



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL  
PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION  
Staff Committee  
**Local Staff Committee Brussels**

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### **BERL fire: LSC debriefing**

On Monday 18th May at lunchtime, a fire broke out in the BERL building. The fire spread through several floors of the building, notably through the Mezzanine and on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> floors. An investigation is under way to determine the cause of the incident.

- The evacuation of staff took place very rapidly;
- The fire doors and valves prevented further spreading of the fire;
- a specialist company has been in charge of rapidly getting the building back into full working order.

Repair works took place over the Ascension weekend and Admin, the SG, the Cabs of Mr Barroso and Kallas, the OIB, Digit and the staff representatives (CCP, CLP, CSHT) undertook a visit on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

It transpires from this incident that:

- The good coordination between various services is clearly demonstrated – less than one week after the incident, the building is again available.
- The regular evacuation exercises have clearly shown their value.
- A high spec building such as the BERL withstood the fire well.

The local staff committee (LSC) remains vigilant with regards to the staff health and safety regulations, the complete restoration of the entire building and the running of the repair works.

The LSC would like to thank the representatives of the CSHT for the work carried out with respect to the health and hygiene rules and to the building manual, which clearly demonstrate the high quality of Commission buildings that can withstand fire and protect staff health and safety. The LSC will be associated with the evaluation and will remain attentive to staff suggestions as to how to further improve the management of such situations.

The LSC thinks lessons can be learned from this incident for the future, in terms of the Commission's future use of high standard buildings. Finally, the LSC would like to thank the administration for having kept staff and their representatives immediately informed of this incident, which concerns all of us.

CSHT – Vice-President  
Daniela Mormile  
(signed)

LSC – President  
Jean-Louis Blanc  
(signed)

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