

Ispra, 4th July 2022

**NOTE TO THE ATTENTION OF MR J. HAHN
VICE-PRESIDENT BUDGET & HUMAN RESOURCES**

Our vision for an Ispra multi-DG site

Dear Mr Hahn,

We would like to thank you for your recent visit to the JRC Ispra site and your recognition of our important work has been very much appreciated by the staff.

The undersigned Trade Unions representing the majority of the staff wish to share with you some proposals for the future of our site.

The Ispra site provides a welcoming and productive working environment. It is the third largest Commission site and is located at the heart of the European Union, close to several major transport links, and offers great facilities and opportunities.

The Ispra site has the potential to become even more crucial and strategic. Ispra is naturally fully in line with Commission standards, practices and rules, and is well integrated into the policy making process following the reorganisation of 2016. Future reorganisations can potentially improve further its status. Today, the Ispra site hosts the biggest part of the JRC, as well as services of DG HR, PMO and OIB. The presence nearby of the European School of Varese is also invaluable.

The Ispra site should **function as any other major Commission site** (Brussels and Luxembourg), allowing the JRC to focus its energies and resources on its core business of creating and managing knowledge in support of Commission's policy cycles.

Our vision for the future, to reflect the current reality and future ambitions, is that the site should host staff of a range of policy DGs, to build closer interactions between policy and science and fostering a more efficient and effective collaboration and become "EU Ispra", instead of "JRC Ispra", also possibly hosting other EU entities. As a result, the JRC could then become fitter and stronger, focusing on its role to provide scientific, evidence-based support to EU policies and further synergy with other services and DGs.

The infrastructure management of the site could be transferred to a separated entity (i.e. an Office for Infrastructure Ispra, OII) that would be fully focused on those activities and would offer a standardised service to all DGs and other entities on site. This could also offer better and more stable employment conditions to Contractual Agents currently allocated to the JRC and working in non-nuclear infrastructure. Furthermore, a comprehensive and consistent use of Offices across all Commission sites promises an increased efficiency and **the reduction of the cost of support functions.**

The presence of several Commission services at the Ispra site would also facilitate **voluntary mobility** of staff between different DGs and entities.

On top of this, Ispra could play a key role leading by example in the framework of the HR strategy “**Greening the European Commission**” and the ambitious plan to reach climate neutrality by 2030.

Due to its geographical position, the site offers itself as an ideal hub for science diplomacy with focus on the Mediterranean and Danube regions, thus offering new impulses to the EU integration process.

The Ispra site already hosts a very advanced crisis management infrastructure, and can provide increased resilience through decentralisation and geo-distribution of vital Commission services, thus guaranteeing business continuity in case of extreme events impeding their normal functioning at other major locations, as we learned during the current Covid-19 pandemic. Furthermore, the JRC has recently demonstrated these capabilities in its rapid response to issues created by the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

We are available to further elaborate our proposal in a dedicated meeting and count on your support to consider our suggestions in the best interests for the Ispra site and the Commission as a whole.

Yours Sincerely,

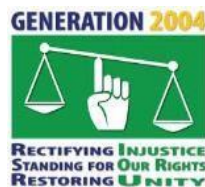
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Cc: Ms Mariya Gabriel, Mr Stephen QUEST, Mr Bernard MAGENHANN, Ms Sabine HENZLER