003)

Caption: Press release from the Council of the European Union, published the day after the signing, on 17 December 2003, of the deed of transfer of the Justus Lipsius Building from the Belgian State to the Council. The press release includes historical and technical data concerning the building.

Source: Communiqué de presse du Conseil de l'UE, Signature de l'acte de cession de l'immeuble Justus Lipsius, siège du Conseil de l'Union européenne. 15720/03 (Presse 361). Bruxelles: Conseil de l'Union européenne, 18.12.2003. 2 p.
http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/fr/misc/78486.pdf.

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http://www.cvce.eu/obj/council_press_release_on_the_signing_of_the_deed_of_transfer_of_the_justus_lipsius_building_brussels_18_december_2003-en-6a7a2f72-9515-48ea-8119-67a303e54e88.html



Last updated: 05/07/2016

Press release from the Council of the European Union (Brussels, 18 December 2003) Signature of the deed of transfer of the Justus Lipsius Building, seat of the Council of the European Union

The deed whereby the Belgian Government transferred the Justus Lipsius Building to the Council of the European Union was signed on 17 December 2003.

Historical and technical data concerning the building, which houses the Council of the European Union, are set out below.

— The Belgian Government and the Council of the European Union decided to begin building the Justus Lipsius Building in accordance with a contract dated 26 February 1985.

— After four years of studies and Europe-wide calls for tender, actual work on the building began on 2 October 1989, when the foundation stone was laid by Mr Francisco Fernandez Ordoñez, President-in-Office of the Council and Spanish Foreign Minister.

— Provisional acceptance of the work was granted on 13 April 1995.

— The new building was inaugurated on 29 May 1995, when the Council held its first meeting there. The meeting was chaired by the French Foreign Minister, Mr Hervé de Charette.

— The building was called ‘Justus Lipsius’ in memory of a street which once linked rue de la Loi and rue Belliard at the site of the new building. Justus Lipsius (1547–1606) was born in the village of Overijse. He was a historian, humanist, philologist and philosopher and one of the best-known late Renaissance scholars. He lived and taught mainly in Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Belgium.

— The Justus Lipsius Building has a floor area of approximately 220 000 m², of which ± 62 000 m² in the conference area (conference rooms, offices for the Presidency and delegations, press zone and restaurants), ± 84 000 m² in the Secretariat area (offices of the General Secretariat of the Council), and ± 74 000 m² consists of basements (technical rooms, storage areas and car parks).

— The building was designed by an international association of some 20 architects under the direction of CDG Architects, Brussels.

— Construction costs were met from the budget of the European Union and amounted to approximately EUR 340 million.

The notarial act of transfer was signed: on behalf of the Belgian Government by Mr Emile Beeckmans, *Commissaire du Comité d’Acquisition d’Immeubles* (Commissioner of the Buildings Acquisition Committee), in his capacity as authorising officer, and Mr Pierre Jans, *Receveur des recettes domaniales* (Collector of property tax), and, on behalf of the Council, by Mr Pierre de Boissieu, its Deputy Secretary-General.