

Day off on 22 May 2020, but as long as production doesn't suffer

In his [Communiqué](#) of 22 April 2020, Mr Campinos announced that:

*“Regardless of how adaptable we're currently proving, the resilience shown or the good results that continue to be attained, everyone, at some point, needs to recharge the batteries [...] **On 22 May the Office will therefore be closed and will be allocated automatically to all staff as an additional day off.** [...] I hope this gesture will contribute a little extra help in your efforts to stay healthy and happy.”*

Since Mr Campinos closed the Office, all legal deadlines due on 22 May 2020 now had to be recoded for 25 May. So formalities officers spent time “recharging their batteries” by recoding, and can take note of Mr Campinos’ “appreciation” and “help”.

In a meeting chaired by Ms Seegert, Head of the President’s Office, staff representatives enquired about the nature of this day off. Here is an extract from the minutes:

Question:

The staff representatives indicated that for production purpose the day off is not taken into account and is still not in MUSE. Some managers are doing pressure on their staff in DG1 concerning the productivity.

Answer:

The day off has to be considered in the same way as Fasching Dienstag in MU or Sinta Klaas in NL. It is not intended to adapt the yearly objectives in view of this one day off. The principle of best effort remains.

Is it a Mogelpackung?

We note that Fasching Dienstag has always been granted on condition that it is production neutral. It now seems that this is also the case for 22 May 2020. So, in a time of suspended core hours and extensive home office, what exactly did Mr Campinos’ generosity bring us, apart from the recoding of deadlines?

By not adjusting the objectives, staff will have to compensate for this day off and it will leave a bitter taste to many. We wonder how Mr Campinos will manage to restore trust in the Office by continuing to make a fool of his staff even during a pandemic.